

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



Fifth Sunday of Lent – Cycle “B”
Passion Sunday
March 25, 2012

“Your religion will do more for you if you do more for it.”

EVENTS for the WEEK

Holy Mass – 8:45AM – Contemporary liturgy in English [page 63]

Today, March 25th – V Sunday of Lent – Passion Sunday

God truly loves the world and all humanity. As we celebrate God's faithfulness today, let our hearts be healed and inspired.

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

Baptism (after the Mass): Joseph Tokarczyk

WEEKDAY READINGS:

Mon., Isaiah 7:10-14;8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38; **Tue.**, Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30; **Wed.**, Daniel 3:14-20.91-92.95; John 8:31-42; **Thu.**, Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59; **Fri.**, Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42; **Sat.**, Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56

MONDAY, March 26th - Solemnity – Annunciation of the BVM

The Annunciation was the moment when St. Gabriel told Mary she would be the Mother of the Son of God. Mary, also a daughter of God, gave her “Fiat” (Be it done), by which she conceived the Savior by the working of the Holy Spirit. Christians can always find meaning in this dialogue in which our Lady appears to us so humble yet so great. Through her consent to God’s plans, she took part in the whole redemptive work of her Son, Jesus. We venerate her as the Mother of Christ and our Mother.

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

TUESDAY, March 27th - *Lenten Weekday*

7:30AM – Holy Mass, intention: for sp. **Father Filip Kedzierski** (57th anniversary of death), of. by Fr. Robert.

WEDNESDAY, March 28th - *Lenten Weekday*

7:30AM – Holy Mass, intention: for sp. **Margaret Pandos**.

6:30PM – Choir practice before Palm Sunday and Easter.

FRIDAY, March 30th - *Lenten Weekday*

7:30AM – Holy Mass

6:00PM – Bitter Lamentations (Gorzkie Żale)

NEXT SUNDAY, April 1st - Palm Sunday – Blessing and Distribution of Palms

8:30AM – Holy Mass, intention: all Parishioners.

- Collection for missions.
- Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

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.

ENTRANCE (Psalm 43:1-2)

V. Do me Justice, o God, and fight my fight my fight against a faithless people; from deceitful and impious men rescue me.

R. For You, o God, are my strength. Why do You keep me so far away? Why must I go about in mourning, with the enemy oppressing me?

V. Lord, for us Your wounds were suffered.

R. O Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

ENTRANCE HYMN: Holy Cross – PNCC Hymnal, p. 92

1. Holy Cross, O Tree all beautiful, Tree all peerless and divine! No grove on the earth can show us Such a flow'r and leaf as thine! Precious nails and precious the wood On which hung our dying Lord.
2. Lofty tree bend down thy branches, To embrace thy sacred burden; Relax, oh, relax the tension Of that all too rigid wood. Gently, gently bear the members Of thy dying King and God.

I Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

This is the only reference to a “new covenant” in the Old Testament. It provides a description of that covenant under which God’s people will live.

The Responsorial Psalm: Create a clean heart in me, o God.

II Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

Jesus learned obedience of that covenant under which God's people will live.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL (John 12:26)

Whoever serves Me must follow Me, says the Lord; and where I am, there also will My servant be.

Gospel: John 12:20-33

Jesus foretells His passion and explains its significance.

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.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH [page 71] **GENERAL INTERCESSIONS**

With trust in God's faithful and reassuring love for us, we pray together.

- We pray for those in our time who are persecuted for their love of God and neighbor. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

- We pray for those who are peacemakers in the world today, mediating in conflicts or refusing to take up arms and to hate. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

- We pray for those who are gravely ill and near death. May the peace of Christ accompany them in their suffering **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

- We pray

- For those who have died: may they reap the rewards of their labors and come to the glory of the resurrection. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

- We pray for ourselves. May we always be people with pure hearts and people of hope, helping to create a just and peaceful world, fit for future generations. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For all who have come today for healing: [pause] – may they be filled with new hope and strength. We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For all who are dedicated to the care of the sick: [pause] May they receive the grace to continue their ministry of compassion. We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For the families and friends of those who are ill: [pause] May their faith bring them comfort. We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lord God, may we truly repent and spare no effort to establish a right relationship with You. We make these prayers through Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.**

OFFERTORY VERSE (Psalm 116:16-17)

V. O Lord, I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your handmaid; You have loosed my bonds. To You will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call upon the name of the Lord.

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 – Here I Am Lord

1. I, the Lord of the sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell dark and sin my hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? ***Refrain:*** Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's sin pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? ***Refrain:***
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide. Till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? ***Refrain:***

COMMUNION VERSE (John 12:24-25)

V. Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

RECESSIONAL HYMN – People, My People – PNCC Hymnal, p. 94

1. People, my people, how have I betrayed you? How have I grieved you, How could I have failed you? For I have saved you from the might of Pharaoh, But now you lead Me to the cross to suffer.
2. People, My People (*begins each verse*)...For I have raised You over every nation, But you would have Me bear shame and crucifixion.

May the Lord inspire you to be energetic and hopeful Christian witnesses in the world.

COMING EVENTS

GENERAL CHURCH

June 22nd Special Synod of the PNCC (Scranton, PA)

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**)

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

FRACKVILLE

Apr. 15th Baptism: Joslin Payne

Apr. 29th "Chinese" Auction

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 make Easter Eggs 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.



