

## St. John the Baptist Parish

### Polish National Catholic Church

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*100<sup>th</sup> year of service*



### **Solemnity – Humble Shepherds – “B”**

Uroczystość Ubogich Pasterzy

**December 31, 2023**

## **EVENTS for the WEEK**

**Holy Mass – 10:00AM – Contemporary liturgy in English, p. 63**

**Today, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> – Solemnity of Humble Shepherds/New Year’s Eve**

**Holy Mass**, intention: Thanksgiving for God’s Graces in 2023.

➤ *Collection for Savonarola Seminary.*

**MONDAY, January 1, 2024** – Solemnity – Circumcision of our Lord

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

**TUESDAY, January 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Solemnity – Holy Name of Jesus

**9:00AM – Holy Mass**

**WEDNESDAY, January 3<sup>rd</sup>** – *Christmas Weekday*

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

**THURSDAY, January 4<sup>th</sup>** – *Christmas Weekday/First Thursday of the month*

**9:00AM – Holy Mass** for the Clergy of the PNCC and their successful ministry.

**FRIDAY, January 5<sup>th</sup>** – *Christmas Weekday/First Friday of the Month*

**9:00AM – Holy Mass** and Litany to the SHofJ.

**SATURDAY, January 6<sup>th</sup>** – Solemnity – Epiphany of our Lord

**5:00PM – Holy Mass**

**NEXT SUNDAY, January 7<sup>th</sup>** – Solemnity – Baptism of our Lord

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

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

## 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** (Wisdom 18:14-15a; Psalm 93:2)

V. For when peaceful stillness compassed everything and the night in its swift was half spent, Your all-powerful Word from heaven's royal bounded, a fierce warrior, into the doomed land.

**R. Your throne stands firm of old; You are from everlasting, Lord.**

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.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN** - **Bóg Się Rodzi** – PNCC Hymnal p. 37, 1 Polish, 1 English

### **I Reading:** Jeremiah 31:10-14

**Responsorial Psalm:** **A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.**

### **II Reading:** Titus 3:4-7

### **ALLELUIA** (Psalm 93:1)

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

V. The Lord is King, in splendor robed: robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.

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

### **GOSPEL:** Luke 2:15-20

## **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.

## **THE PROFESSION OF FAITH** [PAGE 71]

### **GENERAL INTERCESSIONS**

**Celebrant:** On this holy day let us implore the God of perfect love and peace to fill us with the glory of the Word-Made-Flesh.

- You have given us Christ to be our light. In the name of the Prince of Peace, enable us to be a people ever eager to do what is right, peaceable, and just. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

- You have given us Christ, the Living Word. In the name of the Wonder-Counselor, pour out the Spirit of wisdom and understanding on all religious leaders especially our Prime Bishop, Bishops, Priests and Deacons of Your Holy Church. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

- You have given us Christ to be the herald of good news to the poor and lowly. In the name of the Anointed One, help us to carry our Christ's mission of love and mercy. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For the **President** of the **U.S.** and for the entire **Government:** may they succeed in their mission to lead our nation wisely. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

- You have given us Christ to redeem humanity from the forces of sin and death. In the name of Emmanuel, teach us to set aside any jealousy and animosity that deprive us of closeness with You. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

- You have given us Christ as our eternal High Priest. In His holy name help those who are called to service in Your Holy Priesthood and diaconate to accept this Sacred Vocation. **R. Lord, hear us.**

- We pray, God of Good news, for our young men. You call them to serve as Priests and Deacons in our Holy Church. Through Your abundant grace grant that they may respond as the Humble Shepherds responded to the news of Your Son's coming. **R. Lord, hear us.**

- You have given us the descendant of David to be our blessed hope. In the name of the risen Savior, comfort all who mourn with Your tender

compassion and heal those who are sick and suffering. **R. Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:** God of glory, the light of Christ reveals Your love for us. Receive our prayers and grant that we may always receive Your Word-Made-Flesh with grateful hearts. We ask this in Jesus' name. **R. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY HYMN** – **O Come, All Ye Faithful** – PNCC Hymnal, p. 57, 3v.

**COMMUNION HYMN** – **Shepherds Heard An Angel Say** – PNCC Hymnal, p. 33, 3v.

**Beauteous Maiden** – PNCC Hymnal, p. 72, 2v.

**CLOSING HYMN** - **Silent Night** – PNCC Hymnal, p. 42, 2v.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Special **Thanks** go out to: Organist, Mrs. Janina for cleaning and decorating the church, lector, collector, and the Sunday greeters.

**Thank you very much** to our **Parishioners** for sending Christmas gifts to the rectory!

### **Upcoming events:**

- February 14, 2024 – Ash Wednesday.
- March 3, 2024 – Annual Parish Meeting, after the Mass.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK** – especially for – Jean Keim – Betty Brazauskas - Marjorie Dean – Elaine Antalosky – Josephine Hause – Shawn Matz. **H & R Center Tremont:** Dolores Halaburda; **Rehabilitation & Nursing Center, Pottsville, PA** – Thomas Justen.

