

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.Th., M. in Canon Law
Pastor's e-mail: robertb1@ptd.net
E-mail: stjohnthebaptist42@gmail.com
Website: www.stjohnpncc.org
FB: St. John the Baptist PNCC



Fifth Sunday of Lent - "B"

Passion Sunday

Niedziela Pasyjna

March 18, 2018

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 – Contemporary liturgy in English.

Today, March 18th – V Sunday of Lent – Passion Sunday

As Jesus lets go of His life for our sake, He is as a wheat grain in the ground, dying that new fruit may be born. We too are called to be generous with the gift of our own lives.

10:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. **James Dean**, of. by Wife, Marjorie.

- Second Day of Spiritual Retreat.
- Sacrament of Penance.

WEEKDAY READINGS:

Mon., 2 Samuel 7:4-5a.12-14a.16; Romans 4:13.16-18.22; Matthew 1:16.18-21.24a or Luke 2:41-51a; **Tue.**, Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30; **Wed.**, Daniel 3:14-20.91-92.95; John 8:31-42; **Thu.**, Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59; **Fri.**, Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42; **Sat.**, Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56

MONDAY, March 19th - Solemnity – St. Joseph, Spouse of the BVM

Joseph is considered the second greatest saint, next to the Blessed Virgin Mary, because of his humility and the closeness he had to Jesus as his foster father. Scripture tells us that Joseph was just, pure, gentle, prudent, and unfailingly obedient to the divine will. We wish to imitate him by renewing our desire to be faithful. We know, that the only meaning of our life is to be faithful to the Lord till the last day, as Joseph was.

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

WEDNESDAY, March 21st - Lenten Weekday

6:30PM – Community Lenten Service.

FRIDAY, March 23rd - Lenten Weekday

Holy Mass

6:00PM – Stations of the Cross.

NEXT SUNDAY, March 25th – Palm Sunday – VI Sunday of Lent – *Blessing and distribution of palms*

10:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. Joseph Studlick, of. by Mr. Daryl Davis.

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.

ENTRANCE RITE (Psalm 43:1-2)

V. Do me Justice, o God, and fight my fight against a faithless people; from deceitful and impious men rescue me.

R. For You, o God, are my strength. Why do You keep me so far away? Why must I go about in mourning, with the enemy oppressing me?

V. Lord, for us Your wounds were suffered.

R. O Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

I Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Lord plants His new covenant deep within His people's hearts.

Responsorial Psalm: **Create a clean heart in me, o God.**

II Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

Christ becomes the source of eternal salvation through the obedience of His suffering.

Verse before the Gospel (John 12:26)

V. Whoever serves Me must follow Me, says the Lord;

R. And where I am, there also will My servant be.

GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

Jesus is glorified in His act of self-abandonment on our behalf.

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.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH [PAGE 71]

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Celebrant: We bring ourselves, our needs and the needs of our world to God in prayer.

- We pray for the Church. As we prepare to celebrate the great events of Christs' death and resurrection we pray that we too may grow in the gifts of self-sacrifice shown us by Christ. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

- We pray for our world: that all faiths and different cultures may come to understand each other better and grow in respect and love. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

- We pray for those who are full of hate and anger. May they be touched by others' peace and kindness, becoming freed to love and be grateful for what God has given them. ***R. Lord, hear our prayer.***
 - For the **President** of the U.S. and for the entire **Government**: may they succeed in their mission to lead our nation wisely. ***R. Lord, hear our prayer.***
 - We pray for all who are sick in body and mind. May they find comfort and solace through those who care for them. ***R. Lord, hear our prayer.***
 - For all deceased members of our families – especially for **James Dean** – and whose good deeds go with them: may they experience the fullness of life in Christ. ***R. Lord, hear our prayer.***
 - For all of our needs ...(PLEASE, NAME THEM NOW...) ***R. Lord, hear our prayer.***
- Celebrant:** Heavenly Father, receive our prayer and help us on our pilgrim journey to You. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. ***R. Amen.***

May we be raised up through the healing power of Jesus our Savior and the loving kindness of the Holy Spirit.

COMING EVENTS

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

March 11 & 18 – Spiritual Retreat Sundays; Lenten Penitential Service on March 18.

March 25 – Palm Sunday.

April 1 – Easter Sunday.

April 15 – Victoria's Confirmation in Dupont, PA.

Sep. 16 – Holy Mass commemorating 95th Anniversary of our parish.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Thanks go out to:

- to **Mrs. Janina Plichta** preparing the altars, and the church for services;
- 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**.

MASS ON APRIL 15 – will be celebrate in our church by **Rev. Richard Wosiak** of Middleport, PA at **10:30AM**.

