

# St. John the Baptist Parish

**Sunday, February 1, 2015**

Pastor's Report – 2014 - Rev. Robert Plichta

The last Annual Parish Meeting was held on Sunday, February 2, 2014.

- I started visiting our Parishioners while blessing their homes after the Epiphany of the Lord (January 6, 2014). I visited 27 (twenty-seven) families; [2013 – 25 families]. Thank you very much for your offerings.
- No baptism and weddings.
- **11** people officially joined the parish last year.
- **First Holy Communion Classes** (2 students) and **Confirmation Classes** (2 students) are in progress.
- **Funerals (6): Sophia Stetts** – Funeral Mass on Jan. 23; **James Dean** (non-parishioner) – Funeral service – April 28; **Sue Pascavage** – Funeral on April 29 (buried at our cemetery); **Cecelia Zomczyk** - Funeral on April 23 (buried at the Holy Ghost Cemetery); **David Halaburda** – Funeral on May 5 (buried at our cemetery); **Joseph Makauskas** - Funeral on August 22 (buried at our cemetery). Since November 2003 till December 31, 2014 our Parish had **fifty (50)** funerals [parishioners and friends]. In the Holy Ghost Congregation – we lost **28** members in 11 years.
- For first two months I celebrated the Holy Mass every Sunday at 8:45 AM. Then, after closing the Holy Ghost parish we had 2 Masses – at 9:00 and 11:00 AM; but in March we went back to one Holy Mass at 10:00AM. We had the Holy Mass as often as is possible – during the week - mostly at 8:30AM or 6:00PM. These liturgical celebrations takes place in an empty church. 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 **100** (one hundred) 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**, March 5. Holy Mass with distribution of ashes took place in our church at 10:00AM (9 attended) and 7:30PM (14 attended). Ashes were also distributed at 12:00Noon (12 attended) and 4:00PM (8 attended).

During the Season of Lent I celebrated the Stations of the Cross (Fridays at 6:00PM) and the Bitter Lamentations (Wednesdays at 6:00PM). Frackville Community Lenten Ecumenical service was held in our church on Wednesday, March 19 (55 people participated).

- The liturgy of the **Holy Week: Palm Sunday** – 10:00 AM (48 people attended) - (2012 – 20); **Holy Thursday** – 6:00 PM (12 people attended) - (2013 – 3); Good Friday – 12:00 Noon (19 people attended) - (2013 – 7); **Holy Saturday** – 3:00 PM (16 people attended) - (2012 – 14).
- Solemnity – **Resurrection of our Lord** – we celebrated the Holy Mass and Easter procession at 7:00 AM on April 20 (21 people attended); the second Easter Mass was at 10:00AM (36 participants).
- **Plymouth Seniorate Council** meeting took place in our church on Saturday, June 14 at 1:00PM in Hazleton, PA. We elected three delegates for this meeting, and it **happened first time in 10 years that no one attended the meeting (!)**
- **Corpus Christi** service for our Plymouth Seniorate was held in our church on Thursday, June 19 in McAdoo, PA, at 7:00 PM. **Mr. James Abicunas, Ms. Elizabeth Greenman** and **my family** participated. Thank you.
- **Memorial Day** service was celebrated on Monday, May 26 at 10:00AM with five people participated at our cemetery; the Prayer Service was also held at the Holy Ghost Cemetery at 12:00 with 4 participants.
- **All Souls** service we celebrated on Sunday, **November 2**, immediately after the Holy Mass, in the church.

- **Veterans Day** celebration took place on Sunday, Nov. 9 with 25 people participated.

St. John the Baptist parish has one lector last year – Mr. James Abicunas. In few Sundays Mr. Jacob Komara was the second one, but in May he disappeared. Veronica Plichta, Joe Karvois and Dylan Whitecavage help 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. I do some work for the Central Diocese once a week.

