

**St. John the Baptist Parish
Polish National Catholic Church**

414 West Oak Street, Frackville, PA 17931

Rectory: 570-874-1960

Website: www.stjohnpncc.org

Rev. Robert P. Plichta, M.Th., M. in Canon Law, Pastor

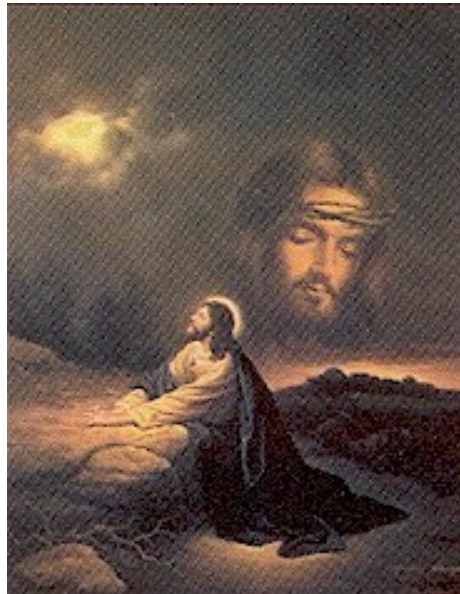
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Central Diocese website: www.centraldiocesepncc.org

PNU website: www.pnu.org

Prime Bishop of the PNCC – **Most Rev. Dr. Anthony A. Mikovsky**
Bishop Ordinary of the Central Diocese – **Rt. Rev. John E. Mack**
Plymouth Seniorate Administrative Senior – **Very Rev. Thaddeus Dymkowski**
Parish Committee Chairman – **Mr. Edward Halaburda**



Fourth Sunday of Lent – Cycle “B”

Czwarta Niedziela Wielkiego Postu

March 18, 2012

“Whatsoever is bad during Lent is bad also the rest of the year.”

EVENTS for the WEEK

Holy Mass – 8:45AM – Traditional liturgy in English.

Today, March 18th – Fourth Sunday of Lent

We come together to celebrate the presence of God among us, to hear the Lord's living word and to receive Him ever more fully into our lives.

8:30AM – Lenten Penitential Service

The Oath of the Parish Committee and ANS Officers.

8:45AM – Holy Mass, intention: for sp. **Charles Touchinsky Sr.**, of. by Mrs. Betty Brazausky.

♣ Ladies Blessed Sacrament Society meeting after the Holy Mass

WEEKDAY READINGS:

Mon., 2 Samuel 7:4-5a.12-14a.16; Romans 4:13.16-18.22; Matthew 1:16.18-21.24a or Luke 2:41-51a; **Tue.**, Ezekiel 47:1-9.12; John 5:1-16; **Wed.**, Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30; **Thu.**, Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47; **Fri.**, Wisdom 2:1a.12-22; John 7:1-2.10.25-30; **Sat.**, Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53

Monday, February 20 – March 26th – Easter Eggs Sale Project

MONDAY, March 19th - Solemnity – St. Joseph, Spouse of the BVM

Joseph is considered the second greatest saint, next to the Blessed Virgin Mary, because of his humility and the closeness he had to Jesus as his foster father. Scripture tells us that Joseph was just, pure, gentle, prudent, and unfailingly obedient to the divine will. We wish to imitate him by renewing our desire to be faithful. We know, that the only meaning of our life is to be faithful to the Lord till the last day, as Joseph was.

7:30AM – Holy Mass; intention: for all **Parishioners**.

TUESDAY, March 20th - *Lenten Weekday*

7:30AM – Holy Mass

WEDNESDAY, March 21st - *Lenten Weekday*

6:00PM – Choir practice before Palm Sunday.

FRIDAY, March 23rd - *Lenten Weekday*

10:00AM – Funeral Mass – sp. **Ann Balsler**.

6:00PM – Stations of the Cross.

