

Holy Ghost Parish

Polish National Catholic Church

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Prime Bishop of the PNCC – **Most Rev. Dr. Anthony Mikovsky**
Bishop Ordinary of the Central Diocese – **Most Rev. Dr. Anthony Mikovsky**
Plymouth Seniorate Administrative Senior – **Very Rev. Thaddeus Dymkowski**
Parish Committee Chairman – **Mr. Joseph Petrusky**



Second Sunday in Advent – Cycle “A”

Druga Niedziela Adwentu

December 5, 2010

“God's mercies are as old as eternity and yet they are new every morning.”

Events for the Week

Holy Mass – 11:00AM – Traditional liturgy in English

Today, December 5th – II Sunday in Advent

The ancient prophets and their writings foretold the coming of the divine Messiah. John the Baptist takes up their theme to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

11:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for sp. **Geraldine Andrews**, of. Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Rejent.

- Collections for missions.

WEEKDAY READINGS:

Mon., Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26; **Tue.**, Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14; **Wed.**, Genesis 3:9-15.20; Ephesians 1:3-6.11-12; Luke 1:26-38; **Thu.**, Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15; **Fri.**, Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19; **Sat.**, Sirach 48:1-4.9-11; Matthew 17:9a.10-13

MONDAY, December 6th – *Advent Weekday* – St. Nicholas of Myra, Bishop (4th century). Present at the Council of Nicea (325), where he signed the document affirming the divinity of Christ, St. Nicholas served as the Bishop of Myra (in what is now Turkey), and is known especially for his compassion to the poor.

9:30AM – Holy Mass in Frackville.

6:30PM – Monthly meeting of the Parish Committee in Frackville.

TUESDAY, December 7th – *Advent Weekday* – St. Ambrose of Milan (340-397). While St. Ambrose was living in Milan and serving the imperial government, he was elected bishop of the city – while still a catechumen. After his baptism and subsequent ordination, he distinguished himself through his apostolic zeal, service to the poor, and effective care of all the faithful. The most articulate opponent of Arianism in the West, he converted and baptized St. Augustine.

9:30AM – Holy Mass in Frackville.

WEDNESDAY, December 8th – Solemnity - Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary/Feast of Divine Love – *Holy Day of Obligation*

This feast has been celebrated in the East and also in many places in the West since the eighth century. Mary's freedom from all sin is the most beautiful fruit of the work of redemption accomplished by her Son. Chosen as a Mother of the Savior, Mary received the benefits of salvation from the moment of her conception.

9:30AM – Holy Mass in Shenandoah, intention: for all **Parishioners**.

11:00AM – Holy Mass in Frackville.

THURSDAY, December 9th - *Advent Weekday*

9:30AM – Holy Mass in Frackville.

FRIDAY, December 10th - *Advent Weekday*

5:00PM – Rorate Mass in Frackville.

NEXT SUNDAY, December 12th – III Sunday of Advent

10:45AM – Advent Penitential Service and Sacrament of Penance

11:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for sp. Geraldine Andrews, of. by Ms. Isabel Benedict.

- **Baptism: Meah Rose Solnoki**, a daughter of William and Kellie Solnoki.
- Monthly meeting of the Parish Committee.

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.

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Christ's Coming in the Hearts of Men

Prayer:

P. Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down the Just One.

R. Let the earth be opened and bud forth the Savior.

P. Lord Jesus, eternal Wisdom -

R. In Your merciful love, You came down to earth to expel the darkness with the brightness of Your Divine Life.

P. You removed the wall which sin had raised between God and us.

R. You opened the gates behind which the devil made prisoners of humanity.

P. Through You we regained access to God.

R. You have reconciled us with the heavenly Father.

P. But many have not yet seen Your Light.

R. Ans many are the hearts that have not yet known Your Heavenly Peace.

P. Our own hearts too, o Lord, are often dark and sinful.

R. We cry to Your, in this Holy Season of Advent:/Come anew and save us.

P. Let Your power be known, o Lord.

R. Come, and let Your Face shine upon us.

Let us pray: Merciful God and Savior, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to save what was lost. You made Him shine through the darkness of this world as the true daybreak. We pray to You, with the sweet radiance of Your grace, illumine our dark hearts and the hearts of all those sit in the shadow of paganism, and guide our feet in the way of peace, unto Your glorious kingdom. Through the same Christ, our Lord.

R. Amen.

ENTRANCE RITE (John 1:6-8)

V. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

R. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

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 11:1-10

Isaiah foretells the coming of the Messiah, who will bring justice, peace and the knowledge of God.

GRADUAL (Jeremiah 23:5-6)

V. Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David; As king He shall reign and govern wisely, He shall do what is just and right in the land.

