

**Holy Ghost Parish  
Polish National Catholic Church**

28 North Chestnut Street, Shenandoah, PA 17976

Rectory: 570-874-1960

Website: [www.holyghostpncc.org](http://www.holyghostpncc.org)

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Central Diocese website: [www.centraldiocesepncc.org](http://www.centraldiocesepncc.org)

PNU website: [www.pnu.org](http://www.pnu.org)

Prime Bishop of the PNCC – **Most Rev. Dr. Anthony A. Mikovsky**

Bishop Ordinary of the Central Diocese – **Rt. Rev. John E. Mack**

Plymouth Seniorate Administrative Senior – **Very Rev. Thaddeus Dymkowski**

Parish Committee Chairman – **Mr. Joseph Petrusky**



**First Sunday of Lent – Cycle “B”**  
Pierwsza Niedziela Wielkiego Postu  
**February 26, 2012**

“The Lenten season calls for a consecration of both life and possessions to Christ and His glorious Church. The measure of blessing we received from an observance of Lent will depend upon our response to its appeal.”

**EVENTS for the WEEK**

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

**Today, February 26<sup>th</sup> – I Sunday of Lent**

Baptism is a good focus for our Lenten reflections because on Easter Day we will be invited to renew our baptismal vows.

**11:00AM – Holy Mass**, intention: for sp. **Loretta Kovalewski**, of. by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Petrusky.

▲ Stations of the Cross.

## WEEKDAY READINGS:

**Mon.**, Leviticus 19:1-2.11-18; Matthew 25:31-46; **Tue.**, Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15; **Wed.**, Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32; **Thu.**, Esther C:12,14-16.23-25; Matthew 7:7-12; **Fri.**, Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26; **Sat.**, Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48

### **TUESDAY, February 28<sup>th</sup>** - *Lenten Weekday*

**7:30AM** – Holy Mass in Frackville; intention: for the remission of sins.

### **THURSDAY, March 1<sup>st</sup>** - *Lenten Weekday*

**7:30AM** – Holy Mass in Frackville; intention: for Bishop, Priests and Deacons of the Central Diocese.

### **FRIDAY, March 2<sup>nd</sup>** - *First Friday on the month*

**7:30AM** – Holy Mass in Frackville to the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**; intention: God's blessing for the family. The adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament will be held until 2:00PM.

**6:00PM** – **Bitter Lamentations** (Gorzkie Żale) in Frackville.

### **NEXT SUNDAY, March 4<sup>th</sup>** - *II Sunday of Lent*

**9:30AM** – Holy Mass, intention: for sp. Loretta Kovalewski, of. by Scott & Jolene Johnston.

▲ Bitter Lamentations or the Litany of the Passion.

## **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** (Sirach 44:17-18)

V. Noah, found just and perfect renewed the race in the time of devastation. Because of his worth there were survivors, and with a sign to him the deluge ended.

**R. A lasting agreement was made with him, that never should all flesh be destroyed.**

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: Genesis 9:8-15**

*God makes a new covenant with Noah. The rainbow is a sign of hope.*

### **GRADUAL** (Isaiah 54:9-10)

V. This is for Me like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah should never again deluge the earth; So I have sworn not to be angry with you, or to rebuke you.

**R. Though the mountains leave their place, and the hills be shaken, my love shall never leave you, nor my covenant of peace shaken, says the Lord, who has mercy on you.**

### **II Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22**

*St. Peter links the story of Noah and the flood with our baptism.*

### **TRACT** (Sirach 43:11-12)

V. Behold the rainbow! Then bless its Maker, for majestic indeed is its splendor.

**R. It spans the heavens with its glory, this bow bent by the mighty hand of God.**

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

*Jesus begins His mission after 40 days spent wrestling with the power of evil.*

## 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.

### **OFFERTORY VERSE (Genesis 9:17)**

V. God told Noah: "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between Me and all mortal creatures that are on earth".

### **COMMUNION VERSE (Hebrews 4:15)**

V. For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one Who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin.

