



# Parish Tidings

Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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November 2014 Volume 3, No. 6

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## Thanksgiving Day



Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday with religious significance in the United States. Each year on the fourth Thursday in November, Americans gather for a day of feasting, football and family. While today's Thanksgiving celebrations would likely be unrecognizable to attendees of the original 1621 harvest meal, it continues to be a day for Americans to come together around the table with some updates to the pilgrim's menu.

During the first winter of 1621 spent in America, 46 of the 102 pilgrims died. Thankfully, the following year resulted in a plentiful harvest. The pilgrims decided to celebrate with a feast that would include 90 natives who helped the pilgrims survive during that first winter by teaching them where to fish and hunt and where to plant New World crops like corn and squash.

This first feast included many fowl, though it is not certain that it included turkey, along with venison, corn, and pumpkin. This was all prepared by the four women settlers and two teenage girls. This idea of holding a harvest feast was not something new to the pilgrims. Many cultures throughout history had held feasts and banquets honoring their individual deities or simply being thankful for the bounty.

During the early years of our country Thanksgiving was celebrated on different dates as early as September 18 and as late as December 18. George Washington issued the first Thanksgiving Proclamation by a President of the United States on November 26, 1789. Over the years, Thanksgiving was still being celebrated in many states, but often on different dates. Most states, however, celebrated it sometime in November.

Beginning in 1846, Sarah Josepha Hale began her campaign to make the last Thursday in November a Thanksgiving national holiday. She wrote letters to governors in every

state and territory. On September 28, 1863 during the Civil War, Hale wrote a letter to President Abraham Lincoln to have the day of annual Thanksgiving made a National and fixed "Union Festival." Then on October 3, 1863, Lincoln proclaimed a nationwide Thanksgiving Day as the last Thursday of November. After 1869, each year the president proclaimed the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day. A bill signed into law by Franklin D. Roosevelt on November 26, 1941 establishing the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day. This has been followed by every state in the union since 1956.

## Locks of Love



In order to make taking care of their long strawberry blond tresses easier, Magda and Barbara Yurchishin decided to get their first

haircut. Barbara had 15 inches of her hair cut and donated her hair to Locks of Love, a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under the age of 21 who are suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. The prostheses helps to restore their self-esteem and their confidence, enabling them to face the world and their peers.

Barbara braided the shorn ponytail herself and sent it along with a note conveying her best wishes for the recipient.

## November at a Glance

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

November 2 – All Souls Day

**Parish Cemetery at 12 Noon**

ANS meeting

**November 11 – Veterans Day**

November 27 – Thanksgiving Day

**Committee Meeting – To be announced**

## Seniorate Meeting

On Saturday, October 18, 2014 our church hosted the semi-annual Seniorate meeting with 14 in attendance. These meetings are held to discuss the status of each of the five parishes in the Philadelphia Seniorate. Each pastor gave a report on the activities of their parish since the last meeting and the recent General Synod was discussed. A hearty beef stew luncheon was prepared by Beverly Wunderlich and Karen Amate baked Pumpkin Bars and Cheesecake Bars for dessert. Father Bogdan, along with our delegates, Karen Amate, Mary Ann Bartone and Nancy Poposki enjoyed seeing the delegates from the other churches. Thanks to Jackie Bayak and Beverly Wunderlich for preparing the tables, serving the meal and cleaning up.

## Bosco'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 21, 2014 selling discount shopping passes at Bosco's, Lehigh Valley Mall. Stephanie Czuba and Beverly Wunderlich manned a table at the Palmer Park Mall. They also passed out fliers for the Fall Bazaar. The ANS earned \$545.00 from this fundraiser. This money will be used to offset the cost of baking of rolls for the Bazaar.

Thanks to all the parishioners who supported this project by buying shopping passes.

## Pastor's Corner



My Friends,

*"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25, 26)*

During the month of November there is a tradition in the Church to pray for the souls of the departed: parents, relatives, siblings, and friends that have left us to meet our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ before us.

We have experienced much love and joy with them. We have surely heard the words of hope and support. We may have missed the chance to say thank you to them, while they were here with us. We could have been too shy to tell them "I love you, I am Sorry, I Forgive."

Now, living here on earth, we can't do all those things for them, because they are not here anymore. But we are able to express our thanksgivings to them by prayer. That is all, because the memories about them are still alive in our hearts.

The Church also reminds us of an important truth in the Preface for the Funeral Mass: "Life changes, but does not cease." The souls of our loved ones still live as they continue their pilgrimage towards eternal life. Our Masses and prayers will help our loved ones reach their eternal life in paradise.

I would like to offer you the opportunity to pray for them each Sunday after Holy Mass - we will pray with reading their names.

**Holy Mass for All Saints Day will be served in November 2nd with procession on our parish cemetery at 12 pm.**

Blessings,  
Father Bogdan

## Around the Parish

- Jackie and Hank Kudzik celebrated their 69<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on October 6.
- Jackie and Ron Bayak are pleased to announce the marriage of their granddaughter, Mallory Kiefer to Ryan Frye on Saturday, September 13, 2014 in front of family and friends at Leithsville Banquet Hall in Hellertown, Pa. Best wishes for a long and happy life together.
- Ranee and Fran Anthony recently returned from their annual Hawaiian vacation visiting their son Matthew, daughter-in-law Patricia and grandchildren Olivia and Alex.
- The ANS will host the Annual Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 14, 2014.
- See Joe Jurnock for you Lottery Calendar ticket - play the lottery every day in 2015 for only \$25.00.
- The cracks in the parking lot have been sealed and the flat roof of the church has been replaced. The inside work will be completed in the near future. Thanks to the YMS of R for covering the cost of the repairs.
- The ANS has purchased a Shop Vac for use at the church.

## Preparing for the Fall Bazaar



Stephanie Czuba, Barbara Frisch, Jackie Bayak, Nancy Poposki, Gerry Matla, Allison Sarkozy and Andrea Gritman preparing the White Elephant tables for the Fall Bazaar.

## Lost Man



A man had been lost and walking in the desert for about five days. One hot day he comes to the home of a preacher. Tired and weak he crawls up to the house and collapses on the doorstep. The preacher takes him in and nurses him back to health.

Feeling better, the man asks the preacher for directions to the nearest town. The preacher gave him directions and offers to lend him his horse. The preacher says, "However, there is a special thing about this horse. You have to say 'Thank God' to make him go and 'Amen' to make it stop.

Anxious to get to town, the man says, "Sure, okay" and gets on the horse. He says "Thank God and sure enough, the horse starts walking. A bit later he says louder "Thank God, Thank God," and the horse starts trotting. Feeling really brave the man says, "Thank God! Thank God! THANK GOD!" and the horse is soon up to a full run.

About then he realizes he's heading for a huge cliff and yells "Whoa!" But the horse doesn't even slow down. "Whoa, stop, hold on!" Finally he remembers, "AMEN."

The horse stops a mere two inches from the cliff's edge, almost throwing him over its head. The man panting and heart racing wipes the sweat from his face and leaned back in the saddle. "Oh!" he said, gasping for air, "Thank God."

## Turkey a la King

- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 3 fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 1 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup chopped cooked turkey
- 1/3 cup frozen peas, thawed
- salt and pepper to taste



In a large skillet over medium low heat, cook butter until golden brown. Sauté mushrooms until tender. Stir in flour until smooth. Slowly whisk in chicken broth, and cook until slightly thickened. Stir in cream, turkey and peas. Reduce heat to low, and cook until thickened. Season with salt and pepper. Serve over puff-pastry boats, biscuits, toast or rice.

*A great way to use leftover chicken or turkey.*

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.