

# Our Family News

ST. WILLIAM CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHAMPION, OHIO

THIRD EDITION VOLUME 6

NOVEMBER 2016



## REMEMBER OUR VETERANS!

### SPOTLIGHT ON...

by Incognito

November is the month that we honor all U.S. veterans. This issue is dedicated to all of those courageous men and women that fought and died for our freedom. St. William is proud to honor all of our parishioners past and present who served our country. For this article, Virgil Sellers is in the spotlight...

We have all heard the quote "lest we forget" taken from the 1897 Christian poem written by Rudyard Kipling titled *Recessional*. One way we can experience the events of the past and pass them on to younger generations is to listen to the first-person accounts of our senior citizens so that we do not forget.

On a beautiful fall afternoon last week, it was an honor and a privilege for me to be present while one of the senior members of St. William, Virgil Sellers, was interviewed for this article. Accompanied by his two nieces Elaine Nicolaus and Linda Ozanich, and his great-niece Lauren Ozanich, our one hour time limit turned into two. Age has not dulled Virgil's memory, wit, and sometimes "feisty" personality.

Virgil was born in Krebs, Oklahoma on November 13, 1923. The family attended St. Joseph Catholic Church where he was baptized, received First

Mary's Church in Warren to the then train station in Warren near US Rt 422. After training, he and 18,000 soldiers sailed on the Queen Elizabeth to Europe. The passage took five days and Virgil told us there was no submarine built that could catch them. Like many veterans, the horrors of war remain locked away in their minds and are seldom voiced. A few years ago, encouraged by his family, Virgil began sharing these events.

June 6, 1944 was D-Day where US forces incurred tremendous losses on Omaha Beach. Mr. Sellers joined his unit as 1<sup>st</sup> replacements where American troops were preparing the breakthrough out of Normandy. With tears in his eyes and faltering voice we quietly listened as he recalled July 25, 1944 as a day he will never forget. "The bombing was 10 miles wide and 10 miles deep. You couldn't hear yourself think! The sky was filled with smoke and jet fumes and you couldn't breathe." Virgil saw action in Brittany and Hurtgen Forest and witnessed the unbelievable atrocities of war. He was pulled from the battle lines before the Battle of the Bulge because of



**A dashing and youthful Virgil Sellers at 18 years of age!**

Communion, and Confirmation. He came to Ohio to be with his mother in 1942 and worked at Van Huffel Tube with plans to enter Warren G. Harding High School for his senior year. At 18 years old and with World War II raging in Europe Virgil was drafted on March 5, 1943 and his plans were changed. With the Warren G. Harding band leading a parade, he and 105 other young men marched from St.

*Spotlight (Continued on page 3)*



# Welcome

## New Parishioners

*Kehoe Family*  
David & Michele

*Small Family*  
Jeffrey & Cheryl

Donnie Titchnell

Stacy Ziska

*Davis Family*  
Richard & Theresa

## ...FROM THE PASTOR

Welcome to the Season of Harvest! It is hard to believe that the calendar is pointing us towards another holiday season. Soon it will be time to begin preparations for Thanksgiving followed by Christmas and the start of a New Year. But before all that happens there is still some Autumn left with many beautiful days to come before the snow falls. The crisp air and bright sunshine beckons us to enjoy these last days of warmth and blue skies.



November is a busy month that will bring change to our world, Church and lives. We begin the month with the Feast of All Saints followed by the Feast of All Souls, a day to remember and reverence our loved ones who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith and who are now enjoying their eternal reward in the presence of the Lord. We are also electing new leadership for our country and the end the month will have us gathering around our tables to offer “thanks” for the goodness of God in our lives. November 20<sup>th</sup> will also bring to a close the Year of Mercy that the Church has been celebrating. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, declared this Jubilee Year of Mercy as a reminder for all of us to remain ever aware of God’s deep and abiding mercy in our lives. In turn, the Year of Mercy also challenges us to share and live God’s mercy in our actions and words towards one another. Hopefully this mercy and compassion will always be a part of our lives even beyond this special Jubilee Year.

