



Parish Tidings

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Epiphany



Epiphany is commonly known as Twelfth Night, Three Kings or the Feast of Epiphany. It is celebrated on January 6 which is 12 days after Christmas marking the end of the Christmas holidays. Epiphany which means "manifestation" or showing forth is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God the Son as a human being in Christ Jesus. Western Christians commemorate the visit of the Magi or Three Kings to the Baby Jesus, and thus Jesus' physical manifestation to the Gentiles. Eastern Christians commemorate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River seen as his manifestation to the world as the Son of God.

In some European countries such as the Czech Republic and Slovakia, children dress as the 3 kings and visit houses. They sing about the Jesus' birth and pay homage to "the King of Kings." They are rewarded with praise and cookies. In many Latin American countries it is the Three Wise Men and not Santa who bring gifts for children. Children in Spain fill their shoes with straw or grain for the three kings' horses to eat and place them by the front door on Epiphany Eve. The next day they find cookies, sweets or gifts in their places.

The star that guided the wise men to Christ also symbolizes Epiphany as well as the three gifts they gave to Jesus. Gold (fit for a king), Frankincense (used in worship at a temple) and Myrrh (used for embalming, as well as a salve for skin irritations).

Annual Christmas Dinner



The traditional parish Christmas dinner sponsored by the ANS was held after the 10:30 mass on Sunday, December 14, 2014, the third Sunday in Advent. Forty seven people attended and were treated to a delicious ham dinner and scrumptious desserts. Father Bogdan gave the blessing and shared the Oplatek with everyone present. Dan Broczkowski, parish committee president, offered a toast. A "Magical Christmas Dust" holiday favor was provided by Jackie Bayak.

The lucky raffle winners were Jackie Bayak, Joe Jurnock, Jerry Matla, Helen Trexler, Barb Jurnock, Hank Kudzik, Ranae Behrens and David Broczkowski. The red poinsettias centerpieces were also given as door prizes with Ernie Stavrovsky, Sonia Kotch, Helen Trexler, Andrea Gritman, Grace Hochella and Jackie Bayack winning.

A Remembrance Tree



During Mass on Sunday December 14, 2014, parishioners placed ornaments in remembrance of loved ones on a tree located on St. Joseph's side of the altar. Part of the tree was adorned with vintage Christmas ornaments from Poland which were donated by Sandy Collier. Hopefully this will be the start of a new Christmas tradition.

Christmas Eve



Pictured above are Jenna DeVivo, Magda Yurchishin, David Broczkowski, Madison Passaro, and Barbara Yurchishin performing a Christmas rendition on Christmas Eve under the direction of Tara Broczkowski. In addition to the great choir the beautiful sounds of Christmas were performed by Sandy Collier on the keyboard, Jenna DeVivo on the flute, Tara Broczkowski on the guitar, and Dan Broczkowski on the trumpet.



January at a Glance

- Mass at 9 AM
- Coffee Social after Mass**
- SOCL after Mass
- Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM**
- Happy New Year**
- January 4- ANS meeting
- Pierogie Making – To be announced**

Christmas Committee Meeting



For the fifth consecutive year Our Lord's Ascension parish committee held its December meeting at the Bull and Bear Restaurant on Monday, December 22, 2014. After Father Bogdon offered the blessing and Dan Broczkowski gave the toast, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and a fun night.

Y.M.S. of R. Annual Holiday Gathering



On Tuesday, December 9th, the Y.M.S. of R held their Annual Holiday Gathering at the Feasta Italiana Restaurant in Bethlehem. Among those attending were Fr. Bogdan, Joe Jurnock, Joe Bartone, John Wunderler, Jerry Matla, Joe Novak, Ernie Stavrovsky Jr, Evan Weller, Ron Trawinski and Walter Poposki. Everyone enjoyed themselves and look forward to working together again next year.

Ladies Christmas Social



The fourth annual Holiday Covered Dish Luncheon was held on Saturday, December 20, 2014 at Jo Ann Schaffer's home. Sponsored by the members of the ANS, all the women of the church were invited. Along with Father Bogdan, the ladies enjoyed good food, fun, games and everyone went home with a prize.



Jackie Kudzik and Helen Trexler enjoyed reminiscing about earlier times.

Around the Parish

- 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.
- Congratulations to Ernie Stavrovsky Jr, son of Ernie and Nicolette Stavrovsky for earning his Eagle Scout rank.
- Karen Amate has performed as a party parent in the party scene of Nutcracker presented by the Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley - Pennsylvania Youth Ballet for ten plus years.
- Thanks to the Stavrovsky family for removing the fallen tree from the parking lot.

The Preacher's Widow



A Pennsylvania man left the snow filled streets of Bethlehem for a vacation in Florida. His wife was on a business trip and was planning to meet him there the next day. When he reached his motel in Florida, he decided to send his wife a quick e-mail. Unable to find the scrap of paper on which he had written her e-mail address, he did his best to type it in from memory. Unfortunately, he missed one letter and his note was directed instead to an elderly preacher's wife whose husband had passed away only the day before. When the grieving widow checked her e-mail, she took one look at the monitor, let out a piercing scream and fell to the floor in a total faint. At the sound, her family rushed into the room and saw on the screen:

DEAREST WIFE
JUST GOT CHECKED IN
EVERYTHING PREPARED FOR YOUR ARRIVAL
TOMORROW
P.S. SURE IS HOT DOWN HERE

Quick and Easy Sticky Buns

"A warm breakfast treat"

1. Defrost 2 loaves of frozen bread dough.
2. Grease a 9x13 pan.
3. Place 1 cup of pecans or walnuts on bottom of pan
4. Cut each loaf into 12 pieces (24 in all) Place 3 rows of 8 in pan.
5. Heat the following in a sauce pan:
1 stick of butter
1 large box of vanilla or butterscotch pudding (not instant)
2 tbsp. milk
1 cup brown sugar
2 tsp. cinnamon
6. Once heated and mixed, pour over bread dough.
7. Cover with aluminum foil and refrigerate overnight.
8. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 min. or until golden brown. Let stand in pan for 5 min. then turn over onto a tray or large serving dish.



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.