

**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

**E-mail:** stjohnthebaptist42@gmail.com

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

**Website:** www.stjohnpncc.org

**FB:** St. John the Baptist PNCC



**Third Sunday of Advent - "B"**

Trzecia Niedziela Adwentu

**December 17, 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, December 17<sup>th</sup> - III Sunday of Advent**



Joy is one of the signs of God's kingdom; the coming of Christ brings that joy to save and refresh us in body and soul.

**10:00AM – Holy Mass**, intention: for Sp. **Flossie Bulcavage**, of. by Mr. & Mrs. George Wycheck.

- ⋈ Advent Penitential Service before the Mass.
- ⋈ Decorating the church for Christmas.

**WEEKDAY READINGS:**

**Mon.**, Numbers 24:2-7.15-17a; **Matthew** 21:23-27; **Tue.**, Zephaniah 3:1-2.9-13; **Matthew** 21:28-32; **Wed.**, Isaiah 45:6c-8.18.21c-25; **Luke** 7:18b-23; **Thu.**, Isaiah 54:1-10; **Luke** 7:24-30; **Fri.**, Isaiah 56:1-3a.6-8; **John** 5:33-36

**MONDAY, December 18<sup>th</sup> – Advent Weekday**

**9:00AM – Requiem Holy Mass**, intention: for Sp. **Josephine and Felix Gursky**, of. by Mr. & Mrs. Chester Gursky.

4:00PM – Holy Mass for Veronica Plichta on her birthday.

**WEDNESDAY, December 20<sup>th</sup>** – *Advent Weekday*

6:30AM - Rorate Mass, intention: for all Parishioners.

**THURSDAY, December 21<sup>st</sup>** – *Feast – St. Thomas, Apostle*

Holy Mass, intention: for all Parishioners.

**SATURDAY, December 23<sup>rd</sup>** – *Advent Weekday*

9:00AM – Requiem Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. Eddie Gursky, of. by Mr. & Mrs. Chester Gursky.

**NEXT SUNDAY, December 24<sup>th</sup>** – *IV Sunday of Advent*

10:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. Flossie Bulcavage, of. by Blessed Sacrament Society.

4:00PM – Christmas Vigil Mass.

10:00PM – Christmas Eve Mass of Shepherds (Pasterka).

#### 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 (Philippians 4:4-5; Psalm 119:151.162)**

V. Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. Lord is near.

**R. You are near, o Lord; by Your edict give me life. I rejoice at Your promise, as one who has found rich spoil.**

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 61:1-2.10-11**

*The prophet speaks in the person of Christ, the anointed one of the Spirit. Later Jesus applies this verse to himself.*

**GRADUAL (Psalm 33:1.21-22)**

V. Rejoice, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

**R. For in God our hearts rejoice; in Your holy name we trust. May Your kindness, o Lord, be upon us; we have put our hope in You.**

**II Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

*St. Paul prays that the whole of our being, spirit, soul and body, may be healed and saved.*

**ALLELUIA (Isaiah 62:5b)**

V. Alleluia, alleluia.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

V. And as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, as shall your God rejoice in you.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**GOSPEL: John 1:6-8.19-28**

*St. John the Baptist testifies to the divinity of Christ, describing himself as the one who makes way for „the Lord”.*

#### **HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Holy Spirit, come, let this be Your home; come and dwell among all of us who sing this song. Come into this place, shine on ev'ry face, fill us with Your love and grace, Holy Spirit come. Come and dwell among us. Amen.

**We have been refreshed and strengthened in spirit, soul and body; may we bring that renewal and strength to those we meet.**

## COMING EVENTS

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

Dec. 24 – Sunday Mass – 10:00AM; Christmas Vigil Mass – 4:00PM; Christmas Mass (Pasterka) – 10:00PM.

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Mass – 11:00AM.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special **Thanks** go out to:

- to **Mrs. Janina Plichta** for preparing the altars, and the church for services;
- to **Mrs. Cindy Eickhoff** and to the Parishioners who are singing;
- 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** to everyone who participated and prepared our Christmas Party last Sunday!

**THIS WEEK PRAYER:** for **Father Robert Fredrickson**, his family, and Parishioners of Holy Trinity Parish in Webster, MA [web: holytrinitywebster.org; FB: Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, Massachusetts].

**CHRISTMAS WAFERS (Oplatki)** – are available in the vestibule. Free will offering are for our Organist, Mrs. Cindy. Thank you.



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



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK** – especially for – Father Senior Thaddeus Dymkowski – Gloria Dymkowski – Father Janusz Lucarz - Sarah Powanda - Helen Hopko - Helen Menzyk - James Panco – Connie Sincavage – Carl Guzik – Frank Savitsky – Jean Keim – Al Gursky. 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.**

**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.

**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.

**SNOW and ICE ALERT** – During winter days, please remember that we do not cancel our Worship Services. In the case of unfavorable travel conditions, please make appropriate decisions about venturing forth.

**KINDLY REMINDER** – We would like to remind our Parishioners that all financial books for this year would be closed on **December 31, 2017**. Therefore, please, be responsible for your own church and fulfill your obligation to the Parish before that date. **THANK YOU**. A member, who fulfills the financial obligation to the Parish, by paying our yearly dues (**\$137.00**), 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.

### Week 3, Joy

Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.

### REJOICE ALWAYS

Paul teaches that active happiness should be the most distinctive characteristic of a Christian. We have absolutely no reason for despair. We know that whatever happens to us, our biography will have a happy ending. We will share God's joy forever. People should be able to ask us, "Why are you always so upbeat?" Faith gives us the right answer.

### UNTIE HIS SANDALS

John the Baptist makes both an act of humility and of hope for a coming superior. Sandals were the most common and least valuable possessions. They were thongs made of animal skin or plant fiber. They consisted in a flat sole tied to foot with straps. It was the duty of a slave to tie these straps for a superior. John pictures the "one who is to come" as so great that the Baptist is unfit to be even his slave.