

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



First Sunday of Advent - "A"
Pierwsza Niedziela Adwentu
Prima Domenica di Avvento

December 1, 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, December 1st – I Sunday of Advent

10:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. **Lucille** and **Howard Greenman**, of. by Ms. Elizabeth Greenman.

- Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament and Litany.
- Collection for missions.

MONDAY, December 2nd – Weekday

9:00AM - Holy Mass, intention: for **Father Andreas Simental**, his family and faithful of St. Barbara Parish in Houtzdale, PA.

TUESDAY, December 3rd – Advent Weekday

Requiem Holy Mass for those who are in purgatory.

WEDNESDAY, December 4th – *Advent Weekday*

7:45AM – Rorate Holy Mass, intention: for all **Parishioners**.

6:30PM – Monthly meeting of the Parish Committee.

THURSDAY, December 5th – *Advent Weekday*

7:45AM – Requiem Holy Mass for: Sp. **Father Wieslaw Stolec**.

FRIDAY, December 6th – **First Friday of the month**

7:45AM - Holy Mass and Litany to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

SATURDAY, December 7th – *Advent Weekday*

Holy Mass and Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday.

NEXT SUNDAY, December 8th – **II Sunday of Advent**

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

- The Sacrament of Holy Anointing will be imparted after the sermon.

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 (Psalms 25:1-3)

V. I wait for You, o Lord; I lift up my soul to my God. In You I trust; do not let me be disgraced; do not let my enemies gloat over me.

R. No one is disgraced who waits for You, but only those who lightly break faith.

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 2:1-5

GRADUAL (1 Corinthians 16:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:6)

V. Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong.

R. Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober.

II Reading: Romans 13:11-14

ALLELUIA (Psalm 47:9)

V. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. God rules over the nations; God sits upon His holy throne.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:37-44

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **Hall for Rent** is available...**\$100.00 for 2 hours**/+ \$25.00 each additional hour, and **\$50.00** returnable deposit.
- **December 8** – Healing Mass with the Sacrament of Holy Anointing; please invite everyone in need.

- **December 15** – Advent Penitential Service before the Mass and decoration of the church for Christmas, after the Mass.

CURRENT WEEK PRAYERS are offered for **Father Andreas Simental**, his family and faithful of St. Barbara Parish in Houtzdale, PA.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS (OPLATKI) – are available in the vestibule. Free will offerings will go to our organist, **Mrs. Cindy Eickhoff**.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK – especially for – Father Senior Thaddeus Dymkowski – Gloria Dymkowski – Helen Hopko - James Panco – Connie Sincavage – Carl Guzik – Jean Keim – Betty Brazausky - Joseph Ross – Thomas Justen – Edward Jurewicz. ***H & R Center Tremont:*** Dolores Halaburda (309); ***Luther Ridge Pottsville, PA*** – Marie Demnitski (223); ***Shenandoah Manor:*** Helen Menzyk (D14).



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**.

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: Dec. 8 – Sp. James Dean; Dec. 15 – Sp. Jean Stanulonis & Josephine Miernicki; Dec. 22 – Sp. Louise & Adolph Gursky.

KINDLY REMINDER – We would like to remind our Parishioners that all financial books for this year would be closed on **December 31, 2019**. 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.



ADVENT – The Ecclesiastical Year begins on the first Sunday of Advent and ends on the Saturday following the last Sunday after Pentecost. Advent is composed of four weeks, during which with the patriarchs and prophets, we prepare to celebrate the first coming of our Lord in a Bethlehem stable. During Advent the approved liturgical colors are **blue, rose or violet**, unless otherwise indicated by the feast of the day. If violet vestments are used rose is recommended color for the Third Sunday in Advent. This is in keeping with the theme of joy. The “Gloria” is omitted from the Mass liturgy.

It is a Polish custom from antiquity that a special votive Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated in the parish Church once a week (usually on a Wednesday). It is called “*Rorate*” Mass, from the first words of the Latin Introit “*rorate caeli*”. This unique Polish custom, first celebrated at the Wawel Cathedral in Krakow in 1545 dictates that seven candles are lighted and placed on the St. Mary’s Altar. The seventh candle is much taller than the rest and is decorated with a green branch tied with a white ribbon. This symbolizes the Old Testament prophecy fulfilled; the Messiah stemming from the “Root of Jesse”.

It is also customary, in some parishes, to prepare an Advent Wreath consisting of four candles in a circular wreath with a larger candle (the Christ candle) in the center. The Advent Wreath serves as a reminder of the four thousand years of expectation for the coming of the Savior, Jesus Christ, born on Christmas Day. **Solemn Marriage ceremonies are forbidden without the explicit permission of the Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese.** (from “Rites and Ritual” – a liturgical handbook for the PNCC).

Prayer to St. Michael

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our safeguard against the wiles and wickedness of the devil. Restrain him, o God, we humbly pray, and you, o Prince of the heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into Hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin and destruction of souls. Amen.