

# **90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration 1927-2017**

## **Our Lord's Ascension Parish Polish National Catholic Church**



**“I am with you always, until the end of  
the world”**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2017  
10:30 A.M.  
BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA**



**Celebrant:** **The Right Reverend Bernard J. Nowicki,**  
**DD,**  
- Bishop Ordinary of the Central Diocese of  
the Polish National Catholic Church

**Homilist:** **The Most Reverend Anthony A.**  
**Mikovsky**  
- Prime Bishop of the Polish National  
Catholic Church

**Pastor:** **The Rev. Bogdan Yurchishin**

**Deacons:** **Rev. Mr. Joseph Kielbasa**  
**Rev. Mr. David Gaydos**

**Lectors:** **Barbara Therese Yurchishin**  
**Magda Anastasia Yurchishin**

**Organist:** **Mark Bennett**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**  
**“Blessed Is He”**

**B.** Our help is in the name ✠ of the Lord

**R.** Who made heaven and earth.

**B.** Blessed is he who **R.** Trusts in God Almighty. And he who hopes in God’s most gracious mercy. He shall acknowledge: “God is my protector. In life’s dark journey, I shall fear no danger. I shall fear no danger.”

From all the powr's of evil God shall save him, of nature's forces, he shall ne'er fall victim. Under the pinions of the Lord Almighty, in God's protection, he shall dwell in safety, he shall dwell in safety.

Savior, we heed Thy wond'rous invitation, and we accept the strength of Thy protection. Lord, in Thy mercy, keep us safe forever, and in life's journey, Lord, forsake us never, Lord, forsake us never!

*The Prime Bishop, the Most Reverend Anthony A. Mikowsky, and the Bishop Ordinary, the Right Reverend Bernard J. Nowicki, DD, will be greeted at the entrance to the sanctuary, with traditional gifts of bread and salt, by Dan Broczkowski, Chairman of the Parish Committee and Mrs Nancy Poposki, Financial Secretary of the Parish.*

## THE HYMN OF FAITH

**STAND**

To Thee we come, o Lord, our God, Before Thine altar, Father.

Thou knowest best our yearning hearts; This supplication answer.

Lift up from want Thy people, Lord, Bless us o God, o Father bless our toil.

Under Thy Cross we stand prepared, To serve Thee with devotion;

Be it with sweat of blood or tears, Or humble resignation. For we Thy people are, o Lord, Save us o God, o Father bless our toil.

**Celebrant:** The Lord God in his goodness has blessed us with 90 years of mission and ministry as Our Lord's Ascension Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church. We are a remembering people, and it is good that we remember that God has chosen us, baptized us, and brought us together as the Church of Christ in this place.

We are a remembering people, but we are also a people of this day, brought together by God to be a holy fellowship of believers: the Body of Christ, sharing, caring, working in the world, and living in the hope of the world to come.

Our eyes look back with thanksgiving. Our eyes look forward in hope. Therefore, with thanksgiving for the past and hope for the future, let us dedicate ourselves and our lives to the mission which God gives us as the Church of Jesus Christ in this place.

## THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS INTRODUCTORY RITE

**STAND**

**Celebrant:** In the name of the Father ✠ and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Response:** Amen.

**Celebrant:** Lord, bless us with the wisdom to praise You in spirit and in truth so that, by following Your holy will, we may gain eternal salvation.

**Response:** Amen.

## THE PENITENTIAL RITE

**KNEEL**

**I confess to Almighty God, in the presence of the Blessed Virgin Mary all the saints and you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault (*striking the breast three times and continuing*) in my thoughts, in my words in what I have done or failed to do. I ask the Blessed Virgin Mary all the saints and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord, our God.**

*Penance is assigned here.*

**C.** May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

**C.** May our Lord, Jesus Christ absolve you and, with His authority vested in me, I absolve you from all your sins; in the name of the Father, ✠ the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

## THE ENTRANCE HYMN (Psalm 22:26.150:1)

**C. I will offer praise in the great assembly; my vows I will fulfill before those who fear Him.**

**R.** Praise God in His holy sanctuary; give praise in the mighty dome of heaven.

**C. 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

## THE KYRIE

**C.** Lord have mercy.

**R. Lord have mercy.**

- C. Christ have mercy.  
R. **Christ have mercy.**  
C. Lord have mercy.  
R. **Lord have mercy.**

## THE GLORIA

**STAND**

**Glory to God in the Highest**, and peace to His people on earth. Lord, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of ✠ God the Father. Amen.