NEXT SUNDAY, March 25th - *Passion Sunday*

8:45AM – Holy Mass, intention: for those whose life was touched by cancer

Baptism: Joseph Tokarczyk

Today's liturgy

ASPERGES – **Pokropisz mnie** Panie hyzopem, a będę oczyszczony, obmyjesz mnie, a nad śnieg będę wybielony. Zmiłuj się nade mną Boże, według wielkiego miłosierdzia Twego. Chwała Ojcu i Synowi i Duchowi Świętemu, jak była na początku, teraz i zawsze i na wieki wieków. Amen.

ENTRANCE RITE (Wisdom 16:5-6a.7)

V. For when the dire venom of beasts came upon them and they were dying from the bite of crooked serpents, Your anger endured not to the end. But as a warning, for a short time they were terrorized, though they had a sign of salvation.

R. For he who turned toward it was saved, not by what he saw, but by You, the Savior of all.

V. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

R. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN – **He Hangs on the Cross** – PNCC Hymnal, p. 107

1. Heaven's Creator on the cross is hanging. Mankind so wicked, weep now for your sinning. Ach, ach, on the cross He's dying. Ach, ach, Jesus' eyes are closing. [“ach” - pronounced “ahk”]
2. Christ's sacred body beaten so severely, Beaten so cruelly, on the cross He's hanging. Ach, ach, for mankind He's dying, Ach, ach, Jesus' blood is flowing.

I Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

The people of Jerusalem brought about their exile through their repeated infidelities, until God used a pagan ruler to restore them to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple.

GRADUAL (1 Corinthians 10:9.11)

V. Let us not test Christ, as some of them did, and suffered death by serpents.

R. These things happened to them as an example, and they have been written down as a warning to us.

II Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

God's generosity is shown by the gift of life, of salvation, bestowed freely on people who do not merit or deserve it.

TRACT (Psalm 91:9-10.13)

V. Because you have the Lord for your refuge, you have made the Most High your stronghold. No evil shall befall you, nor shall affliction come near your tent.

R. You will tread upon the asp and the viper; you shall trample down the lion and the dragon.

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

God sent Christ into the world to bring it the gift of eternal life, to be accepted or rejected through people's choice.

HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come Thou Creator Spirit blest. And in our souls take up Thy rest. Come with Thy grace and wondrous aid. Fill now the hearts which Thou hast made. Come with Thy grace and wondrous aid. Fill now the hearts which Thou hast made. Amen.

OFFERTORY HYMN – O, My Jesus – PNCC Hymnal, p. 86

1. O, my Jesus, knelt in anguish On that night of pain and grief. Lo, an angel soothes Your sorrow, Brings unto Your soul relief. **Refrain:** Come, my Jesus, Come, my Jesus, Come, my Jesus, hear my pray'r. Grant me Lord, Your grief to share./x2
2. O, my Jesus, how You suffer, From the piercing thorny crown. Your most holy face is crimson As Your head in blood does drown. **Refrain:** Come, my Jesus, Come, my Jesus, Come, my Jesus, hear my pray'r. Grant me Lord, Your grief to share./x2

COMMUNION HYMN – Come Unto Jesus – PNCC Hymnal, p. 180

1. Come unto Jesus, Come while you may; hear how He calls you, Come now this day. How He does love you, follow His way, Gently He calls you, Come! **Refrain:** Lo, the vision wondrous to behold! He would save us from this sinful world. To heaven's blessed glory untold, O dearest Lord, we come!
2. Come, O my child, now, Come heed His call, Give Him your heart, your love and your all. He shall uplift you, lest you should fall, Gently He calls you, Come! **Refrain:**

RECESSIONAL HYMN – Jesus Christ, Our Lord And Savior – PNCC Hymnal, p. 90

1. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Lamb of God so want to suffer; You did bear Your heavy cross in anguish, For the sins in which all men would languish.
2. Weep, O man, for His sad station, How He suffers degradation. Jesus, Jesus on the cross is dying, Sunlight's brilliance now in darkness lying.

