

**Holy Ghost Parish**  
Polish National Catholic Church  
28 North Chestnut Street, Shenandoah, PA 17976  
[www.holyghostpncc.org](http://www.holyghostpncc.org)  
The Rev. Robert P. Plichta, M.A., Administrator  
Rectory: (570) 874-1960  
**E-mail:** [robertb1@ptd.net](mailto:robertb1@ptd.net)

**PNCC** website: [www.pncc.org](http://www.pncc.org)  
**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. Robert Nemkovich**  
Bishop Ordinary of the Central Diocese – **Right Rev. Anthony Mikovsky**  
Plymouth Seniorate Administrative Senior – **Very Rev. Thaddeus Dymkowski**  
Parish Committee Chairman – **Mr. Joseph Petrusky**



**Fourth Sunday of Advent – Cycle “C”**

**December 20, 2009**

“Smart is when you believe only half what you hear. Brilliant is when you know which half to believe.” – Orben’s Current Comedy

**Events for the Week**

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

**Today, December 20<sup>th</sup> – IV Sunday of Advent**

As the celebration of Christmas draws near, we prepare for the coming of Christ by rejoicing with Our Lady and her cousin Elizabeth as they witness the fulfillment of God’s promises to them.



**11:00AM – Holy Mass**, intention: for sp. **Phyllis Gurecki**, of. by Andruscavage/Komara family.

- Decorating the church for Christmas.
- The second weekly collection – second, third, fourth or fifth Sunday in the month - (after the Holy Mass) is for operation of the Holy Ghost parish – **THANK YOU!**

### **WEEKDAY READINGS:**

**December 21:** Ephesians 2:19-22; John 20:24-29; 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); **December 26:** Acts 6:8-10. 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22

### **MONDAY, December 21<sup>st</sup>** – Feast – St. Thomas, Apostle

*Among the apostles, Thomas is remembered mainly for his doubts about the resurrection of Christ. Eight days after the Resurrection, he made up for his unbelief with a profession of faith, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28). According to tradition, he preached the Gospel in India, where he was martyred.*

**9:00AM – Holy Mass** in Frackville.

### **TUESDAY, December 22<sup>nd</sup>** – *Advent Weekday*

**10:00AM – 5:00PM** – Fr. Robert works in the chancery (Scranton)

### **WEDNESDAY, December 23<sup>rd</sup>** – *Advent Weekday*

**9:00AM** – *Rorate* Mass in Shenandoah.

**6:00PM** – **Rorate Mass** at Frackville (in Polish).

### **THURSDAY, December 24<sup>th</sup>** – *Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord*

**7:00PM** – **Christmas Eve Mass of the Shepherds (Pasterka)**, and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Shenandoah; intention: for all **Parishioners**.

**10:00PM** – Christmas Eve Mass of the Shepherds (Pasterka), and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Frackville; intention: for all Parishioners.

### **FRIDAY, December 25<sup>th</sup>** – Solemnity – Nativity of our Lord

**9:30AM** – **Holy Mass** in Shenandoah, intention: for sp. **Ann Kowalonek** (Grande), of. by Children.

**11:00AM** – **Holy Mass** in Frackville.

### **SATURDAY, December 26<sup>th</sup>** – Feast – St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr

*St. Stephen was a deacon in the early Church and was the first Christian martyred for his faith. He was one of the seven deacons who helped the apostles and was “filled with faith and with the Holy Spirit”, and was “full of fortitude”. Stephen died praying for his executioners. The similarities between Stephen’s martyrdom and the crucifixion of Our Lord emphasize his imitation of Christ even unto the complete gift of self.*

**10:00AM – Holy Mass** in Frackville.

**NEXT SUNDAY, December 27<sup>th</sup> – Solemnity – Humble Shepherds**

**11:00AM – Holy Mass**, intention: for sp. Leon, Peter, Mary Andrews...(All Souls).

- Colelction for the Seminary.

### **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**

*(Micah 5:1)*

V. But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah,

**R. From you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel; Whose origin is from of old, from ancient times.**

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: Micah 5:1-4**

*The prophet Micah foretells how the one is to rule over Israel will be born in Bethlehem.*

### **THE GRADUAL**

*(Micah 5:3)*

V. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the Lord, in the majestic name of the Lord, his God.

**R. And they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth.**

**II Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10**

*Christ comes into the world to obey the will of God.*

### **THE ALLELUIA**

*(James 5:8)*

V. Alleluia, alleluia.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

V. You too must be patient. Make your heart firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45**

*Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, who greets her as the mother of her Lord.*

## 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.

With your faith strengthened by this celebration, go out with joy to share the good news of Christ's presence among us.

### COMING EVENTS

#### SHENANDOAH

**Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010** First Holy Communion Catechism Class – 9:00AM

**Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010**The Annual Parish Meeting

#### FRACKVILLE

Feb.7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 The Annual Parish Meeting

Feb.15 – March 21, 2010 Easter Egg Sale Project

### 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 greeter, the people working on fundraisers, the decorators, repair and maintenance people and members of the choir.

**THANK YOU** very much to **Joe Karvois** for help during the liturgy, on Sunday (December 6).

**THANK YOU** very much to everyone of you for preparing the **beautiful** Christmas Party two weeks ago. Thank you for all donations. May God bless you and everybody who came for the party.

**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.

**PARISH COMMITTEE** – Our PNCC is a democratic Church, where the members have a privilege to serve in the parish. It is a privilege and responsibility to help the church grow, and to be a member of the parish committee. If anyone is interested to help the Committee, please contact Fr. Robert or Mr. Joseph Petrusky. Thank you.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** Birthday best wishes are extended to: December 23 – Lee Sincavage; Dec. 26 – Kristin Whitecavage.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK** – especially for Margaret Kruszynski – Helen Menzyk - Connie Sincavage - Maurice Curcio – James Panco – Catherine Marasco - Edward Ryszka Jr.

**UPCOMING SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS:** **Dec. 25:** sp. Ann Kowalonek (Grande); **Dec. 27:** sp. Leon, Peter, Mary Andrews...(All Souls); **Jan. 3, 2010:** sp. Andruscavage, Komara, Wasser, Wychulis families (All Souls); **Jan. 10, 2010:** sp. Cichocki & Mallick families (All Souls).



Sacrament of Anointing

**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.

*“Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord...” (James 5:14). If you, or a member of your family are sick and would like to receive the Holy Communion at home, please notify the rectory.*

**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!

## **Advent Prayer**

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your Father and ours. Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord who enlists me in God's own work for justice.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy. I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord. Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the God who acted there, hearty gratitude for the life begun there, and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son.

I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent I hail. Amen.

## **The Tradition Spreads**

On December 6, 1492, Christopher Columbus landed in a part of what is now the country of Haiti. Grateful sailor that he was, he named this site after St. Nicholas. The Dutch brought their traditions of St. Nicholas Day to America in the 1700s. These traditions became very popular, especially in the 1800s. The Dutch called St. Nicholas “Sint-Niklass” which, of course, was translated into English as you guessed it – “Santa Claus.”

Throughout the 1800s, the stories and celebrations grew and also changed as Dutch traditions mixed with those of others who came to the United States, especially the German and the English.

Today we celebrate the spirit of Santa Claus on December 25 as part of our Christmas celebration, but it’s good to remember that it all started way back in history with the very brave, loving and faithful Bishop of Myra, who loved and shared because he wanted to follow Jesus.

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| <p><b>Receiving the Holy Eucharist</b> – 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 is placed on the tongue, not in the hand.</p> |
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