



Parish Tidings



Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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February 2015 Volume 3, No. 9

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How Are the 40 Days of Lent Calculated?



Lent, the period of prayer and fasting in preparation for Easter, is 40 days long, but there are 46 days between Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent in the liturgical calendar, and Easter. So how are the 40 days of Lent calculated?

The answer takes us back to the earliest days of the Church. Christ's original disciples, who were Jewish, grew up with the idea that the Sabbath, - the day of worship and of rest - was Saturday, the seventh day of the week, since the account of creation in Genesis says that God rested on the seventh day.

Christ rose from the dead, however, on Sunday, the first day of the week, and the early Christians, starting with the apostles (those original disciples), saw Christ's Resurrection as a new creation, and so they transferred the day of rest and worship from Saturday to Sunday.

Since all Sundays and not simply Easter Sunday were days to celebrate Christ's Resurrection, Christians were forbidden to fast and do other forms of penance on those days. Therefore, when the Church expanded the period of fasting and prayer in preparation for Easter from a few days to 40 days (to mirror Christ's fasting in the desert, before He began His public ministry), Sundays could not be included in the count.

Thus, in order for Lent to include 40 days on which fasting could occur, it had to be expanded to six full weeks (with six days of fasting in each week) plus four extra days—Ash Wednesday and the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday that follow it. Six times six is thirty-six, plus four equals forty. And that's how we arrive at the 40 days of Lent!

ANS Holds Election

When the ANS met for the first time this year on January 11, 2015, an election of officers was held. The results were as following:

- President - Jackie Bayak
- Vice President - Beverly Wunderlich

Secretary - Jo Ann Schaffer

Treasurer - Nancy Poposki

The ANS meets on the first Sunday of the month. Please join us if you are interested.

Kitchen Update



Thanks to Ron Trawinski and John Wunderler for painting the church kitchen and replacing the ceiling tiles. The ANS covered the cost of the supplies and Frank Matla

donated the ceiling tiles.

January Birthdays



On January 11, 2015 Jackie Bayak provided a birthday cake honoring the many parishioners celebrating their January birthdays. A special congratulations to Hank Kudzik who turned 90 on January 10. Tara Broczkowski, Jenna DeVito, Jo Ann Schaffer, Kira Mohr, Evan Weller, Frank Matla, Jackie Bayak and Barbara Frisch also celebrate a January birthday. Sto Lat!

February at a Glance

- Mass at 9 AM
- Coffee Social after Mass
- SOCL after Mass
- Fridays during Lent – 6:30 PM
- Stations of the Cross
- Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM

- February 1– ANS meeting
- February 2 – Committee meeting 6:30 PM
- February 18 – Ash Wednesday 6:30 PM
- February 13 & 14 – Pierogie Making

Pastor's Corner



My Dear Friends,

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you." Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." The Ninevites believed God.

When I set out to write this reflection for the February edition of our "Parish Tidings", all day long I heard the news about the upcoming snow storm for the next couple days. Usually I am very skeptical about this kind of forecasting, but listening to this message all day long made me believe that maybe they are telling the truth.

Before we start the Lenten season in the month of February, we are introduced by the church Liturgy to the Pre – Lenten season which has three Sundays: Septuagesima Sunday, Sexagesima Sunday, and Quinquagesima Sunday. Thinking of them, I have in my mind the image of Jonah who spent three days walking through the city of Nineveh, proclaiming "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." I see a connection between our three Pre – Lenten Sundays to the three days Jonah spent walking around the city of Nineveh. The people heard this message and they followed the prophet's suggestion. We all heard the forecasting about the blizzard coming to our area, and did you see what happened, the people actually made some preparation for it, including myself.

The Liturgy of the church through the Pre – Lenten season tries to wake us up and to help us to be aware of the importance of the season of Lent coming, like CNN tried to tell us in the forecast.

Father Bogdan

Around the Parish

- On January 4, 2015 the second chance drawing from the 2014 lottery calendars was held. Congratulations to George Pavlinsky, the lucky \$100 winner and Evan Weller the \$100 seller. During 2014, 223 lottery calendars were sold and a profit of \$2,900 was donated to the church. Thanks to all who purchased and sold calendars and to Joe Jurnock for running this fund raiser.
- A special thanks to John Godek, Barbara Jurnock's brother, who contributed \$2,500 to be used for the replacement of the outside doors.
- Best wishes to Jackie Kudzik who is rehabilitating at Good Shepard Rehabilitation, Allentown.
- Do you have a favorite hymn? A signup sheet is posted on the easel for anyone wishing to hear their desired hymns at a future date.

Janina Martucci

With deepest sorrow we announce the passing of Janina Martucci on January 2, 2015.



A lifelong member of the Polish National Catholic Church, Janina will be greatly missed by all her family and many friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Nick, her children Nicolette Stavrovsky, Donna Martucci, Annette D'Ambrosio, Nicholas Martucci Jr and her brothers Sigmund and Paul Novak and their families.

What is Love?



A kindergarten teacher asked her class to draw something that reminded them of Valentine's Day or Love. As she walked around observing her classroom while they were drawing, she got to one girl who was working diligently, and asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God. I learned in Sunday School that God is Love." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

Spring Bazaar

Our Annual Spring Bazaar will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2015. Any new ideas or suggestions for this event are welcomed. Bring your plastic and paper bags to the church for use at the bazaar as soon as possible.

The donation slips will be available on February 15. Please remember to pick up your donation form, fill it out and return this form as soon as possible to Nancy Poposki, Andrea Gritman, or place in the Bazaar Box in the Narthex.

Cherry Coconut Pineapple Dream

Ingredients

- 1 cup Bisquick
- 2 cups shredded coconut
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 4 cups whole milk
- ½ cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1 Tbsp pure vanilla extract
- 8 eggs (beaten)
- 1 20 oz can crushed pineapple drained

Topping

- ½ cup slivered almonds (use as much as you like)
- 1 15 ounce can dark sweet cherries drained

Stir Bisquick, coconut and sugar in a large bowl with a wooden spoon. Using a hand mixer add the milk, butter, vanilla, eggs and pineapple. Spray a 15 x 10 x 2 inch glass bakeware dish and pour mixture into dish. Push cherries down until the top is even with surface of mix. Add slivered almonds on top, pushing down into the batter slightly to prevent them from burning.

Bake at 350 degrees for 60 to 65 minutes. Cool on rack. Cover and refrigerate before serving.



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.