

**St. John the Baptist Parish**  
**Polish National Catholic Church**  
414 West Oak Street, Frackville, PA 17931  
Rectory: 570-874-1960



**Solemnity – Epiphany of the Lord - “C”**  
Uroczystość Objawienia Pańskiego

**January 6, 2019**

*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, January 6<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany of the Lord**

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

- Confession.
- Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.
- Collection for missions.

**MONDAY, January 7<sup>th</sup> – *Octave of Epiphany***

**9:00AM – Holy Mass**, intention: for all **Parishioners**.

**TUESDAY, January 8<sup>th</sup> – *Octave of Epiphany***

**9:00AM – Holy Mass** to intercession of holy angels.

**WEDNESDAY, January 9<sup>th</sup> – *Octave of Epiphany***

**9:00AM – Holy Mass** for remission of sins.

**SATURDAY, January 12<sup>th</sup>** – *Octave of Epiphany*

**9:30AM** – Holy Mass and Litany to the BVM on Saturday, intention: for all benefactors.

**NEXT SUNDAY, January 13<sup>th</sup>** – Solemnity – Baptism of the Lord.

**10:00AM** – Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. Eugene Wycheck Jr., of. by Edward & Lynda Halaburda.

- Removing Christmas decorations after the Mass.

### 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** (Malachi 3:1b; Matthew 2:2)

V. The Messenger of the Covenant in Whom you desire. Yes, He is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

**R We saw His star at its rising, and have come to do Him homage.**

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 60:1-6

**GRADUAL** (1 Chronicles 29:11)

V. Yours, o Lord, are grandeur and power and glory. For all in heaven and on earth is Yours;

**R. Yours, o Lord, is the sovereignty; You are exalted as head over all.**

**II Reading:** Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6

**ALLELUIA** (1 Chronicles 29:12a)

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

V. Riches and honor are from You, and You have dominion over all. In Your hand are power and might.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 2:1-12

### 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.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Special **Thanks** go out to: Church cleaner, Organist, lector, collector, and the Sunday greeters.

**THANK YOU** to our **Parishioners** and **Friends** for decorating the church for Christmas. We will remove these decorations on Sunday, **January 13**, after the Mass.

**FUTURE 50/50 CHANCES** drawing will be on February 14. Chances – with a letter – are available in the vestibule. We are asking our Parishioners for help to sell them. Please, contact **Mrs. Ann Marie Wycheck** for details.

**PASTORAL BLESSING 2019** - In the *PNCC* as well as other catholic churches on January 6, the priest blesses incense (one of the gifts of the Wise Men), and chalk, which is used for the marking of the door-frame of parishioners homes with the initials of the Three Kings and the year: **+20+K+M+B+19+**. Beginning with this day

and ending on February 2 (*Presentation of the Lord*), the parish priest will make Epiphany pastoral visits to as many parishioners as possible. There he will bless the home and its inhabitants. A properly-prepared home displays **a white linen cloth, upon which is placed a crucifix, a blessed candle, holy water and chalk**; the sweet scent of blessed incense fills the air.

- **Hall for Rent** is available...\$100.00 for 2 hours/+ \$25.00 each additional hour, and \$50.00 returnable deposit.
- **Upcoming liturgy events: Feb. 24, 2019 – Annual Parish Meeting** after the Mass.



**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 – Betty Brazausky - Joseph Ross - Thomas Justen; ***H & R Center Tremont***: Dolores Halaburda (309); ***Luther Ridge – Pottsville, PA*** – Marie Demnitski.

**2019 Holy Days of Obligation** (means: days, when Catholics should attend the Mass): **All Sundays of the year; January 1 – Circumcision of the Lord; January 6 – Epiphany of the Lord; April 18 & 19 – Holy Thursday and Good Friday; April 21 – Resurrection of the Lord; May 30 (Thursday) – Ascension of the Lord; June 20 (Thursday) – Corpus Christi; August 15 – Dormition/Assumption of the Lord; November 1 (Friday) – All Saints.**

**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.

**FUTURE SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS:** - Jan. 20 – Sp. Eugene Wycheck Jr.; Jan. 27 – Sp. James Dean; Feb. 3 – Sp. Eugene Wycheck Jr.; Feb. 10 – Michael & Sophia Stetts; Feb. 17 – Sp. Carolyn Boychak; Feb. 24 – Sp. James Dean.

### ***THE MAGI OR WISEMEN***

In ancient Iran--also known as Persia--a priest was called a "magus." The plural is "magi". The word "magic" comes from the same root. Magi were experts in astronomy. This was useful in determining the calendar and the end of winter and the spring planting season. They believed that stars and other celestial objects actually influenced, rather than merely coincided with, earthly events. One, or possibly a series of omens, led them to believe that a royal prince had been born in Israel. They were sent as ambassadors to provide tribute to the newborn. The bible does not say how many Magi visited. It is assumed that there were three because of the number of gifts.

### **EPIPHANY HOME BLESSING**

The Holy Family welcomed the Magi on Epiphany. There is a beautiful tradition that has been inspired by this event. Take some chalk and either have it blessed by your pastor or say your own blessing over it with your family. Ask God to welcome strangers to your home during the coming year. Finally write these numbers and letters over the front door of your home:

20 + C + M + B + the last digits of the current year.

The letters represent the traditional names of the Wise Men--Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar.

### **MYRRH AND FRANKINCENSE**

The gifts brought by the Magi were both appropriate and expensive. The value of gold is obvious but what of the other presents? Myrrh is an aromatic substance made from the sap of Myrtle balsam trees found in India, Africa and Saudi Arabia. It is a natural antiseptic and useful as a medicine. Egyptians used myrrh for embalming mummies. It is now used for toothpaste and mouthwash.

Incense is a hardened gum that also comes from trees found in the same areas. The word "Frank" comes from an old French word that means "marked." It is a stamp that the incense is "free" from contaminants or "pure".

(Franking is still used for free mail rights given to members of Congress.) Incense was used primarily to cover up the smells caused by animal sacrifices. Hence it was connected with worship.