

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 2, 2018 – **First Sunday of Advent**

- **9:30 AM Holy Mass**

Monday, December 3, 2018 – **Advent Weekday**

Tuesday, December 4, 2018 – **Advent Weekday**

Wednesday, December 5, 2018 – **Advent Weekday**

Thursday, December 6, 2018 – **Feast – St. Nicholas, Bishop**

Friday, December 7, 2018 – **Advent Weekday**

Saturday, December 8, 2018 – **Solemnity – Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Sunday, December 9, 2018 – **Second Sunday of Advent**

- **9:30 AM Holy Mass**

FAITH SHARING

Advent is a time of waiting for Christ, allowing Jesus to be reborn in our lives. It is also a time for purifying our hearts by repentance and for renewing our lives by reflecting on and experiencing the several comings (advents) of Christ into our lives. Besides his first coming at his birth, Jesus comes to our lives through the Sacraments (especially the Eucharist), through the Word of God, through the worshipping community, at the moment of our death and, finally, in his *Second Coming* to judge the world.



**Advent season reminds us
that we celebrate
the first coming of Jesus
and we keep waiting
for his second coming in glory.**

CHURCH GUTTERS CLEANING

Our church building gutters were clogged for last few years after church roof replacement. Little pieces of the old roof, shingles and debris blocked the way for rain water. Our neighbors complained about ice on the sidewalk and rain water spraying like fountains during storms from our gutters. All six lines (church and church hall) have been jetted last Friday. Two lines on Melrose St. side are still partially blocked. Plumbers were able to make some way for rain water to go to the city sewage system, however it might still need work with heavier equipment in the future.

Clogged gutters caused a roof damage in our church hall on Melrose St. side. It needs to be fix as soon as possible before snowy days.

GAS LEAK IN OUR CHURCH HALL

We could all smell gas in our church hall during broken heating work. This gas pipe damage due to its age has been repaired already last week. Another problem is fixed. God is gracious to us.

BROKEN HEATING – UPDATE

Few sensors and meters were replaced already in our heating system. It seems to be working properly right now, but there is no guarantee that it still will if temperature outside will drop when winter comes. Furnace has to work longer and heavier then.

Plumbers were considering a replacement only the burner/blower but it is impossible. There were discontinued 17 years ago. There is no chance to get one like this. The similar to it won't fit the boiler. There is still one more part (~\$700) which maybe need to be replaced in the power burner.

In case of another failure the only option is a replacement of the whole system, boiler and burner. This might cost us \$31,500.00 (parts and labor).

We need your help. Sunday offerings are not enough to cover our bills. Only few families and individuals pay parish dues. There are many parishioners who did not support St. Valentine's for decades. Shame to say, but recently we got more support from our friends and sympathizers than from registered parishioners. If you can make some donations, please be as generous as possible. Every dollar makes a difference. Your donations will be highly appreciated.

DONATIONS

May God bless you for donations you have made already for repairing our church heating system. Few families and individuals sent us checks for this project. If you need a receipt for your taxes, please let us know.

However, those donations can't cover the cost of repair or replacement yet. We ask **ALL** our Parishioners and Friends to be responsible for your church. Only together we can do it.

FUNDRAISING CHRISTMAS DINNER AT ST. VALENTINE'S



On Third Sunday of Advent, **December 16**, 2018 I'd like to invite all Parishioners and Friends with your Families to Annual Christmas Parish Dinner. This will help us to raise money for our broken heating.

Your donations and your help in this event is needed. Please let me know if you can help me and my wife in cooking, church hall decorating, etc.

SPECIAL PARISH MEETING

Special Parish Meeting is necessary to make few decisions about our Parish. We have to pray together and talk to each other about few possible ways our Parish should go. The date will be announced soon. Before that meeting few delegates from our Parish will meet with Bishop of Central Diocese to talk about St. Valentine's future.

WHO IS ST. NICHOLAS? WHO IS SANTA CLAUS? ARE THEY THE SAME?

How did the kindly Christian saint, good Bishop Nicholas, become a roly-poly red-suited American symbol for merry holiday festivity and commercial activity? The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.



Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, December 6th.

