

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

Official e-mail: robertb1@ptd.net

Website: www.stjohnpncc.org

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. Charles Chiao Jr.**



First Sunday of Advent - "B"

Pierwsza Niedziela Adwentu

November 30, 2014

Lord, I am not worthy to ask You, but only say a word and Your Church will grow in number of holy and dedicated people.

EVENTS for the WEEK

Holy Mass – 10:00AM – Contemporary liturgy in English.

Today, November 30th – I Sunday of Advent

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. We begin to look forward to Christmas. But the Gospel reminds us of another important event for which we wait – the second coming of the Lord.

10:00AM – Holy Mass with the reading of the Memorial List, intention: for Sp. **Mary Ann Etcho**, of. by Husband, John Etcho.

^ Pierogie are available - \$5.00 per dozen.

WEEKDAY READINGS:

Mon., Romans 10:9-18; **Matthew** 4:18-22; **Tue.**, Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24; **Wed.**, Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37; **Thu.**, Isaiah 26:1-6; **Matthew** 7:21,24-27; **Fri.**, Isaiah 29:17-24; **Matthew** 9:27-31; **Sat.**

Isaiah 30:19-21.23-26; Matthew 9:35 – 10:1.5a.6-8

MONDAY, December 1st - Feast – St. Andrew, Apostle

Born at Bethsaida, he was a disciple of John the Baptist before he became a follower of Christ, to whom he also brought his brother, Peter. According to tradition, he preached the Gospel in Greece and in year 60 was crucified in Patras on an X-shaped cross. He is a patron saint of Russia and Scotland. Patron Saint of: fishermen.

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

6:30PM – Monthly meeting of the Parish Committee.

WEDNESDAY, December 3rd - Advent Weekday

6:30AM – *Rorate Mass*, intention: for Sp. Ignacy, Rozalia... (All Souls).

6:30PM – Bible Study in the hall.

THURSDAY, December 4th - Advent Weekday

8:30AM – **Holy Mass**, intention: for Bishop, Priests and Deacons of the Central Diocese.

FRIDAY, December 5th - Advent Weekday – First Friday of the month

8:30AM – **Holy Mass**, intention: God's blessing for the Family.

2:00 – 5:00PM – Pierogie Sale in the hall.

5:00 – 6:00PM – Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

SATURDAY, December 6th - Advent Weekday

10:00AM – **Ordination to the Priesthood Ceremony** – St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA. After solemnities of Christmas and Resurrection of the Lord, Ordination to the Priesthood is the most important event within the Church's life.

NEXT SUNDAY, December 7th - II Sunday of Advent

10:00AM – **Holy Mass**, intention: for Sp. Michael and Mary Patcella, of. by Mr. John Etcho.

- ⤴ Confession.
- ⤴ All Souls Service after the Mass.
- ⤴ Collection for missions.
- ⤴ Coffee & Cake.

Today's liturgy

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH



Prayer:

P. Listen to the voice of one crying in the desert: Make ready the way of the Lord.

R. Make straight His paths!

P. Eternal, only-begotten Son of God, in this Holy Season of Advent, prepare our hearts to celebrate Your birth.

R. Cleanse our hearts through sincere penance * and grant us the spirit of silence which we need to celebrate Your mysteries.

P. O Lord, You give Yourself to all men of good will.

R. Our hearts truly long for You.

P. Come and free us from the slavery of sin.

R. Come and bring us new life.

P. Make our hearts Your worthy dwelling place.

R. Deliver us from being lukewarm or indifferent in Your Service.

P. That we may meet You with confidence.

R. When You will come in glory to judge the living and the dead.

P. Lord, teach us Your ways.

R. Lord, show us Your paths.

Let us Pray. O God, You gladden us year after year with the promise of our redemption; grant we ask You, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that we who now prepare for the coming of the Redeemer may also behold Him without fear when He comes as our judge, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who with You lives and reigns, world without end.

R. Amen.

The priest then blesses the Candle, saying:

The Blessing of Almighty God, The Father + the Son + and Holy Spirit + descend upon these candles which serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world; and remain with us forevermore.

R. Amen.

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 (Psalm 130:5-6; Lamentations 3:25-26)

V. I trust with longing for the Lord, my soul waits for His word. My soul looks for the Lord more than sentinels for daybreak.

R. Good is the Lord to one who waits for Him, to the soul that seeks Him. It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.

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.

I Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

We humans are rebellious and our integrity is only skin-deep; yet God is the potter and we are the clay. We can trust God to help us.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make us turn to You; let us see Your face and we shall be saved.

II Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Jesus fills us with the gifts of the Spirit as we await His second coming.

ALLELUIA (Psalm 85:8)

V. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. Show us, Lord Your love; and grant us Your salvation.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:33-37

Jesus teaches us never to forget that He, the Master of our house, will come again.

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

Celebrant: The Lord is a loving and compassionate judge. With this in mind, we pray.

- For the Church: that she may faithfully remind all people of the things of most lasting importance. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For those in command of nations and armies: that they may remember that they are accountable for what they do. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For those who are wounded, bereaved and homeless, as a result of war. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For those who have gone before us to meet their loving Savior – **Sp. Mary Ann Etcho:** that they may receive a merciful judgement. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Father, increase our thirst for justice, and our trust in Your everlasting love through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

May the Lord make us people of principle and integrity, so that we can await Christ's coming with confidence.

COMING EVENTS

FRACKVILLE – Each **First Friday** on the month – Private Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament (5:00PM – 7:00PM Winter til **6:00PM**)

Dec. 7th Frackville Elks Memorial Service (2:00PM)

Dec. 14th **Advent Penitential Service** (before the Mass – **12:45PM**) & Christmas Party (after the **1:00PM** Mass).

Dec. 24th Mass of Shepherds (10:00PM)

Dec. 25th Christmas Day Mass (10:00AM)

May 17th, 15 First Holy Communion Day

June 14th, 15 Confirmation (3:00PM)

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 **Mr. Julian Bednarek** for his help with candles and taking collection;
- to **Joe Karvois** and **Veronica Plichta** for their help at the altar last Sunday;
- to the **Sunday greeters**.

GENERAL CHURCH DUES – has been increased to **\$100.00**; therefore beginning January 2015, our church dues will be **\$124.00** per adult member.

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.

ORDINATION – **Deacon James Konicki** will be ordained to the Priesthood on **Saturday, December 6, 2014** at **10:00AM** in St. Stanislaus Cathedral at Scranton, PA by the Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the PNCC. Please, keep the Candidate in our prayers. May God bless his successful ministry within our Holy Church.

A NEW SNOW BLOWER – for the church was purchased last Tuesday. Thank you to **Mr. Charles Chiao Jr.** and **Mr. Paul Elsavage** for taking care of it.

THIS WEEK PRAYER: for **Father Senior John Kraus**, his family and parishioners of St. Mary Parish in West Allis, WI.



CHRISTMAS PARTY – will be held in our church hall on **Sunday, December 14** after **1:00PM Mass**. The Parishioners invite you to participate, therefore please sign your name on the sheet at the vestibule. When you come, please bring **one inexpensive gift (up to \$10.00)**. Parents and guardians are responsible to provide gifts for their children. The deadline to sign your names is December 7.

THE CHRISTMAS WAFERS (Oplatki) – are available in the vestibule. The free will offering are for our Organist, **Mrs. Cindy Eickhoff** – Thank you.

2015 HOME LITURGICAL CALENDAR is publishing for members of the PNCC. This calendar contains information concerning PNCC holy days. For individual orders the calendar cost is **\$3.50**. If someone is interested to purchase this calendar, please sign your name on the list on the vestibule. The deadline for all orders is **December 7, 2014**.

2015 HOME BLESSING - list is placed next to the bulletin. If you **really** need your home to be blessed, please sign up your name, or call the rectory. The pastor will visit parishioners who signed their names or call the rectory only. The deadline is **November 30, 2014**.

CONFIRMATION – Our Diocesan Bishop – the Rt. Rev. Bernard J. Nowicki will impart the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Sunday, June 14, 2015 at 3:00PM**. We have two students-candidates; if any adult members didn't receive Confirmation yet – please contact Fr. Robert ASAP. The deadline is: **March 31, 2015**.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Birthday best wishes are extended to: November 30 – Crystin Stettis.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK – especially for – Father Senior Wiesław Pietruszka - James Chistakoff – Sarah Powanda – Helen Hopko – Paul Elsavage – John Etcho - Flossy Bulcavage – Sharon Chiao – Carolyn Boychak – Anna Folta – John Kruk – Charles Chiao Jr. – Helen Menzyk - James Panco – Connie Sincavage – Frank Gill – Patricia Abicunas. At **Nursing Homes**: Helen Chistakoff – **Frackville Nursing Home**: Louise Gursky (307) - Ann Lech (108); NY – Cecelia Pyzowski. **H & R Center Tremont**: Dolores Halaburda. **Fritzingertown Drums, PA** - Violet Cegielski. **Ridgeview (Shen. Hts.)** - Margaret Kruszynski (311) - Edward Ryszka Jr. (221).