The Season of Advent will begin on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. From our thanksgiving tables we will enter into our season of waiting and preparation for the coming of the Lord into our midst. Our parish theme for Advent will be “*From Heaven to A Manger.*” This theme brings to mind the great gift and sacrifice of Jesus Christ coming to us *from heaven to a manger* – a human being like us in all things but sin. Hopefully this season before Christmas will also afford us the opportunity to be mindful of our need to sacrifice as we ready ourselves for the holidays. Advent is a time of promise pointing us toward the fulfillment of God’s love for us by sending His Son into our world. A very real challenge in Advent and the weeks leading up to the holidays is fitting in time to be quiet and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. At times that seems to be a luxury amidst the busyness of our lives. However, Sunday Mass does provide us with just such an opportunity. Our time in Church invites us to “rest” rather than “rush” – to be quiet and reflect on where we are and where we need to go in our lives. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity! May this Advent recall for us Christ’s coming *from heaven to a manger* so that on Christmas we might more fully enjoy God’s light in our lives.

## Our Family News

Is published on the first Monday after the first full weekend in February, May, August, and November of every year. Articles and submissions are due three weeks before the publish date.

Parish organizations are encouraged to participate and submit materials for publication. Contact the editors or publisher for more information.

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**Editors:** Lynn Valentino, Marcia Kane,  
Nancy Hart

*Reporters & Photographers of all ages are needed!*

(Continued from page 1) Spotlight

severe frostbite to both legs, and was unable to walk for two months. He recovered in a Fort Carson Hospital where he was awarded a Silver Star and 3 Bronze Stars. Virgil declared that through it all he always carried over his heart the rosary his mother had given him before he left. He humbly stated that the real heroes were the men that died over there.

The Tribune Chronical featured Virgil in the August 10, 2009 edition for a weekly series honoring local veterans.

After the war Virgil returned to Warren where he met and married his



**Virgil and Loretta Sellars**

“good looking” wife Loretta. His love for her can be felt throughout the home and in the affectionate memories Virgil described. He was her ever present caregiver for the 5 years before her passing 10 years ago. Virgil and his family have always been members of St. William Church. He and Loretta are the parents of two sons, Charles (Beth) of Sherman, Texas and Phillip of North Jackson, Ohio. Both boys graduated from Champion High School and received their sacraments at St. William. They were active in the Boy Scouts of America where both

boys became Eagle Scouts. Charles was a member of Troop 100 at St. William and Phillip was in Troop 25 at Champion Christian Church.

Virgil remembers when the first mass was celebrated in the room that is now the Social Hall at Saint William and even further back to a time before the church was constructed when Confession was heard in Leonard and Lillian Kalman’s garage; mass was held in the gymnasium at Central Elementary. Virgil saw the need for dollies to move and stack the folding chairs in the worship space/social hall and he designed and made the dollies at Van Huffel Tube where he worked for 45 years. Both he and Loretta helped in the kitchen for the annual Festivals and for Bingo. Loretta was president of Women’s Guild from 1965-1966.

Many of you are probably not aware of the fact that Virgil is an accomplished musician. He plays harmonica and accordion. For many years he played in polka bands and solo. He has a great collection of harmonicas that he plays often. I noticed that he keeps them close at hand for easy access. One on the couch, one on the coffee table, and in other areas of his home! One of these he purchased in 1940. He said the he would always play “Here comes the Bride” on Loretta’s birthday,

and “On this Day O Beautiful Mother” on Mother’s Day. He is particularly fond of the Notre Dame Fight song that he played for us. [Editor’s Note: You can watch Virgil play the ND Fight Song on our parish YouTube account at: <https://youtu.be/K1r6Lu8rZeM>



A quote from Dwight D. Eisenhower reads “I am saving that rocker for the day when I feel as old as I am”. This reminds me of Virgil. If you can get him, or any of our senior parishioners, to sit and reminisce you too will find that they can teach us so much about the past. If you would want to reminisce with Virgil you would do well to take your tennis shoes, because that rocking chair is very dusty with waiting.