May you know the love of God our heavenly Father for you and for our world. May the Lord Jesus strengthen you to cope with all you may face in the coming week. May the Holy Spirit of God comfort you in times of sorrow and distress.

## COMING EVENTS

### CENTRAL DIOCESE

Apr. 12<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Council meeting (Scranton, PA)  
Oct. 11-13<sup>th</sup>, Diocesan Synod in Scranton, PA

### PLYMOUTH SENIORATE

Apr. 21<sup>st</sup> Seniorate Council meeting (Shenandoah, PA 1:00PM))  
June 7<sup>th</sup> Corpus Christi Service (Middleport, PA 7:00PM)

### SHENANDOAH

**March 4<sup>th</sup> Holy Mass at 9:30AM.**  
March 18<sup>th</sup> Lenten Penitential Service (10:45AM)

### FRACKVILLE

Feb. 20 – March 26 - "Easter Eggs" Sale Project  
March 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish meeting (after 11:15AM Holy Mass)  
March 18<sup>th</sup> Lenten Penitential Service (8:30AM)  
March 23<sup>rd</sup> Funeral: sp. Ann Balsler (10:00AM)  
March 25<sup>th</sup> Baptism: Joseph Tokarczyk  
Apr. 15<sup>th</sup> Baptism: Joslin Payne  
Apr. 29<sup>th</sup> "Chinese" Auction

## 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.

**THANK YOU** to church operational fund donation: **Mrs. Mary Ann Hoppes, Mrs. Helen Menzyk, Mrs. Mary Stukas, Mr. Lance Nelson, Mr. Julian Bednarek, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Savitsky, Mrs. Claire Mallick, Mr. Stanley Saweck, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Petrusky; Ms. Maria Celso, Ms. Diane Jellen, Ms. Susan Bobbin, Mr. Frank Gill, Ms. Melissa Nahas; Anthony and Barbara Ideson; Mr. & Mrs. James Panco.** When you make a check for donations, please make them out to: **Holy Ghost PNCC.**

**MEMORIAL FUND:** In Memory of Sp. **Loretta Kovalewski:** Scott and Jolene Johnston, Walukiewicz Funeral Home, William and Cindy Zamonas family, Jean and Stan Pogash, Joan, Robert and April MacDonald, Joseph and Theresa Petrusky, Jim and Gerri Panco, Andrew and Joseph Pytak, Catherine Zamonas, Ms. Helen Savitsky. Thank you!

**THANK YOU** – very much to **Joe Karvois** and **Dylan Whitecavage** for their help at the altar.

**CHURCH SERVICES** – we stop shaking hands during the Holy Mass due the flu conditions. Thank you.

**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.

**THIS WEEK PRAYER:** for **Father Andrew Machowski**, his wife, and parishioners of the Guardian Angel Parish in Los Angeles, CA.

**THE PARISH MEMBERSHIP** – to keep our parish membership list up to date – please pay your dues during the fiscal year, a deadline is December 31, 2012. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** Birthday best wishes are extended to: February 26 – Joseph Petrusky; February 29 – Jourdin Karvois; March 2 – Natalie MacDonald.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK** – especially for Helen Menzyk - Maurice Crucio – James Panco - Connie Sincavage. Eugenia Halaburda – Dolores Halaburda. **Shenandoah Manor** – Violet Cegielski (B2). **Trinity Mission (Shen. Hts.)** - Margaret Kruszynski (311) - Edward Ryszka Jr. (221).



**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.

**UPCOMING SUNDAY'S MASS INTENTIONS:** **March 4:** sp. Loretta Kovalewski; **March 11:** Parishioners & Parish Committee; **March 18:** sp. Loretta Kovalewski; **March 25:** sp. Loretta Kovalewski; **Aug. 19:** sp. William Zamonas Sr. *Please, do not order the mass intentions ahead of 1 year. Thank you.*

**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](mailto:manoratwaymart@echoes.net) for rates, room availability, or to arrange a tour of our facility. Also these are our **room rates:** Semi-Private - \$2,097.00; Private - \$2,646.00; Private Deluxe - \$3,087.00.



