

St. John the Baptist Parish

Polish National Catholic Church

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Third Sunday of Advent - "A"

Trzecia Niedziela Adwentu

December 11, 2016

O Lord I am not worthy to ask You, but only say a word and this parish will grow in number of really holy and dedicated people to God and to the Church.

EVENTS for the WEEK

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

Today, December 11th – III Sunday of Advent

Advent Penitential Service

As we draw ever closer to Christmas, today's readings teach us that waiting has its own special value.

10:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. **Susan Berto-Bednarek**, of. by Mr. Julian Bednarek.

^ Christmas Party after the Mass.

WEEKDAY READINGS:

Mon., Numbers 24:2-7.15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27; **Tue.**, Zephaniah 3:1-2.9-13; Matthew 21:28-32; **Wed.**, Isaiah 45:6c-8.18.21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23; **Thu.**, Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30; **Fri.**, Isaiah 56:1-3a.6-8; John

5:33-36; Dec. 17: Genesis 49:2.8-10; Matthew 1:1-17

MONDAY, December 12th – *Advent Weekday*

7:25AM – Requiem Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. Jan Zaborowski...(All Souls).

TUESDAY, December 13th – *Advent Weekday*

7:25PM – Holy Mass, intention for:

WEDNESDAY, December 14th – *Advent Weekday*

7:25AM - Rorate Mass, intention: for all **Parishioners**.

THURSDAY, December 15th – *Advent Weekday*

7:25AM – Requiem Holy Mass – intention: for Sp. **Felix and Josephine Gursky**, of. by Mr. & Mrs. Chester Gursky.

FRIDAY, December 16th – *Advent Weekday*

7:25AM – Requiem Holy Mass for Sp. **Edward, Alen, Leonard, Walter, Henry Gursky**, of. by Mr. & Mrs. Chester Gursky.

SATURDAY, December 17th – *Advent Weekday*

9:30AM – First Holy Communion Catechism Class

11:00AM – Funeral Service for Sp. **Hildegarde Tomczyk** at St. John's Cemetery.

NEXT SUNDAY, December 18th – *IV Sunday of Advent*

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

▲ Decorating the church for Christmas.

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.

ENTRANCE RITE (Isaiah 26:19b; 29:19)

V. Awake and sing, you who lie in the dust. For your dew is a dew of light, and the land of shades gives birth.

R. The lowly will ever find joy in the Lord, and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

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 35:1-6.10

The prophet assures his people in exile that the Lord will come, the desert will bloom and human disabilities will be healed.

GRADUAL (Psalms 146:5-7)

V. Happy are those whose help Jacob's God; whose hope is in the Lord, their God, the maker of heaven and earth, the seas and all that is in them.

R. Who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free.

II Reading: James 5:7-10

The farmer, who plants his seeds in autumn and, after early rains, sees the first shoots appear, is an example of patient waiting.

ALLELUIA (Malachi 3:23)

V. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the day of the Lord comes.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

St. John's disciples assure him that his waiting is rewarded: the Messiah has come, the words of the prophet are

fulfilled.

HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, come, let this be Your home; come and dwell among all of us who sing this song. Come into this place, shine on ev'ry face, fill us with Your love and grace, Holy Spirit come. Come and dwell among us. Amen.

In all your waiting, may you look towards God as your comfort and strength.

COMING EVENTS

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

Dec. 18 – Decorating the church for Christmas

Dec. 24 – Christmas Vigil Mass – 4:00PM; Christmas Eve Mass – 10:00PM

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Mass – 10:00AM – Sunday

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special **Thanks** go out to:

- to **Mrs. Janina Plichta** preparing the altars, and the church for services;
- to **Mrs. Cindy Eickhoff** 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 the **Sunday greeters**.

THANK YOU very much to the ANS Members, and Parishioners for Christmas Gifts already sent to the Rectory.

DIOCESAN CHURCH DUES – has been increased to \$25.00; therefore beginning January 2017, our church dues will be **\$137.00** per adult member.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS – are available in the vestibule. Free will offerings are for our organist, Mrs. Cindy Eickhoff. Thank you.

THIS WEEK PRAYER: for **Bishop John Mack**, his family and parishioners of Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Lancaster, NY [web. www.hmrcncc.org; FB: Holy-Mother-Of-The-Rosary Cathedral].



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Birthday best wishes are extended to: December 14 – Angela Elsavage; December 16 – Helen Menzyk.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK – especially for – Father Senior Thaddeus Dymkowski – Gloria Dymkowski – Father Raymond Drada - Sarah Powanda - Helen Hopko - Flossy Bulcavage – Carolyn Boychak – Helen Menzyk - James Panco – Connie Sincavage – Carl Guzik. At **Nursing Homes:** NY – Cecelia Pyzowski. ***Frackville Nursing Home*** – John Etcho (303). ***H & R Center Tremont:*** Dolores Halaburda.



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.

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! If you are new to our parish, please submit your name, address and telephone number to **Father Robert**. Father will contact you regarding parish membership and answer the questions you may have regarding our church. WELCOME! You are always welcome to join us in worship. **Come as a Guest – Leave as a Friend.**

PNCC Future Direction Message - If you know of parishioners or friends who are not a part of our monthly email updates – please have them email us at FutureDirection@pncc.org to become a part of this important effort for our Holy Church.

Giving Meaningful Gifts to Those You Love This Christmas

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 your Branch Secretary or call the PNU Home Office at 1-800-724-6352 for more information.



THE GLORY OF CARMEL AND SHARON

Isaiah had been predicting the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of its people. He closes this section with more positive message about their return. The restoration will be accompanied with an abundance both in nature and the health of the people. The desert will be like Carmel, a mountain range in northern Israel. It was well-watered and flourished. Sharon was also a fertile region that stretched from the Mediterranean to the central mountains of Israel. Both Carmel and Sharon contrast dramatically with desert regions of Judah.

KINDLY REMINDER – We would like to remind our Parishioners that all financial books for this year would be closed on **December 31, 2016**. Therefore, please, be responsible for your own church and fulfill your obligation to the Parish before that date. **THANK YOU**. Currently – 61 Parishioners paid our Church dues. A member, who fulfills the financial obligation to the Parish, by paying our yearly dues (\$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.



A REED SWAYED BY THE WIND

John the Baptist had been expecting a violent judgment day. It would be initiated by the coming Messiah with fire. He must have been amazed and confused when the pacifist Jesus did not match his expectations. After his imprisonment he sent some of his disciples to press the issue. Would Jesus provoke a revolution? Was he the promised agent of divine vengeance?

Jesus may be referring to John's vacillation when he muses about a "reed swayed by the wind." Christ explained to John's followers that his notion of the Messiah was more in line with Isaiah's prophecy of a bringer of peace and healing in the first reading.