*“Let all that you do be done in Love.”*

~1 Corinthians 16:14

## Women's Guild

by Therese Tuttle

Over the next few months the Women's Guild of the Parrish is hosting a few exciting events. At our regular monthly meeting in November the Women's Guild will be enjoying a night of crafts. Our entertainment is coming from The BURLAP SHACK where the presenter will incite our own creativity by guiding us through making centerpieces for our Thanksgiving tables. Toward the end of November, we will be selling our first batch of Kolachi. For those who may not know, Kolachi is a warm, delicious, slightly sweet fresh-baked pastry traditionally filled with sausage, cheese, fruits or nuts. These delicious treats are prepared and sold by the Women's Guild twice a year. There are two exciting events being hosted in

December. First, we will be hosting the annual Christmas Parrish Dinner. This will be held after mass and all are invited to share in this delicious meal and enjoy the company of our Parrish members. I hope to see you there. The second event in December is the Christmas Craft Show. There will be a number of vendors on hand selling those special Christmas decorations and gifts. There will be a small lunch counter with food and drinks available. We will resume our regular monthly meetings in January. I will leave you with a quote found in our program book. *"Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time."* ~Laura Ingalls Wilder. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Years.

## Why I Became a Eucharistic Minister

By Nancy Lucanski

Recently, I was asked what being a Eucharistic Minister means to me. To answer that, I needed to remember who I was growing up and how I felt when Fr. Sam DiCioccio called me in 1986 and asked if I would consider being a Eucharistic Minister.

I was terrified at the thought, mostly because I am a convert and was not raised with Catholic traditions and values. I was 20 years old when I became Catholic, so I did not have the back ground that I thought was necessary to be a minister of anything in the Catholic Church. In 20 years of being a Catholic, I did learn that when you feel in your heart that you are being called by God to do something, you need to do it. Fr. Sam did not have to ask me to do anything. He had a couple of hundred other people more qualified than I was to do this. So, I said yes.

What that has meant to me is best said by St. Paul in 1 John 4:6: "Holy Communion is a grace giving sign of God's constant, faithful love." I feel this every time I receive and every time I distribute Communion. It is so overwhelmingly fulfilling to be able to share this kind of "Loving Father" with everyone at Mass, at a communion service, when visiting the sick at the hospital and even in serving the football players at JFK before their games.

When you feel that little tug in your heart that you are being nudged to do God's work, the only way to answer is to say yes.

The last 30 years have never been a burden; it has been a blessing of the greatest magnitude.

### All Souls Day - 2016

We remember all of our parishioners who have passed away in the last year and their families who continue to grieve their loss.

*May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed,  
Through the mercy of God, Rest in Peace*

Theresalee Benning ~ Rita DeCapito

John Bednarik ~ Robert Banic

Thomas Lucas ~ Margaret Jacobs

Rose Wilson ~ Mary Scott

Juliet Visocan ~ Patricia Craft

John Jackson ~ Clifford Youngs

Jean Kiepper ~ Mildred Heatherly

and All the deceased members of Saint William Parish

# WHAT MY IMMIGRANT FAMILY TAUGHT ME...

By Cathy Poponak

Immigration has been a hot topic lately; so much so that I have felt bombarded by differing opinions on TV, the internet, and in newspapers. It has become so overwhelming, that I quit consulting media sources, and became mindful about my own experience with immigrants. This lead me directly back to my childhood memories.

When I was born in 1959, I was fortunate enough to be received by six great grandparents, all of them immigrants. Two were from Poland, one from Czechoslovakia, one from Bohemia (now considered the Czech Republic), one from Serbia, and one from Croatia. Like my siblings and cousins that followed, we were their pride and joy. Although they were all "up in age" and spoke broken English, they were not shy about sharing their unique ways with the youngest generation in the family.

Always concerned about our health, old time remedies were expected to be used first before doctors were consulted. I remember my brother and I being swaddled in vinegar soaked gauze after being stung by wasps. I can still smell the mustard plasters used to cure congestion. Then there were the

preventative cures for potential ailments. We ate liver to build up our blood, the crust of our bread for strength and vigor, garlic to ward off evil, and worst of all, prune juice. Regardless of their country of origin, they all seemed to have a dreaded fear of constipation. They encouraged my poor mother to put it in our bottles. I still remember the dreadful taste, and mother still remembers the diapers.

If they were visiting during our bath time, they would help my mother with the duty. I still remember being told that I had to dry thoroughly between each of my toes to prevent fungus. I didn't know what fungus was at the time, but I knew I didn't want it. I guess foot health was important to hard working people.

