

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



Third Sunday of Advent - "A"

Trzecia Niedziela Adwentu
Terza Domenica di Avvento

December 15, 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 15th – III Sunday of Advent

Advent Penitential Service

10:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. **Jean Stanulonis & Josephine Miernicki**, of. by Ms. Elizabeth Greenman.

- Decorating the church for Christmas.

MONDAY, December 16th – *Advent Weekday*

8:00AM – Requiem Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. Paul Elsavage...(All Souls).

TUESDAY, December 17th – *Advent Weekday*

Requiem Holy Mass for Sp. Josephine Studlick...(All Souls).

WEDNESDAY, December 18th – *Advent Weekday*

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

THURSDAY, December 19th – *Advent Weekday*

8:00AM – Requiem Holy Mass for: Sp. Edward Halaburda...(All Souls).

FRIDAY, December 20th – *Advent Weekday*

8:00AM – Requiem Holy Mass for Sp. Lucille Greenman (All Souls) and Litany to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus.

SATURDAY, December 21st – *Advent Weekday*

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

NEXT SUNDAY, December 22nd – *IV Sunday of Advent*

10:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. Louise and Adolph Gursky, of. by Chester & Flora Gursky.

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 (Isaiah 26:19b; 29:19)

V. Awake and sing, you who lie in the dust. For your dew is a dew of light, and the land of shades gives birth.

R. The lowly will ever find joy in the Lord, and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

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 35:1-6.10

GRADUAL (Psalms 146:5-7)

V. Happy are those whose help Jacob's God; whose hope is in the Lord, their God, the maker of heaven and earth, the seas and all that is in them.

R. Who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free.

II Reading: James 5:7-10

ALLELUIA (Malachi 3:23)

V. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the day of the Lord comes.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

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 24 – 4:00PM – Christmas Vigil Mass; 10:00PM – Mass of Shepherds (Pasterka)**
- **December 25 – Holy Mass at 11:00AM.**

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Birthday best wishes are extended to: December 7 – Cindy Eickhoff; December 18 – Veronica Plichta (13th); December 19 – George Tokarczyk, Rosemary Savitsky.



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.

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.