May the God of mercy and compassion be with you all who are dear to you, this day and throughout the coming week.

COMING EVENTS

CENTRAL DIOCESE

Apr. 14th Diocesan Council meeting (Scranton, PA)

Oct. 11-13th Diocesan Synod in Scranton, PA

PLYMOUTH SENIORATE

Apr. 21st Seniorate Council meeting (Shenandoah, PA 1:00PM)

June 7th Corpus Christi Service (Middleport, PA 7:00PM)

FRACKVILLE

March 25th Baptism: Joseph Tokarczyk

Apr. 15th Baptism: Joslin Payne

Apr. 29th "Chinese" Auction

May 28th Memorial Day Mass at 9:00AM.

SHENANDOAH

May 28th Memorial Day Mass at 11:00AM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Thanks go out to:

- **Mrs. Betty Brazausky** and members of the Parish for preparing the altars, and the church for services;
- to **Mrs. Cindy Eickhoff** for musical preparations, and to the Choir members;
- to **Mr. James Abicunas** for being a lector,
- to the **Sunday greeters**, the people working on fundraisers.

THANK YOU very much to our Parishioners who came to the hall to help with Easter Eggs project last week!

PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY - ..if you or a relative are admitted to a hospital and nursing home;. if your phone number or address change;. if you have a prayer concern.

EASTER EGG PROJECT – St. John the Baptist Parish is asking our Parishioners for help at this fundraiser. We need everyone's prayer and help to succeed. If you feel a part of our congregation please sign your name on the list in the back of the church, including a time of a day when you may come for help. Thank you so much!!!

ST. JOHN PARISH is looking for the additional voices to our **Choir**: both men and ladies. If you feel that you can help us, please join our Parish Choir. Thank you.

LENTEN COMMUNITY SERVICES

Wednesday, March 21 – 7:00PM – Zion Lutheran

Wednesday, March 28 – 7:00PM – St. Peter's UCC

THIS WEEK PRAYER: for **Father Walter Placek**, his family, and parishioners of the Providence of God Parish (Lithuanian) in Scranton, PA.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Birthday best wishes are extended to: March 20 – Mary Garraway.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK – especially for – James Chistakoff – Dorothy Halaburda – Sophia Stetts – Sarah Powanda – Joseph Makauskas - Edward Halaburda – Helen Hopko – Paul Elsavage – John Etcho - George Chesko – Flossy Bulcavage – Sharon Chiao – Sue Pascavage – John Plaxa. At **Nursing Homes:** Helen Chistakoff – Dolores Halaburda - ***Frackville Nursing Home*** – Louise Gursky (307) - Ann Lech (108) – Stanley Bulcavage (313); NY – Cecelia Pyzowski.



HOSPITAL VISIT. If you, or a member of your family, are hospitalized or enter a long-term nursing facility, please personally or through a closest family member contact Fr. Robert. I will visit a sick member upon his or his family notification.

UPCOMING SUNDAY'S MASS INTENTIONS: **Apr. 1:** sp. Eugenia Halaburda; **Apr. 8:** all Parishioners; **Apr. 15:** sp. Josephine Studlick; **Apr. 22:** sp. Father Edward Tomczyk; **May 13:** all Mothers; **May 20:** sp. Mary Ann Etcho; **May 27:** sp. Eugenia Halaburda; **June 10:** sp. Eugenia Halaburda; **June 17:** all Fathers *Please, do not order the mass intentions ahead of 1 year. Thank you.*



CHINESE AUCTION will be held on **April 29, 2012** in the parish hall. We are asking all parishioners to help with the fundraiser by donating new items for this event. We are also appealing to you for your help. Everyone's help is needed especially on the day of the auction. The ANS Society is asking Parishioners for donating items for **Big** and **Small** tables. Thank you!

