

St. John the Baptist Parish

Polish National Catholic Church

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Sunday, February 2nd, 2014

Pastor's Report - 2013 - Rev. Robert Plichta

The last Annual Parish Meeting was held on Sunday, March 3rd, 2013.

- I started visiting our Parishioners while blessing their homes after the Epiphany of the Lord (January 6, 2013). I visited 25 (twenty five) families; [2012 – 28 families]. Thank you very much for your offerings.
- **One Baptism** in our Parish: **Zoey Ann Rutkowski** – baptized on December 1st.
- **First Holy Communion Classes** ends in May. On May 17th two students: **Michaela Chiao** and **Victoria Plichta** received the Sacrament of Penance. **May 18th** (Saturday) girls received their First Holy Communion at 10:00AM.
- **Funerals (5): Elizabeth Tokarczyk** – Funeral Mass on May 24th; **Dorothy Halaburda** – Funeral on May 29th (buried at our cemetery); **Edward Halaburda** – Funeral on May 30th (buried at our cemetery); **Stanley Bulcavage** – Funeral on June 1st (buried at our cemetery); **Leonard Tokarczyk Jr.** Funeral on July 29th. Since November 2003 till December 31, 2013 our Parish had **forty five (45)** funerals [parishioners and friends].
- I have celebrated the Holy Mass every Sunday at 8:45 AM, and as often as is possible – during the week - mostly at 9:00AM or 6:00PM. During the holy days of obligation I celebrated the Holy Masses according to the Liturgical calendar of the PNCC.
- **The Sick Parishioners** were visited mostly on the first Thursday of each month. There were **64** (sixty four) shut-ins from our Parish visited. They received Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion at their homes, hospital or at nursing homes.
- **The Lenten season** began on **Ash Wednesday**, February 13th. Holy Mass with distribution of ashes took place in our church at 10:00AM (5 attended) and 7:30PM (6 attended). Ashes were also distributed at 12:00Noon (8 attended) and 4:00PM (7 attended).
During the Season of Lent I celebrated the Stations of the Cross and the Bitter Lamentations every Friday at 7:00PM. Frackville Community Lenten Ecumenical service was held in our church on Wednesday, March 20 (51 people participated).
- The liturgy of the **Holy Week: Palm Sunday** – 8:30 AM (20 people attended) - (2012 – 28); **Holy Thursday** – 7:30 PM (3 people attended) - (2012 – 12); Good Friday – 12:00 Noon (7 people attended) - (2012 – 8); **Holy Saturday** – 1:00 PM (14 people attended) - (2012 – 11).
- Solemnity – **Resurrection of our Lord** – we celebrated the Holy Mass and Easter procession at 7:00 AM on March 31st (31 people attended) - (2012 – 45).
- **Plymouth Seniorate Council** meeting took place in our church on Saturday, April 27th at 1:00PM in Edwardsville, PA. Two delegates from our parish – Mrs. Sharon Chiao and Ms. Elizabeth Greenman attended this meeting.
- **Corpus Christi** service for our Plymouth Seniorate was held in our church on Thursday, May 30th, at 7:00 PM – 31 people participated (clergy included). **Mr. James Abicunas** painted beautiful eucharistic pictures and they were use as decoration during the procession. Thank you.
- **Memorial Day** service was celebrated on Monday, May 27th at 9:00AM with nine people participated.

- **25th** Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood I celebrated on Sunday, June 9th at 8:45AM Mass. Thank you for the reception and all gifts!
- **All Souls** service we celebrated on Sunday, **November 3rd**, immediately after the Holy Mass, in the church.
- **Veterans Day** celebration took place on Sunday, Nov. 10th with 20 people participated.

St. John the Baptist parish had one lector last year – Mr. James Abicunas. Veronica Plichta helps at the altar.

I am a member of the Diocesan Council of the Central Diocese and a member of the Matrimony Commission in the Central Diocese.

- **Advent and Christmas 2013.** Every week (*Wednesday's*) during the season of Advent, I celebrated *Rorate* Mass in honor of the **Blessed Virgin Mary** at 6:30 AM.

Holy Mass of the Shepherds I celebrated on **December 24**, at 10:00 PM. (48) - forty-eight people attended the Mass (2012 – 47).

Christmas Day Mass we celebrated at 11:00AM, and (2) two people at the service - (2012 – 12).

- The principal feast days and PNCC feast days were observed, as required.
- In the year **2013** we had **278** services in the church: **1795** people attended, and **1340** received the Holy Communion; [2012: 234 – 1360 – 1083].
- Our dedication to God, and attendance during the Holy Days of obligation and Lenten Services:

- a) Holy Days of obligation: **January 1** (Circumcision of the Lord) – **4**
January 6 *was Sunday* (Epiphany of the Lord) – **12**
May 9 (Ascension of the Lord) – **3**
August 15 (Dormition/Assumption of the BVM) – **3**
November 1 (All Saints) – **3**
December 9 (Conception of the BVM) – **0**.

