

Holy Ghost Parish
Polish National Catholic Church
90th Anniversary of Organizing (1922 - 2012)

Shenandoah, PA 17976

Rectory: 570-874-1960

Website: www.holyghostpncc.org

Rev. Robert P. Plichta, M.Th., M. in Canon Law, Administrator

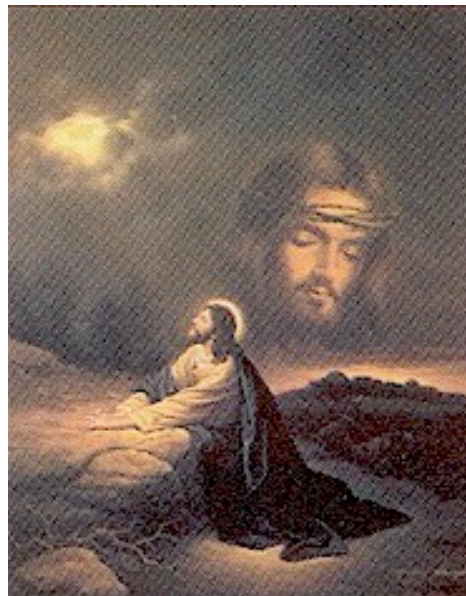
E-mail: robertbl@ptd.net

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**



Fourth Sunday of Lent – Cycle “B”
Czwarta Niedziela Wielkiego Postu
March 18, 2012

“Whatsoever is bad during Lent is bad also the rest of the year.”

EVENTS for the WEEK

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

Today, March 18th – Fourth Sunday of Lent

We come together to celebrate the presence of God among us, to hear the Lord's living word and to receive Him ever more fully into our lives.

10:45AM – Lenten Penitential Service.

The Oath of the Parish Committee Officers

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

▲ Litany of the Passion.

WEEKDAY READINGS:

Mon., 2 Samuel 7:4-5a.12-14a.16; Romans 4:13.16-18.22; Matthew 1:16.18-21.24a or Luke 2:41-51a; **Tue.**, Ezekiel 47:1-9.12; John 5:1-16; **Wed.**, Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30; **Thu.**, Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47; **Fri.**, Wisdom 2:1a.12-22; John 7:1-2.10.25-30; **Sat.**, Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53

Monday, February 20 – March 26th – Easter Eggs Sale Project

MONDAY, March 19th - Solemnity – St. Joseph, Spouse of the BVM

Joseph is considered the second greatest saint, next to the Blessed Virgin Mary, because of his humility and the closeness he had to Jesus as his foster father. Scripture tells us that Joseph was just, pure, gentle, prudent, and unfailingly obedient to the divine will. We wish to imitate him by renewing our desire to be faithful. We know, that the only meaning of our life is to be faithful to the Lord till the last day, as Joseph was.

7:30AM – Holy Mass in Frackville.

TUESDAY, March 20th - Lenten Weekday

7:30AM – Holy Mass in Frackville.

FRIDAY, March 23rd - Lenten Weekday

10:00AM – Funeral Mass in Frackville – sp. **Ann Balsler**.

6:00PM – Stations of the Cross in Frackville.

NEXT SUNDAY, March 25th - Passion Sunday

11:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for sp. **Loretta Kovalewski**, of. by Stan and Jean Popash.

▲ Stations of the Cross.

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 (Wisdom 16:5-6a.7)

V. For when the dire venom of beasts came upon them and they were dying from the bite of crooked serpents, Your anger endured not to the end. But as a warning, for a short time they were terrorized, though they had a sign of salvation.

R. For he who turned toward it was saved, not by what he saw, but by You, the Savior of all.

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: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

The people of Jerusalem brought about their exile through their repeated infidelities, until God used a pagan ruler to restore them to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple.

GRADUAL (1 Corinthians 10:9.11)

V. Let us not test Christ, as some of them did, and suffered death by serpents.

R. These things happened to them as an example, and they have been written down as a warning to us.

II Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

God's generosity is shown by the gift of life, of salvation, bestowed freely on people who do not merit or deserve it.

TRACT (Psalm 91:9-10.13)

V. Because you have the Lord for your refuge, you have made the Most High your stronghold. No evil shall befall you, nor shall affliction come near your tent.

R. You will tread upon the asp and the viper; you shall trample down the lion and the dragon.

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

God sent Christ into the world to bring it the gift of eternal life, to be accepted or rejected through people's choice.

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 (Jeremiah 8:17)

V. Yes, I will send against you poisonous snakes, against which no charm will work when they bite you, says the Lord.

COMMUNION VERSE (John 12:32)

V. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to Myself.

