

**Holy Ghost Parish
Polish National Catholic Church**

Shenandoah, PA 17976

Rectory: 570-874-1960

Website: www.holyghostpncc.org

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

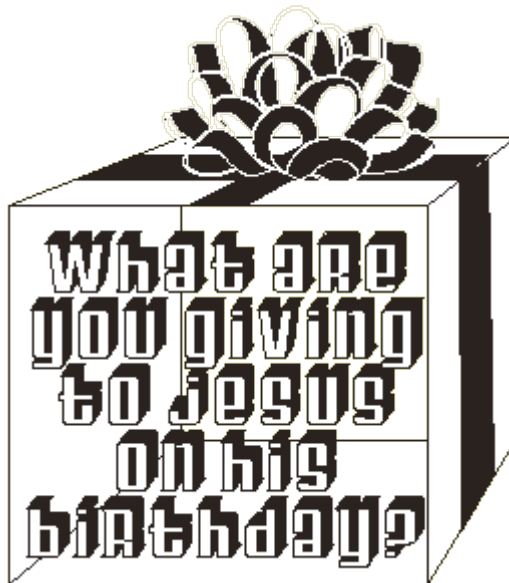
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PNCC website: www.pncc.org

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. Bernard J. Nowicki**
Plymouth Seniorate Administrative Senior – **Very Rev. Thaddeus Dymkowski**
Parish Committee Chairman – **Mr. Joseph Petrusky**



Fourth Sunday of Advent - "A"

Czwarta Niedziela Adwentu

December 22, 2013

EVENTS for the WEEK

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

Today, December 22nd – IV Sunday of Advent

In these days before Christmas we rejoice together in hope as we become especially aware that Christ is present in our lives and in our world.

10:45AM – Advent Penitential Service with the Sacrament of Penance.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS:

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; **December 27:** 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a.2-8; **December 28:** 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18;

TUESDAY, December 24th - Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord

8:00PM – Holy Mass of Shepherds (Pasterka); intention: for all **Parishioners** and **Friends**.
10:00PM – Holy Mass of Shepherds in Frackville.

WEDNESDAY, December 25th - Solemnity – Nativity of our Lord

9:30AM – Holy Mass in Shenandoah.
11:00AM – Holy Mass in Frackville.

THURSDAY, December 26th – 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.

FRIDAY, December 27th – Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

Born in Bethsaida, a fisherman, he was called to follow Jesus while mending his nets. Known as the “beloved disciple”, John wrote the fourth Gospel, three Epistles, and the Book of Revelation. His passages on the preexistence of the Word, who by his Incarnation became the light of the world and the life of our souls, are among the finest of the New Testament. He is the evangelist of Christ’s divinity and fraternal love. With James, his brother, and Simon Peter he was present at the Lord’s Transfiguration. At the Last Supper, he learns on the Master’s breast. At the foot of the cross, Jesus entrusts his mother to his care. John’s pure life kept him very close to Jesus and Mary. John was exiled to the island of Patmos under Emperor Domitian.

5:00PM – Holy Mass in Frackville.

SATURDAY, December 28th - *Within the Octave of the Nativity* – Holy Innocents, Martyrs

The Church celebrates the memory of the twenty or so babies whom Herod put to death in his attempt to kill Jesus. These innocent victims thus bear witness to Christ to a world unwilling to receive him.

10:00AM – Holy Mass in Frackville; intention: for **Children**.

NEXT SUNDAY, December 29th – Solemnity – Humble Shepherds

11:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for Sp. Ann Kowalonek.Grande, of. by Children.

▲ Collection 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.

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 (John 11:27; Psalm 90:2)

V. Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, the One Who is coming into the world.

R. Before the mountains were begotten and the earth and the world brought forth, from eternity to eternity You are God.

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 7:10-14

The prophecy in this reading from Isaiah speaks of the intervention of God in human history. A child will be born, called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us".

GRADUAL (Sirach 43:30,28)

V. Awesome indeed is the Lord's majesty, and wonderful is His power.

R. More than this we need not add; let the last word be, He is all in all!

II Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Salvation is offered through Christ Jesus, the Son of God, whose coming into the world is good news.

ALLELUIA (Revelations 22:16)

V. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. I, Jesus, sent My angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, the bright morning star.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-24

This is the fulfilment of the prophecy given in the first reading, telling the story of Mary conceiving a child through the Holy Spirit and giving birth to a son named Emmanuel.

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.

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

COMING EVENTS

GENERAL CHURCH

Sep. 29th–Oct. 3rd, 2014 - 24th General Synod of the PNCC (Erie, PA)

SHENANDOAH

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Mass 8:00PM

Dec. 25th Christmas Day Mass 9:30AM

FRACKVILLE – Each **First Friday** on the month – Private Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament (5:00PM – 7:00PM)

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Mass 10:00PM

Dec. 25th Christmas Day Mass 11:00AM

Feb. 2, 2014 Annual Parish Meeting
March 3, 2014 Pastors Seniorate Meeting (1:00PM)

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.

PLEASE CALL FR. ROBERT - ..if you or your relative are admitted to a hospital and nursing home; ..if your telephone number or address change; ..if you have a prayer concern.

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS – in case of your inability to come to church on any particular Sunday, please mail or submit your Sunday offerings and donations to our parish. Your church needs your financial support in order to pay utilities and expenses.

THIS WEEK PRAYER: for **Father Bogdan Jurczynski**, his family and parishioners of Our Lord's Ascension Parish in Bethlehem, 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, 2013. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS: Dec. 29: Sp. Ann Kowalonek.Grande.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Birthday best wishes are extended to: December 16 – Helen Menzyk; December 23 – Lee Sincavage; December 26 – Kristin Whitecavage.

Helen Menzyk
Drums, PA -



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK – especially for: Bishop John Mack – Very Rev. Wiesław Pietruszka -
– James Panco - Connie Sincavage – Frank Gill. Dolores Halaburda – Victoria Plichta. **Providence Palace**
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.

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!



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.

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.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO LIVE ALONE

I live alone, dear Lord, stay by my side. In all my daily needs please be my guide. Grant me good health, for that indeed, I pray, to carry out my work each day. Keep pure my mind, my thoughts and every deed, let me be kind, unselfish in my neighbor's need. Spare me from fire, from flood, and malicious tongues, from thieves, from fear and evil ones. If sickness or an accident befall, then humbly, Lord, I pray hear thou my voice, my call. And when I am feeling low, or in despair, lift up my heart and help me in my prayer. I live alone, dear Lord, yet have no fear, because I feel Your gracious presence ever near. **Amen.**