They also seemed to have a keen knowledge of the earth. Gardens were important for growing vegetables; grapes were harvested for

*Family (Continued on page 11)*



## TIME CAPSULE FROM 1984

by Dan Robinson

Over the last months, I have put out a call for historical documents, pictures, and videos to begin an archival history of St. William Parish. Much to my delight, Jean DuBois came across a 1984 VHS tape of the ceremony dedicating the "new" sanctuary. What a treat to see friends and parish family frozen in time. By the way, before anyone asks, 1980's fashions are really as horrible as we remember them to be: big poufy hair, dinner plate size glasses, and extra wide collars on shirts and dresses. Wowee!

I chuckled to see the fashions of the day but I really beamed with happiness to see so many loved ones who are no longer with us. This snapshot in time shows more than just parishioners before gray hair and wrinkles appeared. It is the amazing sense of community that we enjoy today. This video is a reminder that we truly are a family. We crab at each other and stop talking to each other for periods of time, but

*Dedication (Continued on page 6)*



Picture taken at Ellis Island 1919: (l to r) Cathy Poponak's Grandfather Paul, Great-Grandmother Helen, and Great Aunt Ann arriving from Czechoslovakia

### **SPECIAL EVENT!!!**

**Parish Lenten Mission**

**March 19-21, 2017**

Details Coming  
in Next Newsletter

(Continued from page 5) Dedication

eventually, we all get over it and remember why we are here in the first place. We are here because we are a family: a big, goofy, sometimes annoying, sometimes weird, but always loving family.

I would bet that many of you would like to see this video. Surprise! After a ridiculous amount of work transferring a very rough VHS video into a useable digital product, there is now a finished video accessible to everyone. I have uploaded the video into a permanent collection on our parish YouTube account. The quality is sketchy but the overall product is not too bad.

The dedication ceremony video is approximately an hour in length. In it, Bishop Malone leads the congregation in the first “official” mass in the new worship space. There are subtle differences in the sanctuary today from that very first celebratory mass, but overall, everything is the same now as it was 33 years ago. The biggest differences are the people attending the mass and the words of the mass, where

I was a little surprised to find that after the third or fourth time watching the video, I fell back into the “old” way. (I hope that I can remember to say “And with your spirit” this weekend!)

I have watched this several times, and I can assure you that video editing is not as exciting as you might think! However, each time I have gone through this video, I see someone new that I haven’t seen or thought about in a very long time; however, many faces that appear on the screen, we still see every weekend at mass. How exciting to know that our links to the past are still here to help temper the sadness of seeing such dear faces that are no longer with us.

I have been a parishioner at St. William since 1978 and I’m rather excited that I could pick out so many faces and attach names to them. Some very recognizable faces: Bishop Malone (Deceased), Fr. Charles Crumbly, Fr. Rick Pentello (who, oddly enough doesn’t appear to have aged!), Fr. George Popovich (Deceased), Fr. Rick Popovich, Fr. Tim O’Neil, Sr. Yvonne Horning, Arland Nelson (Deceased), and John

Makosky. Throughout the ceremony, it is very easy to discern the dulcet tones of Rita DeSalvo in the role of cantor and the occasional voice of Jim Harvey.

In addition to the dedication ceremony, a second video will be available at a later date with Sister Yvonne explaining the significance behind the mosaic of “The Risen Christ” and the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary. I have located the original explanation of the mosaic and the windows and will be adding that and the second video to the parish website history page. The links to the St. William YouTube account and the video are listed below, as well as on the parish webpage. Thank you, Jean for providing this wonderful addition to our parish archives!

**St. William YouTube Channel ~**

<https://goo.gl/iJVeHN>

**Dedication Direct Link ~**

<https://youtu.be/NX2AjkVtNE8>



**Dear A-A-A:**

*I am not a “singer” so is it alright if I leave mass before the final song is over?*

*-Signed: “First One Out!”*

**Dear “First One Out!”:**

Your question raises two important issues: singing and leaving Mass early. First of all, music is an integral part of our weekly celebrations. In fact, music helps make our liturgies the celebrations

they are! Because music plays an essential and integral role in the celebration of Mass and is considered part of our prayer we need to sing! (*Not everyone can be Frank Sinatra or Barbra Streisand but most of us can sing!!!*) Not singing at Mass is like not singing “Happy Birthday” at a birthday party. We certainly don’t want to disappoint the person on their birthday do we? Nor should we disappoint the Lord and his people by not singing when we gather for Mass.

