

<p style="text-align: center;">REJOICE! The LORD is NEAR!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PREPARE the WAY for the LORD!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. John the Baptist Parish Polish National Catholic Church 414 West Oak Street, Frackville, PA 17931 Rectory phone: 570-874-1960 Email: robertb1@ptd.net Third Sunday of Advent – “B” Trzecia Niedziela Adwentu</p> <p style="text-align: center;">December 17, 2023 <i>100th year of service</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Events for the week:</p> <p>Sun., 12/17/23 – III Sunday of Advent 10:00AM – Holy Mass, intention for: +John David’s family, of. by Ms. Barbara David. 12:00 Noon – Christmas Party in Fountain Springs Country Inn at 52 Country Club Rd., Ashland, PA.</p> <p>Mon., 12/18/23 – Advent Weekday Holy Mass for Veronica on her 17th birthday, asking God for good health, blessings and gifts of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Wed., 12/20/23 – Advent Weekday 8:30AM – Rorate Mass, intention: for all Parishioners.</p> <p>Thu., 12/21/23 – Feast – St. Thomas, Apostle 9:00AM - Holy Mass</p>	<p>Today’s readings tell us that God’s saving power reveals itself as naturally and as inevitably as the changing of the seasons. It unfolds through the faith of human beings who put their whole trust in God’s will to redeem us.</p> <p>I Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11 II Reading: I Thessalonians 5:16-24 GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28</p> <p>A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, ‘I am not the Christ.’ ‘Well then,’ they asked ‘are you Elijah?’ ‘I am not’ he said. ‘Are you the Prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ So they said to him, ‘Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?’ So John said, ‘I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.’ Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, ‘Why are you baptizing if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?’ John replied, ‘I baptize with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo His sandal-strap.’ This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>Special Thanks go out to: Organist, Mrs. Janina for cleaning and decorating the church, lector, collector, and the Sunday greeters.</p> <p>Upcoming events:</p>

Next Sunday, December 24: IV Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

10:00AM – Holy Mass, intention for: +Michael & Sophia Stetts and +Edmund & Marcia Hessert.

4:00PM – Christmas Vigil Mass

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

Next Sunday's Mass intentions: Jan. 7, 2024: +James Dean; Jan. 14: +John David's family; Jan. 28: +John Michael Stabinsky.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Birthday best wishes are extended to: December 18 – Veronica Plichta.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK – especially for - James Panco – Jean Keim – Betty Brazausky - Marjorie Dean – Elaine Antalosky – Josephine Hause - Shawn Matz. *H & R Center Tremont: Dolores Halaburda. Luther Ridge Pottsville, PA* – Marie Demnitski. *Rehab. & Nursing Center Pottsville, PA* – Thomas Justen.

- Sunday, December 24 – 4th Sunday of Advent, and Christmas Eve; Holy Masses: **10:00AM, Christmas Vigil Mass – 4:00PM; Mass of Shepherds – 10:00PM.**
- December 25 – Christmas Day Mass at **11:00AM.**

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.

In the case of freezing rain, please use the front porch to come to the rectory, if you need it (back porch stairs are “icy” all the time in this case).

“Happy the husband of a good wife; the number of his days will be doubled. A loyal wife brings joy to her husband, and he will finish his years in peace. A good wife is a generous gift bestowed upon him who fears the Lord. Whether rich or poor, his heart is content, a smile ever on his face”. (Sirach 26:1-4)