**Next Sunday's Mass intentions:** Jan. 7, 2024: +James Dean; Jan. 14: +John David's family; Jan. 21: +Michael & Sophia Stetts, +Edmund & Marcia Hessert; Jan. 28: +John Michael Stabinsky.



**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 **the Pastor**. He 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.**

**RECEIVING THE HOLY EUCHARIST** – those who believe in the true presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist are invited to partake of this Holy Sacrament. It is the practice of the PNCC to distribute the Holy Eucharist through the method of intinction. The Body and Blood of Christ are placed on the tongue, not in the hand.

### **Commemoration of saints this week**

**January 1 – Peter of Atroa – Abbot** – (773-837) Born near Ephesus, Asia Minor, he became a monk when he was 18. He was ordained several years later. He was accused of practicing magic and using the devil because of the miracles he performed, but he was completely cleared by St. Theodore.

**Telemachus – Martyr** – (died 400) He was an Eastern ascetic who was stoned to death in Rome when he tried to stop a contest between gladiators in the arena. His death, according to Theodoret, caused Emperor Honorius to abolish gladiatorial contests.

**January 2 – Macarius of Alexandria – Abbot, Confessor** – (300-390) Born in Upper Egypt, he became a hermit. He was accused of assaulting a woman but proved his innocence and became a hero for his patience and humility during his trying ordeal.

**Adelard of Corbie – Abbot** – (753-827) He was a son of King Pipin's brother, became a monk at Corbie, Picardy. He was brought to the court by his cousin Charlemagne and became one of his advisers. His reputation for holiness, austerity, and concern for the poor and the sick spread.

**January 3 – Antherus of Rome – Bishop, Martyr** – (died 236) He was elected Bishop of Rome on Nov. 21, 235, but ruled only 43 days when he died, probably as a martyr.

**Genevive of Paris – Virgin** – (422-500) Born near Paris, France, she dedicated herself to God when only 7. When her parents died, she moved to Paris and became a nun at 15. Her visions and prophecies

evoked hostility from the inhabitants of Paris. Many miracles were reported at her tomb in the church, which was later renamed in her honor.

**Peter Balsam – Martyr** – (died 311) He was arrested during the persecution of Christians under Emperor Diocletian and brought before the governor, Severus. When he refused Severus' plea that he sacrificed to the gods, he was tortured; when he persisted, he was crucified on January 11.

**January 4 – Gregory of Langres – Bishop** – (died 539) Count of Autun, France, he ruled the area wisely and well for 40 years. After his wife's death he was elected bishop of Langres and was known for his charities, austerities, and devotion to duty.

**Pharaildis – Virgin** – (died 740) She was married against her will, was badly treated by her husband when she refused him his martial rights because of her secret vow of virginity. She performed the numerous miracles.

**Rigobert of Rheims – Bishop** – (died 745) He was named archbishop of Rheims. He was venerated for his holiness and patience and was credited with performing miracles.

**January 5 – Simeon the Stylite – Hermit** – (390-459) He was a shepherd in his childhood. He became a monk at a stricter monastery, where he practiced such severe mortifications that he was dismissed from the monastery. He then became a hermit. In 423 he erected a ten-foot-high pillar and lived on the top of it; he spent the rest of his life living on successively higher pillars, which were no wider than 6 feet in diameter at the top; his pillar was 60 feet. He soon became greatly venerated as a holy man and had extraordinary influence.

**Synletica – Virgin** – (316-400) Born of wealthy parents, she refused the numerous suitors her beauty attracted, and when her parents died, she gave her inheritance to the poor. She consecrated herself to God, devoted herself to aiding the needy.

**January 7 – Lucian of Antioch – Martyr** – (died 312) Ordained as a priest he prepared an accurate version of the Old and New Testaments that was used by St. Jerome in preparing the Vulgate. He was arrested in Nicomedia in 303 when Diocletian's persecution of the Christians began. After a long imprisonment, when he refused to sacrifice to pagan gods, he was convicted of being a Christian, racked, and sworded to death on January 7.

**Canute of Denmark – Martyr** – (died 1086) – Illegitimate son of King Sweyn Estrithson of Denmark, he was unsuccessful in an attempt to claim crown of England in 1075 but became King of Denmark as Canute IV. He aided the clergy and missionaries, built many churches. His heavy taxes and disputes with the nobles led to rebellion headed by his brother Olaf. He was tracked down by the insurgents and he and 17 followers were slain on July 19 in the church of St. Alban in Odense, where he had taken refuge.

### 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.

**"Those who respect their father will live a long life; those who obey the Lord honor their mother". (Sirach 3:5-6)**