Secondly, the final song **is** part of the Mass. Therefore to leave early is considered not staying for the entire Mass. It can be likened to leaving the table before the meal is over or before dessert has been served. At family dinners that kind

of action would be considered inappropriate and improper. The same holds true when the community gathers for Mass on Sunday. To leave before the final song has been sung is also considered inappropriate and improper.

Next Sunday try doing both... singing at Mass and staying until the final song has been sung!!

*-Sincerely: A-A-A*

*Have a question about faith or why we do what we do at Mass....submit it to A-A-A Ask/Answer Angle by email at [parishoffice@stwilliamchampion.org](mailto:parishoffice@stwilliamchampion.org) or drop your question in the weekly collection basket.*

# PSR News

By Carol Timko

Our PSR year started Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> with the annual Parent/Student Meeting. We began the meeting with prayer remembering those who were injured or lost their lives 15 years ago from the terrorist attacks. After prayer, each family introduced themselves, and I introduced the teachers. After all the introductions were complete, the teachers and students went to their classrooms for their lessons. The parents stayed in the Social Hall for a meeting about the PSR program. During the meeting, the parents were given information about PSR. This included a calendar and registration forms for their children.

Our first Family Faith Celebration (FFC) was held Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. Our theme was *Prayer: the Faith Prayed*. Families arrived at 9:00 A.M. and enjoyed a pancake and sausage breakfast. After breakfast and morning prayer, the families were divided into four groups. The groups went to four different



**Family Faith Celebration (FFC) was held on October 9 and a good time was had by all!**

stations and learned about different types of prayer and praying. The day concluded with all of us attending the 11:00 A.M. Mass.

The first of two Parent Meetings for First Reconciliation was held Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> for the parents of our five students who will be receiving the sacrament in January. Please keep these students and their families in your prayers.

The students in grades 4,5, & 6 attended their required retreat Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. The retreat was held at St. William. The students arrived at 9:30 A.M. and stayed till 2:00 P.M. We did

activities in the morning, attended the 11:00 A.M. Mass, enjoyed lunch and concluded the day with additional activities.

The second Parent Meeting for First Reconciliation will take place Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 P.M. This meeting will be for parents and students. Reconciliation will take place Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 6:30 P.M.

Our next FFC will take place Sunday, January 22, 2017. We are trying something different with this FFC. We will not have morning classes. Everyone will meet from 4 -6pm for activities and dinner.



**The Women's Guild purchased new tables and chairs for our smallest parishioners enrolled in the "Stories and Scripture" class**

## *They're Back!!*

*St. William Fabulous  
FISH DINNERS*

February 17 – April 7



# Adventure of a Lifetime

By Tom Shepkar

Our adventure of a lifetime began on Friday, August 25, when 22 members of St. William Parish and 22 members of St. Patrick Parish in Kent boarded a plane in Cleveland along with Fr. Balash and Fr. Pentello. What followed was an amazing 14-day trip to Italy. The “Splendors of Italy” trip truly began when we arrived in Italy on Saturday morning. We checked into our hotel, had a brief rest, then boarded a bus to downtown Rome. There we walked the steps designed by Michelangelo to view the government buildings and many renaissance sculptures and ancient Roman ruins. This was followed

and touch the wonders that, up to this point, were merely images in a history book!

While in Rome, we toured the Colosseum. We continued on to Saint Peter's Basilica where we viewed the magnificent art works of Michelangelo's Pieta, and tombs of the popes (including Saint Peter). We then exited to Saint Peter's square to hear Pope Francis' weekly address and to receive his blessing; What an honor that was! Next, we toured ancient Roman ruins, Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, the Vatican Museum and the truly inspirational Sistine Chapel. Following that, we headed south to the Bay of Naples and then along the Amalfi coast. After boarding smaller buses, we followed unbelievably narrow roads as we headed for the resort town of Positano. Along the way,



Sadly, no matter how hard Fr. Balash tried to fix it, when we left Pisa the Tower continued to lean.



## THE PANTHEON IN ROME

Janice Ventling, Jamie Taneri, Gloria Mintus, Barb Robinson and unknown lady in babushka

by a marvelous dinner with singing, dancing, and the most glorious foods. What a thrill to finally see

we enjoyed spectacular views of the Mediterranean from cliffs hundreds of feet above the water.