THE MANOR AT WAYMART – a personal care facility, is located in beautiful waymart, PA near the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center. We invite you to contact us at **570-488-6829** or manoratwaymart@echoes.net for rates, room availability, or to arrange a tour of our facility. Also these are our **room rates:** Semi-Private - \$2,097.00; Private - \$2,646.00; Private Deluxe - \$3,087.00.



CONFESSIONS FOR THE YOUTH – Our younger members as well as their parents are reminded that Confession is an essential part of a child's religious upbringing. Remember this important part of their religious life. Confession is held on the **first Sunday** of every month at **8:30AM** (before Mass). Children before Confirmation age should come to **private** Confession. If children (until Confirmation) would like to receive the Holy Communion in a worthy manner they must come for private confession at least once a month. If other times are necessary please contact Fr. Robert.



WELCOME OUR VISITORS – We welcome all our visitors who are present with us for worship this Sunday! Please write your names in the guest book located in the vestibule of the church. You are always welcome to join us in worship.

PNCC MISSION & EVANGELISM WORKSHOP – our goal has been that the Faithful come away with a burning desire to bring faith-driven work of the Workshop back to their parishes, and be a light to that local Community of Faith, the Parish, and the communities in which they live. This year the Workshop will take place on **Apr. 27-29** in St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN, the theme: **“Nourished to Serve”**. Deadline for registering is April 16, 2012. For more details, please contact Fr. Robert.

67 ANNUAL PNCC/YMSofR Bowling Tournament – will be held on **May 18-20, 2012** sponsored by Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Schenectady, NY. Registration closes on April 15, 2012. For more details, please contact Fr. Robert.

VISIT LITHUANIA, POLAND and PRAGUE – June 30 – July 15, 2012; \$3,895 Single supplement \$750 from New York to Warsaw. See Eastern Europe on the Baltic Sea, major cities and sights, quaint sea resort towns, visit a health spa and lake districts, Hitler's bunker crystal and pottery shops. Buffet breakfast, and full lunch or dinner daily. LOT airlines, New York departures, bus to/from airport. For more information, please call Margaret Valinsky at: 570-277-6163 or valinskym@verizon.net

RECEIVING THE HOLY EUCHARIST – those who believe in the true presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist are invited to partake of this Holy Sacrament. It is the practice of the PNCC to distribute the Holy Eucharist through the method of intinction. The Body and Blood of Christ are placed on the tongue, not in the hand.

LAETARE SUNDAY

“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

Americans used to take this for granted. These days Christians are attacked on all sides by media, atheists and popular culture. I know many people who lament and say is no way to fight it. That is not true.

The first century Christians proclaimed the truth about Jesus in their actions every day. The poor and widows were fed, abandoned babies were adopted and the ill were nursed when all others fled for fear of plague. These Christians knew that God lives and loves us, and that Jesus Christ came to show us that love and save us from death. If put to the test, they died rather than deny the truth.

Through the ages, Christians made the difference between civilization and barbarism because their actions showed the love of God.

Today is Laetare Sunday, a break in Lenten penitence to look forward to our rejoicing when Easter comes and Christ is risen. Let us take that joy into the world. Give witness in every action to the reality of Jesus Christ's love for us and our love for Him.

DUES 2012. Since January 2005, a change was made that eliminated the ‘family plan’ method for paying Church dues. This change was voted upon and approved at the 2002 General Synod.

Each adult member (18 years old+) will now be recorded as an individual unit. This means every adult member is now responsible for his/her own dues. To continue to be a member at St. John the Baptist parish and a member of the Polish National Catholic Church each adult will be responsible for paying the following:

Total dues for 2012 per Adult Member: \$79.00 Per Year

The parish itself has an obligation to pay dues according to the number of active members to the General Church and Diocese and our financial administration distributes these monies also as directed by the General Synod. A breakdown of where these dollars are sent is available upon request.

There are also many other funds within your parish that require your attention and need your donations:

Sunday Collection, St. Johns Fund, Fuel Fund, Cemetery Fund, Clergy/Pension Fund, Easter Egg Project Fund, Easter Donations, Flower Fund, Bleenie Sales (we had a great time last year, come out help out, join in the fun...), and Christmas Donations.

