

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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Fourth Sunday of Advent - "B"

Czwarta Niedziela Adwentu

December 24, 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 24th - IV Sunday of Advent



Jesus will be born into the House of David, the fulfillment of all that the prophets foretold. Yet His Good News will be not only for the people of Israel but for everyone.

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

Later today

4:00PM – Christmas Vigil Mass.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS:

Dec. 26: Acts 6:8-10. 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22; **Dec. 27:** 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a.2-8; **Dec. 28:** 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18; **Dec. 29:** 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35; **Dec. 30:** 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40

MONDAY, December 25th – Solemnity – Nativity of our Lord

11:00AM – Holy Mass

TUESDAY, December 26th – Feast – St. Stephen, *Protomartyr*

10:00AM – Holy Mass

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 27th – Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

6:00PM – Holy Mass

THURSDAY, December 28th – Holy Innocents

9:00AM - Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. **Ann Kowalonek Vernitsky Grande**, of. by Daughters.

SATURDAY, December 30th – Feast – Holy Family

10:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for **God's Blessing** to all **Families** of our **Congregation**.

NEXT SUNDAY, December 31st – Solemnity – Humble Shepherds

10:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. Flossie Bulcavage, of. by the Parish Committee.

▲ Collection for the Seminary.

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 (Luke 1:28.42; Judith 15:9b)

V. Hail favored one! The Lord is with you. Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

R. You are the glory of Jerusalem, the surpassing joy of Israel! You are the splendid boast of our people.

V. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

R. As it was in the beginning is now end ever shall be world without end. Amen.

I Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16

The prophet Nathan assures David that his kingdom will be protected, but it will not be his task to build the Temple.

GRADUAL (Matthew 1:18; Galatians 4:4)

V. Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

R. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.

II Reading: Romans 16:25-27

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

ALLELUIA (Jeremiah 32:27)

V. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. I am the Lord, the God of all mankind! Is anything impossible to Me?

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.

Father, watch over our homes and families and protect us from all harm.

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, and thank you so much for you so many hours work during this week;
- to **Mrs. Cindy Eickhoff** and to the Parishioners who are singing;
- to **Mr. James Abicunas** for being a lector;
- to **Veronica** for her 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 remain **faithfully** in the church (feeling that this is **your** church) and prepared our home of God's worship for Christmas last Sunday!

THIS WEEK PRAYER: for **Father Henryk Wos**, his family, and Parishioners of Our Savior Parish in Woonsocket, RI [web: oursaviorparishpncc.org; FB: Our Savior Parish PNCC].

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



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.

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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.

The Education and Youth Commission would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who generously supported the Raffle Fundraiser promoting our Stipend Program through the PNU.

Congratulations to our winners!

First Prize (\$400.00) – Dr. & Mrs. Bob Sarnowski, Scranton, Pa.

Second Prize (Beats Pill + Bluetooth Speaker) – Mr. & Mrs. Zulkowski, Wallington, NJ.

Third Prize (Apple TV) – Cynthia Purta, Dickson City, PA.

Please remember that monetary donations are graciously accepted towards these endeavors, as we continue our mission of providing funding and enabling our youth members the benefit of this stipend towards their future educational goals.

Donations can be sent directly to: **Education and Youth Commission, 1006 Pittston Ave, Scranton, Pa 18505.**

Thank you and God Bless You,

Mary Ann Stankowski, Education & Youth Commission, Chairman

DAVID'S HOUSE

David became king of Israel about 1000 B.C. His first move was to build himself a palace in Jerusalem. Next he wanted a religious structure to illustrate his hold on the national religion. His religious advisor, Nathan, enthusiastically supported this move but later had second thoughts. To placate the king he predicted that his dynasty would last forever.

SECRET MYSTERY

The theme of Paul's letter to the Romans is this: the same kind of personal relationship that the Jews had with God is now available to all people. He ends the letter with a prayer that this message be revealed to everyone. This presents the universal meaning of Christmas. God came to earth that we might all be his friends and share his life. This becomes possible through faith.

Week 4, Love

Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen.

