



# Parish Tidings

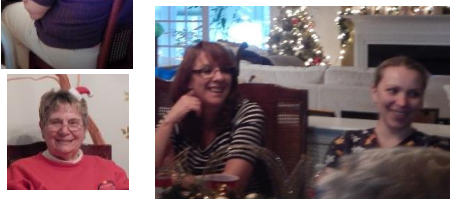
Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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## Christmas Celebrations

### Ladies Christmas Social



The fifth annual Holiday Covered Dish Luncheon was held on Saturday, December 5, 2015 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.

### Annual Christmas Dinner



The traditional parish Christmas dinner sponsored by the ANS was held after the 10:30 mass on Sunday, December 13, 2015, the third Sunday in Advent. All in attendance were treated to a delicious ham dinner and scrumptious desserts. Father Bogdan gave the blessing and shared the Oplatek with everyone present. A Moravian star ornament for all in attendance was provided by Andrea Gritman.

## A Remembrance Tree



During Mass on Sunday, December 13, 2015, 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.

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



On Thursday, December 10, 2015, the Y.M.S. of R held their Annual Holiday Gathering at the Feasta Italiana Restaurant in Bethlehem. Among those attending were Joe Bartone, Joe Jurnock, Ron Trawinski, Gerry Matla, Frank Matla, Dan Broczkowski, Joe Novak, John Sydorak, Charlie Kovacs, Fr. Bogdan, and Fran Anthony. Everyone enjoyed themselves and look forward to working together again next year.

## Christmas Committee Meeting

For the sixth year Our Lord's Ascension parish committee combined

its December meeting with a social evening out. This year's outing was held at Stefano's Restaurant on Tuesday, December 15, 2015. After Father Bogdan offered the blessing and Dan Broczkowski gave the toast, everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and a fun night.

## Christmas Eve



Pictured above are Jenna DeVivo, David Broczkowski, Barbara Yurchishin, Madison Passaro, and Magda Yurchishin performing a Christmas rendition on Christmas Eve under the direction of Tara Broczkowski. Our former organist Kira Mohr, visiting from Texas, accompanied the group on the keyboard and played the organ for the evening service. In addition to the great choir, the beautiful sounds of Christmas were performed by Jenna DeVivo on the flute, and Dan Broczkowski on the trumpet. As a special treat a beautiful solo performance of "O Holy Night" was sung by David Broczkowski.

## New American Flag



Father Bogdan is shown blessing the new American flag, which was donated by State Representative Steve Samuleson, thanks to Jackie Bayak.

## January at a Glance

**Sunday Mass at 9 AM**  
SOCL after Mass  
**Coffee Social after Mass**  
Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM

**January 3 – ANS meeting**  
January 6 - Epiphany  
**January 22 & 23 - Tentative pierogi making**

## Condolences

Members of Our Lord's Ascension Parish wish to offer our sympathies to Nancy Poposki and her family on the passing of her mother, Shirley Seibert. Our thoughts and prayers are with Walter, Nancy and her sisters.

## Jenna's Bike and Build

Parishioner Jenna DeVivo is setting off on a cross-country bike trip this summer to raise awareness for Habitat for Humanity and affordable housing. On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, she will embark on an 82 day bike trip from Charleston, South Carolina to Santa Cruz, California. While on the road, she will meet with the communities her team passes through, tell them about her trip and the affordable housing issue, and help them become involved in efforts to alleviate the problem. There will also be several days where she will trade her bike for a hammer, and help construct affordable homes with local affordable housing organizations.

Affordable housing addresses the issue that at today's National Minimum Wage, a person can no longer afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent. Issues including gentrification/displacement, predatory lending, housing discrimination, and homelessness are also addressed. Jenna has had the opportunity to already work with many of these issues with Pitt's Habitat for Humanity club and on her service trip to Clay County, Florida last Spring Break. She has also been working for over the past year to help renovate a dilapidated house in Pittsburgh for a mother and her two daughters and has met with many future homeowners already and continues to build for her neighbors everywhere.

In order to participate in Bike and Build, each cyclist must fundraise \$4500 for affordable housing. Jenna has already raised over \$1000 but still needs a lot of help! If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to her journey, please visit her personal Bike and Build bio at: <http://classic.bikeandbuild.org/rider/8625>.

Jenna is excited to have the opportunity to see the U.S. in such an interesting way, all while finding herself in the service of a great cause. Jenna is most looking forward to experiencing life in the South, her Blitz Build week in Colorado, making new friends with people from all over the country, and the sweet finish when she reaches the Pacific Ocean. You can follow her training progress and trip at her new blog: <https://jennasbikeandbuild.wordpress.com>. Jenna would also love to talk to you about her trip if you would like to know more.

Please keep her in your prayers as she undertakes this monumental journey!

## Helping at Bingo

During the past few months several members of the ANS have joined the YMS of R Bingo staff on Wednesday evenings helping out in the kitchen. This mutual cooperation has benefited both groups, freeing the men from the kitchen work thus allowing them to use their time helping the bingo players and allowing the women to earn some additional funds for their organization. Starting in January Barbara Frisch and Nicolette Stavrovsky will be joining Jackie Bayak, Lynn Wunderler, Nancy Poposki, Beverly Wunderlich, Mary Ann Bartone and Andrea Gritman. Working in pairs each twosome volunteers once every four weeks. Remember you do not have to be a member of either group to help out. Contact any member of either society in you are interested in helping out.

## 2016 Envelopes

Due to a problem at the printers, the 2016 collection envelopes have not arrived. Please put your donations in an envelope and write your name and where you wish the contribution to be applied until we receive the new envelopes. Just a reminder the yearly dues are \$180 per person, \$360 per family.

## ANS Medals



On Sunday, December 13, 2015, ANS medals were presented by Father Bogdan to Helen Trexler, Carolyn Broczkowski, Sonia Kotch, Stella Fedorak and relatives of deceased members Mae Skovronsky, Janina Martucci and Wanda Poposki for their fifty plus years of devoted service to God as members of the society.

## God's Plan for Aging



Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach & stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

## Cream of Broccoli Soup

- 1 ½ quarts water (6 cups)
- 10-ounce package frozen chopped broccoli
- ¾ cup finely chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons monosodium glutamate
- ½ teaspoon white pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 8 ounces American cheese, shredded (2 cups)
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup cream
- ¼ cup butter
- ⅓ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ cup cold water



In a 3-quart saucepan, bring 1 ½ quarts water to a boil; add broccoli and onion and boil 10 to 12 minutes. Add seasonings and shredded cheese; stir until cheese melts. Add milk, cream and butter; stir and heat to boiling.

Slowly add water to flour, stirring constantly until texture is smooth. Slowly add to hot mixture, stirring rapidly. Cook and stir until soup is the consistency of heavy cream. Makes 8-10 servings.

*Great for the cold winter months, this delicious, and easy to prepare soup was submitted by Catherine Trawinski.*