## THE OPENING PRAYER

**STAND**

- C. Peace be with you  
R. **And also with you.**

C. Let us pray.

Almighty Father this day we celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization of Our Lord's Ascension Parish. We give You thanks for Your grace and blessing and we remember the dedication of the faithful members of this parish. As we continue to worship You in sincerity, help us experience and share Your saving love. We ask this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**SIT**

### THE FIRST READING (Isaiah 63:7-9)

L. A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The favors of the Lord I will recall, the glorious deeds of the Lord, because of all He has done for us; for He is good to the house of

Israel, He has favored us according to His mercy and His great kindness. He said: They are indeed My people, children who are not disloyal; so He became their savior in their every affliction. It was not a messenger or an angel, but He himself who saved them. Because of His love and pity He redeemed them himself, lifting them and carrying them all the days of old.

**L.** This is the Word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### **THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10)**

**R. Praise the Lord, my soul!**

Blessed he who keeps faith forever,\*secures justice for the oppressed,\*gives food to the hungry \*The LORD sets captives free.

**R. Praise the Lord, my soul!**

The LORD gives sight to the blind\*The LORD raises up those who were bowed down;\*the LORD loves the just.\*The LORD protects strangers.

**R. Praise the Lord, my soul!**

The fatherless and the widow he sustains,\*but the way of the wicked he thwarts.\*The LORD shall reign forever,\*your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia.

**R. Praise the Lord, my soul!**

### **THE SECOND READING (1 Corinthians 1:3-9)**

**L.** A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in Him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by Him you were called to fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**L.** This is the Word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### **ALLELUIA VERSE**

**V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

V. **The Word of the Lord stands for ever; it is the Word given to you, the Good News.**

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### THE GOSPEL (John 17:11.17-23)

**STAND**

**Deacon:** The Lord be with you.

R. **And also with you.**

D. ✠ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

R. **Glory be to You, Lord.**

And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name that You have given Me, so that they may be one just as we are one. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth. "I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, so that they may all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And I have given them the glory You gave Me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and You in Me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that You sent Me, and that You loved them even as You loved Me.

D. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R. **Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**KNEEL**

### HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest, And in our hearts take up Thy rest;  
Come with Thy grace and heav'nly aid To fill the hearts which Thou  
hast made, To fill the hearts which Thou hast made.

### THE HOMILY

**SIT**

The Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky  
The Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church

## THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Barbara Therese Yurchishin

Magda Anastasia Yurchishin

### HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Comfort Blest to Thee we cry, Thou heav'nly Gift of God most high; Thou fount of life and fire of love, And sweet anointing from above, And sweet anointing from above.

Praise be to Thee Father and Son, And Holy Spirit Three in one; And may the Son on us bestow The gifts that from the Spirit flow, The gifts that from the Spirit flow.

### THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

**C.** The Lord be with you

**R.** And also with you

### GENERAL INTERCESSION

**STAND**

**Celebrant:** Because we are a living temple for God in the Spirit, let us invoke the grace and peace of Jesus Christ for the Church and the world.

**Lector:** Our response is: "Lord, hear our prayer."

**L.** For the Polish National Catholic Church together with Prime Bishop Anthony, may our faithful people be filled with the Holy Spirit's life and gifts. Rejoicing in God, our Savior, we pray:

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**L.** For the Central Diocese and our Bishop Bernard, may the church in this local continue to proclaim the glories of God in Word and Sacrament. Rejoicing in God, our Savior, we pray:

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**L.** For this parish community together with our Pastor Bogdan, may our faith, hope and love flourish through the intercession and protection of Blessed Mary and All the Saints. Rejoicing in God, our Savior, we pray:

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**L.** For all who enter these doors in search of God's peace and healing love, may they find us to be a rich haven of compassion and a vibrant

community of faith in the risen Christ. Rejoicing in God, our Savior, we pray:

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**L.** For two young people who just were confirmed, may the Holy Spirit who descended upon the apostles at Pentecost, descend upon them and make them the faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Rejoicing in God, our Savior, we pray:

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**L.** For all who will proclaim God's word here and celebrate the sacraments of life, may those who minister in our midst be received as instruments of Christ's love for the Church. Rejoicing in God, our Savior, we pray:

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**L.** For all who helped to build this house of prayer, because of their love for God and the Church, may their generosity and dedication be pleasing in God's sight. Rejoicing in God, our Savior, we pray:

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**L.** For our beloved who passed away, may they be found praising God in the company of the angels and saints. Rejoicing in God, our Savior, we pray:

