



Parish Tidings

Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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Thanksgiving Traditions



How many of these common traditions associated with "Turkey Day" have you participated in sometime during your life?

Traveling: Many people live far from family members and travel long distances by car, train, or airplane to be with their loved ones. Thanksgiving is the busiest travel day of the year.

The Feast: Traditional foods are a large part of Thanksgiving celebrations. The foods include turkey, stuffing, gravy, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce. Many people serve pumpkin, pecan, sweet potato, and apple pie for dessert. A special prayer of the family's thankfulness for the many blessings in their life is shared.

The Wishbone: Some families include breaking the turkey's wishbone as part of their celebration. The wishbone is found attached to the breast meat in the turkey's chest. After the meat has been removed and has a chance to become somewhat dry and brittle, two people each take one end of the bone, make a wish, and pull. Whoever ends up with the larger part of the bone gets his wish!

The Turkey Pardon: Each year at Thanksgiving, the President of the United States receives a gift of a live turkey. At a White House ceremony, the President traditionally "pardons" the National Thanksgiving Turkey and the alternate turkeys allowing them to live out the rest of their lives on a farm.

Helping Others: Many generous folks use Thanksgiving as an opportunity to help the less fortunate. Some people volunteer to serve food at homeless shelters on Thanksgiving

Day and others donate money to shelters or participate in food drives.

Television: For many television plays a part in Thanksgiving celebrations. Families watch the New York City Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade or other national and local parades. The parades include marching bands, floats, and giant helium-filled balloons.

Football: It has become a tradition to watch professional football on television before, during, and or after Thanksgiving dinner. Locally, traditional high school football games were played Thanksgiving Day afternoon. When each city had only one high school, Bethlehem High School played Allentown High School and the winning school was rewarded with the day off, the Monday after Thanksgiving.

Visiting the Homeland



John and Lynn Wunderler recently returned from a 12 day vacation to visit John's birthplace of Sulz, Austria. The main focus of the vacation was to visit family, so John's sister, Marie, and her husband William accompanied them. John and Marie have three brothers living in Austria. Edi the oldest brother is having health issues. Henri and Willi were born after Marie, and John is the youngest of the family. Much of the vacation was spent with family, but they were able to take a short one - day trip to Mariazell Basilica. This is one of the most important pilgrimage destinations in Austria and one of the most visited shrines in Europe. Today, approximately one

million pilgrims visit each year. In the church a miraculous wooden image of the Virgin Mary is honored. There are different legends about this church, the earliest being in the early 1100s. It served as a Monastery where the Monks built cells in order to serve the local residents. The church has undergone many restorations; the most recent was completed in 2007. The church is located in the Alpine Mountains, so the trip was traveling winding roads up and down the mountains. The town of Mariazell is over 4,000 feet up nestled in the mountains, so it was very cold. This church has special meaning to the Wunderlers, going back to the first visit to Austria with Lynn and their sons in 1984. While site-seeing, son John didn't feel well and being far from the home town of Sulz, they decided to make a quick stop to Mariazell on the way back. It turned out that he had to have his appendix removed, but thankfully they made it back to the hospital near the family's hometown before his appendix burst. Each visit back to Austria, they try to visit this holy shrine. Time spent with family was very meaningful and enjoyable. The hospitality during the visit was outstanding as well as the food and drinks. Everyone had a very nice time.

November at a Glance

Mass at 9 AM

Sunday School after Mass

Coffee Social after Mass

Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM

November 2 - Annual Fall Bazaar

November 3— Blessing of the Graves 11:30 AM

November 17 – Ladies meeting

November 19 - Committee Meeting

November 24 – Mass for the Children

November 28 – Thanksgiving Day

December 8 – Christmas Dinner

December 14 – Ladies Social

Pastor's Corner

Reflection for November



The month of November is an unusual month. We will celebrate several important holidays which in some ways summarize this liturgical year. The new liturgical year will start in December with the season of Advent. In the month of November, we will reflect on our holiness into which we are called by Jesus to be holy as our Heavenly Father is. Our reflections will go to our loved ones who already enjoy their holiness in heaven. We miss them so deeply and we pray for them as the Prophet said, "May eternal light shine on them, O Lord, with all your saints forever, for you are rich in mercy. Give them eternal rest, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine on them forever, for you are rich in mercy" (Ezr 2, 35). This month will be closed by Thanksgiving Day as remembrance that our Lord is the author of everything what is good in us and around us. This gift has to be discovered by us constantly and to be passed to others in never ending gratitude to God.