R. In His days Judah shall be saved, Israel shall dwell in security. This is the name they give Him: "The Lord our justice".

II Reading: Romans 15:4-9

St. Paul reflects on the sacred scriptures, and reminds us that they foretold that Christ would come to unite the Jews and Gentiles.

ALLELUIA (Sirach 2:18)

V. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. Let us fall into the hands of the Lord and not into the hands of men, for equal to His majesty is the mercy that He shows.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

As the divine Messiah is just about to begin His public ministry, John recalls the people to genuine repentance.

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.

We have been fed by the word of God and the bread of life; may God strengthen us in faith, hope and charity.

COMING EVENTS

SHENANDOAH

Dec. 12th Advent Penitential Service – 10:45AM
Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Mass – 8:00PM
Dec. 25th Christmas Day Mass – 9:30AM

FRACKVILLE

Dec. 12th Advent Penitential Service – 8:30AM
Dec. 12th Christmas Party (4:00PM)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU very much to our Parishioners and Friends for their donations, time and hard work this week to better our parish and Church. The Sunday greeters, the people working on fundraisers, the decorators, repair and maintenance people and members of the choir.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS – are available in the vestibule. Thank you for all donations.

PLEASE CALL FR. ROBERT - ..if you or a relative are admitted to a hospital and nursing home; ..if your phone number or address change; ..if you have a prayer concern.

HELP NEEDED – If anyone is interested to help at the altar during our services, and serve as the Lector, please contact the pastor.

THIS WEEK PRAYER: for **Bp Thaddeus Peplowski**, **Rev. Gary Spencer**, and parishioners of the Holy Mother of the Rosary PNCC in Lancaster, NY.



CHRISTMAS PARTY – will be held in our church hall on Sunday, **December 12, 2010** at **4:00PM**. If someone is interested to participate, please sign your name on the sheet at the vestibule. When you come, please bring three inexpensive gifts. The deadline is **December 5**.

MASS LITURGY CHANGES – beginning today until Easter we will stop shaking hands during the Holy Mass, due flu season.

UPCOMING SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS: **Sp. Geraldine Andrews:** Dec. 12, Dec. 19, Dec. 26, Jan. 2, 2011, Jan 9, 2011; **Jan. 16, 2011:** sp. Susan Bednarek, Helena Bednarek, Julian Bednarek Sr.; **Jan. 23, 11:** sp. Franciszek, Elżbieta Sroka; **Jan. 30, 11:** for sp. John and Dolores Sroka.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Birthday best wishes are extended to: December 8 – Jolene Johnston.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK – especially for Helen Menzyk - Maurice Crucio – James Panco - Connie Sincavage – Ida Socker. *Trinity Mission (Shen. Hts.)* - Margaret Kruszynski - Edward Ryszka Jr.



Sacrament of Anointing

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. Please remember that with privacy laws, the Parish is often not informed when someone enters. Please call the rectory so Fr. Robert can come for prayer.

“Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord...” (James 5:14). If you, or a member of your family are sick and would like to receive the Holy Communion at home, please notify the rectory.

SHOPPING at “REDNER” REMINDER – We would like to remind our Parishioners and Friends that if you go shopping at *Redner’s* please use your “Redner’s card” for purchase. When you will do it the Parish can get a credit – Thank you!



WELCOME OUR VISITORS – We welcome all our visitors who are present with us for worship this Sunday! Please write your names in the guest book located in the vestibule of the church. You are always welcome to join us in worship!

THE MANOR AT WAYMART – a personal care facility, is located in beautiful waymart, PA near the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center. We invite you to contact us at **570-488-6829** or manoratwaymart@echoes.net for rates, room availability, or to arrange a tour of our facility.



CONFESSIONS FOR THE YOUTH – Our younger members as well as their parents are reminded that Confession is an essential part of a child’s religious upbringing. Remember this important part of their religious life. Confession is held on the **first Sunday** of every month at **10:45AM** (before Mass). Children before Confirmation age should come to **private** Confession. If children (until Confirmation) would like to receive the Holy Communion in a worthy manner they must come for private confession at least once a month. If other times are necessary please contact Fr. Robert.

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.

CHURCH OPERATION FUND – as of the end of October the following have donated: Mr. & Mrs. James Panco, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Savitsky, Mrs. Mary Ann Hoppes, Mr. John Golba, Mrs. Ida Socker, Mrs. Mary Stukas, Mr. Frank Gill, Mr. Stanley Sawecki, Mrs. Claire Mallick, Mrs. Helen Menzyk, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Petrusky. Thank you!



