



Parish Tidings

Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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Ladies Social



The third annual Holiday Covered Dish Luncheon was held on Saturday, January 4, 2014 at Jo Ann Schaffer's home. Sponsored by the members of the ANS and Society of Friends all the women of the church were invited. Along with Father Bogdan, the ladies enjoyed good food, fun, games and prizes.

Women's Societies to Merge

At the January meetings of the ANS and the Society of Friends a majority of the members voted to combine both societies. The ANS will fulfill the duties of the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as well as sponsor the children in their religious activities.

The meetings will be held on the first Sunday of the month after Mass. At the next meeting, Sunday, February 2, 2014, there will be an election of officers. All women of the parish are invited to join and participate in this important part of church life.

Wanda Poposki



With deepest sorrow we announce the passing of Wanda Poposki on January 15, 2014. A former Sunday School teacher, Wanda was active in the roll baking, pierogi making and preparing for the fall and spring bazaars. Along with Father Walter Poposki, she played a great role in the construction of our current church building. As Wanda always said, "This church was built with pierogies."

Wanda will be greatly missed by all her family and many friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with her son Walter, his wife Nancy and Wanda's brothers Joseph and Edward Koczan and their families.

Roses



This Valentine's Day many of us will send or receive the gift of red roses. The Red Rose not only carries more meaning than many other color roses, it is also one of the most universal of all symbols. Red Roses have been represented in countless works of art, from classical paintings and poetry to modern day music. They have appeared throughout history and across many cultures as political and religious symbols. However, it is as the symbol for love and romance that the Red Rose is most commonly recognized.

The first Christian use of the rose appears in scenes representing the next world, which is Paradise together with other flowers like lilies. These also became symbols of virtues (the rose for reserve and the lily for virginity). The Red Rose was the symbol for martyrs. The rose as the queen of flowers was a symbol for Mary, Queen of heaven and earth. The first representation of Mary holding a rose and not a scepter appears at the end of the thirteenth century. Mary contemplating a rose may mean that the rose symbolized Christ.

The rose became a moral emblem to explain life. For example, "Life is a rose: its beauty fades rapidly," or "As the rose blossoms under the sun, I shall blossom under the eyes of God". And, "The rose of our life blossoms among thorns, meaning pains, hard work and wickedness; but God brings good out of miseries".

My Geography Adventure

By Madison Passaro



The school that I attend, Northampton Area Middle School, had a team-wide geography bee. There were approximately 150 students on each team and there were three teams in each grade. The school consists of 7th and 8th grade students, so there were approximately 900 students competing to make it to the tie-breaker round. I had to attend the tie-breaker round after winning with a few other students on my team. I was surprised to have the highest score out of all my team, the Lehigh team.

On Friday, January 17, 2014 I competed in the final round of the Geography Bee Competition for the school-wide round. Only two students from each team made it to this final round of the school competition. I was one of twelve students that competed at this level. All of the questions were very difficult relating to America and then they moved on to world questions. These questions were about languages, cardinal directions of places around a main place, geography of the land, and the placement of cities within countries.

National Geographic holds a country-wide Geography Bee annually. I will not be continuing on to state-wide, but I did my very best to answer correctly and came in 3rd place in our school-wide Bee.

February at a Glance

Mass at 9 AM

Sunday School after Mass

Coffee Social after Mass

Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM

February 2 — ANS Meeting

February 14 & 15 – Pierogie Making

February 18 – Committee Meeting

February 23 – Children's Mass

Boy Scouts



On Friday, January 24th and Saturday, January 25th approximately 50 Cub Scouts from Pack 343, as well as their parents and friends, held the annual Pinewood Derby in our

Church Hall. Despite the snowy weather the event went on as scheduled, and was enjoyed by all. The Cub Scouts presented our Parish with a giant "Thank You" poster that is on the easel in the narthex, and gave the Committee a thank you note as well as a generous \$200 contribution. This was unexpected as the Committee offered the use of our Hall as a community service to the Cub Scouts. Cub Scout Pack 343 will hold their Crossing Over Ceremony in our Church Hall on February 21, and we look forward to hosting them again".

Repairs

As with any building approaching 38 years of age, our church is in need of many repairs. New roofs were recently added to the church office and the side entrance of the church. At last year's inspection by the insurance company it was noted that water was entering the building at both locations. A new office door was also installed. Thanks to Joseph Koczan for his substantial donation paying for part of this project and to John Wunderler for supervising the work.

Upcoming projects include replacing the concrete by the basement, fixing the flashing on the front of the church, painting the kitchen walls and outside railings. Along with new doors, additional repairs are needed to the roof over the narthex of the church.

A portable microphone was purchased thanks to donations by Dan and Tara Broczkowski and the Society of Friends. In addition to its weekly use, the youth of the church have already used it on Christmas Eve.

Thanks to Jerry Gritman for repairing the snow blower used at the rectory.

Ten Things to Learn from The Story of Noah's Ark

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Don't listen to critics. Just get on with the job to be done.
5. Build your future on high ground.
6. For safety's sake, always travel in pairs.
7. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
8. When you're stressed, float a while.
9. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
10. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.



Temperance Sermon



A minister was completing a temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said, 'If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river'. With even greater emphasis he said, 'And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river'. And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, 'And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river'. Sermon complete, he sat down...

The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, nearly laughing, 'For our closing song, let us sing Hymn #365, 'Shall We Gather at the River.'

Smile - life is too short not to!!
If this brightened your day
Don't let it stop here
Pass it on with a smile
Keep spreading the Cheer.
See you at the river!
Bring your own glass!

George Washington's Birthday Chocolate Cherry Cake

CAKE:

- 1 box Duncan Hines Devils Food cake mix
- 1 can cherry pie filling
- 1 tsp. almond flavoring
- 2 eggs



- Put pie filling in large bowl and chop up cherries.
- Add eggs, almond flavoring and cake mix.
- Stir with fork until well mixed.
- Pour into greased and floured 9 x 13-inch baking pan and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.
- Ice immediately upon removing from oven.

FROSTING:

- 1 c. white sugar
- 1/3 c. milk
- 5 tbsp. butter
- 1 c. chocolate chips
- 1/2 c. chopped pecans
- Bring sugar, milk and butter to a boil in saucepan. Boil about 1 minute stirring constantly.
- Remove from heat and stir in chocolate chips, stirring until melted.
- Add pecans.
- Pour over hot cake.

Easy and delicious!

If you have something to share, a story, anecdote, recipe, or up-coming event in your life, please submit it to Jo Ann Schaffer, Lynn Wunderler or Andrea Gritman.