May the God of mercy and compassion be with you all who are dear to you, this day and throughout the coming week.

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)

FRACKVILLE

Feb. 20 – March 26 - "Easter Eggs" Sale Project

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.



MEMORIAL LILIES: Again this year we will accept your donations for Lilies. These donations will enhance the beauty of our church altars for the glory of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Cost per plant is **\$15.00.**

DEADLINE FOR REQUESTS IS PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 1st, 2012.

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 Walter Placek**, his family, and parishioners of the Providence of God Parish (Lithuanian) in Scranton, 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 ANNIVERSARY! Anniversary best wishes are extended to: March 18 – Joseph and Theresa Petrusky.



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 25:** sp. Loretta Kovalewski; **April 1:** sp. Eugenia Halaburda; **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 Stanisław 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.

LAETARE SUNDAY

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

Americans used to take this for granted. These days Christians are attacked on all sides by media, atheists and popular culture. I know many people who lament and say is no way to fight it. That is not true.

The first century Christians proclaimed the truth about Jesus in their actions every day. The poor and widows were fed, abandoned babies were adopted and the ill were nursed when all others fled for fear of plague. These Christians knew that God lives and loves us, and that Jesus Christ came to show us that love and save us from death. If put to the test, they died rather than deny the truth.

Through the ages, Christians made the difference between civilization and barbarism because their actions showed the love of God.

Today is Laetare Sunday, a break in Lenten penitence to look forward to our rejoicing when Easter comes and Christ is risen. Let us take that joy into the world. Give witness in every action to the reality of Jesus Christ's love for us and our love for Him.

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**.

IV SUNDAY OF LENT – Our Way of Life

“For we are what He has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.” (Ephesians 2:10)

This verse is from a letter that St. Paul, a leader of the early Church, wrote to the growing Christian community at Ephesus, where he preached and invited people to follow Christ. This was an important step in bringing the news of Christ to the whole world not just a small group of Jews in the ancient Middle East. The verse very simply explains what it means to be a Christian: We are created in God's plan to do good works. What kind of good works we will do depends on our desires and abilities. Mother Theresa, a Catholic nun who lived with the poor in Calcuta, India, and did countless good works and inspired many others to join her, said that anyone can offer a smile. She also said that there are no great works, only small things done with great love.

Lord, You have given us a simple path to walk. Help us to follow it always.

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.

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).

FROM THE CATECHISM of the PNCC – **“Penance** is the sacrament by which all our sins are forgiven through sorrow, confession and a firm resolution to **sin no more**. The priest is a minister of the Sacrament of Penance. To receive the Sacrament of Penance worthily we **must**: 1) examine our conscience; 2) be sorry for our sins; 3) make a firm resolution to sin no more(!) 4) confess our sins before a priest; 5) perform the penance which the priest gives us.

FROM THE CATECHISM of the PNCC – “ We must **examine our conscience** in order to call to mind the sins we have committed since our last confession and to awaken sorrow for having offended God. We should examine our conscience by recalling the sins we have committed in thought, word, deed and omission: 1) against the Commandments of God; 2) against the Commandments of the Church; 3) against the duties and obligations of our moral life.

FROM THE CATECHISM of the PNCC – **“Contrition** is: a) a sincere sorrow for having offended God and fellowman; b) a hatred for sins committed; c) a firm purpose of sinning no more. I must be sorry for my sins because by them I have offended God, the highest good. God will not forgive any sin unless we have true sorrow. My sorrow is true when it comes from the heart and not merely from the lips. If I commit a mortal sin I should at once ask God's pardon, make an act of perfect contrition and resolve to go to confession as soon as possible. A firm resolution to sin no more, is a true and sincere act of the will to avoid sin and the near occasion of sin.”

FROM THE CATECHISM of the PNCC – **“Confession** is the telling of my sins to God, in the presence of a priest, privately or publicly in order to receive forgiveness, remission and absolution. We must tell all the sins we remember. To conceal a sin is a sacrilege and the confession must be repeated. In the PNCC we have private or ear confession and public or general confession. We should use the private confession whenever we feel the need of personal spiritual advice. The **Sacrament of Penance** worthily received takes away all punishment for sin, but the effects of sin may continue. The priest gives you penance to help you endeavor to pay the debt we still owe God for our sins, and to pray for strength to do better. The penance given us by a priest does not always make full satisfaction for our sins. We should, therefore, do other penance and good works as: prayer, attending mass, fasting, almsgiving and works of mercy. **Absolution** is God's pardon given us through the words of a priest. The confessor is bound by vows of Holy Orders to keep secret the sins we have confessed.