- **Advent and Christmas 2014**. Every week (*Wednesday's*) during the season of Advent, I celebrated *Rorate* Mass in honor of the **Blessed Virgin Mary** at 6:30 AM. Nobody participated.

**Holy Mass of the Shepherds** I celebrated on **December 24**, at 10:00 PM. (37) – thirty seven people attended the Mass (2013 – 48).

**Christmas Day** Mass we celebrated at 11:00AM, and (5) five people at the service - (2013 – 2).

- The principal feast days and PNCC feast days were observed, as required.
- In the year **2014** we had **232** services in the church: **1783** people attended, and **1429** received the Holy Communion; [2013: 278 – 1795 – 1340].
- The monthly parish newsletter started to be printed and sent to our Parishioners and Friends in March (each first Sunday of the month).
- 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) – **2**

**January 6** (Epiphany of the Lord) – **0**

**May 29** (Ascension of the Lord) – **5**

**August 15** (Dormition/Assumption of the BVM) – **0**

**November 1** (All Saints) – **0**

**December 8** (Conception of the BVM) – **0**.

b) Lenten Services: March 7 – Stations of the Cross – **3**

March 12 – Bitter Lamentations – **5**

March 14 – Stations of the Cross – **5**

March 21 – Stations of the Cross – **4**

March 26 – Bitter Lamentations – **1**

March 28 - Stations of the Cross – **3**

April 2 – Bitter Lamentations – **2**

April 4 - Stations of the Cross – **2**

April 9 – Bitter Lamentations – **2**

April 11 - Stations of the Cross – **15**

April 16 – Bitter Lamentations – **2**

**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 in winter: 5:00-6:00PM)** for those who feel the necessity of prayer, and it was continued in 2013, and will be continue this year. The church remains empty all the time.

- **The Bible study** was announced in the parish bulletin and scheduled on:

Wednesday, October 8 – 6:30PM

Wednesday, October 15 – 6:30PM

Wednesday, December 3 – 6:30PM

No one showed up.

- **Holy Ghost/St. John the Baptist merging:**

January 31, 2014 at 2:00PM a special meeting with Bishop Bernard Nowicki was held in St. John's hall for Parishioners of our congregation. Important matters regarding merging situation were discussed.

The last Holy Mass was celebrated in Holy Ghost church on Sunday, February 2 at 9:30AM. Then our Diocesan Bishop – The Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki deconsecrated the church on Tuesday, February 4 at 11:00AM.

The next day cleaning process began in the church. The altars were donated to the Guardian Angel Parish in Los Angeles, CA, and some other items as well.

St. John the Baptist received the Sanctuary Light, sanctuary chairs, pew books, candles, chasubles and some other liturgical items. Thank you very much!

**Mr. Joseph Petrusky** installed the Sanctuary Light in the church. Thank you. Presently we are waiting to have a person who can take care of the Holy Ghost Cemetery. Any volunteers?

- **Membership** – we are not a huge congregation, and we count on every single member. However, I have noticed that we have at least **26 people** who are paying members only and they don't participate in the parish activities (worship God and help in fundraisers) **at all**. Why?

Social Activities and important events – **2014:**

- 24<sup>th</sup> General Synod was held from September 29 – October 3 in Erie, PA. The General Church dues was raised to \$100.00, therefore our church dues – effective January 2015 is now \$124.00.
- Easter Egg Sale. We were not represented by any lay delegate.
- June 13 – October 17 (every two weeks) – Bleenie Sale.
- May 17 – Central Diocesan Blessed Sacrament Society Convention. The Rt. Rev. Bernard J. Nowicki – Bishop Ordinary of the Central Diocese was present and several clergy from the Diocese. Thank you to everyone who donated their time, work and energy to prepare successfully this event. May God Bless You All!
- Children Items Chinese Auction was held on Saturday, May 31 at 5:00PM.
- Chinese Auction – on Sunday, November 9 at 2:00PM.

- Christmas Party was held on Sunday, December 14 in the hall after the 1:00PM Mass.
- Pierogi sale was held an entire year, a special sales took place on Fridays in Advent time.

