

St. John the Baptist Parish
Polish National Catholic Church
414 West Oak Street, Frackville, PA 17931
The Rev. Robert P. Plichta, M.Th., M. in Canon Law, Pastor
Rectory – (570) 874-1960
www.stjohnpncc.org
Facebook: St. John the Baptist PNCC
E-mail: robertb1@ptd.net
PNCC website: www.pncc.org
Central Diocese website: www.centraldiocesepncc.org
PNU website: www.pnu.org

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
March 25, 2018

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, MARCH 25, 2018

Events for the Week

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



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

Today we celebrate the Lord's entry into Jerusalem, humble yet triumphant. We commemorate His arrest and execution, a death that becomes exultation.

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

- **Attention: We don't drink any beverages and we don't eat any food when we worship God in this church!**

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, March 27th

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, March 28th

7:00PM – **Gorzkie Żale/Bitter Lamentations**, all three parts in Polish with an English translation.

HOLY THURSDAY, March 29th – *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.

7:00PM – **Holy Mass**, intention: for all **Parishioners**.

GOOD FRIDAY, March 30th – *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**

2:00PM – Frackville Ministerium Ecumenical Service at Zion Lutheran Church.

- Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament will be held until **8:00PM**.

7:00PM – **Stations of the Cross**

HOLY SATURDAY, March 31st

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 1st - RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

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

Today's liturgy

Hosanna to the Son of David!

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.

I Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

God's servant bravely faces his foes.

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

A hymn proclaims the glory of Christ.

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: Mark 14:1-15:47

The sky is darkened, the veil of the torn in two and a soldier recognizes the Son of God.

May the Lord who yielded himself into the hands of sinners support you in all your ways.

COMING EVENTS

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

April 1 – Easter Sunday.

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

July 22 – Automobiles blessing.

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

Oct. 6 – Animals blessing (1:00PM at the parking, rain or sun).

Nov. 4 – All Souls Service in the Church.

Nov. 11 – Veteran's Day Celebration.

Dec. 24 – Christmas Vigil Mass – 4:00PM; Mass of Shepherds – 10:00PM.

GENERAL CHURCH

April 27-29 - 18th Mission & Evangelism Workshop – All Saints Parish in Carnegie, PA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Thanks go out to:

- **Members** of the Parish for preparing the altars, and the church for services;
- to **Mrs. Cindy Eickhoff** for musical preparations, and to the Choir members;
- to **Mr. James Abicunas** for being a lectors;
- 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.

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

THIS WEEK PRAYER: for **Father Antulio Alvarado**, his family and parishioners of Divine Word Parish in Chicago, IL [FB: Divine Word Parish PNCC].



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Birthday best wishes are extended to: March 27 – Mary Ann Tokarczyk;
March 29 – Janina Plichta.



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.



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.

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.

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.

WHY DO WE READ THE PASSION TWICE?

This Sunday we will read the story of the Last Supper and Good Friday. We will also hear these stories on Thursday and Friday. Why do we repeat them? The reason is that for many people, Holy Week only lasts 60 minutes. There are beautiful ceremonies this week that help us relive the events that saved us and bring us eternal life. Unfortunately, some people do not share these important experiences. The Church has to present a condensed version of Holy Week for them. So we cram it all in on Palm Sunday, almost ignoring what Palm Sunday is all about: Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

This is one week in which we should not short-change God. He has given his life for us, so that we can live forever. We should observe this as a different kind of week, a truly HOLY week. We should participate in all of the reenactments of Jesus' last days before his death. If we spend time with him now, we can be certain that he will be there when we need him. Don't settle for a Reader's Digest version of Holy Week. For just this week, let's give God the unabridged version.

DUES 2018. Since January 2005, a change was made that eliminated the 'family plan' method for paying Church dues. This change was voted upon and approved at the 2002 General Synod.

Each adult member (18 years old+) is now be recorded as an individual unit. This means every adult member is now responsible for his/her own dues. To continue to be a member at St. John the Baptist parish and a member of the Polish National Catholic Church each adult will be responsible for paying the following:

Total dues for 2018 per Adult Member: \$137.00 Per Year

The parish itself has an obligation to pay dues according to the number of active members to the General Church and Diocese and our financial administration distributes these monies also as directed by the General Synod. A breakdown of where these dollars are sent is available upon request.

There are also many other funds within your parish that require your attention and need your donations:

Sunday Collection, St. Johns Fund, Fuel Fund, Cemetery Fund, Clergy/Pension Fund, Easter Donations, Flower Fund, and Christmas Donations.

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

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