Blessings,
Fr. Bogdan

A New Feature



Beginning next month we will introduce a new feature which will replace the successful and interesting "Cornerstones." We thank those who gracefully were willing to share their life stories with us. We wish that more members would have participated in telling their families' history. The new feature which we will call the "Keystones" will appear in the "Tidings" as often as we have members who are willing to share their life stories. Just as Pennsylvania was called the "keystone state" because in colonial days it was the center in geography and activity, our "keystones" will be the long-time members who have been actively involved in the center of church life. We encourage you to participate in this new venture.

Holy Mass For Children

Father Bogdan designated Sunday, October 27, 2013 as a "Holy Mass For Children." The children had the opportunity to participate in the Holy Mass in ways they never did before. David Broczkowski served as an usher passing out mass bulletins and collecting the offering. Danielle Wunderlick, Magda Yurchishin, and Madison Passaro took part in the Readings and Responses. Given these responsibilities the children will gain greater insight and understanding of their religion. Father would like to continue this practice on a regular basis, possibly, once a month.

Blessing of the Animals



On Saturday, October 8, 2013, Father Bogdan and Deacon Donald blessed the animals of our parishioners. All the pets were well behaved. Pictured are the pets and their owners: K'Ehleyr, cat of Danielle Wunderlick; Parkway, dog of Joe Novak; Lexi, cat of Walter Poposki; Jasmin, cat of Nancy Poposki; Viceroy, mouse of Beverly Wunderlick; Snickers, dog of Tara and David Broczkowski



Financial Corner

	Contributions	Expenses
October	\$4,011.00	\$4,689.63
Repairs	\$2,000.00	

Fundraisers

In order to maintain our church property and pay the monthly bills, it is necessary to have various fund raising projects.

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends - Wearing their red "You Bet Your Pierogi, I'm Polish" t-shirts, Nancy Poposki and Andrea Gritman spent Tuesday morning, October 22, 2013 selling discount shopping passes at Boscov's, Lehigh Valley Mall. Stephanie Czuba and JoAnn Schaffer manned a table at the Palmer Park Mall. In addition to offering potential customers free cookies, they also passed out fliers for the Fall Bazaar. Although sales were not as high as hoped, the Society of Friends and the ANS will share the \$530.00 earned from this fundraiser. Thanks to all the parishioners who supported this project by buying shopping passes.

Lottery Calendar – The sale of the Lottery Calendars is second only to the Fall and Spring Bazaar in earnings. A profit of \$4,180.00 was made in 2011 and \$3,900 in 2012. Please see Joe Jurnock for your 2014 Lottery Calendar. Remember you can play the evening daily number everyday for just \$25.00. New for 2014 – if your lucky number is drawn on your birthday, you win double the prize money. A Lottery Calendar makes a great Christmas present for the "hard to shop for person" on your gift list.

Fall Bazaar- The report for the Fall Bazaar will be in December's Tidings.

Sweet Potato Casserole

2 cups mashed sweet potatoes or a large can sweet potatoes
3/4 stick butter softened
1 cup sugar
2 eggs beaten
1/2tsp. nutmeg
1/2tsp. cinnamon
1 cup milk
Cook potatoes until soft.
Mash and mix with the other ingredients.
Bake in greased 2 1/2qt. dish at 400 degrees for 25 minutes.



Topping:
3/4 cup corn flakes crushed
3/4stick butter
1/2cup brown sugar
1/2cup chopped pecans
Blend together and spread over potatoes.
Return to oven for 10 min.
Keeps in refrigerator for approximately 1 week. May be done ahead and frozen.

A delicious alternative to candied sweet potatoes for your Thanksgiving dinner

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.