

"Your ways, o Lord, are love and truth, to those who keep Your covenant."

St. John the Baptist Parish  
Polish National Catholic Church  
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**First Sunday of Great Lent – "B"**  
Pierwsza Niedziela Wielkiego Postu

February 18, 2024  
*101<sup>st</sup> year of service*

**Events for the week:**

**Sun., 2/18/24 – I Sunday of Lent**

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

**Tue., 2/20/24 – Lenten Weekday**

9:00AM – Holy Mass for health.

**Wed., 2/21/24 - Lenten Weekday**

9:00AM – Requiem Holy Mass for +Aleksander & Barbara Kowalczyk.  
6:00PM - Frackville Ministerium Lenten Ecumenical Service - First United Methodist Church.

**Fri., 2/23/24 – Lenten Weekday**

9:00AM – Requiem Holy Mass for Deceased.  
6:00PM – The Way of the Cross (2).

**SAT., 2/24/24 – Feast – St. Matthias, Apostle**

We come together as a community in loving relationship with our neighbor and with all living creatures. "Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary". We trust in God's compassion and mercy. Time spent in reflection during the season of Lent can help us to change and to grow in faith.

**I Reading:** Genesis 9:8-15

**II Reading:** I Peter 3:18-22

**GOSPEL:** Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and He remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There He proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' He said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**Upcoming events:**

- March 3 – Annual Parish Meeting.
- March 10 – Solemnity: Institution of the PNCC (127<sup>th</sup> Anniversary); *Daylight Savings Time Begins.*
- March 17 – Lenten Penitential Service with the Sacrament of Penance.
- March 24 – Palm Sunday.

5:00PM – Holy Mass

Next Sunday, February 25: II Sunday of Lent

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK – especially for: Jean Keim – Marjorie Dean – Elaine Antalosky – Josephine Hause - Shawn Matz. *H & R Center Tremont: Dolores Halaburda. Rehab. & Nursing Center Pottsville, PA* – Thomas Justen. *Shenandoah Manor* – Betty Brazausky (A-I4).

- March 31 – Easter Sunday.
- June 2 – Corpus Christi & Procession after the Mass.
- June 9 – First Holy Communion Day.

**FRACKVILLE MINISTERIUM LENTEN SERVICES** (always begins Wednesday's at 6:00PM)

Feb. 21 – First United Methodist Church

Feb. 28 – Zion Lutheran Church (Annunciation church)

March 6 – Trinity Evangelical Congregational Church

March 13 – St. John the Baptist PNCC

March 20 – New Hope Wesleyan Church

**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. Thank you very much to **Mr. Kenneth Payne** is taking care of the snow removal from our parking lot! 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).

**LENT** – The period of Great Lent historically has been a period of **40 days penance** imposed on public sinners. As a time of public penance and self-reflection, the 40 days are reminiscent of the Old Testament Exodus from Egypt, Moses' period of ascent on Mt. Sinai, the story of Elias and the period spent by Our Lord in the desert following His Baptism in the Jordan river. This period was also one of preparation for catechumens in the early Church. Throughout Lent daily instruction in the tenets of the Christian faith took place with a regular study of scripture and a fasting of forty days. Great Lent not only presents a special opportunity for abstinence and a penitential spirit, but for prayer and the study of Christ's teachings as well. Originally these 40 days (*in Latin – Quadragesima*) were counted from the eve of Quadragesima Sunday to the hour of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday. Around the 7<sup>th</sup> century this changed and religious sought a period of not only penance but fasting. The liturgical vestments change to a **violet** color to accentuate the penitential feeling of the season.

“Do not reject the tradition of the elders which they have heard from their ancestors; for from it you will learn how to answer when the need arises.” (Sirach 8:9)