THIS WEEK PRAYER: for **Bishop Stanley M. Bilinski Jr.**, his family, and Parishioners of All Saints Cathedral in Chicago, IL [web: ascpncc.org or ascncc.org; FB: All Saints Cathedral – Polish National Catholic Church].

THE PARISH LETTER and 50/50 chances tickets are available in the vestibule.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK – especially for – Father Senior Thaddeus Dymkowski – Gloria Dymkowski - Sarah Powanda - Helen Hopko - Helen Menzyk - James Panco – Connie Sincavage – Carl Guzik – 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.



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.**

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.

STEM SCOUTS-St. Joseph the Worker Parish sponsors a program for girls and boys in elementary and middle-schooled grades who are interested in technology and science subjects. The program uses interesting, hands-on labs, designed to be grade-level appropriate for the students. Past labs have covered Light & Sounds, Robotics, Vertical Farming, Magnetism, Drones, the Solar System and the Space Station, the Science of Soap Bubbles, and others. The labs are currently held on Sunday afternoons from mid-September to early April. The cost of the 6-month program is \$200, which covers the cost of materials used & can be paid over time (some scholarships may be available for qualifying families). We have openings for the 2018-2019 school year. For more info on the program see www.stemscouts.org or contact the Parish Office at 570-874-0610 or Mary at 570-875-2146.

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.

PNCC 2018 Future Direction Plan Committee

Complete at least five community service projects: One service project could be in conjunction with the Solemnity of Humble Shepherds and the other, selected by the local parish. It is important that the five 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: A project to aid an assisted living facility, or other care facility i.e. nursing home, group home; volunteering for a special needs event; having a Mass or event for your local widow's group; aiding a family crisis center, 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, and/or responding to a particular need in the local community, etc.

March – Celebration of Lent as a Family.

The New Covenant

A Covenant is a personal agreement or contract between two or more people. Unlike a commercial contract, a Covenant is a commitment to share lives. The best human examples are the marriage vows in which a man and a woman agree to share a common life with faithfulness, love and honor.

During the past Sundays of Lent we have been looking at the Covenants that God made with his people in the past. These included Covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses and the people of Judah during the exile. God agreed to protect these people and their descendants provided that they agree to follow a path to holiness. To be "holy" is to be "like God". Sadly, though God kept his part of the bargain, the people rarely did.

Jeremiah predicted that God would create a new permanent Covenant. Jeremiah was a prophet who lived in the 6th century B.C. He taught that under this new agreement, people would instinctively know God and his guidance. God would "engrave" it on our hearts. Jesus brought the New Covenant into being by his obedient death and resurrection.



WHY DO I HAVE TO CONFESS MY SINS TO A PRIEST?

Some people say that they don't need to confess to a man. They say they can tell God they are sorry and he will forgive them, anywhere, any time. Actually, that's true if you are only looking to be forgiven. But there is more to Confession (or Reconciliation) than being forgiven. If we are really sorry, we need to change, to stop sinning.

Anything is a sin if it hurts others. Most people don't think about others, so they keep on sinning. Confession forces us to take a look at our lives and see who our acts are effecting. The priest is a counselor who can explain why we are wrong and how to change. He's not there to judge or punish us. He's there to diagnose the problem and suggest a cure. He can explain things and even tell you if you're not doing anything wrong.

The penance is a small step towards changing our lives. We don't have to change our lives right away, but we do need to change. The Sacrament gives us the strength to make the changes.

Prayer to be Freed of the Seven Deadly Sins

O meek Savior and Prince of Peace, implant in me the virtues of gentleness and patience. Let me curb the fury of anger and restrain all resentment and impatience so as to overcome evil with good, attain your peace, and rejoice in your love.

O Model of humility, divest me of all pride and arrogance. Let me acknowledge my weakness and sinfulness, so that I may bear mockery and contempt for your sake and esteem myself as lowly in your sight.

O Teacher of abstinence, help me to serve you rather than our appetites. Keep me from gluttony - the inordinate love of food and drink and let me hunger and thirst for your justice.

O Lover of purity, remove all lust from my heart, so that I may serve you with a pure mind and a chaste body.

O Father of the poor, help me to avoid all covetousness for earthly goods and give me a love for heavenly things. Inspire me to give to the needy, just as you gave your life that I might inherit eternal treasures.

O Exemplar of love, keep me from all envy and ill-will. Let the grace of your love dwell in me that I may rejoice in the happiness of others and bewail their adversities.

O zealous Lover of souls, keep me from all sloth of mind or body. Inspire me with zeal for your glory, so that I may do all things for you and in you.

Lenten action - Reach out to someone who is alienated from your group.