

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

414 West Oak Street, Frackville, PA 17931

Rectory: 570-874-1960

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

Website: www.stjohnpncc.org

E-mail: robertb1@ptd.net

PNCC website: www.pncc.org

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. Bernard J. Nowicki**
Plymouth Seniorate Administrative Senior – **Very Rev. Thaddeus Dymkowski**
Parish Committee Chairman – **Mr. Edward Halaburda**



Fourth Sunday of Advent - "C"

Czwarta Niedziela Adwentu

December 23, 2012

EVENTS for the WEEK

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

Today, December 23rd – IV Sunday of Advent

Christ comes into the simple, rustic world of Mary and Elizabeth. But He comes from the mists of eternity.

8:45AM – Holy Mass, intention: for Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Wolk (God's Blessing and good health), of. by St. John the Baptist Parish.

WEEKDAY READINGS:

December 24: 2 Samuel 7:1-5.8b-12.14a.16; Luke 1:67-79 (Mass in the morning); **SEASON of CHRISTMAS:**
December 26: Acts 6:8-10. 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22; **December 27:** 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a.2-8;
December 28: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18; **December 29:** 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

MONDAY, December 24th – Christmas Eve Day

10:00PM – Holy Mass of the Shepherds, and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament; intention: for all Parishioners & Friends.

TUESDAY, December 25th - Nativity of Our Lord

11:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: God's blessing for the Family.

WEDNESDAY, December 26th - Feast – St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr

10:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for sp. **Peter** and **Mary Studlick**, of. by Mrs. Carol Blackwell.

THURSDAY, December 27th - Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

6:00PM – Holy Mass

FRIDAY, December 28th - Holy Innocents

10:00AM – Holy Mass

SATURDAY, December 29th - Solemnity – Holy Family

9:00AM – Holy Mass in Shenandoah.

11:00AM – Holy Mass in Frackville.

NEXT SUNDAY, December 30th – Solemnity – Humble Shepherds

8:45AM – Holy Mass, intention: for all Parishioners.

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.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Prayer of Intercession

Prayer:

P. Prince of Peace and Lord, Jesus Christ, Father of the world to come, You will return with power and glory on the clouds of heaven. Now You dwell among us in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, not as our judge, but as our Brother who wishes to share with us the riches of His inheritance. Hear we ask You, the petitions of Your people!

R. Have mercy, o Lord, have mercy.

P. Prepare our hearts for a fervent celebration of Your Nativity.

R. We ask You, hear us.

P. Lead all those who doubt and disbelieve to acknowledge Your Divine Glory.

R. We ask You, hear us.

P. Help the poor, console the afflicted, and deliver the oppressed.

R. We ask You, hear us.

P. Banish from our midst all quarrels and wars, lies, treachery and injustice; and make us all one in You.

R. We ask You, hear us.

P. Grant that, amidst the joys and sorrows of this life, we may always long for Your coming.

R. We ask You, hear us.

P. Have mercy on us in the day of judgement, and lead us all to the glory of eternal life.

R. We ask You, hear us.

Let us pray: For You are He who is to come in the splendor of the heavenly armies. You gather Your people at the Eucharistic Table, as You will one day gather them from all times and all nations to the wedding feast in Your Kingdom, where You live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in all eternity.

R. Amen.

ENTRANCE RITE (Micah 5:1)

V. But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah,

R. From you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel; Whose origin is from of old, from ancient times.

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 – From Heav'n A Voice – PNCC Hymnal, p. 15

1. From heav'n a voice comes down to earth; A star foretells the Savior's birth. It shines through darkness sin and grief, And brings to mankind's souls relief.
2. From Jesse's stem a flower springs, Which to the world salvations brings. God sent to us His Son, our Lord, Before the ages long adored.

I Reading: Micah 5:1-4

The Old Testament prophet foresees the coming of the Messiah.

GRADUAL (Micah 5:3)

V. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the Lord, in the majestic name of the Lord, his God.

R. And they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth.

II Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

God no longer wants the sacrifices of the Old Testament. The loving obedience of Jesus is more powerful than all of them.

