

PNCC– Questions/Answers

Do you have to be Polish to join the Polish National Catholic Church (PNCC)?

Do you have to be Roman to join the Roman Catholic Church (RCC)? Of course not. The PNCC was organized by Polish immigrants in 1897, but has diversified in the same manner as the rest of America. We embrace all, of any race or ethnicity, who are seeking to find Jesus through the Sacraments and through a community of believers.

What is the difference between the Polish National Catholic Church and the Roman Catholic Church?

The main difference is the fact that the PNCC is non-papal, meaning that the Church is not under the jurisdiction of the Pope and the Vatican. Another difference is that the Constitution of the Church is set up democratically, meaning that the laypeople/parishioners have power in the Church by having ownership of its resources.

And what language is Mass celebrated?

The language of the people; at St. Francis Church it is English. The PNCC was a pioneer in this regard, celebrating Holy Mass in the vernacular over 100 years ago. The language of the people may be English, Spanish, Polish, Lithuanian, Slovak, or whatever; the point is that the aspirations of God's people are met.

What kind of religious services does the PNCC have?

The focal point of the PNCC's religious worship is the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass. Contained in the PNCC Pew book are three (3) different Rites of the Holy Mass. These are Traditional (similar in liturgy to the Tridentine Rite); Contemporary (modeled on the Ordo Missae) and a unique Traditional Mass compiled by our founder and first Prime Bishop, Francis Hodur. Also, various prayer services, litanies, Penance services, and other paraliturgical services are celebrated throughout the year.



For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them”.

—Matthew 18:20

Jesus Christ came to this world, sent by His Father. He was born of the Virgin Mary and became one of us. He

came to people to announce to them the Good News of redemption. He called on the Apostles to preach the Gospel after He would leave this world. He established the Church, of which the Apostles are the foundation.

When He was returning to God, He said to the Apostles that He will not leave them alone but would send the Holy Spirit. He said to them:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the ages”.

—Matthew 28:18-20

For two thousand years, the successors of the Apostles proclaim Jesus' Gospel. Today, Jesus' Gospel is proclaimed in the whole world by many: Bishops, priests, deacons and lay people.

Every parish community is made of parishioners and their pastor who helps them on their road to God. In the parishioners' name, he presents to God their prayers, petitions, and thanksgiving, in their times of trial, happiness and sadness. Through his intervention, through the sacrifice of the Holy Mass and the sacraments, people receive God's grace, blessings, and forgiveness of sins. The priest is the spiritual mediator between God and His people.

Please take your chance to meet with God—come to pray and worship Him in our church—St. Francis Church (PNCC).

May God bless you,
Fr. Andrew

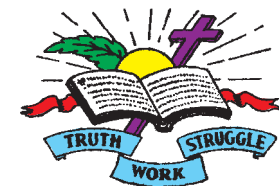
St. Francis National Catholic Church (PNCC)



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*Lord, make me an instrument
of your peace —St. Francis*

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!





WHAT IS: THE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH?

- We wish to make it clear that we are not a new Church. We adhere to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church founded by Jesus Christ.
- Bishop Hodur, our organizer, wrote in the 1930's, "As a human organization, the Polish National Catholic Church came into existence among the Polish people in emigration in America in 1897, but as a Divine Institution, it existed from its establishment by Jesus Christ in Jerusalem," (Catechism of PNCC).
- In the 19th century many Polish people immigrated to the United States looking for economic, political and also religious freedom.
- Formally, the Polish National Catholic Church was organized at Scranton, Pennsylvania, on March 14, 1897.
- Both the Roman Catholic and the Orthodox Church recognize our Orders.

IT IS A CATHOLIC CHURCH...

rooted in Holy Scripture, based on tradition, and accepting as dogmatic the first Seven Councils of the undivided Christian Church.

IT IS AN APOSTOLIC CHURCH...

preserving the Apostolic Succession, an unbroken line of bishops from the Apostles of Jesus Christ to the present day bishops and priests.

IT IS A SACRAMENTAL CHURCH...

which acknowledges Seven Sacraments and gives them to the people, who are looking for living expression of Christ's way, as a free gift of God's grace. Even priests can be marrying. Tradition tells us that all but one of the twelve apostles were married. Popes, bishops and priests of the early church were all married men. Many believe that a married priest is more likely to understand the problems of marriage and child rearing because he has gone through it.

IT IS A DEMOCRATIC CHURCH...

whose uniqueness lies in how our churches are governed. Lay people have a greater role: people own property (it does not belong to the Bishop but to each parish); parishioners rule the parish by themselves (with an elected Parish Committee); they convene every four years to elect new Bishops, etc.



IT IS AN ECUMENICAL CHURCH...

At this time much positive dialogue is going on between representatives of Orthodox, Roman Catholic and the PNCC. For example, members of the PNCC are allowed to receive the sacrament of penance, anointing of the sick and Holy Communion at the Roman Catholic Churches.

IT IS A TEACHING CHURCH...

using catechistic for children, teens and adults.

IT IS A COUNSELING CHURCH...

so if you are having family, personal, religious problems or if you are looking for moral or spiritual support, maybe we can help you.

IT IS A WORSHIPPING CHURCH...

where regular Mass attendance is encouraged on Sunday, the Lord's Day. The Holy Communion is given under two forms bread and wine.

IT IS A PENITENTIAL CHURCH...

where the Sacrament of Penance is given by the General Confession (an easy way to get absolution). (Absolution to sins is given during every Mass, you can also ask for a private confession to a priest if you prefer.)

IT IS A FRIENDLY CHURCH...

where all parish members join in welcoming and enlarging their circle of Christian fellowship with each new parishioner.

IT IS AN OPEN CHURCH...

We are small community; everyone is noticed, loved and needed.