

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**



Solemnity – Nativity of our Lord– Cycle “B”

Uroczystość Bożego Narodzenia

December 25, 2011

“A Christless Christmas is something else – and less – than Christmas”.

EVENTS for the WEEK

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

Today, December 25th – Nativity of Our Lord

Today we celebrate God's closeness to us in Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem and with us always. We gather to give thanks and praise to God for the mystery of Christmas.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS:

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; **December 29:** 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35; **December 30:** 1
John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40; **December 31:** 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18

MONDAY, December 26th - Feast – St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr
9:00AM – Holy Mass in Frackville.

TUESDAY, December 27th - Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
9:00AM – Holy Mass in Frackville.

WEDNESDAY, December 28th - Holy Innocents
9:00AM – Holy Mass in Frackville, intention: for **Children** and **Youth** from our Congregations.

SATURDAY, December 31st - Solemnity – Holy Family/New Year's Eve
9:00AM – Holy Mass in Shenandoah.
11:00AM – Holy Mass in Frackville.

NEXT SUNDAY, January 1st, 2012 - Solemnity – Circumcision of our Lord/New Year's Day
11:00AM – Holy Mass, intention: for all **Parishioners**.
▲ Collection for mission.

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 (Isaiah 9:5; Psalm 98:1a)

V. A Child has been born for us, a Son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

R. Sing a new song to the Lord, Who has done wondrous deeds.

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 52:7-10

Isaiah foretells the coming of the Lord: it is to be a time of great rejoicing, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of God.

THE GRADUAL (Psalm 98:3b-4,2)

V. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

R. Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth; the Lord has made His victory known; has revealed His triumph for the nations to see.

II Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

All the prophecies of old have been fulfilled by God in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ. All the angels worship Jesus, who sits at the right hand of God.

THE ALLELUIA

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. A sanctified day has shown upon us; come you nations, and adore the Lord: for this day a great Light has descended upon the earth.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: John 1:1-18

St. John reflects on the mystery of the incarnation, where the eternal Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us. In Him, we see God's glory.

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 89:12,15a)

V. Yours are the heavens, Yours is the earth; You founded the world and everything in it. Justice and judgment are the foundation of Your throne.

COMMUNION VERSE (Psalm 98:3b)

V. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

May the God who made you, watch over you. May the God who cherishes you, guide you. May the God who holds you, sustain you.

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.**

THANK YOU: very much to all of our Parishioners who so beautifully decorated our church for Christmas.

Mr. John Golba and Ms. Mary Ann Hoppes purchased the new Paschal Candle to our Parish. Thank you, very much!

THANK YOU – very much to **Joe Karvois** and **Dylan Whitecavage** for their help at the altar.

THANK YOU very much to our Parishioners for sending Christmas wishes to the rectory. Thank you to

everyone who remember Fr. Robert and his family sending cards and all gifts during this Christmas time! May God bless you!

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 **the Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak**, his family, and parishioners of the Holy Cross Parish in Hamtramck, 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 26 – Kristin Whitecavage.



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 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 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.

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.