In 1863, during the Civil War, political cartoonist Thomas Nast began a series of annual black-and-white drawings in *Harper's Weekly*, based on the descriptions found in the poem and Washington Irving's work. These drawings established a rotund Santa with flowing beard, fur garments, and an omnipresent clay pipe. As Nast drew Santas until 1886, his work had considerable influence in forming the American Santa Claus. Along with appearance changes, the saint's name shifted to Santa Claus – a natural phonetic alteration from the German *Sankt Nikolaus*.



Santa was then portrayed by dozens of artists in a wide variety of styles, sizes, and colors. However by the end of the 1920s, a standard American Santa – life-sized in a red, fur-trimmed suit became a popular Christmas image. He appeared in magazines, on billboards, and shop counters. This commercial success led to the North American Santa Claus being exported around the world where he threatens to overcome the European St. Nicholas, who has retained his identity as a Christian bishop and saint.

PIEROGI SALE

If you want to help St. Valentine's Parish to resolve our financial problems, please consider to buy homemade pierogies for your Christmas table. Available will be potato&cheese, potato&onion, saurkraut and sauerkraut&mushrooms pierogies beginning next Sunday, Dec 16. Please use the order form. All orders must be pre-paid.

ST. VALENTINE'S PNCC PIEROGI ORDER FORM

One dozen pierogi **\$8.00**

(All pierogi are frozen)

Pre-paid orders accepted until Sunday, December 16th
(checks made out to: **St. Valentine's PNCC**)

Pick up dates:

Sunday, December 16th after Mass in Parish Hall

Wednesday, December 19th please call 215-535-4978

Thursday, December 20th please call 215-535-4978

Friday, December 21st please call 215-535-4978

Sunday, December 23rd after Mass in Parish Hall

Please select from the following flavors:

_____ (1 doz.) Potato & Cheese

_____ (1 doz.) Potato & Onion

_____ (1 doz.) Sauerkraut only

_____ (1 doz.) Sauerkraut & Mushroom

Name:

Phone:

of dozen: _____

\$ amount: _____

MINI CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Due to broken, unstable heating I was not sure if we can organize mini Christmas Bazaar. But honestly speaking, we have no choice. Instead of counting on donations only, or wealthy sponsor, or some miracle we have to get to work.



Years of negligence in maintaining our church hall must result in serious rain water damages in the basement and on second floor as well as underneath the church building. Moreover, the boiler working on the edge of safety, force us to stand up and say loudly and seriously **“I am responsible for my church!”** or **“I don’t care, don’t bother me!”**.

Each one of us has to make a choice and stand on this or that side. There is no middle ground. If you still love your church, say it. If you don’t, say it as well. Then I will know whom I can ask for help, with whom I can work, with whom I can continue St. Valentine’s rescue mission. We don’t need any bystanders, doubters, or cynic laughers! We need here serious people who think wisely, who are not childish and upset or whispering behind my back.

Rise, famous St. Valentine’s Parish, and help me to rebuild this community and the property! It’s not too late yet.

Please make donations for our Bazaar of new and used, only Christmas related items. Although we have very short time, I am sure that you can help. As usually.

HOLY MASS INTENTION – THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT

Shopping, shopping, shopping... At this time of the year our minds are full of wonders what we can give to our beloved for Christmas. However, we usually think of those around us. We get some presents for them only.

Let me be a voice of those who passed away, those who can’t seat at your Christmas table any more. Please don’t forget about them in your prayers, because they never forget to pray for you.

And yes, they deserved to get some gift from you for Christmas. The Eucharist, the Holy Mass offered for them will be your perfect gift for your beloved dead. There is nothing better than that if you offer the Mass for somebody. Masses are available in our parish calendar every Sunday and every day of the week. Just let me know. I’m here to serve, and I will say Holy Mass whenever you ask me.



ST. VALENTINE’S PARISH

Polish National Catholic Church

2330 Margaret St, Philadelphia, PA 19137, (215) 535-4978

www.stvalentinespncc.org, stvalentinespncc@gmail.com

Sunday Mass: 9:30 AM (English)



1st Sunday of Advent

1 Niedziela Adwentu

December 2, 2018



MASS INTENTION REQUEST FORM

Mass for _____

Date Requested _____ Time _____

Requested by _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ - _____ - _____ Amount \$ _____

Please mail this form and Mass stipend to: St. Valentine’s PNCC, 2330 Margaret St, Philadelphia, PA 19137 or call parish office at (215) 535-4978.