ADVENT – The Ecclesiastical Year begins on the first Sunday of Advent and ends on the Saturday following the last Sunday after Pentecost. Advent is composed of four weeks, during which with the patriarchs and prophets, we prepare to celebrate the first coming of our Lord in a Bethlehem stable. During Advent the approved liturgical colors are **blue, rose or violet**, unless otherwise indicated by the feast of the day. If violet vestments are used rose is recommended color for the Third Sunday in Advent. This is in keeping with the theme of joy. The “Gloria” is omitted from the Mass liturgy. It is a Polish custom from antiquity that a special votive Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated in the parish Church once a week (usually on a Wednesday). It is called “*Rorate*” Mass, from the first words of the Latin Introit “*rorate caeli*”. This unique Polish custom, first celebrated at the Wawel Cathedral in Krakow in 1545 dictates that seven candles are lighted and placed on the St. Mary’s Altar. The seventh candle is much taller than the rest and is decorated with a green branch tied with a white ribbon. This symbolizes the Old Testament prophecy fulfilled; the Messiah stemming from the “Root of Jesse”.

It is also customary, in some parishes, to prepare an Advent Wreath consisting of four candles in a circular wreath with a larger candle (the Christ candle) in the center. The Advent Wreath serves as a reminder of the four thousand years of expectation for the coming of the Savior, Jesus Christ, born on Christmas Day. **Solemn Marriage ceremonies are forbidden without the explicit permission of the Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese.** (from “Rites and Ritual” – a liturgical handbook for the PNCC).

PARISH COMMITTEE – Our PNCC is a democratic Church, where the members have a privilege to serve in the parish. It is a privilege and responsibility to help the church grow, and to be a member of the parish committee. If anyone is interested to help the Committee, please contact Fr. Robert or Mr. Joseph Petrusky. Thank you.

MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS: Again this year we will have the opportunity to decorate our church for Christmas time with Poinsettias. These donations will enhance the beauty of our church altars for the glory of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Cost per plant is **\$15.00**. DEADLINE FOR ORDER IS SUNDAY, **DECEMBER 12th**, 2010.

PARISH INFORMATION. Daily Masses as announced. Examples of the Mass intention are: for the Sick, in remembrance of the faithful departed (especially parents, grandparents, relatives...), to ask God’s Grace, Birthdays and Anniversaries (...) To make arrangements, please contact Father Robert.

Holy Day Masses are held as announced in the bulletin.

Sacrament of Baptism – Arrangements should be made at least two weeks prior the ceremony. Only **practicing Christians** should be chosen as **godparents**.

Sacrament of Matrimony – Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance.

Emergencies, Sickness and deaths – please contact to the rectory immediately.

The parish bulletin - is made on **FRIDAYS**. All requested announcements should be submitted by **FRIDAY 10:00AM**.

THE PARISH CATECHISM – *After you have received the life of grace how can you make that life stronger?* You can make grace increase and grow in your soul by receiving the Sacraments frequently (especially Confession and Holy Communion), by prayer and good works done for love of God, and by performing your family duties well. *If you lose grace by mortal sin can you get the life of grace back again?* Grace can be regained. God will forgive anyone who is sincerely sorry for his sins and will give him back the life of grace. *What inclinations to evil do men experience in themselves on account of the sin of Adam?* Because of the sin of Adam men experience these inclinations to evil: **Lust** – urging men to sins of sex. **Laziness** – leading to neglect of religious and family duties. **Gluttony** – leading to drunkenness. **Anger** – leading to fighting, hatred and revenge. **Greed** – a sinful desire to take another's goods. **Pride** – an excessive love of oneself.

HOW TO BUILD A GREAT CHURCH?

It takes very little planning to wreck a building or a business, but it takes skillful planning and diligent work to build. It is easy to kill a church, but it takes thought and persistence to build a great church. The great churches of our Lord did not just happen. They have been built through persistent effort. Here are a few suggestions for building a great church:

1. Never allow a day to pass without taking time to pray for your church and its ministry.
2. Never speak to anyone without praising your church and **pastor**. The criticism will be spoken loud and often; see that the praise is louder.
3. Never fail to be friendly to anyone in all church services, especially to newcomers and absentees. Nothing in the world can substitute for old-fashioned friendliness.
4. Never make your church of less importance than social engagements, secular meetings, or anything else. There is no greater power for a church than that of members who quietly but emphatically put it first.
5. Never refuse an opportunity to serve. Be willing to serve anywhere you are asked. All service ranks the same with God.
6. Attend church every Sunday.



Gospel Summary

1. Many peoples in history have imagined a “Golden Age.”
2. Humans have always desired a return to friendship with God and each other.
3. St. John the Baptist announces that the Lord has come to visit His people and achieve this salvation.
4. Through participating in the sacraments, we are taken up into the saving past, a hopeful present and an eternal future.