### **Church and Rectory**

- **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.
- The members of the **Blessed Sacrament Society** sponsored a new floor for the rectory's office. Thank you!
- The Tabernacle was purchased by **Mrs. Marjorie Dean**. Thank you!
- **Mr. Michael Russel** repaired lights in the vestibule of the church, and together with his son – **Michael** – they fixed light on our church sign. Thank you.
- **Mr. Julian Bednarek** installed the fiberglass walls at the entrance to the hall. Thank you!
- **Mr. Michael Chiao** did cleaning work at the rectory's front porch wall. Thank you!
- New toilet was installed in the Ladies room in the hall.
- The new computer system was purchased for the parish. Thank you to **Mr. John Plaxa** for organizing it!
- **Mrs. Joanne Plaxa** organized the tax-exempt document for the parish. Thank you!
- New storm door was installed at the rectory's front porch.
- New snow blower was purchased in November.
- The faucet was purchased and installed in July for the rectory's kitchen.
- The side walk and walls at the front porch were repaired. The same workers repaired stairs to the sacristy and did masonry work in the garage. Pending work: pipes in the rectory basement since December 2013 (!) and bulbs in the church since March 2014 (!)

- **Rev. James Konicki** takes care for the 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 – 2014**

- March 12 – First United Methodist Church – Lenten Community Service – 7:00PM
- March 26 – Zion Lutheran Church – Lenten Community Service – 7:00PM
- April 2 – St. Ann's RCC – Lenten Community Service – 7:00PM
- April 9 – United Church of Christ – Lenten Community Service – 7:00PM
- April 15 – Clergy Conference of the Central Diocese (Holy Tuesday) – Scranton, PA
- April 26 – Diocesan Council meeting – Scranton, PA
- May 17 – ANS Convention in Frackville, PA
- June 14 – Seniorate Council Meeting – Hazleton, PA
- June 19 – Corpus Christi Service – McAdoo, PA
- July 13 - 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination of Rev. Marian Pociеча (Rome, NY)
- July 27 – Automobile's blessing after the Holy Mass at our parking.
- August 19 – August 21 – Central Diocesan Clergy retreat and conference in Mt. Pocono, PA.
- October 4 – Animals blessing.
- October 25 – Diocesan Council meeting – Scranton, PA (Providence of God Lithuanian Parish)
- November 6 - Plymouth Seniorate Clergy meeting – Plymouth, PA.
- November 15 – Very Rev. Zbigniew David Installation Service as an Administrative Senior of the Scranton Seniorate (Dupont, PA).
- November 22 - Very Rev. Marian Pociеча Installation Service as an Administrative Senior of the Mohavk Valley Seniorate (Rome, NY).
- December 6 – Ordination to the Priesthood of the Rev. Deacon James Konicki.
- December 7 - Frackville Elks Memorial Service.

### **Important activities in 2015:**

**February 18** – Ash Wednesday – Masses with distribution of ashes: 10:00AM & 6:00PM; distribution of ashes only: 12:00Noon & 4:00PM.

- Stations of the Cross or Bitter Lamentations will be held in Lent on Fridays at 6:00PM.

**March 1** – Mass for those whose life was touched by the cancer.

**March 4** – Lenten Ecumenical Community Service (7:00PM).

**April 2** – Holy Thursday Mass – 6:00PM

**April 3** – Good Friday Service – 12:00Noon.

**April 4** – Holy Saturday Service – 2:00PM.

**April 5** – Easter Sunday – Resurrection Procession and Mass – **9:00AM**.

**May 16** – (Saturday) First Holy Communion Day - **11:00AM**.

**June 14** – Confirmation Day – **3:00PM**.

**July 26** – Automobiles Blessing (after the Mass).

**October 3** – Animals Blessing (1:00PM) at the parking.

**November 8** – Veteran's Day Celebration.

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 **2015**. 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*