



Parish Tidings



Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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Saint Sebastian



Sebastian was a Roman soldier with a deadly secret, he was a Christian. He was actually a double agent. He

lived at a time when the emperor, Diocletian, was persecuting Christians. While he appeared to be one of the emperor's loyal guards, secretly he was comforting Christian prisoners and converting prison guards.

When the emperor discovered Sebastian's true faith, Diocletian was furious and ordered him to be shot with arrows. The execution was carried out and Sebastian was left for dead, but a woman named Irene found him still alive and nursed him back to health.

With great courage Sebastian returned to the emperor and protested against his cruelty. Diocletian ordered him to be clubbed to death. This time he died of his wounds. A church now stands on the spot outside Rome, Italy, where he is believed to be buried.

St. Sebastian's Feast Day is January 20. He has become the Patron Saint of Archers, Athletes and Soldiers.

Blessing of the Wine



One of the Polish customs of the Christmas season is the blessing of wine on the Feast of Saint John

during the Christmas Octave. The wine is blessed in honor of Saint John, who without harm, drank the poisoned wine offered by his enemies.

Annual Christmas Dinner



The traditional parish Christmas dinner sponsored by the ANS was held after the 10:30 AM mass on Sunday, December 9, 2019, the second Sunday in Advent. All in attendance were treated to a delicious roast beef dinner. Father Bogdan gave the blessing, the toast and shared the Oplatek with everyone present. Lucky raffle winners were Jerry Gritman, Fran Anthony, Walter Poposki, John Sydorak, David Broczkowski, Ernie Stavrovsky Jr. and Barb Jurnock. Winners of the poinsettia centerpieces were Mary Ann Bartone, Gerry Matla, Frank Matla, Barb Jurnock Jackie Bayak and Fran Anthony..

Lottery tickets provided by the ANS were given as favors.

Y.M.S. of R. Annual Holiday Gathering



On Tuesday, December 11, 2018, the Y.M.S. of R held their Annual Holiday Gathering at the Feasta Italiana Restaurant in Bethlehem. Among those attending were Joe Bartone, Joe Jurnock, Ron Trawinski, Gerry Matla, Frank Matla, Fran Anthony Joe Novak, John Sydorak, Evan Weller, and Fr. Bogdan. Everyone enjoyed

themselves and look forward to working together again next year.

Christmas Eve Service



Along with traditional songs in both English and Polish this year's Christmas Eve service featured a solo performance of "O Holy Night" by David Broczkowski, "Sliczna Panienska" by Gerry Matla and a duet of "One Small Child" by Barbara and Magda Yurdhishin. In addition to the great choir, the beautiful sounds of Christmas were by performed Dan Broczkowski on the trumpet, David Broczkowski on the clarinet. The Bell Choir performed "Still, Still, Still" under the direction of Tara Broczkowski.

January at a Glance

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

January 6 – ANS Meeting – Election of Officers

January 6 – Second Chance Lottery Drawing

January 14 - Renewal of Baptismal Vows

January 18 & 19 – Tentative pierogi making

February at a Glance

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

February 5– ANS Meeting

February 9 – Ladies Winter Gathering

February 15 & 16 - Tentative pierogi making

Dear God,

I end this year with this simple prayer. Please heal the broken, make well the sick, restore happiness to those in despair. Bring love to the lonely, food to the hungry, and peace to the world. Amen

Remembrance Tree



Keeping the tradition the congregation placed ornaments in remembrance of loved ones on a tree located on St. Joseph's side of the altar for the fifth consecutive year during Mass on Sunday, December 9, 2018. Part of the tree was adorned with vintage Christmas ornaments from Poland.

Around the Parish

- Volunteers are needed to lend a hand at bingo on Wednesday nights.
- **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.
- **Bible Study** - Because the latest Church Synod stressed the fact that parishioners should consider more spiritual activities within the parish, the ANS will sponsor a Bible Study. We will focus on the women of the New Testament. We will meet the 4th Sunday of the month beginning January 27 during coffee. Please join us for the first gathering to see if this is an interest to you. All women are invited.
- The Ladies Winter Gathering will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2019 at Jo Ann Schaffer's house at 12 noon. Sponsored by the members of the ANS, all the women of the church are invited to this covered dish luncheon. Anyone interest in attending, please indicate what you would like to share on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Children in Church

Six-year old Angie, and her four-year old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church.

Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough.

"You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said,

"See those two men standing by the door?"

They're hushers."

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.

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo, while I asked, "No, how are we alike?"

"You're both old," he replied.

A ten-year old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then, one day, she floored her grandmother by asking, "Which Virgin was the mother of Jesus? The virgin Mary or the King James virgin?"

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination, looking at the old pages as he turned them. Then something fell out of the Bible. He picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that has been pressed in between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found," the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in the young boy's voice he answered, "It's Adam's suit".

One particular four-year old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets, as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

A little boy was overheard praying:

"Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it; I'm having a real good time like I am."

A Sunday School teacher asked her little children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments.

They were ready to discuss the last one.

The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was.

Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted,

"Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbor's wife."

Easy Parm Garlic Chicken



- 1/2 cup Grated Parmesan Cheese
- 1 envelope Good Seasons Italian Salad Dressing and Recipe Mix

- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
 - 6 boneless skinless chicken breast halves (about 2 lbs.)
1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Mix cheese, salad dressing mix and garlic powder.
 2. Moisten chicken with water, coat with cheese mixture. Place in shallow baking dish.
 3. Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until cooked through. Makes 6 servings.

Easy to make and easy on the budget