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**L.** For ourselves who proclaim the dying and rising of the Lord at this table of unity, may the Eucharist be the center of our lives together. Rejoicing in God, our Savior, we pray:

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Celebrant:** God ever gracious and kind, receive our prayers, and by the power of Your Holy Spirit keep us united in Christ, who intercedes for us at Your right hand. Grant this through Christ, our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## **OFFERTORY HYMN**

### **“Here I am Lord”**

I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in deepest sin, My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I  
will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I the Lord of snow and rain, I have born My people's pain. I have  
wept for love of them, They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, Give the hearts for love alone. I will  
speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I  
will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set  
a feast for them, My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide, Till their hearts be satisfied. I will give  
my life to them, Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I  
will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.

**SIT**

**C.** Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation. Through Your goodness  
we have this bread to offer; which earth has given and human hands  
have made. May it become for us the bread of life.

By the mystery of this wine and ✠ water may we come to share in the  
divinity of Christ, Who humbled Himself to share in our humanity.

*The celebrant takes the chalice  
and elevates it above the altar, saying:*

**C.** Blessed are You, Lord of all creation. Through Your goodness, we  
have this wine to offer; fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
May it become our spiritual drink.

**C.** Lord God, we ask You to receive us and be pleased with the  
sacrifice we offer You with humble and contrite hearts.

**C.** Come, Holy Spirit, and bless ✠ this sacrifice which we have  
prepared for the glory of Your Holy Name.

*The celebrant washes his hands, saying:*

Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.

Receive this offering, most Holy Trinity, which we make in memory of the passion, resurrection and ascension of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints. May they, whose memory we honor on earth, intercede for us in heaven.

*Addressing the congregation with hands extended, the celebrant says:*

**STAND**

**C.** Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R. May the Lord accept this sacrifice from your hands, for the praise and glory of His Name for our good and for the benefit of His holy Church.**

### **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

**C.** Lord Jesus Christ as we recall the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this parish we thank You for having filled this Church with Your glory and holiness. May the offering of this bread and wine, as well as our lives, be acceptable to You. For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING [Preface]**

**STAND**

**C.** The Lord be with you.

**R. And also with you.**

**C.** Lift up your hearts.

**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**

**C.** Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**R. It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

*At the conclusion of the Preface he joins his hands and, together with the people, sings or says:*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed ✠ is**

**He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER V**

**Union of Utrecht Canon**

**KNEEL**

Blessed are You, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Father of mercy and God of all consolation.

For You so loved the world that You gave Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

He then established a lasting memorial of Your salvation. On the evening in which He willingly surrendered Himself, He took bread, gave You thanks, blessed it and broke it, saying:

**Take this, all of you, and eat it:  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY  
WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU.**

When supper had ended, He took the cup. In the same way He gave You thanks, blessed it, saying:

**Take this, all of you, and drink from it:**

**FOR THIS IS THE CUP OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF  
THE NEW AND EVERLASTING COVENANT, WHICH  
SHALL BE SHED FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE  
FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

**As often as you do this, do it in remembrance of Me.**

So, we recall before You, Father, the Incarnation of Your Son, His words and deeds, how He humbled Himself and obediently accepted death, even death on the cross.

Therefore, You have raised Him up and given Him a Name which is above every name, so that in heaven and under the earth every knee shall bow and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God the Father: Jesus Christ is Lord.

We offer this Sacrifice of Your Son before You, Father, with praise and thanksgiving and ask that You accept this oblation.

Send Your Holy Spirit and fill these Gifts with His life-giving power

that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Your dearly beloved Son. Grant that the Bread which we break may be the Body of our Lord and the Cup over which we give thanks may be one with the Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

In the company of Mary, the Mother of God, with Your apostles and martyrs, with holy Willibrord and all the saints, together with N., our Prime Bishop, and N., our Bishop, and with all bishops, priests and deacons, as well as Your whole Church, we praise and glorify You and look forward to the coming of Your beloved Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Through Him, with Him, in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are Yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**STAND**

**C.** Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**C.** Deliver us Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In Your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**R. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, now and for ever.**

### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

**C.** The Cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the Blood of Christ? The Bread which we break, is it not a participation in the Body of Christ?

