

Holy Ghost Parish

Polish National Catholic Church

28 North Chestnut Street, Shenandoah, PA 17976

Website: www.holyghostpncc.org

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

Rectory: (570) 874-1960

E-mail: robertb1@ptd.net

PNCC website: www.pncc.org

Central Diocese website: www.centraldiocesepncc.org

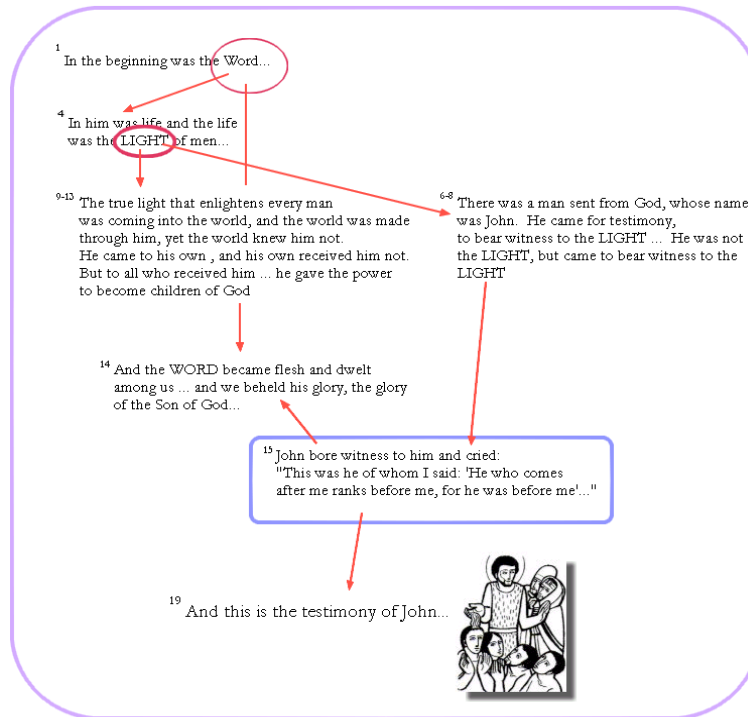
PNU website: www.pnu.org

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

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

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

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



Third Sunday of Advent – Cycle “B”

Trzecia Niedziela Adwentu

December 11, 2011

“Mary was blessed to receive the mission of carrying God within her”.

EVENTS for the WEEK

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

Today, December 11th – III Sunday of Advent

On this third Sunday of Advent we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath. This is *Gaudete Sunday*, when we focus on celebration, “Gaudete” being a Latin word calling us to rejoice. We rejoice

together in the hope we have because Christ is quietly present in our world.

10:45AM – Advent Penitential Service.

11:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for all **Parishioners**.

^ Monthly meeting of the Parish Committee.

WEEKDAY READINGS:

Mon., Numbers 24:2-7.15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27; **Tue.**, Zephaniah 3:1-2.9-13; Matthew 21:28-32; **Wed.**, Isaiah 45:6c-8.18.21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23; **Thu.**, Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30; **Fri.**, Isaiah 56:1-3a.6-8; John 5:33-36; **December 17:** Genesis 49:2.8-10; Matthew 1:1-17

MONDAY, December 12th - Advent Weekday

7:30AM – Holy Mass in Frackville, intention: for sp. **Bishop Casimir Grotnik**, of. by Fr. Robert.

WEDNESDAY, December 14th - Advent Weekday

7:30AM – Rorate Mass in Frackville.

9:30AM – Rorate Mass in **Shenandoah**, intention: for sp. Ignacy, Maria Stypik...(All Souls).

NEXT SUNDAY, December 18th - Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for all **Parishioners**.

^ Decorating the church for Christmas

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 **THIRD** SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Christ's Coming in Glory

Prayer:

P. Beloved, let us live in this world with temperence, justice and piety.

R. Let us wait for the blessed hope and glorious coming of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

P. Heaven and earth will pass away.

R. But Your Words, o Lord, will not pass away.

P. What You foretold shall be accomplished: You will come to judge the living and the dead.

R. You will reward everyone according to their deeds.

P. Keep us from being engulfed in worldly desires.

R. For at an unexpected hour, the Son of Man will come.

P. Grant us, o Lord, to be always on the watch.

R. That we may meet You with burning lamps on Your return.

P. Lord, remember not our transgressions.

R. For with You, o Lord, is kindness and plantiful redemption.

P. Let Your power be known, o Lord.

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

Let us pray: Almighty, Eternal Father, stir our hearts and grant us to be steadfast in fervent prayer, in holy love and child-like confidence, so that one day we may joyfully meet Your Son, and our Lord, Jesus Christ, when He shall come on the clouds to heaven to judge the world. Through the same Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

ENTRANCE RITE (Philippians 4:4-5; Psalm 119:151.162)

V. Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. Lord is near.