The morning before heading north, we toured the ruins of Pompeii, buried by fly ash in 79 AD when Mount Vesuvius erupted. It was a moving experience, and even though we were constantly reminded of the great loss of life, we realized that the city of Pompeii and its citizens still had a very valuable story to tell. The fast pace and commercialism of the Bay of Naples was a huge contrast to

the beautiful and quiet hills from Umbria to Assisi, the birth place of Saint Francis. There we toured the several major Basilicas' 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century frescoes. Luckily for many of us, we were able to attend morning mass at St. Mary of the Angels Basilica where St. Francis had died. To say this Basilica was beautiful is an understatement, and our amazement was increased by the knowledge that this immense building was older than the United States.

The following day, we left Assisi to see the gondolas of Venice. We also observed St. Mark's, the Doge's palace, and the Murano glass works. Venice as steeped in history and is much larger than we expected. The city

*Italy (Continued on page 9)*

*(Continued from page 8) Italy*

is composed of hundreds of buildings centered around churches. In an area of approximately 6 square miles, there are 140 churches. We tried our best, but we just couldn't tour all those churches!

On our second Monday in Italy, we boarded the bus, caught a glimpse of the Alps, crossed the Apennine Mountains, and stopped in Milan. There Leonardo di Vinci spent most of his life. Then it was back on the bus driving past the white gash in the mountains where the famous Carrara marble used for many prized art works was and is quarried; then on to Pisa where we can assure you that the tower most certainly leans!

Leaving Pisa, we traveled through the Tuscan countryside to the Chianti region and Florence, the birth place of the renaissance. The walking tour of Florence took us to the museum where Michelangelo's 17-foot statue of David resides. We were awed by the beautifully preserved medieval walled towns of San Gimignano and Siena. In San Gimignano, we had gelato (Italian ice cream) twice voted best in the world (some of us sampled it more than once just to be sure!)

On the final leg of our trip, we stopped at one of 3 American cemeteries dedicated to the soldiers killed while serving in Italy during WWII. It was a sobering and solemn experience and reminded us that although we were on the other side of the planet, all of us had a deep connection to this beautiful and ancient land. It was a place to remember those who gave all so that we could have the opportunity to explore and share in the "splendors of Italy." Along with the many pictures and souvenirs we all brought back the memories of beautiful country sides, marvelous architecture, spectacular art works, and many good times enjoyed with old and new friends.

## MUSIC MINISTRY AND ADVENT

By Pat Maciejewski

May this season of joyful expectation and hope be full of grace and blessings for you and your families. Begin your Advent Season with prayer, song and scripture at our annual Advent Lessons and Carols presented on Tuesday, November 29, at 7pm.

All PSR students are most welcome to prepare in song for our 5pm Christmas Eve liturgy. Rehearsal dates are: Saturday, December 3 and 17 from 3-4pm and Tuesday, December 20 at 7pm.

High school students and adults currently playing and practicing an instrument are invited to rehearse Sunday, December 11 and 18 at 12:15pm. We will be playing at the 10am Christmas Day liturgy. We hope to see you there.

Please see our music director if you are able to participate. Christmas Blessings to all! *"Glory to God in the highest and peace to all people on earth!"*



## FROM NANCY'S KITCHEN:

It is getting to be my favorite time of the year...Christmas! I've assembled some of my *most* favorite recipes for treats that are an absolute "must have" for my family at all holiday events. From the super delicious 'Stained Glass Windows' candies to the decadent 'Buckeyes,' these treats are a tradition that helps my family remember Christmas past while enjoying Christmas present. Try these at your next family gathering where I guarantee that they will be a festive holiday hit!

Happy Cooking and Merry Christmas!  
Love ~ Nancy

*BTW—I added the German Chocolate Pie recipe because it is my personal favorite! I always make an extra one so there is plenty to go around on Christmas Day!*

## GERMAN CHOCOLATE PIE

by Nancy Hart

- 1 4oz. pkg. Baker's German's Sweet Chocolate
- ¼ cup butter or margarine
- 2-5oz. cans - evaporated milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 3T cornstarch
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 frozen deep dish pie crust (9 inch), thawed
- 1 cup flaked coconut
- ½ cup chopped pecans



Heat oven to 375. Melt chocolate and butter in saucepan on very low heat, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and stir in milk until well-blended.

