

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

E-mail: stjohnthebaptist42@gmail.com

Pastor's e-mail: robertb1@ptd.net

Website: www.stjohnpncc.org

FB: St. John the Baptist PNCC



Fourth Sunday of Advent - "A"

Czwarta Niedziela Adwentu

December 18, 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 18th – IV Sunday of Advent

We wait in hope and expectancy with Mary for the birth of her Son, Jesus Christ. He comes to bring the good news of God's redeeming love to all people.

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

^ Decorating the church for Christmas.

WEEKDAY READINGS:

Dec. 19: Judges 13:2-7.24-25a; Luke 1:5-25; **Dec. 20:** Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38; **Dec. 21:** Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45; **Dec. 22:** 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56; **Dec. 23:** Malachi 3:1-4.23-24; Luke 1:57-66

MONDAY, December 19th – *Advent Weekday*

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

TUESDAY, December 20th – *Advent Weekday*

7:25PM – **Holy Mass**, intention for: Sp. **Harry** and **Connie Thompson**, of. by Mr. & Mrs. Chester Gursky.

WEDNESDAY, December 21st – **Feast – St. Thomas, Apostle**

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

THURSDAY, December 22nd – *Advent Weekday*

7:25AM – **Requiem Holy Mass** – intention: for Sp. **Hildegarde Tomczyk**, of. by Mr. & Mrs. Russell Sincavage Sr.

SATURDAY, December 24th – **Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord**

4:00PM – **Christmas Vigil Mass**.

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

NEXT SUNDAY, December 25th – **Solemnity – Nativity of our Lord**

10:00AM – **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.

ENTRANCE RITE (John 11:27; Psalm 90:2)

V. Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, the One Who is coming into the world.

R. Before the mountains were begotten and the earth and the world brought forth, from eternity to eternity You are God.

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 7:10-14

The young woman is with child and will bear a son, who will be called God-with-us.

GRADUAL (Sirach 43:30,28)

V. Awesome indeed is the Lord's majesty, and wonderful is His power.

R. More than this we need not add; let the last word be, He is all in all!

II Reading: Romans 1:1-7

St. Paul proclaims Jesus as the Son of David and the Son of God.

ALLELUIA (Revelations 22:16)

V. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. I, Jesus, sent My angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, the bright morning star.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-24

St. Joseph trusts in the power of God's Spirit and overcomes his fear.

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 the God of peace pour out His gifts upon you and all people as you prepare to celebrate His birth at Christmas.

COMING EVENTS

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

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

THANK YOU very much to all of us who participate at our Christmas Party last Sunday. Thank you to **Mr. Stephen Karvois** for his appearance as “Santa”; thank you for all food and deserts what you prepared on this occasion!

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.

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

THIS WEEK PRAYER: for **Father Gary Spencer**, his family and parishioners of Holy Trinity Parish in Woddlawn, NY [web.holytrinitypncc.weebly.com].



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Birthday best wishes are extended to: December 18 – Veronica Plichta (10th); December 19 – George Tokarczyk, Rosemary Savitsky.



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 – Joanne Plaxa. 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.



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.

EMMANUEL

During Advent we often sing "O Come, Emmanuel". So, who is Emmanuel? A better question would be, "What is Emmanuel?" It is a visible demonstration of invisible God. About 750 years before Jesus' birth, the country we call Iraq, wanted to conquer the Middle East. Israel and Syria had teamed up to fight against this incursion. Judah--the southern half of Israel--decided to make a disastrous alliance with enemy. Ahaz, king of Judah, had made up his mind to this--selling out his own country. Isaiah came to the king, pleading for him to "trust God and not give up." He even offered to work a miracle to give proof of God's dependability. Ahaz had weak faith and refused to ask for any signs or miracles. Isaiah, frustrated, offered one anyway. He said that the king's young wife would give birth to a male child. No one would know that this could happen except God. The child was born, but Ahaz named him Hezekiah.

JOSEPH'S DIVORCE

There were severe laws against pre-marital sex and adultery in Biblical times. If a man discovered that his fiancée was pregnant by another man, he had right to denounce his wife. She could be sentenced to death by stoning. The husband-to-be would cast first rock. Joseph discovers Mary's pregnancy and is shamed. He is a righteous man--a strict observer of Jewish Law. He is also a compassionate person and decides to arrange a no-fault separation, without admitting or denying paternity of child. This will save Mary's life. God intervenes to state that there is no human father for Jesus. Joseph's faith leads him to accept.