



Parish Tidings



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

Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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January/February 2020 Volume 8, No 4

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Annual Christmas Dinner



The traditional parish Christmas dinner sponsored by the ANS was held after the 10:30 AM mass on Sunday, December 8, 2019, the second Sunday in Advent. All in attendance were treated to a delicious pork and sauerkraut dinner. Father Bogdan gave the blessing, the toast and shared the Oplatek with everyone present. After dinner Gerry Matla led the assembled in a medley of Christmas carols in Polish and English. Lucky raffle winners were Nancy Puposki – Dunkin, Andrea Gritman – wine and chocolate, Faye Reed – Giant gift cards, Ron Trawinski – Dunkin gift card, Jackie Bayak – chocolate, Cindy Weller – cookie tray, Frank Matla – wine, Barb Jurnock – candle, Father Bogdan – chocolate, and Jo Ann Schaffer - chocolate. Non-winners were invited to take the poinsettia centerpieces.

Christmas ornaments crafted by Andrea Gritman were given as favors.

A Year of Memories



This January start the year with an empty jar. Each week add a note with a good thing that happened.

On New Year's Eve empty the jar and read about the amazing year you had.

Remembrance Tree

Keeping the tradition started six years ago, the congregation placed ornaments in remembrance



of loved ones on a tree located on St. Joseph's side of the altar. Part of the tree was adorned with vintage Christmas ornaments from Poland.

Christmas Eve Service



This year's Christmas Eve service began with a solo performance of "O Holy Night" by David Broczkowski. Jerry Gritman presented the baby Jesus to Father to place in the manger while the congregation sang "Silent Night" in English and Polish. During the Offertory Gerry Matla sang "Sliczna Panienska". After Communion the choir along with the congregation sang traditional songs in both English and Polish. In addition to the great choir, the beautiful sounds of Christmas were performed by Dan Broczkowski on the trumpet, David Broczkowski on the clarinet and Tara Broczkowski on the guitar and organ.

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.



January at a Glance

Sunday Mass at 9 AM

Coffee Social after Mass

Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM

January 5 – ANS Meeting

January 5 – 2019 Second Chance Lottery Drawing

January 12 - Renewal of Baptismal Vows

January 15 & 16 - Tentative pierogi making

January 26 – Women's Bible Study

February at a Glance

Sunday Mass at 9 AM

Coffee Social after Mass

Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM
Stations of the Cross – 6:30 PM

- Fridays during Lent


February 2– ANS Meeting

February 14 & 15 - Tentative pierogi making

February 23 – Women's Bible Study

February 26 – Ash Wednesday 6:30 PM

Around the Parish

- Volunteers are needed to lend a hand at bingo on Wednesday nights.
 - Recently Father Bogdan has placed more emphasis on the Blessed Virgin Mary during the Advent season leading to Christmas. He began a limited rosary session at 8:45 before mass for those who wanted to know more about the rosary. Several members attended one or more sessions and prayed the rosary. Also, on the Saturdays before Christmas, Father had mass devoted to Mary.
 - The YMS of R held their annual Christmas Social at Feasta Italiana, on Tuesday, December 3. Although the restaurant no longer serves beer, the group of ten enjoyed themselves and look forward to working together again next year.
 - Our faithful chest freezer which has served the parish well for over thirty years stopped working right after the fall bazaar. A decision was made to purchase an energy efficient double door upright commercial freezer instead of a chest freezer. Thanks to Barb Frisch and Andrea Gritman for researching the freezers and Walter Poposki for fighting the Black Friday shoppers to get a discount for the church. The new freezer cost over \$2,500.00 and so far, donations were received for \$1,025.00. If you wish to make a donation just place your donation in an envelope with your name on it and note it is for the freezer.
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- Since the stage is being used as a storage area, three storage racks were purchased by the ANS to try to keep the area organized. Thanks to Jerry Gritman for assembling them and Jackie Bayak, Barb Frisch, Andrea Gritman and Marilyn Kovacs for organizing the area.
 - A familiar face during the past months, Rosalie Moyer has joined our church. We welcome her to our parish family.
 - The Christmas food sale, held on Saturday, January 14 was a success. Thanks to Marilyn Kovacs for organizing this fund raiser. Although kiffles, rolls, pierogi and kielbasa were the only items for sale a total of \$1,409 was made. Plans are to make this an annual event.
 - No one remembers when the Christmas stable was first used but several parishioners think it was made by Mr. Rokose (no one remembers his first name) over forty years ago. Like any building of that age it was in need of some repairs. Thanks to Jerry Gritman for taking his time to repair the roof, tighten up the structure and giving it a new paint job. We hope it last another forty years.
 - Interested in visiting Poland. A flyer describing a trip to Poland and Czechoslovakia scheduled for July 9 - 19, 2020 is available in the narthex of the church and on the church website.

ANS Christmas Gathering

Because all of the Saturdays prior to Christmas were filled with church-related or family-related activities, the group selected Tuesday, December 17th as the day for the gathering. Unfortunately, it did not turn out to



be the best time because a few had prior commitments and the weather forecast was ominous. The plan was to serve the left-overs from the church Christmas dinner. A few gentlemen offered to help us enjoy the pork and sauerkraut again. With icy conditions in the morning three members canceled.

The party started with Marilyn Kovacs serving her famous "Jolly Juice", a crushed ice and wine drink, which put the group in a festive mood. We played "Facts in Five", a trivia game in which the team of Gerry Matla and Marilyn Kovacs won prizes. Listening to Polish Christmas Carols, lunch was served. Then came a game of "Left, Right, Center" which was won by Jerry Gritman. Thanks to Faye Reed and Andrea Gritman who brought dessert in addition to their planned appetizers. Two who planned to bring dessert couldn't make it to the party. While enjoying the treats we played the Victorian game, "The Vicar's Cat" which we changed to "The Priest's Dog." Again, Gerry Matla was a winner.

Santa's helper, Marilyn Kovacs, presented the members with hand-crafted woolen neck warmers, which was a beautiful surprise. She knitted enough to gift all the women in the church who volunteer with her making pierogies, rolls, or working bingo. Maybe next year we will consider having a "Christmas in July" party.

Simple Formula for Living

- Live beneath your means.
- Return everything you borrow.
- Stop blaming people.
- Admit when you make mistakes.
- Give clothes not worn to charity.
- Do something nice and try not to get caught.
- Listen more; talk less.
- Everyday take a 30-minute walk.
- Strive for excellence, not perfection.
- Be on time. Don't make excuses.
- Be kind to unkind people.
- Let someone cut ahead of you in line.
- Take time to be alone.
- Cultivate good manners.
- Be humble.
- Realize and accept life isn't fair.
- Know when to keep your mouth shut.
- Go an entire day without criticizing anyone.
- Learn from the past. Plan for the future.
- Live in the present.
- Don't sweat the small stuff.
- It's all small stuff.

Pistachio Dream Dessert

Ingredients:

- 1 small box instant pistachio pudding
- 1 14 oz. can crushed pineapple
- 1 regular size Cool Whip

Directions:

1. Mix dry instant pudding and crushed pineapple with juice until well blended
2. Stir in Cool Whip. Refrigerate.

Recipe submitted by Faye Reed.

It's a dream because it is so easy to prepare

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.