Mix sugar, cornstarch and salt. Whisk in eggs and vanilla. Gradually whisk in chocolate mixture. Pour into crust. Sprinkle with coconut and pecans. Filling will almost fill the crust. Bake pie on a cookie sheet since the foil pie pan can be flimsy.

Bake 45 minutes, or until top is puffed and browned. Cover the pie crust loosely with foil after 30 minutes. Filling will be soft, but will set while cooling. Cool 15 minutes; refrigerate 4 hours. Store leftovers in fridge.



## CHERRY-PECAN BREAD

by Nancy Hart

- 10oz. jar maraschino cherries
- ¼ cup flour
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- ½ cup flaked coconut
- 1-8oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
- ¾ cup butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 ¾ cup flour
- 1 ½ tsp baking powder
- 1 ½ tsp vanilla
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup chocolate chips

Pre-heat oven to 325. Spray 2 8x4 loaf pans. Drain cherries reserving 2

Tbsp juice. Chop cherries. Combine cherries, pecans, coconut, chocolate chips, and ¼ cup flour; set aside.

Beat cream cheese and butter until smooth. Add sugar and beat until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time. Gradually add flour and baking powder to cream cheese mixture. Beat in vanilla. Fold in cherry mixture. Divide into prepared pans.

Bake for 1 hour or until toothpick inserted near center comes out clean. Cool in pans for 10 mins. Remove from pans and cool completely. Stir together powdered sugar and cherry juice to make a glaze. Spread over top of bread. Makes 28 servings.



## BUCKEYES

by Nancy Hart

Mix together:  
1# Margarine or Butter  
1# Peanut Butter  
1# Powdered Sugar

Form into balls. Dip into mixture of 12oz chocolate chips melted with 2/3 bar of paraffin. Let stand on wax paper until firm. Makes 15 dozen.



## STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

by Nancy Hart

- 6oz. chocolate chips
- 2 Tbsp. butter or margarine
- 1 egg (beaten)
- 3 cups mini colored marshmallows
- 1 tsp. vanilla

In saucepan over low heat melt chocolate chips and butter. Cool slightly and add beaten egg and vanilla. Stir in marshmallows. Divide in half and roll into logs on waxed paper. Freeze over night.

Remove from freezer and unwrap. Dust with powdered sugar and cut with hot dry knife. Clean knife often to get clean cuts.

# PROFESSOR'S BOOKS

By Gloria Alden

*[Editor's Note: This is an exciting four part mystery written by Gloria Alden and will be delivered over the course of four newsletters.]*

## Part 2

So over the months that followed, Tilly would take a book from the locked bookcase, replace it with another book like it, and take it to the Emporium to sell. At first the owner had looked at her with some suspicion, but her broad face, gray hair and solid build reminded him of a favorite aunt, and when she told him she was a widow and was trying to get a little extra money by selling her husband's books, he had accepted her story and offered her twenty dollars for the book. She accepted the amount gratefully. It seemed a lot for an old scribbled in book.

With each book she took, she was careful to skip around amongst the authors to make it less obvious, and she now looked at each one with new interest. She couldn't imagine a book by anyone with a name like Charles Lamb to be worth very much, especially such an old one, but the bookstore owner had given her twenty dollars for that one, too.

When Tilly was no longer able to find books with the same author and title, she substituted books that were similar in size and binding. The Professor never seemed to notice the missing books. It could be because his eyesight was failing. Sometimes he would have Tilly read to him, but never any book from the locked bookcase. That didn't last long. He got restless and annoyed with Tilly's slow reading using one stubby forefinger to follow the words, words that were often mispronounced no matter how many times he corrected her, so he had resorted to ordering books on tape from the library which Tilly willingly picked up for him.

Tilly faced her dilemma with extreme trepidation. There were none of the original books left in the glass-fronted bookcase, and Tilly would be the only suspect when it was discovered they were gone. She would have to replace the money, but most of the almost two thousand dollars she had

received was gone, most of it on lottery tickets. It was possible that she'd even face jail time. Either way, she'd lose her comfortable job with the Professor. It seemed the only way she could save herself was if the Professor died.