**R. Because there is on Bread we who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one Bread.**

**C.** May the union of the divinity and humanity in Jesus Christ bring us sanctification and eternal life.

**R. Amen.**

**C.** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R. And also with you.**

*The deacon adds:*

**D.** Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

**All: Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

### **COMMUNION PRAYER**

**KNEEL**

**C.** Let us pray together:

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit, Your death brought life to the world. By Your holy Body and Blood free me from all my sins and from every evil. Keep me faithful to Your teaching and never let me be parted from You.**

**C.** I will take the Bread of Heaven and call upon the name of the Lord.

*Celebrant and Congregation together say once:*

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive You,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*The celebrant says:*

May the Body of Christ bring me to everlasting life.

*The celebrant reverently consumes the sacred Host.*

*Taking the Chalice, he says:*

May the Blood of Christ bring me to everlasting life.

*The celebrant consumes the Blood of Christ*

## THE COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

C. This is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to the table of the Lord.

### COMMUNION HYMNS “Hallowed Be Forever” - 155

### COMMUNION VERSE (1 Corinthians 3:16b-17)

C. You are the temple of God, and God's Spirit dwells in you. The temple of God is holy; you are that temple.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**STAND**

C. Let us pray.

Lord and Savior, we know the joy and power of Your blessing in our lives, especially as we celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Saint John the Baptist Parish. Strengthen us by Your Body and Blood, that we may rededicate ourselves to serve You through Your holy Church. For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

### Pastor's remarks

### THE BISHOP'S BLESSINGS *The Bishop kisses the altar, then sings:*

**KNEEL**

B. Peace be with you.

R. **And also with you.**

B. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

R. **Now and forever.**

B. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. **Who made heaven and earth.**

B. May the almighty God bless you: the ✠ Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy ✠ Spirit.

R. Amen.

*Facing the people, the deacon sings or says:*

**Deacon:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

## **R. Thanks be to God.**

### **HYMN OF THE PNCC**

Through the years unto Thee, O Lord, Faithful service we have rendered,  
At the break of dawn marched sunward, At the chains of bondage straining,  
At the chains of bondage straining.

Would to God we be faithful ever, Would to God this sacred banner  
In our souls and hearts be opened, Until death our life does sever,  
Until death our life does sever.

### **RECESIONAL HYMN**

#### **“The Church’s One Foundation”**

The Church’s one foundation\* Is Jesus Christ her Lord;\* She is His  
new creation\* By water and the Word.\* From heav’n He came and  
sought her\* To be His holy bride;\* With His own blood He bought  
her\* And for her life He died.

Elect from ev’ry nation,\* Yet one o’er all the earth,\* Her charter of  
salvation.\* One Lord, one faith, one birth.\* One holy name she  
blesses,\* Partakes one holy food,\* And to one hope she rests,\* With  
ev’ry grace endued.

Through toil and tribulation,\* And tumult of her war,\* She waits the  
consummation\* Of peace forevermore\* Till with the vision glorious\*  
Her longing eyes are blest,\* And the great church victorious\* Shall be  
the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union\* With God, the Three in One,\* And mystic  
sweet communion\* With those whose rest is won.\* O blessed heav’nly  
chorus!\* Lord, save us by Your grace\* That we, like saints before us.\*  
May see You face to face.

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.  
At this anniversary we reflect on your past help and are encour-  
aged in our hope for the future.

We praise you for keeping and sustaining your people throughout the ages and for preserving the preaching of your Word and the administration of your Sacraments among us. We praise you also for using us to touch others with the good news that sinners are reconciled to you through the life and death of Jesus Christ.

Now we ask you to give us courage and hope as we move day by day into the future. Keep safe all those who assemble here in your name. Do not permit the evil one to pluck us out of your mighty hand. Strengthen us in the confidence that you have already overcome our greatest enemies: sin, death and the devil. Increase our trust in your precious promise that you are with us always. Cause your Holy Spirit to work mightily in us and through us, so that we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Be with us as we strive to pass down to our children the truths that have been passed down to us. Continue to make our congregation a beacon of your light in this sin-darkened world.

*Dear Parishioners and Friends,*

*Ninety years has passed since our parish came to life and has been called to grow in the knowledge and love of God.*

*Today we give thanks to God for all his generousities in love, in graces, and in every good work He has allowed this parish to do over the past ninety years. Let us ask the Holy Spirit for His guidance in all our doings, that we may reflect Jesus Christ's presence in every way.*

*May the Holy Word of the Scripture echo in every soul of this parish: "We do not cease praying for you and asking you that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding to live in a manner worthy of the Lord, so as to be fully pleasing, in every good work bearing fruit and growing in the knowledge of God."*

*God Bless You,  
Fr. Bogdan Yurchishin, Pastor*