

St. John the Baptist Parish

Polish National Catholic Church

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Website Master: The Rev. James Konicki

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.**



Fourth Sunday of Advent - "B"

Czwarta Niedziela Adwentu

December 21, 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 21st – IV Sunday of Advent

God is building a house where all people may experience unity and peace. This is our home, and Jesus is coming to show us the way so that we may avoid the hurt and disappointment of broken promises.

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

^ **Pierogies are available.**

WEEKDAY READINGS:

December 22: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56; **December 23:** Malachi 3:1-4.23-24; Luke 1:57-66; **December 24:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5.8b-12.14a.16; Luke 1:67-79 (Mass in the morning); **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

MONDAY, December 22nd – *Advent Weekday*

6:00PM – Decorating the church for Christmas. Please, come and help us – this is your church. Thank you.

TUESDAY, December 23rd – *Advent Weekday*

8:30AM – **Holy Mass**, intention: for Sp. Lucille Greenman ...(All Souls).

WEDNESDAY, December 24th – Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord

10:00PM – **Mass of the Shepherds (Pasterka)**, intention: for all **Parishioners**.

THURSDAY, December 25th – Solemnity – Nativity of our Lord

10:00AM – **Holy Mass**, intention: for the **Peace of the World**.

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

10:00AM – **Holy Mass**

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

9:00AM – **Holy Mass**

NEXT SUNDAY, December 28th – Solemnity – **Humble Shepherds** (Holy Innocents)

10:00AM – **Holy Mass**, intention: for the Youth.

^ Collection for the Seminary.

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 judgment, 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 (Luke 1:28.42; Judith 15:9b)

V. Hail favored one! The Lord is with you. Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

R. You are the glory of Jerusalem, the surpassing joy of Israel! You are the splendid boast of our people.

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

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

I Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

King David wants to build a house, a temple, for the Lord; but the Lord promises rather to build a house, a dynasty, for David.

GRADUAL (Matthew 1:18; Galatians 4:4)

V. Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

R. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.

II Reading: Romans 16:25-27

The mystery of God, revealed in Jesus, has to be made known to pagans everywhere to bring them to faith.

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: Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel reveals to Mary that she is to be the Mother of God's Son. He will be given the throne of His ancestor David and His reign will have no end.

HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

(melody on: Joyful, joyful...)

For Your gift of God the Spirit, Pow'r to make our lives anew, Pledge of life and hope of glory, Savior we would worship You. Crowning gift of resurrection, Sent from Your ascended throne; Sent of the very Godhead Come to make Your life our own.

May you always be living stones in God's dwelling place on earth and may God's love always live in your hearts.

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 **Joe, Dylan and Veronica** for their help at the altar;
- to the **Sunday greeters**.

THANK YOU to everyone for preparing our **CHRISTMAS PARTY LAST** last Sunday. It was a first party after a few years, and thank you for being a part of it. **MAY GOD BLESS ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!**

THANK YOU very much to our Parishioners for staying in the hall selling pierogie last Friday – **Mrs. Sandra Elsavege, Mr. Lance**

Nelson and Mr. Paul Elsavage.

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.

THIS WEEK PRAYER: for **Father Senior Jaroslaw Nowak**, his family and parishioners Holy Cross Parish in Hamtramck, MI and Resurrection of Our Lord Parish in Temperance, 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**.



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: 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**.

ADVENT

(On A Theme by Dietrich Bonhoeffer) Pamela Cranston

Look how long
the weary world waited,
locked in its lonely cell,
guilty as a prisoner.

As you can imagine,
it sang and whistled in the dark.
It hoped. It paced and pattered about,
tidying its little piles of inconsequence.

It wept from the weight of ennui,
draped like shackles on its wrists.
It raged and wailed against the walls
of its own plight.

But there was nothing
the world could do
to find its own freedom.
The door was shut tight.

It could only be opened

from the outside.

Who could believe the latch
would be turned by a pink flower
the tiny hand
of a newborn baby?

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