- b) Lenten Services: February 15 – Stations of the Cross – **4**
February 22 – Bitter Lamentations – **5**
March 1 – Stations of the Cross – **6**
March 8 – Bitter Lamentations – **8**
March 15 – Stations of the Cross – **7**
March 22 – Bitter Lamentations - **7**

Since September 2012, the private adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament takes place in our church every **First Friday of the month (5:00PM – 7:00PM)** for those who feel the necessity of prayer, and it was continued in 2013, and will be continue this year.

Social Activities and important events – 2013:

- Easter Egg Sale.
- June 14 – October 11 (every two weeks) – Bleenie Sale.
- September 22nd - **90th Anniversary** of the parish celebration. About 100 people attended the Anniversary Mass and Dinner. The Rt. Rev. Bernard J. Nowicki – Bishop Ordinary of the Central Diocese was the main celebrant. Thank you to everyone who donated their time, work and energy to prepare successfully this event. May God Bless You All!
- Chinese Auction was held on Sunday, Nov. 3rd.
- Pierogie sale after the Mass – began December 8.

Church and Rectory

- **Mrs. Batty Brazausky** takes care of cleaning the hall. **Mrs. Janina Plichta** cleans the church. THANK YOU! And also, thank you to Parishioners who decorated the church and donated items to decorate our church last year.
- **Mr. Kenneth Payne** donated his work for the parish cemetery and side walks. *Thank you so much!*

- The altar and stairs were fixed at the parish cemetery. Stairs to the sacristy were repaired. **Mr. James Abicunas** renewed letters on our church and cemetery sign. Thank you.
- **Mr. James Abicunas** and **Ms. Elizabeth Greenman** purchased the new chair for the rectory's office. Thank you!
- The members of the **Blessed Sacrament Society** sponsored a new washer for the rectory. Thank you!
- **Mr. John** and **Mrs. Joanne Plaxa** donated the new telephone system for the rectory. Thank you!
- New storm door was installed at the rectory's back porch, new door for rectory's bathroom under the porch, and new window was installed for the rectory's bathroom.
- Unpleasant situation happened in the church on December 26th – Fr. Robert forgot to blow the Christmas candle after the Mass, and damage was done to small table cloth, Advent wreath and to small square of carpet at the sanctuary. Thank you to our Parishioners for comforting and supporting words, and for treating me not only as a pastor but as a human being as well.
- **Mr. Mark Tomczyk** took care of our web site until September 2013. Thank you for all work you've done. Beginning that month **Rev. Deacon James Konicki** created the new web site for our parish. THANK YOU SO MUCH!
- **Mrs. Cindy Eickhoff** is our organist. Thank you – and we wish her all the best!

Priest's schedule – 2013

- January 23rd – St. Ann RCC in Frackville – Christian Unity Service – 7:00PM.
- February 20th – St. Ann RCC – Lenten Community Service – 7:00PM
- February 23rd – Diocesan Council meeting in Scranton, PA
- February 27th – Methodist Church in Frackville – Lenten Community Service – 7:00PM
- March 6th – United Church of Christ in Frackville – Lenten Community Service – 7:00PM
- March 13th – Trinity Evangelical Church in Frackville – Lenten Community Service – 7:00PM
- March 20th – St. John PNCC in Frackville – Lenten Community Service – 7:00PM
- March 26th – Clergy Conference of the Central Diocese (Holy Tuesday) – Scranton, PA
- April 27th – Plymouth Seniorate Council Meeting in Edwardsville, PA at 1:00 PM.
- May 30th – Plymouth Seniorate Corpus Christi Service in Frackville, PA.
- June 9th – Fr. Robert's 25th Anniversary of Ordination celebration.
- July 20th – Central Diocesan Council teleconference.
- July 28th – Automobile's blessing after the Holy Mass at our parking.
- August 17th – Ordination Service in Dupont, PA.
- August 20th – August 22nd – Central Diocesan Clergy retreat and conference in Mt. Pocono, PA.
- August 31st – Annual Track & Field – Minooka section of Scranton, PA.
- September 22nd - 90th Anniversary Mass in Frackville, PA.
- September 29th - 90th Anniversary Mass in Hazleton, PA.
- October 5th – Animals blessing
- October 15th – Seniorate Clergy meeting in McAdoo, PA – 1:00PM.
- November 10th - 90th Anniversary Mass in McAdoo, PA.
- December 1st - Frackville Elks Memorial Service.

I would like to thank members of the Parish Committee, the Ladies of the Blessed Sacrament Society, Cemetery Trustees Committee, Organist and Choir Members and Greeters for your assistance in the service for the spiritual and material benefit of our St. John the Baptist Parish. Special “thank you” to our Parishioners for

your help during very important projects in our parish family – EASTER EGG and BLEENIE SALE – for your time, very hard work, and donations!

Because of your work and service our Parish is active and continues the mission of Jesus and is considered an extend family for all of us. On behalf of my family and myself, I'd like to say, "*Thank you very much*" to our Parishioners for your help, and all gifts!

May God bless you All!!!

My Dear Parishioners, we begin New Year **2014**. May we be instruments of God's peace and love. May our Parish grow in the faith of our Lord, and may the Lord Jesus Christ bless all members of our Holy Polish National Catholic Church.

With best wishes and prayer:

Rev. Robert P. Plichta