ALLELUIA (James 5:8)

V. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. You too must be patient. Make your heart firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45

Mary, carrying Jesus in her womb, goes lovingly to help her pregnant cousin Elizabeth.

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 – Hail, O Blessed Mary – PNCC Hymnal, p. 19

1. Hail, o blessed Mary heaven's beauteous lily; For our God has favored you, Mother of all mercy. Through the birth of your dear Son, Who would bring redemption.
2. Mary, you were favored, graced beyond the angels, Maid above all maidens, holiest of all women. Pray for us, O blessed one, Mother of God's own true Son.

3. Mother, you were chosen, blest among all women, By the God of heaven, Author of salvation, Hope of all who on you call, Pray, o Mother, for us all.

COMMUNION HYMN – **At Thy Door, I Come Before Thee** – PNCC Hymnal p. 167, 5 verses

1. At Thy door I come before Thee, At Thy door I come before Thee. And I ask, O Lord, Thy mercy, And I ask, O Lord, Thy mercy.
2. In this Bread we now behold Thee, In this Bread we now behold Thee. Heavn's gift, Thou Lord Almighty, Heavn's gift, Thou Lord Almighty.
3. In this Sacrament Most Holy, In this Sacrament Most Holy. From on high, come, Lord of Glory, From on high, come, Lord of Glory.
4. In this Host, this Bread of Heaven, In this Host, this Bread of Heaven. God's Eternal Son is given, God's Eternal Son is given.
5. What a wondrous act of glory, What a wondrous act of glory. Now this bread becomes His Body! Now this bread becomes His Body!

RECESSIONAL HYMN – **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** – PNCC Hymnal, p. 32

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here. Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, o Israel!
2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, And order all things far and night; To us the path of knowledge show, And cause us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, o Israel!
3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to the tribes on Sinai's height In ancient times didst give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, o Israel!

May you share in the joy of Elizabeth and Mary, as Christ approaches.

COMING EVENTS

FRACKVILLE

- Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Mass – 10:00PM
Dec. 25th Christmas Day Mass – 11:00AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Thanks go out to:

- **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 decorate our home church for Christmas. **Thank you** to **Mrs. Janina Plichta** for decorating church. **Thank you** to all of our **Parishioners** who donated items for church decorations this year!

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.

THE CHRISTMAS WAFERS – are available in the vestibule. A free will offering goes to our organist – Mrs. Cindy Eickhoff.

THIS WEEK PRAYER: for **Bishop Stanley Bilinski Jr.**, his family and parishioners of All Saints Cathedral in Chicago, IL, and St. Mary Parish in Parma, OH; for **Father Francis Rowinski** and his family.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Birthday best wishes are extended to: December 23 – Joseph Makauskas.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK – especially for – James Chistakoff – Sophia Stetts – Sarah Powanda – Joseph Makauskas - Edward Halaburda – Helen Hopko – Paul Elsavage – John Etcho - Flossy Bulcavage – Sharon Chiao – Sue Pascavage – Carolyn Boychak – Anna Folta - Ted Butcavage.

At **Nursing Homes**: Helen Chistakoff – Dolores Halaburda - ***Frackville Nursing Home***: Dorothy Halaburda (205) – 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: **4 Sundays** in Jan. 2013 – sp. Edward Bulcavage. *Please, do not order the Mass intentions ahead of 3 months. Thank you.*



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.

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.

GOSPEL SUMMARY

We think of the universe as very big; but it is composed of the very small.
Mary and Elizabeth were insignificant in the world's eyes; but God acted in their lives.
God, the Creator of the universe, also cares about the little things of this world.
Taking human form in Christ, God transforms events in our world.

KINDLY REMINDER – We would like to remind our Parishioners that all financial books for this year would be closed on **December 31, 2012**. Therefore, please, be responsible for your own church and fulfill your obligation to the Parish before that date. **THANK YOU**. A member, who fulfills the financial obligation to the Parish, by paying our yearly dues (\$79.00), is a financial good standing member of the Church. This means that he/she is a voting member of the Parish, can be elected to the Parish Committee, can be elected as a delegate for Synods and Seniorate Council, can be married in the church, and when time comes could be buried at the Parish Cemetery.

BULLETIN SPONSOR:
Mrs. Flossy Bulcavage