

St. John the Baptist Parish

Polish National Catholic Church

414 West Oak Street, Frackville, PA 17931

Rectory: 570-874-1960

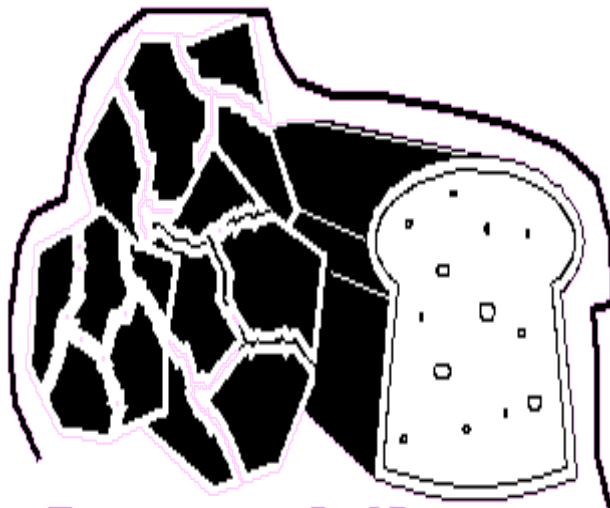
Pastor - Rev. Robert Plichta, M. in Th., M. in Canon Law

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**Command these
Stones**

First Sunday of Lent - "A"

Pierwsza Niedziela Wielkiego Postu

March 5, 2017

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, March 5th – 1 Sunday of Lent

The season of Lent summons us to turn our faces to the Lord and allow the gaze of His mercy to touch our hearts. We pray that through the generosity of our Lenten observances, our hearts may be more loving towards our neighbors.

10:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. **Hildegarde Tomczyk**, of. by Mrs. Betty Brazausky.

- ⤴ Confession.
- ⤴ Collection for missions.
- ⤴ Annual Parish Meeting after the Mass.

WEEKDAY READINGS:

Mon., Leviticus 19:1-2.11-18; Matthew 25:31-46; **Tue.**, Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15; **Wed.**, Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32; **Thu.**, Esther C:12,14-16.23-25; Matthew 7:7-12; **Fri.**, Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26; **Sat.**, Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48

MONDAY, March 6th – *Lenten Weekday*

9:00AM – Requiem Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. **John Etcho**.

WEDNESDAY, March 8th – *Lenten Weekday*

Requiem Holy Mass, intention: for all **Deceased**.

6:30PM – Lenten Ecumenical Service – St. Ann's RCC.

FRIDAY, March 10th – *Lenten Weekday*

Holy Mass, intention: for all **Parishioners**.

NEXT SUNDAY, March 12th – Solemnity – Institution of the PNCC – II Sunday of Lent – *Daylight Saving Time Begins*

10:00AM – **Holy Mass**, intention: for Sp. Michael and Sophia Stetts, of. by Children.

⋈ Collection – National Church Center.

⋈ The oath of the New Parish Committee (before the Mass).

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 (Psalms 91:1-2; 17:8)

V. You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, say to the Lord, My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.

R. Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings.

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: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Adam and Eve succumb to the temptation of the serpent and eat of the tree forbidden to them by God.

GRADUAL (Exodus 20:20; Psalms 26:2-3)

V. "Do not be afraid, for God has come to you only to test you and put fear upon you, lest you should sin."

R. Test me, o Lord, and try me; search my heart and my mind. Your love is before my eyes; I walk guided by Your faithfulness.

II Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Jesus Christ gives the utterly free gift of salvation to all people.

TRACT (1 Corinthians 10:13b; Matthew 6:13)

V. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial He will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it.

R. Do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus fights the temptation of the devil and reminds us to worship God alone.

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 God the Father, rich in mercy, help us to recognize Christ's love in the midst of our lives.

COMING EVENTS

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

March 12 – The Oath of the Parish Committee Officers.

March 15- Lenten Ecumenical Service (our church).

March 19 & 26 – Lenten Spiritual Retreat.

April 9 – Palm Sunday.

April 16 – Easter Sunday.

May 14 – Mother's Day Celebration.

May 21 – First Holy Communion Day Celebration.

June 18 – Father's Day Celebration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special **Thanks** go out to:

- to **Mrs. Janina Plichta** and **Victoria Plichta** for preparing the altars, and the church for services, especially for Lent.
- to **Mrs. Cindy Eickhoff** and to the Parishioners for help to sing;
- to **Mr. James Abicunas** for being a lector;
- to **Mr. Julian Bednarek** for his help with candles and taking collection;
- to the **Sunday greeters**.

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

THIS WEEK PRAYER: for **Father Michael Selep**, his family and parishioners of Holy Trinity Parish in McKees Rocks, PA [web: holytrinityrocks.org].



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Birthday best wishes are extended to: March 8 – Elizabeth Greenman; March 10 – Sarah Powanda; March 11 – Connie Sincavage.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK – especially for – Father Senior Thaddeus Dymkowski – Gloria Dymkowski – Father Raymond Drada - Sarah Powanda - Helen Hopko - Flossy Bulcavage – Helen Menzyk - James Panco – Connie Sincavage – Carl Guzik – Marcia Hessert – Frank Savitsky. At **Nursing Homes:** NY – Cecelia Pyzowski. **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.**

EASTER POPPY SEED & NUT ROLLS – Holy Cross Parish in Wilkes-Barre, PA are selling these cakes. Order form is in the vestibule, by **March 26**, price: **\$11.00** each. Thank you for your generosity and understanding.

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.

P.N.C.C. Future Direction - Action Plan for P.N.C.C. Parishes in 2017: Year of Commitment

March – commitment to our PNCC

I. Growth and Membership II. Increase Spirituality
III. Lifelong Learning IV. Sacred Vocations
V. Community Involvement

Complete at least four community service projects: One service project could be in conjunction with the Institution of the P.N.C.C. in March 2017 and the others, selected by the local parish. It is important that these three projects be done in the local community of the parish so that these efforts will create a greater presence of the parish in the community.

Various options include but are not limited to: Food Drives, serving a free meal for the community, providing a community breakfast/meal for First Responders – for Veterans, prayer blanket ministry, clothing drive for the community, sponsoring a local family in need, responding to a particular need in the local community, etc.

Stewardship component: To increase our financial commitment to our parishes, diocese and national church components will be developed. A Pamphlet will be shared with all parishes. We then encourage parish committees to communicate this with the people and stress to them that stewardship is an integral part of a lived faith.

A Gift of Love

As many of you throughout the P.N.C.C. know, the Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski, Diocesan Bishop of the Western Diocese has been waiting for some time for a kidney transplant. Through the pages of ***God's Field*** we ask for your continued prayers for Bishop Stanley as he awaits this procedure. We also wish to find those who may be interested in giving the selfless gift of serving as a transplant donor in this case. After much prayer, if you are interested in helping Bishop Stanley, please reach out to him at (847) 698-0578 to discuss this matter.

SATAN: THE TEMPTER

Before He begins His public ministry, Jesus makes a religious retreat in the desert. The vast emptiness allows Him to fully commune with His Father. He is not alone, however. Satan comes to tempt His human nature. The word "Satan" means "adversary" in Hebrew. In the Old Testament, Satan was believed to be an agent of God. His mission was to test human beings to strengthen their faith. Eventually he was seen as the ultimate adversary, the temptor of all humanity. He came to be known as the "Devil," from a Greek word that means "one who slanders".

Jesus submits to this temptation to teach us how to avoid our own enticements. We must be steadfast in our resolution to follow the