**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.

**THE HOLY GHOST PARISH CONCERNS** - In this blessed land of the United States of America, no community is complete without its House of Worship. For this, full credit must be justly given to the Founding Fathers of our Country. Our forefathers were of a thoroughbred spiritual stock. Being God fearing, religious and church going people they built our national structure upon the foundation of God. Judging by the results, God was with them in all their civic undertakings with a blessing that was as constant as it was generous. If there is any truth whatever in the proverb, "like father, like son," then it is easy to understand why the present generation intends to keep God in its midst today, tomorrow and forever. To God's glory and His name the people of the United States have built beautiful temples and churches, large or small, stately or simple, according to the means of the community and the needs of the congregation they were intended to serve. Inspired with this motive and impelled with this same purpose a group of citizens of Polish descent and emigrants from Poland residing in Shenandoah area united in a resolve to build for them a House of Worship. Early in the 1920's residents of Shenandoah turned for guidance and advice to the Most Rev. Franciszek Hodur in Scranton, PA. An organizational meeting was held in May 1922 in the presence of the Rev. Father Leon Grochowski and the Rev. Father Jan Gritenas who helped to organize the Holy Ghost Polish National Catholic Church. The church records state that the first Mass was celebrated in the Russian Hall on Center Street by the Rev. Father Stanislaw Cybulski and for the first time the Mass was celebrated in the Polish language. Later, property was purchased at West Lloyd and Chestnut Streets and a church was built and dedicated in December 1923. In addition to the church building, the parish's property consists of a rectory, cemetery and park. During these formative years, the parish grew in membership and various societies were organized to help with the work of the parish. Among them were the Ladies Adoration Society, The Polish School Society, two branches of the Polish National Union of America - (Spójnia), Young Men's Resurrection Society, the St. Mary's Girls Society and the Frederick Chopin Choir.

Now we are desperately struggle to survive, and to keep our church doors open. ***Dear Parishioners and Friends***, please, take care of your own parish, because we are in danger to close. Our parish family needs you, your assistance and participation: both: spiritually – in time of worship, and financially – to support your own church by your donations. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**VISIT LITHUANIA, POLAND and PRAGUE** – June 30 – July 15, 2012; \$3,895 Single supplement \$750 from New York to Warsaw. See Eastern Europe on the Baltic Sea, major cities and sights, quaint sea resort towns, visit a health spa and lake districts, Hitler's bunker crystal and pottery shops. Buffet breakfast, and full lunch or dinner daily. LOT airlines, New York departures, bus to/from airport. For more information, please call Margaret Valinsky at: 570-277-6163 or [valinskym@verizon.net](mailto:valinskym@verizon.net)

**PNCC MISSION & EVANGELISM WORKSHOP** – our goal has been that the Faithful come away with a burning desire to bring faith-driven work of the Workshop back to their parishes, and be a light to that local Community of Faith, the Parish, and the communities in which they live. This year the Workshop will take place on **Apr. 27-29** in St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN, the theme: "**Nourished to Serve**". Deadline for registering is April 16, 2012. For more details, please contact Fr. Robert.

**67 ANNUAL PNCC/YMSofR Bowling Tournament** – will be held on **May 18-20, 2012** sponsored by Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Schenectady, NY. Registration closes on April 15, 2012. For more details, 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.

### **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – Solid Promises**

I think of the story of Noah and the ark as a beloved bible story. I tend to forget it brings us a promise that can be hard to fully comprehend in modern times. God gave us His covenant. A covenant is deeper and more personal than a legal contract. It promises that each party will give 100% of themselves to keeping their promise, even if the other person breaks the bargain. Notice that God says "when" the clouds come. Hard times come to us all. God's covenant, His 100% personal guarantee, is shown in the rainbow. It bridges heaven and earth, a beautiful reminder that we will never be abandoned.