R. You are near, o Lord; by Your edict give me life. I rejoice at Your promise, as one who has found rich spoil.

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 61:1-2.10-11

The prophet Isaiah says God's spirit brings him great joy. He prophesies that those who are poor will receive good news, broken hearts will be healed, prisoners will be freed and justice will reign.

GRADUAL (Psalm 33:1.21-22)

V. Rejoice, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

R. For in God our hearts rejoice; in Your holy name we trust. May Your kindness, o Lord, be upon us; we have put our hope in You.

II Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

St. Paul suggests that at all times and in all circumstances we are to rejoice, pray and give thanks to God.

ALLELUIA (Isaiah 62:5b)

V. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. And as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, as shall your God rejoice in you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8.19-28

St. John the Baptist points out that the Lord is quietly present in the world and that he himself is simply "a witness to speak for the light".

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 4:8)

V. But You have given my heart more joy than they have when grain and wine abound.

COMMUNION VERSE (Psalm 40:18b)

V. You are my help and my deliverer; my God, do not delay!

May you share your experience of God's love and generosity with others as you continue to prepare for Christmas.

COMING EVENTS

SHENANDOAH

Dec. 18th Decorating the church for Christmas (after the Mass)

FRACKVILLE

Apr. 29th 2012 "Chinese" Auction

CENTRAL DIOCESE

Oct. 11-13th, 2012 Diocesan Synod in Scranton, PA

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.** When you make a check for donations, please make them out to: **Holy Ghost PNCC.**

THANK YOU very much to our Parishioners who came for the Christmas Party last Sunday to Frackville!

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).

THE CHRISTMAS WAFERS – are available in the vestibule.



MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS: Again this year we will accept your donations for Memorial Poinsettias. These donations will enhance the beauty of our church altars for the glory of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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 Bogumil Czaja**, his family and parishioners of SS. Peter & Paul Parish in South Milwaukee, WI.

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, 2011. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Birthday best wishes are extended to: December 16 – Helen Menzyk.



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.

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 built 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.

HOLY DAYS of OBLIGATION – a) **Sundays** throughout the year; b) **Christmas Day** – **December 25th**; c) **The Holy Name of Jesus** – **January 1st**; d) **Ascension of the Lord**; e) **Dormition/Assumption of the BVM** – **August 15th**; f) **All Saints** – **November 1st**; g) **Conception of the BVM** – **December 8th**.

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.

REFLECTION

Rejoice, pray, give thanks: This is pretty good advice in a nutshell. Each action is related to the other two. In fact, to do any one of them well, you have to do the other two. Think about it: If you are really thankful for everything you have, you will be joyful, and you will naturally be moved to pray so that you can thank God. If you are filled with joy, you will likewise want to tell God about it and give thanks for everything that brings you happiness. Finally, praying helps you see the joy that is already in your life and be grateful for it.

Try it this Christmas: Keep prayer, gratitude and joy in your life and see if it isn't the best Christmas ever!



TODAY'S GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Baptist came as witness to the light of the world. He pointed the way to Christ, not to himself. Here is a sign to distinguish the true prophet from the false. So many preachers, to make themselves important advertise their name and enjoy drawing crowds to cheer them. The true men of God do not attract attention to their own persons, but to Jesus whom they humbly serve.

Just like John, Christians are to be voices of God, pointing the way to Jesus. We have an obligation to speak up against anything that leads people away from God. But we must never imagine that we can save the world. God needs our witness, our voices. But only Jesus can save. All glory must go to Him, not to his witnesses. Christ is among us now was he was then. Why do so many of us not recognise Him?



OUR FOUNDATION IS PRAYER

If our life is without prayer, it is like a house without a foundation. The other day I saw a ten-story building, beautiful, completely finished, but they had to break it down because the foundation was only for a one-story building, and they were forced to break it down – and the whole thing was completely painted and everything – but they had to break it down. Our life of prayer...let it be the foundation, the beginning...[That life of complete surrender and loving trust are like stories in a building that help us climb closer and closer to God. And...if that pure heart, that real union, that complete attachment to Christ...is not here,] it is a building, a ten-story building on a foundation made for only one story – and what happens? It breaks.

Merciful God, teach me to pray without ceasing.

Mother Theresa of Calcuta, India



A picture of prophet Isaiah

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

MEMBERS DUES 2011. 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 2011 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.