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!

THIS WEEK PRAYER: for **Father John Kalabokes**, his family, and parishioners of St. Francis Parish in Denver, CO



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Birthday best wishes are extended to: March 27 – Mary Ann Tokarczyk; March 29 – Janina Plichta.



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. 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:** all Parishioners; **Apr. 8:** all Parishioners; **Apr. 15:** sp. Josephine Studlick; **Apr. 22:** sp. Father Edward Tomczyk; **Apr. 29:** sp. Eugenia Halaburda; **May 6:** sp. Eugenia Halaburda; **May 13:** all Mothers; **May 20:** sp. Mary Ann Etcho; **May 27:** sp. Eugenia Halaburda; **June 3:** sp. Eugenia Halaburda; **June 10:** sp. Eugenia Halaburda; **June 17:** all Fathers; **June 24:** sp. Eugenia Halaburda. *Please, do not order the mass intentions ahead of 1 year. Thank you.*

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 Schenactedy, NY. Registration closes on April 15, 2012. For more details, please contact Fr. Robert.

THE PNCC SPECIAL SYNOD – pursuant to article ***VII, LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY, B, THE SPECIAL SYNOD, SECTION I*** of the Constitution and Laws of the PNCC, the Prime Bishop Anthony A. Mikovsky calls a Special Synod for the PNCC to convene at St. Stanislaus Cathedral Youth Center, Scranton, PA, **on Friday, June 22, 2012** with the concurrence of the Supreme Council. The sole purpose of this one-day Synod will be to elect 2 Candidates for Bishop. It will be necessary for each parish to elect lay delegates to this Special Synod. The number of lay delegates to which a parish is entitled is determined by the General Fund Dues submitted for 2011. Mandates and Registration forms may be obtained from the offices of our Diocesan Bishop. The Synod will begin with Holy Mass at St. Stanislaus Cathedral on Friday, June 22, at 8:00AM. After Mass a light continental breakfast will be served in the Youth Center, followed by the election process. Two meal breaks for lunch and dinner, also served in the Youth Center, will be scheduled.

Keep in mind that it is a sacred right that we have to assemble at a Synod to do important work of the Church. Let us remember that the Church has been called into existence by Christ to continue His work. This is a Holy

Assembly, and every parish has a moral obligation to send delegates to participate.

LENTEN COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

History's Mystery – V Sunday of Lent

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name Him Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)

It's sometimes brought up that this was referring to something completely different in the book of Isaiah, and we shouldn't take it to be a prophecy about Mary conceiving Jesus. Our way of thinking is so concrete that often we can't look past the desire for tangible proof. The God who created the universe has an overview of history that we can't possibly grasp. He's fully capable of speaking through Isaiah to the need of that moment and to also speaking to every soul's need later fulfilled in Christ Jesus. We can dig into the theology, but eventually it is a mystery that our puny brains must simply accept, just like the fact that Jesus' sacrifice for us truly redeems our souls. It thrills me to see that verse and so many more in the Old Testament are a testimony to God's loving care for each and every one of us, no matter when in time we exist.

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.



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.

Seeds of life

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (John 12:23-24)

A grain of wheat is, of course, a seed. Have you seen a seed sprout? It does nothing unless it is put into soil, watered and exposed to sunlight's warmth drawing it up out of the dirt. A wheat plant grows, is harvested and ground into flour for bread to feed us. Think of other seeds and the plants they grow into. We use different plants for shade, food and even medicine. Jesus knew that the purpose of His life and death would not happen until the resurrection, when He, like seed, rose up from His burial place to bear fruit of new life in us who are freed from sin and death. The Bread of Life, He continues to feed us as we grow in holiness with Him. Each of us, too, is like a seed with our own purpose – if we are planted well, we grow into the person God created us to be. Suggestion: plant early spring seeds to grow in a sunny window to remind you of this message

God of sunlight and water, transform us into a life-giving people who provide shade, food and healing for others.



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.



MY INTENTIONS AT MASS

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the greatest of all prayers and because it is so, it is a worthwhile practice to offer it for specific intentions. The following prayer may be said before Mass begins.

O Great and good God, I have come into Your presence to share in offering to You the great sacrifice of Your Blessed Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, (and to receive the Holy Sacrament of the Body and Blood of the Same Jesus Christ), in remembrance of His life, death and passion, and in thanksgiving for all Your Blessings bestowed upon Your whole Church and on me, a most unworthy sinner.

I desire to offer this Mass (and to receive Communion), with all the love and contrition of which wherewith our Savior instituted and our Holy Church ever offers it.

I desire, therefore, to offer this Mass (and receive Holy Communion)...

...for Your greater glory.

...for the continual remembrance of the sacrifice of Christ.

...to give thanks for all the blessings You have bestowed upon me, especially...

...to ask Your help in any matter in hand, especially...

...to ask You all my friends and relations, among whom I especially remember...

...for the dead, especially...

...for my special intention, namely...

Bless the priest through whom I am to make this oblation. Bless all the people who are here to participate in this glorious action, and all who would like to be here.

Convert all sinners. Heal the anguish of the world. And have mercy upon all the faithful departed. Amen.

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Mrs. Flossy Bulcavage