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 MASS INTENTIONS: **Dec. 7:** Sp. Michael & Mary Patcella; **Dec. 14:** Sp. James Dean; **Dec. 21:** Sp. James Dean; **Jan. 4, 2015:** Sp. Edward Bulcavage; **Jan. 11:** Sp. Edward Bulcavage; **Jan. 18:** Sp. Edward Bulcavage; **Jan. 25:** Sp. Edward Bulcavage. **March 1:** for those who were touched with cancer.



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 **9:45AM** (before Mass). Children before Confirmation age must come to **private** Confession. **If children (until Confirmation) would like to receive the Holy Communion in a worthy manner they must come and be well prepared for private confession at least once a month.** If other times are necessary please contact Fr. Robert.

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS – in case of your inability to come to church on any particular Sunday, please mail or submit your Sunday offerings and donations to our parish. Your church needs your financial support in order to pay utilities and expenses.



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. **Come as a Guest – Leave as a Friend!**

ADVENT – The Ecclesiastical Year begins on the first Sunday of Advent and ends on the Saturday following the last Sunday after Pentecost. Advent is composed of four weeks, during which with the patriarchs and prophets, we prepare to celebrate the first coming of our Lord in a Bethlehem stable. During Advent the approved liturgical colors are **blue, rose or violet**, unless otherwise indicated by the feast of the day. If violet vestments are used rose is recommended color for the Third Sunday in Advent. This is in keeping with the theme of joy. The “Gloria” is omitted from the Mass liturgy.

It is a Polish custom from antiquity that a special votive Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated in the parish Church once a week (usually on a Wednesday). It is called “*Rorate*” Mass, from the first words of the Latin Introit “*rorate caeli*”. This unique Polish custom, first celebrated at the Wawel Cathedral in Krakow in 1545 dictates that seven candles are lighted and placed on the St. Mary's Altar. The seventh candle is much taller than the rest and is decorated with a green branch tied with a white ribbon. This symbolizes the Old Testament prophecy fulfilled; the Messiah stemming from the “Root of Jesse”.

It is also customary, in some parishes, to prepare an Advent Wreath consisting of four candles in a circular wreath with a larger candle (the Christ candle) in the center. The Advent Wreath serves as a reminder of the four thousand years of expectation for the coming of the Savior, Jesus Christ, born on Christmas Day. Solemn Marriage ceremonies are forbidden without the explicit permission of the Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese. (from “Rites and Ritual” – a liturgical handbook for the PNCC).

PNU MEMBER December Promotion – Looking for that Perfect Christmas Gift? The PNU can Help

with your Shopping this year!

The PNU has many meaningful gift ideas for your children and grandchildren this Christmas...Gifts that will provide significant benefits for many years. Give the gift of an endowment or life insurance policy and your child/grandchild not only has financial security but also becomes eligible for PNU benefits like college stipends, membership in the Spojnia Credit Union, branch and district activities and much, much more. Contact the PNU Home Office at **1-800-724-6352** for more information.

WATCH!

Happy New Year! The Church's calendar begins today. The word "Advent" means "coming" and starts with a message similar to the theme of last week's Mass. Be ready and watch for the coming of Jesus. This can be understood in three ways.

First, we anticipate Christ's advent on Christmas. We transcend the materialism of the modern world by a focus on the real meaning of the feast: God enters human existence in a totally personal way. Second, we look forward to Jesus' arrival in our lives through the blossoming of our faith. We bring his body into the world through our union with him in the communion of saints.

Finally, we speculate on the end of this universe at the conclusion of time. The universe is not self-sustaining. Eventually it will terminate in some sort of extinction. Time is finite. It will reach a culmination either in a vast cataclysm or total dissolution. Then the real universe will begin in God.

KINDLY REMINDER – We would like to remind our Parishioners that all financial books for this year would be closed on December 31, 2014. 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; beginning next year - \$124.00), 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.

SNOW and ICE ALERT – During winter days, please remember that we do not cancel our Worship Services. In the case of unfavorable travel conditions, please make appropriate decisions about venturing forth.

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.

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader. (John Quincy Adams)