Jesus Christ is the tangible fulfillment of just how personally God takes His covenant. He transforms the sign of the rainbow into a person, real God and real man. We no longer need the ethereal rainbow to remind us of God's

promises. We have the solid promises of our Savior as we travel through the season of Lent.

D O S K R A M S X U Y E P B S  
K E H E T F L E N Z E F D A E  
O X R V A L H S H L E T T Q W  
N K J E A G Z T I S J A X T H  
S H Q X T Z L L O P N E G T R  
B G O S N S A U K I K C S G W  
V Q S J M G I A C R D L F U V  
C N K L Q D N N R I E E O K S  
B E L I E V E O I T T P R H A  
Q J T S N G E T R M P S T T V  
H S E X F G N Z L Q M O Y I S  
D R O V E E D A Y G E G L B J  
T U Z Q P Z J O J S T S A E B  
L Y P E I U Q P M M F T G V L  
M A R W G N I M I A L C O R P

ANGELS  
DESERT  
GALILEE  
JOHN  
MINISTERED  
SATAN

BEASTS  
DROVE  
GOSPEL  
KINGDOM  
PROCLAIMING  
SPIRIT

BELIEVE  
FORTY  
JESUS  
MARK  
REPENT  
TEMPTED



### **Beloved by God**

Jesus' baptism was unusual compared with the baptism of babies or children that we usually witness. Can you imagine the sky “torn apart” and a dove-like Spirit descending, then hearing a voice from heaven? Afterwards, Jesus went into the desert for 40 days. That was like His lent, His time of preparation and prayer at the beginning of His ministry. Jesus' baptism was a sign of the new life that comes through God's own Beloved Son bringing light and hope to a troubled world. Through our baptism, we share that mission to bring that light and hope to our small corner of the world by using our gifts and talents. We, too, are beloved by God. During Lent we renew our own baptismal promises to live guided by the light of faith.

*Lord, help me to reject laziness, envy and greed, and choose kindness, compassion and generosity in every way, every day.*



**MEMBERS DUES 2012.** Since January 2005, a change was made that eliminated the ‘family plan’ method for paying Church dues. This change was voted upon and approved at the last General Synod.

Each adult member will now be recorded as an individual unit. This means every adult member is now responsible for his/her own dues. To continue to be a member at the Holy Ghost Parish and a member of the Polish National Catholic Church each adult will be responsible for paying the following:

**Total dues for 2012 per Adult Member: \$95.00 Per Year**

The parish itself has an obligation to pay dues according to the number of active members to the General Church and Diocese and our financial administration distributes these monies also as directed by the General Synod. A breakdown of where these dollars are sent is available upon request.

There are also many other funds within your parish that require your attention and need your donations:

Sunday Collection, Fuel Fund, Cemetery Fund, Clergy/Pension Fund, Easter Donations, and Christmas Donations.

**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 **THURSDAYS** and **FRIDAYS**. All requested announcements should be submitted by **FRIDAY 10:00AM**.

**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.

Beginning with **Ash Wednesday**, the altar is covered with a violet frontal. In some parishes candlesticks are also covered in violet. Following the example of the Ninivites who did penance in sackcloth and ashes, the Church puts ashes on our heads to humble our pride and to remind us of the sentence of death which we must suffer as the result of sin, accompanying the gesture with the inspiring words: *Remember’...you are dust, and to dust you shall return, but your soul returns to God*. Ashes that are used are made from palms, branches of olive or other trees blessed the year before. Parts of discarded liturgical vestments may also be added to the ash materials. Ashes are blessed after the Mass of Ash Wednesday. The symbol of the crucifixion is **covered on Passion Sunday** (a week before Palm Sunday). – From: **“Rites and Ritual”** – a liturgical handbook for the PNCC.

During this holy and grace-filled season of Lent, all of you are encouraged to share in our Lenten Journey in preparation for Christ’s Resurrection by faithfully attending not only Sunday’s Mass but also our Lenten services that will include: **Stations of the Cross** and **Bitter Lamentations** (Fridays at 6:00PM in Frackville or Sundays after 11:00AM Mass in Shenandoah).