

**St. John the Baptist Parish**  
Polish National Catholic Church  
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Prime Bishop of the PNCC – **Most Rev. Dr. Anthony A. Mikovsky**  
Bishop Ordinary of the Central Diocese – **Right Rev. Bernard J. Nowicki, DD**  
Plymouth Seniorate Administrative Senior – **Very Rev. Thaddeus Dymkowski**  
Parish Committee Chairperson – **Mrs. Ann Marie Wycheck**



**Palm Sunday**  
Niedziela Palmowa  
**April 9, 2016**

*Lord, I am not worthy to ask You, but only say a word and Your Church will grow in number of holy, respectful and dedicated people.*

**TODAY, APRIL 9, 2017**

**Events for the Week**

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



**TODAY, Palm Sunday – Blessing and distributions of palms**

Palm Sunday is not a journey from victory to defeat, but a journey from the world's idea of victory into the true victory of God.

**10:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. Sophie Boyer, of. by Mrs. Michelle Shinn.**

**WEEKDAY READINGS:**

**Mon.,** Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11; **Tue.,** Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33.36-38; **Wed.,** Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25

**Easter Triduum Readings:**

**Holy Thursday** - Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15; **Good Friday** – Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

### **HOLY TUESDAY, April 11<sup>th</sup>**

**11:00AM** – Central Diocese Clergy Conference in Scranton.

**4:00PM** – Holy Mass of Chrism in St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA.

That Mass, which the bishop con-celebrates with his presbyterium and at which the oils are blessed, manifests the communion of the priests with their bishop. To show the unity of the presbyterium, the priests who con-celebrate with the bishop should come from different parts of the diocese.

### **HOLY WEDNESDAY, April 12<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00PM** – *Gorzkie Żale/Bitter Lamentations*, all three parts.

### **HOLY THURSDAY, April 13<sup>th</sup>** – *Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper*

The Mass of the Last Supper begins our three days of enacting the Easter mystery. In this rich celebration, we recall tonight the Passover meal that commemorates the liberation of Israel from Egypt, the institution of the Eucharist, and Jesus washing of the disciples' feet.

**6:00PM** – **Holy Mass**, intention: for all **Parishioners**.

⋄ Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament till **9:00PM**.

### **GOOD FRIDAY, April 14<sup>th</sup>** – *The Lord's Passion*

According to the Church's ancient tradition, the sacraments are not celebrated today or tomorrow. The celebration of the Lord's passion takes place in the afternoon. The celebration consists of three parts: liturgy of the word, veneration of the cross, and Holy Communion. **Fasting**: all those of post-confirmation age are to fast **TODAY** limiting themselves to one full meal and two smaller meals, with no snacking between meals. These regulations are recommended for healthy adults. Children under First Holy Communion age, the infirm, those on restrictive medication and the elderly are exempt from the obligation of fasting.

**12:00 (at Noon)** – **The Liturgy of the Good Friday with adoration of the Cross and Holy Communion**

⋄ Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament will be held until **7:00PM**.

**7:00PM** – **Stations of the Cross**

⋄ Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament till **9:00PM**.

### **HOLY SATURDAY, April 15<sup>th</sup>**

On this day the Church waits at the Lord's tomb, meditating on his suffering and death. The altar is left bare, and the Holy Mass is not celebrated. Today's service is arranged in: a) a brief service of light; b) the liturgy of the word; c) blessing of water.

**2:00PM** – **The Liturgy of the Blessing of Fire, Water and Paschal Candle**

- **After the Liturgy – blessing of Easter food (baskets)**
- Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament till **8:00PM**.

### **NEXT SUNDAY, April 16<sup>th</sup>** - **RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

**9:00AM** – **Easter procession**. After Procession – **Holy Mass** – intention: for All Parishioners.

### **Today's liturgy**

P. Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! O King of Israel: Hosanna in the highest!

P. The Lord be with you

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Let us pray...

**R. Amen.**

P. So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council, and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on thus, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation.

