

Holy Ghost Parish

Polish National Catholic Church

28 North Chestnut Street, Shenandoah, PA 17976

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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**



Fourth Sunday of Advent – Cycle “B”

Czwarta Niedziela Adwentu

December 18, 2011

“Gentle and loving Jesus, I will obey You faithfully.”

EVENTS for the WEEK

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

Today, December 18th – IV Sunday of Advent

Mary says “yes” to the angel Gabriel, and through her words the word opens its heart and mind to God’s gift of salvation. We too are asked to say “yes” to the gift of God’s Son as we begin our

celebration today.

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

▲ Decorating the church for Christmas.

WEEKDAY READINGS:

December 19: Judges 13:2-7.24-25a; Luke 1:5-25; **December 20:** Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38; **December 21:** Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45; **December 22:** 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56; **December 23:** Malachi 3:1-4.23-24; Luke 1:57-66; **December 24:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5.8b-12.14a.16; Luke 1:67-79
(Mass in the morning)

MONDAY, December 19th - *Advent Weekday*

7:30AM – Holy Mass in Frackville.

TUESDAY, December 20th

4:00PM – Choir practice

WEDNESDAY, December 21st - *Advent Weekday*

7:30AM – Rorate Mass in Frackville.

9:30AM – Rorate Mass in **Shenandoah**, intention: for sp. Lucille Gill (All Souls).

SATURDAY, December 24th - *Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord*

8:00PM – Holy Mass of the Shepherds, and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament; intention: for all **Parishioners**.

10:00PM – Holy Mass of the Shepherds in Frackville, and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament; intention: for all Parishioners.

NEXT SUNDAY, December 25th - *Solemnity – Nativity of Our Lord*

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

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 **FOURTH** SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Prayer of Intercession

Prayer:

P. Prince of Peace and Lord, Jesus Christ, Father of the world to come, You will return with power and glory on the clouds of heaven. Now You dwell among us in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, not as our judge, but as our Brother who wishes to share with us the riches of His inheritance. Hear we ask You, the petitions of Your people!

R. Have mercy, o Lord, have mercy.

P. Prepare our hearts for a fervent celebration of Your Nativity.

R. We ask You, hear us.

P. Lead all those who doubt and disbelieve to acknowledge Your Divine Glory.

R. We ask You, hear us.

P. Help the poor, console the afflicted, and deliver the oppressed.

R. We ask You, hear us.

P. Banish from our midst all quarrels and wars, lies, treachery and injustice; and make us all one in You.

R. We ask You, hear us.

P. Grant that, amidst the joys and sorrows of this life, we may always long for Your coming.

R. We ask You, hear us.

P. Have mercy on us in the day of judgement, and lead us all to the glory of eternal life.

R. We ask You, hear us.

Let us pray: For You are He who is to come in the splendor of the heavenly armies. You gather Your people at the Eucharistic Table, as You will one day gather them from all times and all nations to the wedding feast in Your Kingdom, where You live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in all eternity.

R. Amen.

ENTRANCE RITE (Luke 1:28.42; Judith 15:9b)

V. Hail favored one! The Lord is with you. Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

R. You are the glory of Jerusalem, the surpassing joy of Israel! You are the splendid boast of our people.

V. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

R. As it was in the beginning is now end ever shall be world without end. Amen.

I Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16

The Lord will always look after His people Israel.

GRADUAL (Matthew 1:18; Galatians 4:4)

V. Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

R. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.

II Reading: Romans 16:25-27

In the person of Jesus Christ the mystery of God's will for us all is revealed.

ALLELUIA (Jeremiah 32:27)

V. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. I am the Lord, the God of all mankind! Is anything impossible to Me?

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

Mary accepts graciously God's invitation to be the mother of God's Son.

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 132:11)

V. The Lord swore to David, a pledge never to be broken: "Your own offspring, I will set upon your throne".

COMMUNION VERSE (Zechariah 9:9)

V. Rejoice heartily, o daughter Zion, shout for joy, o Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king shall come to you.

May the Father support us through the length of our days. May the Son heal us and lead us to salvation. May the Holy Spirit help us say "yes" to God's new creation.

COMING EVENTS

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; Anthony and Barbara Ideson.** When you make a check for donations, please make them out to: **Holy Ghost PNCC.**

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.

FLOWER FUND: Again this year we will accept your donations for Poinsettias. These donations will enhance the beauty of our church altars for the glory of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. 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 Raymond Drada**, his family and parishioners of All Saints Parish in

Sterling Heights, MI.

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 19 – Rosemary Savitsky.



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

Joseph was a good man, and he came up with a good plan that made sense to him: He would divorce Mary quietly, and they could each go their separate ways. But God had another plan for Joseph, so He sent an angel who spoke to Joseph in a dream. How wonderful that Joseph believed what the angel said and took Mary into his home as his wife. Have you ever heard the voice of an angel? Maybe not, but have you ever changed your mind because you knew God wanted you to do something else? When we open our hearts to God's wishes rather than our own. And that will be wonderful, not only for ourselves but for the world.

Dear God, You show us the path for our lives. Lead us closer to You in these last days before Christmas. Amen.



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.



PROOF OF FAITH

Our obedience, by being prompt, simple, blind and cheerful, is the proof of our faith. If God loves a cheerful giver, how much more would He not love a “cheerful obeyer”? We must obey as Christ obeyed – unto death, even death on the cross. He saw the will of His Father in everything and everybody, so that He could say, *“I do the things in everything that are pleasing to Him.”* He submitted to them with obedience and dignity. He did not look at the human limitations of Caiaphas and Pilate. He looked at His Father, for whose love He submitted himself to them. Let us obey like Jesus and our lives would become pleasing to God and He would say, *“This is my beloved child in whom I am well pleased.”*

Mother Theresa of Calcuta