Now Tilly may not have been much of a reader, but she did watch TV, including crime shows, and she knew that killing someone and making it look like a natural death was not an easy thing to do. Even suffocating someone with a pillow could be proved to be murder.

She considered making it look like a burglary and shooting him, but there were no guns in the house, and she'd never shot one in her life. Besides, from watching TV, she'd learned that gun sellers kept records so any gun she bought could be traced to her. Knives were an option except for the alibi. Where could she go to establish an alibi? Most burglars came at night, she surmised, and she had no family and very few acquaintances where she could just show up some night for an alibi. It would look strange. She never went anywhere after dark.

Poison was out, too. She was the only one who fixed his meals, and he rarely had visitors anymore so she couldn't count on anyone coming before the appraiser showed up. Besides, who would want to kill the Professor? He didn't have any enemies, and the only family he had were a great-niece and a great-nephew, and they didn't live anywhere near. It had been several years since either one of them had visited.

Some medicines could kill. Tilly considered that, but the Professor took nothing but a heart medicine, and she doubted if that would work. If it didn't, either he or the doctor would wonder what had happened to the pills if he had to reorder early. As for Tilly herself, she had always been strong and robust. In fact, after the Professor's heart attack, she had often helped him get out of bed and into the bathroom. Tilly's medicine chest held only some vitamins and a small bottle of aspirin. Tilly knew an overdose of aspirin could kill, but she didn't see how she could administer that or even if she had enough to do the job.

Poor Tilly. There seemed to be no solution to her dilemma.

*Next Installment: Tilly takes action...*

*(Continued from page 5) Family*

wine making and for a delicious pastry called kuchen. Apples were collected for making their luscious strudel, and the filling for fruit pierogy. They also knew how to identify and gather wild mushrooms. I remember my dad driving his Slovak grandmother, Helen, to cemeteries and fields in search of what they called "pinkies". Always with her babushka on; I can still see her bent over the ground, discriminately looking for the edible delicacy. This was knowledge that had been passed down from generation to generation. They were people who had to rely on their own ingenuity and gift from the good earth for sustenance. On a side note, my prudent mother would not allow my brothers and sister and me to eat any of the mushrooms, until the elders survived the meal. She had no real worries though; we didn't like mushrooms, wild or not.

The 60's was the beginning of the Rock and Roll era in the United States, but not so much in our house. It was the happy sound of polkas that we commonly heard, especially on Sundays after mass. The old folks loved to tune into "Polka Varieties" a show on Cleveland TV Channel 5, while preparing Sunday dinner. Today, I still tune into a polka station when I feel nostalgic. I always feel better after I hear that uplifting music.

I remember so many things, but most of all I remember the feeling of being loved and doted upon by these elders. In some ways, we must have been the hope and assurance that their struggles were worthwhile. We would be the generation to complete their American dream for a better life.

Pope Francis has denounced the globalization of indifference toward migrants. He calls us to love and welcome them into our lives. As for me, immigrants loved and welcomed me into THEIR lives first. That gives me a unique first hand perspective that, like the teaching of Jesus, reverses all logic, and calls us to care about others.



## Upcoming Events

Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Day Mass – 8:30am  
Nov. 29: Lessons and Carols – 7pm  
Dec. 4: Women’s Guild Parish Holiday Dinner – 12pm  
Dec. 8: Holyday Masses 8:30am & 7pm  
Dec. 14: Advent Communal Reconciliation – 7pm  
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Mass – 5pm & 10pm  
Dec. 25: Christmas Day Mass – 10am only  
Dec. 31: New Year Eve Mass – 5pm  
Jan. 1: New Year Day Mass – 8:30am & 11am  
Jan. 28: Parish Appreciation Event

*Merry Christmas*



### **IMPORTANT!!!**

## **New Christmas Mass Schedule**

**Dec 24 – Saturday Christmas Eve  
5pm & 10pm (new time)**

**Dec 25 – Sunday Christmas Day  
10am ONLY**

### **New Year’s Weekend**

**Dec 31 -- Saturday New Year’s Eve  
5pm**

**Jan 1 – Sunday New Year’s Day  
8:30 am & 11am**

## **St. William Catholic Church**

5431 Mahoning Ave NW  
Warren, OH 44483

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