

St. John the Baptist Parish

Polish National Catholic Church

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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.**



Third Sunday of Advent - "B"

Trzecia Niedziela Adwentu

December 14, 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 – Traditional liturgy in English.

Today, December 14th – III Sunday of Advent

Advent is the season of new things. So it is the season of hope. Hope is the virtue that knows that there is more to come.

12:45PM – Advent Penitential Service.

1:00PM – **Holy Mass**, intention: for Sp. **James Dean**, of. by Wife Marjorie.

- ⤴ The private Confession for those who are in need is available at any time before the services, during the week also.
- ⤴ Pierogies are available.

2:15PM – Christmas Party in the hall.

WEEKDAY READINGS:

Mon., Numbers 24:2-7.15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27; **Tue.**, Zephaniah 3:1-2.9-13; Matthew 21:28-32; **Dec. 17:** Genesis 49:2.8-10; Matthew 1:1-17; **Dec. 18:** Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25; **Dec. 19:** Judges 13:2-7.24-25a; Luke 1:5-25; **Dec. 20:** Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38

TUESDAY, December 16th – Advent Weekday

8:30AM – Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. Bernard Halaburda Jr. ...(All Souls).

WEDNESDAY, December 17th – Advent Weekday

6:30AM – Rorate Mass, intention: for all **Parishioners**.

THURSDAY, December 18th – Advent Weekday

8:30AM – Holy Mass, intention: Sp. Susan Bednarek...(All Souls).

4:00PM – Holy Mass, intention: God's blessing for Veronica Plichta.

FRIDAY, December 19th – Advent Weekday

8:30AM – Holy Mass, intention: Sp. Melissa Chiao...(All Souls).

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

SATURDAY, December 20th – Advent Weekday

10:00 – 10:50AM – Confirmation Class.

11:00 – 12:00N – First Holy Communion Class.

NEXT SUNDAY, December 21st – IV Sunday of Advent

10:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. James Dean, of. by Wife Marjorie.

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 **THIRD** SUNDAY IN **ADVENT**



Christ's Coming in Glory

Prayer:

P. Beloved, let us live in this world with temperance, justice and piety.

R. Let us wait for the blessed hope and glorious coming of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

P. Heaven and earth will pass away.

R. But Your Words, o Lord, will not pass away.

P. What You foretold shall be accomplished: You will come to judge the living and the dead.

R. You will reward everyone according to their deeds.

P. Keep us from being engulfed in worldly desires.

R. For at an unexpected hour, the Son of Man will come.

P. Grant us, o Lord, to be always on the watch.

R. That we may meet You with burning lamps on Your return.

P. Lord, remember not our transgressions.

R. For with You, o Lord, is kindness and plentiful redemption.

P. Let Your power be known, o Lord.

R. Come, and let Your Face shine upon us.

Let us pray: Almighty, Eternal Father, stir our hearts and grant us to be steadfast in fervent prayer, in holy love and child-like confidence, so that one day we may joyfully meet Your Son, and our Lord, Jesus Christ, when He shall come on the clouds to heaven to judge the world. Through the same Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

ENTRANCE RITE (Philippians 4:4-5; Psalm 119:151.162)

V. Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. Lord is near.

R. You are near, o Lord; by Your edict give me life. I rejoice at Your promise, as one who has found rich spoil.

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 61:1-2.10-11

Hope can feel a little bit like fear, the sort of joyous fear a bride and groom feel on their wedding night.

GRADUAL (Psalm 33:1.21-22)

V. Rejoice, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

R. For in God our hearts rejoice; in Your holy name we trust. May Your kindness, o Lord, be upon us; we have put our hope in You.

II Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Where there is peace, there is God. Where there is God, there is peace.

ALLELUIA (Isaiah 62:5b)

V. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. And as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, as shall your God rejoice in you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8.19-28

God sent John. We are part of that sending. To be a Christian is to have a mission.

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.

May you live in hope, so that each day is a stepping stone to God.

COMING EVENTS

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

Dec. 22nd Decorating the church for Christmas (6:00PM)

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 **Veronica Plichta** for her help at the altar;
- to the **Sunday greeters**.

THANK YOU very much to our Parishioners for staying in the hall selling pierogies last two Fridays.

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.

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

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

DECEMBER 22 – is a day when we are going to decorate our church for Christmas. Please, join us to decorate at **6:00PM. THANK YOU!**

THIS WEEK PRAYER: for **Father Raymond Drada**, his family and parishioners of All Saints Parish in Sterling Heights, MI.

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: December 14 – Angela Elsavage; December 16 – Helen Menzyk; December 18 – Veronica Plichta; December 19 – George Tokarczyk, Rosemary Savitsky; December 20 – Eugenia Tyrrell.



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 – Joseph Petrusky. 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. 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; **Feb. 1:** Sp. Loretta and Stanley Kovalewski; **Feb. 15:** Sp. Lauren Feudale; **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. **Remember** that penance during the Confession **MUST BE FULFILLED**, if not – the Sacrament is not **VALID**.

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.**

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.

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.

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.

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.

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**.

Rejoice Always

Paul teaches that active happiness should be the most distinctive characteristic of a Christian. We have absolutely no reason for despair. We know that whatever happens to us, our biography will have a happy ending. We will share God's joy forever. People should be able to ask us, "Why are you always so upbeat?" Faith gives us the right answer.

Untie His Sandals

John the Baptist makes both an act of humility and of hope for a coming superior. Sandals were the most common and least valuable possessions. They were thongs made of animal skin or plant fiber. They consisted in a flat sole tied to foot with straps. It was the duty of a slave to tie these straps for a superior. John pictures the "one who is to come" as so great that the Baptist is unfit to be even his slave.



Advent Wreath

1st CANDLE – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE – (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to “get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angles announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE – (white) **“CHRIST CANDLE”** – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)