



Parish Tidings



**Polish National
Catholic Church**
"through the years..."

Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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Saint Stephen



Saint Stephen was one of the first ordained deacons of the Church. He was also the first Christian martyr, the first person ever to die for the Christian faith. He was one of seven people chosen by the apostles to help them spread the word of Jesus and take care of the poor. As well as being a devoted Christian, he was a wise and educated man. He gave inspiring talks and attracted many followers. Stephen told the people if they believe in Jesus, they would have eternal life.

Sadly, Stephen made powerful enemies among the Jewish elders. They did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah, and hated the new Christian church. Again and again they argued with Stephen, but he patiently stood his ground. In the end they made up charges against Stephen and took him to the Jewish court.

In the courtroom Stephen criticized his accusers for not believing in Jesus. Looking up, he told them he could see a vision of Jesus with God in heaven. This angered the court so much that it ordered Stephen to be stoned to death. In this cruel and violent way, he became the first Christian martyr. His feast day is December 26. He is the patron saint of deacons and builders.

Jesus is Better Than Santa

Santa lives at the North Pole.
JESUS is everywhere.
Santa rides in a sleigh
JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.
Santa comes but once a year
JESUS is an ever-present help.
Santa fills your stockings with goodies
JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited
JESUS stands at your door and knocks and then enters your heart.
You have to stand in line to see Santa
JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.
Santa lets you sit on his lap
JESUS lets you rest in His arms.
Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly
JESUS has a heart full of love.
All Santa can offer is HO HO HO
JESUS offers health, help and hope.
Santa says "You better not cry"
JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you.

Santa's little helpers make toys
JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.
Santa may make you chuckle but
JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.
While Santa puts gifts under your tree
JESUS became our gift and died on the tree.

It's obvious there is really no comparison.
We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about.
We need to put Christ back in Christmas.
Jesus is still the reason for the season.
Yes, Jesus is better, he is even better than Santa Claus!

Fall Bazaar

Our annual Fall Bazaar was held Saturday, November 3, 2018. Although the day started rainy and remained cool our devoted customers waited patiently for the doors to open. A special thank you to Elias Market for donating two bushels of apples for the apple squares and strudel. Please remember this store when shopping. The fund-raising committee and other

parishioners worked diligently for weeks preparing for this big event. We can certainly say that the bazaar was a great success due to the efforts of our parish family.

The final breakdown is as follows:



Nut Rolls	\$ 1,555.00
White Elephant	\$ 450.56
Kielbasa/Sauerkraut	\$ 640.00
Crafts	\$ 582.50
East-In	\$ 710.30
Take-Out	\$ 1,147.95
Basket Auction	\$ 970.00
Baked Goods	\$ 1,452.50
Pierogies	\$ 1,393.00
Donations	\$ 875.00
Total	\$ 9,776.81
Expenses	\$ 0.00
Profit	\$ 9,776.81
After bazaar sales	\$ 682.25
Total Profit	\$ 10,459.06

This is the second consecutive year a profit of over \$10,000 was achieved.

December at a Glance

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

December 2 – ANS Meeting
December 9 – Christmas Dinner after 10:30 AM Mass
December 11 – Men's Social
December 24 – 9 PM Christmas Eve
December 25 – 10 AM Christmas Day

January 6 – Second Chance Lottery Drawing

Pastor's Corner

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light
– Isaiah 9:2



My Dear Friends,

I want to wish you a Merry Christmas. Jesus Christ was born among us. May this joyful mystery “God became man” help us to realize that being a human being is wonderful although it appears to us to be so difficult. The Son of God decided to become one of us to share with us our human nature and hardships related to it. God shares with us our humanity, but most of all His Divinity.

I wish that God's Divinity will be present in your life. May these upcoming holy days of Christmas bring for you a lot of joy, love and peace. May you remember that you are not alone anymore in your daily life's hardships and pain – He is God with us! May His light lead you safely through your life, help you to make wise decisions and help you to live in truth.

Again, I wish you a Merry Christmas and I will remember you all in my prayers at the altar.

Father Bogdan and family

Around the Parish

• On Sunday December 9, 2018, 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.

• **Sunday Breakfast** - The YMS of R is the sponsor of the breakfast for the first Sunday of the month. The women's society is responsible for breakfast on the second Sunday of the month. The third, fourth and possibly fifth Sunday are set aside for the rest of the congregation to donate items for the coffee hour

• **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.

• The YMS of R will hold their annual Christmas Social at Feasta Italiana, 2400 Schoenersville Road on Tuesday, December 11 at 6:30 PM. All men of the parish are invited.

• The ANS will once again hold a Winter Gathering in late January or early February instead of a Christmas social. The date will be announced in the January 2019 newsletter. All ladies are invited this event.

Annual Christmas Dinner

The annual Christmas Dinner sponsored by the ANS will be held on Sunday, December 9, 2018 after Mass. Mass that day will be celebrated at 10:30 AM. The cost of the dinner is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 6 to 12. The menu includes roast beef, ultimate mashed potatoes, glazed 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.

To help the ANS members know how much food to prepare, a signup sheet is located on the easel in the narthex of the church.

At Grandma's

Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers when the youngest one began praying at the top of his lungs.

"I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE...

I PRAY FOR A NEW NINTENDO...

I PRAY FOR A NEW CELL PHONE..."

His older brother leaned over and nudged the younger brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf." To which the little brother replied, "No, but Gramma is!"

Lemon Meltaways

Cookies

1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour

3/4 cup butter, softened

1/2 cup cornstarch

1/3 cup powdered sugar

1 tbsp. lemon juice

1 tsp. grated lemon peel

Frosting

3/4 cup powdered sugar

1/4 cup butter, softened

1 tsp. fresh lemon juice

1 tsp. grated lemon peel



In large mixer bowl combine all cookie ingredients. Beat at low speed, scraping bowl often, until well mixed (2 to 3 minutes).

Divide dough in half. Shape each ball into 8 x 1-inch roll. Wrap in plastic food wrap. Refrigerate until firm (1 to 2 hours).

Heat oven to 350 degrees. With sharp knife, cut each roll into 1/4-inch slices. Place 2 inches apart on cookie sheets. Bake 8 to 12 minutes or until set. (Cookies will not brown.) Cool completely.

In small mixer bowl combine all frosting ingredients. Beat at medium speed, scraping bowl often, until fluffy (1 to 2 minutes.) Frost cooled cookies. Makes 4 dozen cookies.

If you have something to share, a story, anecdote, recipe, or up-coming event in your life, please submit it to Jo Ann Schaffer, or Andrea Gritman.