**Choir**: But one of them, Caiaphas who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all; you do not understand that it is expedient for you that one man should die for the people and that the whole nation should not perish". So from that day on they took counsel how to put Him to death, for as they said: "The Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation".

P. Let us pray...

**R. Amen.**

P. Let us pray...

**R. Amen.**

P. With hyssop sprinkle me, o Lord, and I shall be cleansed. Wash me and I shall be whiter than the snow.

May my prayer before You be counted as incense and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

**Choir:** Children of the Hebrews, bearing branches of olive went out to meet the Lord, crying: Hosanna in the highest! Children of the Hebrews spread their garments on the road and cried out saying: Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

P. And when they drew near to Jerusalem, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them: "Go into the village opposite you, where you will find an ass tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to Me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them!" The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt and put their garments on them and He sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road and the crowds who went before Him and that followed shouted,

**Choir:** Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! O King of Israel: Hosanna in the highest!

P. Let us go forth in peace.

**R. In the name of Christ, Amen.**

1. **Blessed is he who** trusts in God Almighty, And he who hopes in God's most gracious mercy. He shall acknowledge: God is my protector. In life's dark journey, I shall fear no danger. I shall fear no danger.

2. From all the pow'r's of evil God shall save him. Of nature's forces, he shall ne'er fall victim. Under the pinions of the Lord Almighty, In God's protection, he shall dwell in safety. He shall dwell in safety.

P. All glory, laud and honor, to You, Redeemer, King! To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.  
*(Choir repeats)*

P. You are the King of Israel, and David's royal Son, now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. *All glory...*

The company of angels are praising you on high, creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. *All glory...*

The people of the Hebrews with palms before You went. Our praise and prayers and anthems before You we present. *All glory...*

To You, before Your Passion, they sang their hymns of praise. To You, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *All glory...*

Their praises You accepted; accept the prayers we bring, great Author of all goodness, o good and gracious King! *All glory...*

*The celebrant knocks on the door of the vestibule three times with the shaft of the cross. It is at once opened and the celebrant and acolytes enter the body of the church. When the celebrant reaches the center of the aisle, the procession kneels.*

P. Let us adore the Savior, who rode in royal triumphant into Jerusalem.

**Choir:** Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! O King of Israel: Hosanna in the highest!

## **THE LITURGY OF THE MASS**

### **Hymn of Faith...**

#### **ENTRANCE**

*(Psalm 23:9-10)*

V. Open wide the door and gates. Lift high the ancient portals. The King of glory enters; Who is the King of glory? He is God, the mighty Lord.

**R. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed are You Who are have come to us so rich in love and mercy. Hosanna in the highest.**

V. Lord for us Your wounds were suffered.

**R. O Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.**

## **ENTRANCE HYMN – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in His hand Christ our God to earthy descending, Our full homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords in human vesture, In the Body and the Blood He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'n-ly food.
3. Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way, As the Light of Light descending From the realms of endless day, That the pow'rs of hell may vanish As the darkness clears away.

### **I Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7**

*The suffering servant of Isaiah assures us of our victory over suffering.*

### **GRADUAL (John 11:47-48)**

V. The chief priests and the Pharisees gathered with the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs.”

**R. If we let Him go on thus, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation.”**

### **II Reading: Philippians 2:6-11**

*Christ's suffering is deeper than we imagine but His exaltation is also higher than we can imagine.*

### **TRACT (Isaiah 62:10-11)**

V. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

**R. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, “See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.”**

### **Gospel: Matthew 26:14 – 27:66**

*St. Matthew describes the death of Christ in terms of destruction, yet this destruction brings the dead back to life and reveals the unshakeable reality of heaven.*

### **OFFERTORY VERSE**

*(Psalm 69:21-22)*

V. Insult has broken my heart, and I am weak; I looked for sympathy but there was none; for comforters and I found none. Rather they put gall in My food, and in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink.

