



# Parish Tidings



Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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## 11 Things You May Not Have Known About Thanksgiving



We rounded up 11 of the best facts about Thanksgiving, which might come in handy during those awkward silences at the family dinner table.

1. There are three places in the US named Turkey. There is Turkey, Texas; Turkey, North Carolina; and Turkey Creek, Louisiana. There are also two townships in Pennsylvania called Upper Turkeyfoot and Lower Turkeyfoot.

2. The first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade used live animals from the Central Park Zoo. .

3. Jingle Bells was originally a Thanksgiving song. James Pierpoint composed the song in 1857 for children celebrating Thanksgiving. The title was "One Horse Open Sleigh," and it was such a hit that it was sung again at Christmas. The song quickly became associated with the Christmas holiday season, and the title was officially changed in 1859, two years later.

4. The Detroit Lions always play on Thanksgiving. Football is so ingrained in the Thanksgiving holiday that many people think the game is just as important as the turkey. The Dallas Cowboys also always play on Thanksgiving.

6. The Wednesday before Thanksgiving is responsible for the most bar sales in America, more than New Year's Eve, the Super Bowl, or even St. Patrick's Day. It makes sense, since nearly all Americans have Thanksgiving off and dealing with family members can be very stressful.

7. Thanksgiving leftovers inspired the first-ever TV dinner. In 1953, the Swanson Company overestimated the demand for turkey. The owners of the company had no idea what to do with all the leftovers. Taking inspiration from airplane meals, they ordered 5,000 aluminum trays, and loaded them with the turkey leftovers to create the first TV dinner.

8. Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be the official bird of the US. He thought turkeys were much more American than the bald eagle.

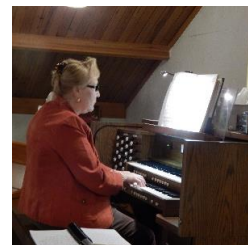
8. George Washington was the first to declare Thanksgiving as a holiday, but it was on a year-to-year basis. Thomas Jefferson canceled Thanksgiving during his presidency. He refused to declare the holiday because he fervently believed in the separation of church and state, and thought that the day of "prayer" violated the First Amendment. It wasn't until 1863, when Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a federal holiday and officially scheduled it to fall on the fourth Thursday of November.

9. FDR tried to change the date of Thanksgiving to the second-to-last Thursday in November in an attempt to lift the economy during the Great Depression. The idea being that it would give people more time to shop for Christmas. But it ended up making everybody confused. After two years, Congress ditched the new policy and set the fourth Thursday of November as the legal holiday.

10. Minnesota produces more turkey than any other state in America. North Carolina, Missouri Arkansas, and Virginia are also top producers.

11. The White House has a tradition of pardoning one lucky turkey each year. George H. W. Bush was the first president to officially grant a turkey a presidential pardon.

## An Evening to Remember



The church was alive with the sound of music on Saturday, October 10, 2015 when our organist Sandra Collier

performed our first ever organ recital. Along with three selections by Johann Sebastian Bach, nearly sixty people were treated to the three variations of the Hymn of Faith composed by Ms. Collier. The compositions were dedicated to Father Bogdan and the parishioners of Our Lord's Ascension Polish National Catholic Church. After playing "Choral in A Minor" by Cesar Franck, the recital ended with all singing "God Bless America". Gerry Matla assisted Ms. Collier as page-turner.

All were invited to a reception after the concert in the Church Social Hall. Several parishioners remarked that they never knew such beautiful sounds could come from our organ. Sandy greeted all and pictures were taken with everybody.

## November at a Glance

**Sunday Mass at 9 AM**

SOCL after Mass

**Coffee Social after Mass**

Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM

November 1 – ANS meeting

**All Saints Day**

12 PM – Blessing of the Cemetery

**November 7 – Fall Bazaar**

November 11 – Veterans Day

**November 15 – Confirmation**

**Mass at 10:30 AM**

November 22 – Mass of Thanksgiving

**November 26 – Thanksgiving**

November 29 – First Sunday of Advent

Committee Meeting – to be announced

## Pastor's Corner

### November - The Month of Remembrance!



As St. Paul said, "we don't want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with Him those who have fallen asleep."

Keeping in our hearts God's promise and assurance, let us reflect together during this month on our own death, but also about our upcoming glory.

*Merciful Father, grant us Your consolation.*

*As we renew our faith in Your Son, who rose from the dead,*

*strengthen our hope that all our departed brothers and sisters will share in His resurrection. Amen*

Father Bogdan Y.

### Friends helping Friends –



Wearing their red "You Bet Your Pierogi, I'm Polish" t-shirts, Nancy Poposki and Andrea Gritman spent Tuesday morning, October 20, 2015 selling discount shopping passes at Boscov's, Lehigh Valley Mall. Jackie Bayak and Beverly Wunderlich manned a table at the Palmer Park Mall. They also passed out fliers for the Fall Bazaar. The ANS earned \$485.00 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 selling and/or buying shopping passes.

### Around the Parish

- Lottery Calendars are available in the church Hall. Support your church by selling the Lottery Calendars to your friends and family or at least purchasing one for yourself. Return your calendar stubs and payment to Andrea Gritman or Jackie Bayak. Remember you can play the evening daily number every day for just \$25.00. A Lottery Calendar makes a great Christmas present for the "hard to shop for person" on your gift list.
- Thanks to Ron Trawinski, Gerry Matla and John Wunderler for sanding, priming and painting the handrail at the entrance of the church. Good job done for a much needed project.
- Thanks to Ace Electric for adjusting the outside lights in the parking lot.
- Congratulations to Jackie and Hank Kudzik who celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on October 6.
- The ANS will host the Annual Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 13, 2015.

## Talking Turkey



An industrious turkey farmer looking forward to big Thanksgiving sales was always experimenting with breeding to perfect a better turkey.

His family was fond of the leg portion for dinner and there were never enough legs for everyone. After many frustrating attempts, the farmer was relating the results of his efforts to his friends at the general store get-together. "Well, I finally did it! I bred a turkey that has 6 legs!"

They all asked the farmer how it tasted. "I don't know" said the farmer. "I never could catch the darn thing!"

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The pro football team had just finished their daily practice session when a large turkey came strutting onto the field. While the players gazed in amazement, the turkey walked up to the head coach and demanded a tryout. Everyone stared in silence as the turkey caught pass after pass and ran right through the defensive line. When the turkey returned to the sidelines, the coach shouted, "You're terrific!!! Sign up for the season, and I'll see to it that you get a huge bonus." "Forget the bonus," the turkey said, "All I want to know is, does the season go past Thanksgiving Day?"

## Cornbread Stuffing

(a Michael Symon original)

### Ingredients

- 4 Tbsp. butter
- 2 cups chopped yellow onions
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 2 cups corn kernels (fresh if available)
- 2 Tbsp. minced garlic
- 1 cup diced red pepper
- 1/2 pound diced smoked ham
- 2 eggs
- 3 cups chicken stock
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 2 Tbsp. chopped parsley
- 8 cups cubed and toasted cornbread
- salt and pepper to taste



### Directions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Melt butter. Add vegetables and sauté until tender. Add ham and cook over low heat for 2 more minutes. Set aside to slightly cool. Whisk together eggs, stock, cream and herbs and season with salt and pepper. Combine all items, including cornbread, in a 4 quart lasagna pan and bake covered with foil for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake for additional 20 minutes or until crusty.