

Holy Ghost Parish
Polish National Catholic Church
28 North Chestnut Street, Shenandoah, PA 17976
Rectory: 570-874-1960
Website: www.holyghostpncc.org
Rev. Robert P. Plichta, M.Th., M. in Canon Law, Administrator
E-mail: robertb1@ptd.net

PNCC website: www.pncc.org
Central Diocese website: www.centraldiocesepncc.org
PNU website: 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**



Third Sunday of Lent – Cycle “B”

Solemnity – Institution of the PNCC
March 11, 2012

“Where do we go from here? Let's go to church!”

EVENTS for the WEEK

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

Today, March 11th – Solemnity – Institution of the PNCC – Third Sunday of Lent

Today we commemorate the Feast of the Institution of the PNCC - 115th Anniversary of the organizing of the first parish and mother cathedral of our Church.

10:50AM – The Oath of the Parish Committee.

11:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for Parishioners and the Parish Committee.

- ⤴ Stations of the Cross.
- ⤴ Collection for National Church Center.
- ⤴ Monthly meeting of the Parish Committee.

WEEKDAY READINGS:

Mon., 2 Kings 5:1-5ab; Luke 4:24-30; **Tue.**, Daniel 3:25.34-43; Matthew 18:21-35; **Wed.**, Deuteronomy 4:1.5-9; Matthew 5:17-19; **Thu.**, Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23; **Fri.**, Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34; **Sat.**, Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14

TUESDAY, March 13th - *Lenten Weekday*

7:30AM – Holy Mass in Frackville.

WEDNESDAY, March 14th - *Lenten Weekday*

7:00PM – Choir practice before Palm Sunday in Frackville.

THURSDAY, March 15th - *Lenten Weekday*

7:30AM – Holy Mass in Frackville.

FRIDAY, March 16th - *Lenten Weekday*

7:30AM – Holy Mass in Frackville.

6:00PM – Bitter Lamentations or Litany of the Passion in Frackville.

NEXT SUNDAY, March 18th - *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

10:45AM – Lenten Penitential Service

11:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for sp. Loretta Kovalewski, of. by Ian and Matthew Johnston.

- ⤴ 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 RITE (Psalm 23:1-3.5)

V. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. In green pastures You let me graze; to safe waters You lead me, You restore my strength. You guide me along the right path for the sake of Your name.

R. You set a table before me as my enemies watch; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

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: Wisdom 5:1-5

GRADUAL (Psalm 30:2-4)

V. I praise You, Lord, for you raised me up and did not let my enemies rejoice over me.

R. Lord, my God, I cried out to You and You healed me. Lord, You brought me up from Sheol; You kept me from going down to the pit.

II Reading: 1 Timothy 4:1-5

TRACT

In You, Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In Your justice deliver me.

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

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 (Psalm 89:13b-16)

V. Mighty Your arm, strong Your hand, Your right hand is ever exalted. Justice and judgment are the foundation of Your throne; love and loyalty march before You. Happy the people who know You, Lord, who walk in the radiance of Your face.

COMMUNION VERSE (John 15:9)

V. As the Father loves Me, so I also love you. Remain in My love.

May the Lord save you from your sins. May the Lord heal all your wounds. May the Lord lead you into the fullness of life and joy.

COMING EVENTS

CENTRAL DIOCESE

Apr. 14th Diocesan Council meeting (Scranton, PA)
Oct. 11-13th Diocesan Synod in Scranton, PA

PLYMOUTH SENIORATE

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

SHENANDOAH

March 18th Lenten Penitential Service (10:45AM)

FRACKVILLE

Feb. 20 – March 26 - “Easter Eggs” Sale Project
March 18th Lenten Penitential Service (8:30AM)
March 23rd Funeral: sp. Ann Balser (10:00AM)
March 25th Baptism: Joseph Tokarczyk
Apr. 15th Baptism: Joslin Payne
Apr. 29th “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 Sawecki, 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.**

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 Senior William Chromey**, his family, and parishioners of the Holy Trinity Parish in Throop and St. Adalbert Parish in Dickson City, PA.

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: March 11 – Connie Sincavage; March 16 – Father Robert Plichta; March 17 – Joelle Amaira Karvois.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK – especially for Helen Menzyk – James Panco - Connie Sincavage – Frank Gill. Dolores Halaburda – Violet Cegielski. ***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 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 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

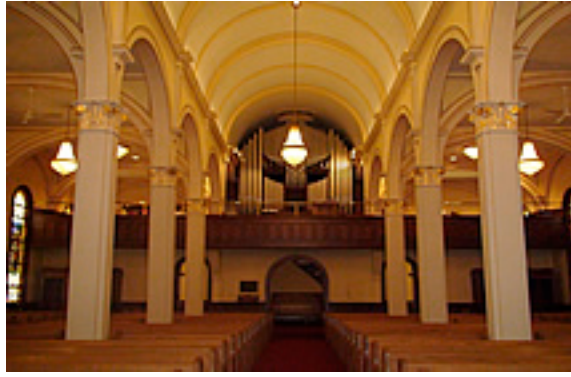
PNCC MISSION & EVANGELISM WORKSHOP – our goal has been that the Faithful come away with a burning desire to bring faith-driven work of the Workshop back to their parishes, and be a light to that local Community of Faith, the Parish, and the communities in which they live. This year the Workshop will 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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Resting of the Sabbath. This is the third commandment, preceded only by having no other gods before the Lord God and not taking God's name in vain. In other words, God considers this weekly vacation from work very important. God rested on the seventh day not because He needed time off, but to delight in the "good" He had created and set an example for us. Notice that other than "no work" He leaves our choice of activity up to us. This leads to the idea that rest is itself a holy thing. Our family does nothing on the Sabbath that we could cross off of a "To Do" list. This is harder than you may think but worth it. Play a board game with your family, read a good book, visit friends or go bird watching, and say to yourself, "*It is good. Thank You, God.*"



St. Stanislaus Cathedral - inside

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.

TWO KINDS OF ANGER

Making a whip of cords, He drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables (John 2:15). Jesus is often portrayed as being gentle, kind and wise. He was, but like all humans, He felt many emotions. This reading includes a rare gospel image of an angry Jesus who got riled up about the misuse of the holy temple. Most parents teach their children not to hit or throw tantrums when they are angry, and they try hard to control their own frustration and impatience. They are right to do so – but there is a big difference between *selfish* anger, which you might feel if you don't get your own way or have to wait your turn, and *righteous* anger, which you might feel when you see a situation that is unjust and want to stop it. Jesus was angry that people were using the temple for purposes other than worshipping the Lord. He needed to remind the people what was most important, and His actions spoke as loudly as His words.

Lord, help us to resist selfish anger but honor righteous anger.

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 7th 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).

ANNIVERSARY – Today we celebrate the **115th** 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*).