### **OFFERTORY HYMN – Holy Cross – PNCC Hymnal, p. 92**

1. Holy Cross, O Tree all beauteous, Tree all peerless and divine! No grove on the earth can show us Such a flow'r and leaf as thine! Precious nails and precious the wood On which hung our dying Lord.
2. Lofty tree bend down thy branches, To embrace thy sacred burden; Relax, oh, relax the tension Of that all too rigid wood. Gently, gently bear the members Of thy dying King and God.
3. Tree which solely wast found worthy the world's victim to sustain; Harbor from the raging tempest, Ark that saved the world again! Tree with sacred blood anointed of the Lamb for sinners slain.

### **COMMUNION HYMN – Come Unto Jesus – PNCC Hymnal, p. 180**

1. Come unto Jesus, Come while you may; hear how He calls you, Come now this day. How He does love you, follow His way, Gently He calls you, Come! **Refrain:** Lo, the vision wondrous to behold! He would save us from this sinful world. To heaven's blessed glory untold, O dearest Lord, we come!
2. Come, O my child, now, Come heed His call, Give Him your heart, your love and your all. He shall uplift you, lest you should fall, Gently He calls you, Come! **Refrain:**
3. Come, fallen sinner; come while you may! Christ will accept you! Do not delay! Tears of repentance He wipes away. Trust in Him only! Come! **Refrain:**

*optional...*

### **Jesus, My Lord And Savior – PNCC Hymnal, p. 159**

1. Jesus, my Lord and Savior, here would I worship Thee. All that I have I give Thee for Thou didst die for me. Here in this Bread of heaven, here in this Host Divine. Thanksgiving, praise and honor be ev'ry moment Thine. All my vain pride I humble, all my poor soul I give unto my Lord and Savior that with Him I may live.
2. Hosanna in the highest! Angelic choirs do sing, Glorious praise unceasing to Christ our Lord and King. Setting for us a standard as we our songs employ, Bringing us closer to Him, filling us with His joy. He knows the tears of suffering through His own earthly life. With trembling heart we praise Him, telling Him of our strife.

## COMMUNION VERSE

*(Matthew 26:42)*

V. Father, if this cup cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.

## RECESSIONAL HYMN – Lift High the Cross

*Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore His sacred name.*

1. Come, Christians, follows where our captain trod, our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain: Lift high the cross...*
2. All newborn servants of the Crucified, bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *Refrain: Lift high the cross...*
3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. *Refrain: Lift high the cross...*

May the Lord bring you through the darkness of this week to the light that shines more brightly than any sun.

## COMING EVENTS

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

**April 16 – Easter Sunday.**

May 13 – Plymouth Seniorate Council meeting in McAdoo, PA (1:00PM)

May 10 – Bleenie Sale meeting at 6:30PM (church hall).

May 14 – Mother's Day Celebration.

May 21 – First Holy Communion Day Celebration.

June 11 – Mother's & Father's Day Brunch.

June 15 – Corpus Christi Service in Middleport, PA.

June 16 – Bleenie Sale.

June 18 – Father's Day Celebration.

July 23 – Automobiles blessing.

Sept. 24 - “Chinese” Auction.

Oct. 7 – Animals blessing.

Oct. 14 – Polish Dinner.

Dec. 10 – Christmas Party.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special **Thanks** go out to:

- to **Mrs. Janina 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 **Joe** for his help at the altar last Sunday;
- to the **Sunday greeters**.

PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY - ..if you or a relative are admitted to a hospital and nursing home;. if your phone number or address change; if you have a prayer concern.

GOOD FRIDAY ADORATION of the Most Blessed Sacrament will take place after the liturgy until **7:00PM**.

THIS WEEK PRAYER: for **Father Marek Michalik**, his family and parishioners of Holy Cross Parish in Montreal, Canada [web: [holycross.pnccofcanada.com](http://holycross.pnccofcanada.com); FB: Parafia Świętego Krzyża w Montrealu].




PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK – especially for – Father Senior Thaddeus Dymkowski – Gloria Dymkowski – Sarah Powanda - Helen Hopko - Flossy Bulcavage – Helen Menzyk - James Panco –


Connie Sincavage – Carl Guzik – Marcia Hessert – Frank Savitsky – Jean Keim. 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.

 **CONFESSIONS FOR THE YOUTH** – Our younger members as well as their parents are reminded that Confession is an essential part of a child's religious upbringing. Remember this important part of their religious life. Confession is held on the **first Sunday** of every month at **9:45AM** (before Mass). Children before Confirmation age must come to private Confession. **If children (until Confirmation) would like to receive the Holy Communion in a worthy manner they must come and be well prepared for private confession at least once a month.** If other times are necessary please contact Fr. Robert.

**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! Please write your names in the guest book located in the vestibule of the church. You are always welcome to join us in worship.

#### **Why Palm Branches?**

In the ancient Middle East kings could enter a city in two ways. Horses were used for war, so if the king rode on a horse, it usually meant trouble. If they came in peace, they would ride a donkey, a humble act. Jesus was sending two clear messages to the people of Jerusalem. The first was that he is a king, the second message is that his intentions were peaceful. The point was not lost on the religious leaders.

Jesus came down the Mount of Olives into the Kidron valley, to the east of the temple. It is a very steep descent. The road was a dirt path. The spring rains made the passage slippery. The people hailing Jesus placed branches and clothing on the road so that the footing was safe. John is the only gospel that mentions that the branches were from palm trees. Matthew and Mark only refer to "branches". Luke leaves out the branches entirely and simply says that the people put their clothes on the road.

In medieval Europe, people used willow and other branches to celebrate this day, rather than palms which were rare. Some people braid three or more strips of palm to make crosses or crowns of thorns. Next year we will burn the palms to make ashes for Ash Wednesday.

### **P.N.C.C. Future Direction - Action Plan for P.N.C.C. Parishes in 2017: Year of Commitment April – Our Commitment as Easter People**

#### **WHY DID THE CROWD CHOOSE BARABBAS?**

Pontius Pilate tried to avoid trouble at Jesus' trial. He was not sympathetic, but being a politician wanted to offend the fewest number. He must have known Jesus' popularity. To save face he offered a choice of Jesus or a recently-arrested brigand. The name "Barabbas" (bar abba) means "son of the father" and was commonly used for illegitimate children. There is an irony in that Jesus is the true Son of the ultimate Father. Brigands were more than simple thieves. They were often considered folk heroes, sort of like Robin Hood or Bonnie and Clyde. Brigands attacked the rich, which made them popular with the poor.

Pilate's plan to free Jesus failed because of Barabbas' popularity and the pressure of the religious and political leaders. Jesus' arrest had been done secretly, before many of his followers had time to gather. Barabbas apparently did have time to marshal his friends and won the day.

**PARISH INFORMATION.** **Daily Masses** as announced. Examples of the Mass intention are: for the Sick, in remembrance of the faithful departed (especially parents, grandparents, relatives...), to ask God's Grace, Birthdays and Anniversaries (...) To make arrangements, please contact Father Robert.

**Holy Day Masses** are held as announced in the bulletin.

**Sacrament of Baptism** – Arrangements should be made at least two weeks prior the ceremony. Only **practicing Christians** should be chosen as **godparents**.

**Sacrament of Matrimony** – Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance.

**Emergencies, Sickness and deaths** – please contact to the rectory immediately.

**The parish bulletin** - is made on **THURSDAYS** and **FRIDAYS**. All requested announcements should be submitted by **FRIDAY 10:00AM**.

**RECEIVING THE HOLY EUCHARIST** – those who believe in the true presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist are invited to partake of this Holy Sacrament. It is the practice of the PNCC to distribute the Holy Eucharist through the method of intinction. The Body and Blood of Christ are placed on the tongue, not in the hand.