IV SUNDAY OF LENT – Our Way of Life

“For we are what He has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.” (Ephesians 2:10)

This verse is from a letter that St. Paul, a leader of the early Church, wrote to the growing Christian community at Ephesus, where he preached and invited people to follow Christ. This was an important step in bringing the news of Christ to the whole world not just a small group of Jews in the ancient Middle East. The verse very simply explains what it means to be a Christian: We are created in God's plan to do good works. What kind of good works we will do depends on our desires and abilities. Mother Theresa, a Catholic nun who lived with the poor in Calcuta, India, and did countless good works and inspired many others to join her, said that anyone can offer a smile. She also said that there are no great works, only small things done with great love.

Lord, You have given us a simple path to walk. Help us to follow it always.

PARISH INFORMATION. **Daily Masses** as announced. Examples of the Mass intention are: for the Sick, in remembrance of the faithful departed (especially parents, grandparents, relatives...), to ask God's Grace, Birthdays and Anniversaries (...) To make arrangements, please contact Father Robert.

Holy Day Masses are held as announced in the bulletin.

Sacrament of Baptism – Arrangements should be made at least two weeks prior the ceremony. Only **practicing Christians** should be chosen as **godparents**.

Sacrament of Matrimony – Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance.

Emergencies, Sickness and deaths – please contact to the rectory immediately.

The parish bulletin - is made on **THURSDAYS** and **FRIDAYS**. All requested announcements should be submitted by

FRIDAY 10:00AM.

FROM THE CATECHISM of the PNCC – “**Penance** is the sacrament by which all our sins are forgiven through sorrow, confession and a firm resolution to **sin no more**. The priest is a minister of the Sacrament of Penance. To receive the Sacrament of Penance worthily we **must**: 1) examine our conscience; 2) be sorry for our sins; 3) make a firm resolution to sin no more(!) 4) confess our sins before a priest; 5) perform the penance which the priest gives us.

FROM THE CATECHISM of the PNCC – “ We must **examine our conscience** in order to call to mind the sins we have committed since our last confession and to awaken sorrow for having offended God. We should examine our conscience by recalling the sins we have committed in thought, word, deed and omission: 1) against the Commandments of God; 2) against the Commandments of the Church; 3) against the duties and obligations of our moral life.

FROM THE CATECHISM of the PNCC – “**Contrition** is: a) a sincere sorrow for having offended God and fellowman; b) a hatred for sins committed; c) a firm purpose of sinning no more. I must be sorry for my sins because by them I have offended God, the highest good. God will not forgive any sin unless we have true sorrow. My sorrow is true when it comes from the heart and not merely from the lips. If I commit a mortal sin I should at once ask God’s pardon, make an act of perfect contrition and resolve to go to confession as soon as possible. A firm resolution to sin no more, is a true and sincere act of the will to avoid sin and the near occasion of sin.”

FROM THE CATECHISM of the PNCC – “**Confession** is the telling of my sins to God, in the presence of a priest, privately or publicly in order to receive forgiveness, remission and absolution. We must tell all the sins we remember. To conceal a sin is a sacrilege and the confession must be repeated. In the PNCC we have private or ear confession and public or general confession. We should use the private confession whenever we feel the need of personal spiritual advice. The **Sacrament of Penance** worthily received takes away all punishment for sin, but the effects of sin may continue. The priest gives you penance to help you endeavor to pay the debt we still owe God for our sins, and to pray for strength to do better. The penance given us by a priest does not always make full satisfaction for our sins. We should, therefore, do other penance and good works as: prayer, attending mass, fasting, almsgiving and works of mercy. **Absolution** is God’s pardon given us through the words of a priest. The confessor is bound by vows of Holy Orders to keep secret the sins we have confessed.

BULLETIN SPONSOR:
Mrs. Flossy Bulcavage