



St. John the Baptist Parish
Polish National Catholic Church
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127th Anniversary of the PNCC
Rocznica Ustanowienia PNKK

March 10, 2024
101st year of service

Events for the week:

Sun., 3/10/24 – IV Sunday of Lent – Solemnity – Anniversary of the Institution of the PNCC

The Oath of the Parish Committee takes place **before the Mass.**

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

- *Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.*
- *Collection for the National Church Center.*
- *First Holy Communion Catechism Class.*

Tue., 3/12/24 – Lenten Weekday

8:30AM – Holy Mass, asking for God's Divine mercy for sinners.

Wed., 3/13/24 - Lenten Weekday

6:00PM - Frackville Ministerium Lenten Ecumenical Service

I Reading: Wisdom 5:I-5

II Reading: I Timothy 4:I-5

GOSPEL: John 15:I-7

“I am the true vine, - and My Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does He prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in Me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in Me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without Me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in Me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become My disciples.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Upcoming events:

- March 17 – Lenten Penitential Service with the Sacrament of Penance.
- March 24 – Palm Sunday.
- March 31 – Easter Sunday.
- April 12-14 – 23rd National Mission & Evangelism Workshop – Houtzdale, PA.

Fri., 3/15/24 – Lenten Weekday
6:00PM – The Way of the Cross (5).

Sat., 3/16/24 – Lenten Weekday
Lenten Votive Mass to the **BVM** and Litany.

Next Sunday, March 17: V Sunday of Lent – Passion Sunday

Lenten Penitential Service

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Birthday best wishes are extended to: March 15 – Betty Brazausky.

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-14).

- April 27 – Plymouth Seniorate Council meeting – 11:00AM in Plymouth, PA – Good Shepherd church.
- June 2 – Corpus Christi & Procession after the Mass.
- June 9 – First Holy Communion Day.

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS – in case of your inability to come to church on any particular Sunday, please mail or submit your Sunday offerings and donations to our parish. Your church needs your financial support in order to pay utilities and expenses.

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

March 13 – St. John the Baptist PNCC

March 20 – New Hope Wesleyan Church

PNCC ANNIVERSARY – Today we celebrate the **127th anniversary** of God's call to the people of **St. Stanislaus Parish in Scranton, PA**, to take up their rightful place as children of God and followers of Jesus Christ and organize a church in which they had a say in the workings of their parishes and also in the expression of their faith. If we examine the whole history of the Christian Church from its founding in Jerusalem right down to the present day we find many who struggled for a Church which respected the rights and responsibilities of all of the people of God. These early reformers, like Jerome Savonarola and Jan Hus, did not want to change the Catholic faith, but desired to have a church in which all of God's people took an active part. Where other Church movements failed to keep their rights and remain Catholic, it was here that the Old Catholic Church was instituted. It was to this church that Father Francis Hodur and the newly organized PNCC turned to insure their apostolic succession. Following the First Vatican Council in 1870, many learned priests and laity, as well as parishes, struggled against the absolute rule of the papacy in the governance of the church. These movements came together as the Old Catholic Churches. Here in the USA many different groups of people struggled against the authorities of the church which denied them their rights and lorded their authority over the people. In Chicago, IL, Buffalo, NY and Scranton, PA, groups of Polish immigrants brought several of these parishes into a church, and finally these movements coalesced into the Polish National Catholic Church. What was begun in the earliest Christian communities, what was fought for

during the reformation in Europe, has taken firm hold here within the PNCC, a church that is **one, holy, catholic** and **apostolic**, yet **democratic** in its governance. A church in which all God's people, guided by the Holy Spirit, have a rightful say in the governance of their church. At this time we must begin by thanking Almighty God for the faith and courage of Bishop Francis Hodur and all the priests and laity that organized the PNCC. We must spread the word that our Church is one where every Catholic Christian is given the opportunity to share his or her work and talent for the building of the Kingdom of God in all areas of the work of the Church. When we hear of those struggling to exercise their rights, we must show them how they are preserved here in the PNCC. *(from: "God's Field" – March 11, 2006).*

"With three things I am delighted, for they are pleasing to the Lord and to human beings: Harmony among relatives, friendship among neighbors, and a wife and a husband living happily together." *(Sirach 25:1)*