



Parish Tidings



Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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Saint John the Apostle



Saint John the Apostle, the son of Zebedee and Salome, was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. John's older brother was Saint James the Great, another one of Jesus' Twelve Apostles. Jesus referred to the brothers as "Boanerges," meaning "sons of thunder." John is believed to be the longest living apostle and the only one not to die a martyr's death other than Judas, who committed suicide.

John, along with Peter and James were the only witnesses of the Daughter of Jairus, when Jesus performed the miracle of raising the synagogue ruler's daughter from the dead and the closest witnesses of the Agony in Gethsemane. John and Peter were the only two apostles sent by Jesus to make preparations for the final Passover meal, the Last Supper. During the meal St. John sat next to Jesus, leaning on him rather than lying along the couches.

John was the only one of the apostles who did not forsake the Savior in the hour of His Passion. He stood faithfully at the cross when Jesus made him the guardian of His Mother.

Known as the author of the Gospel of John, he also wrote four other books of the New Testament - the three Epistles of John and the Book of Revelation.

St. John is called the Apostle of Charity, a virtue he had learned from Jesus. He is the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships and authors. He is often depicted in art with an eagle, symbolizing "the height he rose to in his gospel. In other icons, he is shown looking up to heaven and dictating his Gospel. The "Beloved Disciple" died in Ephesus where a stately church was erected over his tomb. It was later converted into a Mohammedan mosque.

Tradition holds that John was given a poisoned glass of wine to consume. Before taking a swig or sniff he blessed

the goblet and out came a snake. St. John then drank the wine and he was fine. Because of this event, church members can bring wine to church to get blessed on December 27, his feast day. Catholics drink the blessed wine that day and throughout the year on special occasions. The head of the household makes a special toast. " I drink you the love of Saint John." The traditional response is " I thank you for the love of Saint John."

November and December Birthdays

On November 12, 2017, the ANS provided a birthday cake honoring the parishioners celebrating their November and December birthdays. Congratulations to Kara Josar and Helen Trexler, who celebrated November birthdays and to Leslie Zavar and Mary Ann Bartone who celebrate December birthdays.



A birthday party was held at Gracedale Nursing Home honoring Helen Trexler who celebrated her 95th birthday on November 21.

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Annual Christmas Dinner

The annual Christmas Dinner sponsored by the ANS will be held on Sunday, December 10, 2017 after Mass. Mass that day will be celebrated at 10:00 AM. The cost of the dinner is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 6 to 12. The menu is as following: Kielbasa, Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Salad, Rolls, Dessert, Coffee or Tea, Wine for a toast and sharing of the Oplatek. We will also hold a raffle at the dinner. The cost of the raffle tickets is 6 for \$5.00. Join our parish family and help celebrate the beginning of the Joyous Christmas season.

2017 Fall Bazaar



Our annual Fall Bazaar was held Saturday, November 4, 2017. Although we did not seem to have as many patrons as last year, an all-time high profit of \$11,074.80 was realized when the after sales income was added. A special thank you to Elias Market for donating two bushels of apples for the apple squares and strudel and to Redner's Market for their monetary contribution. Please remember both stores when shopping.

The final breakdown is as follows:	
Nut Rolls	\$ 2,095.00
White Elephant	\$ 399.25
Kielbasa/Sauerkraut	\$ 468.25
Crafts	\$ 605.00
East-In	\$ 671.50
Take-Out	\$ 1,176.25
Basket Auction	\$ 977.00
Baked Goods	\$ 1,399.25
Pierogies	\$ 1,426.00
Donations	\$ 770.00
Total	\$ 9,987.50
Expenses	\$ 0.00
Profit	\$ 9,987.50
After bazaar sales	\$ 1,087.30
Total Profit	\$ 11,074.80

December at a Glance

- Sunday Mass at 9 AM
- Coffee Social after Mass
- Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM
- December 3 – ANS Meeting
- December 10 – Christmas Dinner after 10 AM Mass
- December 12 – Men's Social
- December 24 – 9 PM Christmas Eve
- December 25 – 10 AM Christmas Day
- December 31 – Second Chance Lottery Drawing

The Meaning of '12 Days of Christmas'

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember. 12 Days of Christmas Carol

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

Alice Aronson

With deepest sorrow we announce the passing of Alice Aronson on October 5, 2017. Alice will always be fondly remembered for her pleasant personality, many donations of baking and paper supplies and her willingness to help at our parish functions.

Around the Parish

- On Sunday December 10, 2017, the day of our annual parish Christmas dinner, a remembrance tree will be placed on St. Joseph's side of the altar. Part of the tree will be adorned with vintage Christmas ornaments from Poland. Ornaments will be supplied for each parishioner to place on the tree in remembrance of loved ones'.
- The members of the ANS have decided to hold a Winter Gathering in January instead of the Ladies Christmas Social. The date will be announced in the January newsletter.
- Lottery Calendars are available in the church hall. Support your church by selling the Lottery Calendars to your friends and family or at least purchase 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 and a second chance winner of \$100.00 is picked from all tickets at the end of the year. A Lottery Calendar makes a great Christmas present for the "hard to shop for person" on your gift list.
- Thanks to Ernie and Nicolette Stavrovsky for weeding the areas around the church.

- Thanks to Marilyn Kovacs for donating a case of "Blessed Spirit" communion wine purchased at her favorite winery in North Carolina.
- Thanks to Frank and Gerry Matla and Ron and Eric Trawinski, for trimming the shrubbery around the church.

The Three Wise Women



You do know what would have happened if it had been three wise WOMEN instead of men, don't you?

They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought disposable diapers as gifts.

The Christmas Flight



It was a few days before Christmas. The business trip went reasonably well, and Harry was ready to go back home. The airport on the other end had turned a tacky red and green, and loudspeakers blared elevator renditions of cherished Christmas carols.

Being someone who took Christmas very seriously, and being slightly tired, he was not in a particularly good mood. Going to check his luggage (which, for some reason, had become one suitcase with entirely new clothes), he saw hanging mistletoe. Not real mistletoe, but very cheap plastic with red paint on some of the rounder parts and green paint on some of the flatter parts, that could be taken for mistletoe only in a very Picasso sort of way.

With a considerable degree of irritation and nowhere else to vent it, he said to the attendant, "Even if we were married, I would not want to kiss you under such a ghastly mockery of mistletoe."

"Sir, look more closely at where the mistletoe is."

"Ok, I see that it's above the luggage scale which is the place you'd have to step forward for a kiss."

"That's not why it's there."

"Ok, I give up. Why is it there?"

"It's there so you can kiss your luggage good-bye."

Chocolate Cheesecake

18 chocolate Oreo cookies, rolled into crumbs

1 tsp. vanilla

3 eggs

2 T. melted butter

1 (8-oz.) pkg. semi-sweet baking chocolate, melted and cooled

3 (8-oz.) pkgs. cream cheese, softened slightly

3/4 cup sugar



Heat oven to 325 degrees. Press cookie crumbs and butter onto bottom of 9-inch springform pan.

Bake 10 minutes.

Mix cream cheese, sugar and vanilla with electric mixer on medium speed until blended. Add eggs, mixing on low just until blended.

Blend in melted chocolate. Pour over crust. Bake 55 to 60 minutes, or until center is almost set.

Cool before removing rim of pan.

Refrigerate for 4 hours. Serves 12.

Everyone's a **chocolate** lover when it comes to this special dessert.