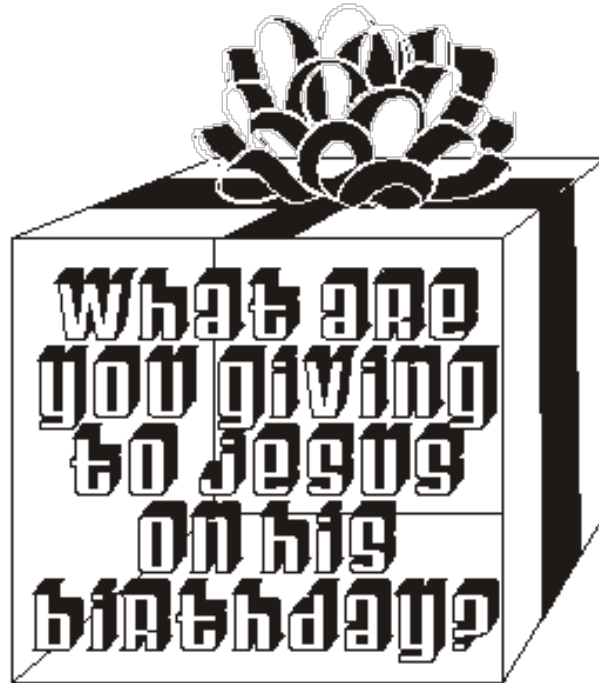


St. John the Baptist Parish
Polish National Catholic Church
414 West Oak Street, Frackville, PA 17931
Rectory: 570-874-1960



Fourth Sunday of Advent - "A"

Czwarta Niedziela Adwentu
Quarta Domenica di Avvento

December 22, 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 22nd – IV Sunday of Advent

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

MONDAY, December 23rd – Advent Weekday

9:00AM – Requiem Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. **Patricia Abicunas**...(All Souls).

TUESDAY, December 24th – Vigil of the Nativity

4:00PM – Christmas Vigil Mass

10:00PM – Mass of Shepherds (Pasterka), intention: for all **Parishioners**.

WEDNESDAY, December 25th – Solemnity – Nativity of our Lord

11:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. Lawrence & Angelina Mascioli, of. by Mr. & Mrs. Chester Gursky.

THURSDAY, December 26th – Feast – St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr

10:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for our Parishioners & Friends for sending Christmas gifts to the rectory (good health and God's blessing).

FRIDAY, December 27th – Feast – St. John, Apostle

6:00PM – Holy Mass

SATURDAY, December 28th – Holy Innocents

9:00AM - Holy Mass and Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday.

NEXT SUNDAY, December 29th – Solemnity – Humble Shepherds

10:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for all Parishioners.

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 (John 11:27; Psalm 90:2)

V. Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, the One Who is coming into the world.

R. Before the mountains were begotten and the earth and the world brought forth, from eternity to eternity You are God.

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 7:10-14

GRADUAL (Sirach 43:30,28)

V. Awesome indeed is the Lord's majesty, and wonderful is His power.

R. More than this we need not add; let the last word be, He is all in all!

II Reading: Romans 1:1-7

ALLELUIA (Revelations 22:16)

V. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. I, Jesus, sent My angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, the bright morning star.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-24

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.**



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.



EMMANUEL

During Advent we often sing "O Come, Emmanuel". So, who is Emmanuel? A better question would be, "What is Emmanuel?" It is a visible demonstration of invisible God. About 750 years before Jesus' birth, the country we call Iraq, wanted to conquer the Middle East. Israel and Syria had teamed up to fight against this incursion. Judah--the southern half of Israel--decided to make a disastrous alliance with enemy. Ahaz, king of Judah, had made up his mind to this--selling out his own country. Isaiah came to the king, pleading for him to "trust God

and not give up." He even offered to work a miracle to give proof of God's dependability. Ahaz had weak faith and refused to ask for any signs or miracles.

Isaiah, frustrated, offered one anyway. He said that the king's young wife would give birth to a male child. No one would know that this could happen except God. The child was born, but Ahaz named him Hezekiah.



JOSEPH'S DIVORCE

There were severe laws against pre-marital sex and adultery in Biblical times. If a man discovered that his fiancée was pregnant by another man, he had right to denounce his wife. She could be sentenced to death by stoning. The husband-to-be would cast first rock. Joseph discovers Mary's pregnancy and is shamed. He is a righteous man - a strict observer of Jewish Law. He is also a compassionate person and decides to arrange a no-fault separation, without admitting or denying paternity of child. This will save Mary's life. God intervenes to state that there is no human father for Jesus. Joseph's faith leads him to accept.

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.