

The PNCC is:

A CATHOLIC CHURCH... We adhere faithfully to the Rule of Faith laid down by St. Vincent of Lerins in these terms: *“For this reason we persevere in professing the faith of the primitive Church, as formulated in the ecumenical symbols and specified precisely by the unanimously accepted decisions of the Ecumenical Councils held in the undivided Church of the first thousand years. We hold that, which has been believed everywhere, always, and of all men: for that is truly and properly Catholic.”*

AN APOSTOLIC CHURCH... founded on the Feast of Pentecost as recorded in the book of Acts of the Apostles, we preserve the Apostolic Succession; an unbroken line of bishops from the Apostles of Jesus Christ to the present day bishops and priests. The Polish National Catholic Church was organized in America in 1897, and Holy Family Parish in 1921, but our faith goes back to that first Pentecost.

A SACRAMENTAL CHURCH... which acknowledges Seven Sacraments:

- 1) Baptism and Confirmation
- 2) The Word of God
- 3) Penance / Reconciliation
- 4) Holy Eucharist
- 5) Holy Unction
- 6) Holy Orders
- 7) Matrimony

AN ECUMENICAL CHURCH... reaching into the community and co-operating with other Churches to make your city or town a better place to live. At this time much positive dialogue is going on between representatives of the Anglican, Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Polish National Catholic Churches.

A LITURGICAL CHURCH... the Holy Mass is the central act of worship in all churches of the Catholic Community, including the National Catholic Church. The Mass is the Sacrifice of the New Testament and is celebrated completely in English. Other liturgies include Stations of the Cross, Bitter Lamentations, Marian Devotions, and praying the rosary.

A EUCHARISTIC CHURCH... Holy Communion is given under two forms, Bread and Wine, which are the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. The principal method used is intinction, which simply means that the Sacred Host is dipped into the Consecrated Wine and administered to the faithful at the altar. Only Priests and Deacons administer the Eucharist and it is always placed on the tongue, not in the hand.

A DEMOCRATIC CHURCH... It is governed in accordance with its Constitution. In matters of faith, morals and discipline, bishops and priests possess the authority to explain and reach the doctrinal position of Christ’s Church. The legislative authority of the Church is vested in the General Synod, the Special Synod, the Diocesan Synod and the Parish Congregational Meeting. In financial and administrative matters, the Parishioners possess administrative control in the parish, diocese and church-wide. Synods are required by the Constitution to be held every four years. Diocesan Synods are held between General Synods.

A WELCOMING CHURCH... you don’t have to be Polish to belong. Although the church has its roots in the Polish immigration (at the end of the 19th century) it is a universal Church made up of members from different nationalities and many ethnic backgrounds and welcoming anyone as a member who accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

ALL ARE WELCOME AT HOLY FAMILY!

What can Holy Family offer a person looking for a home parish? Holy Family can offer a Catholic community where one can actively participate in fulfilling the Mission of God through the Holy Scripture and Sacred Traditions of the undivided Church.

Our key mission is:

- ◆ Come to Christ for salvation
- ◆ Ask God to empower us with his spirit
- ◆ Seek God’s will in his Word
- ◆ Pray, trusting in the Power of the Spirit

**How could I participate as a member of Holy Family Parish?
We have numerous ministries and organizations within the parish to help develop and nurture a Catholic Faith.**

OUR MINISTRIES

**Parish Council, Acolyte, Sacristan, Lector, Usher, Greeter,
Religious Educator, Music ministries of the Chopin Choir
and the Annunciation Bell Choir**

OUR ORGANIZATIONS

**Society of the Adoration of the
Most Blessed Sacrament (women)**

Young Men’s Society of the Resurrection (men)

Youth Association for teens and pre-teens

School of Christian Living for all ages, including adults

**Lajkoniki Dance Troupe — who performs throughout
Western Pennsylvania**

**Branch 132 of the Polish National Union —
an insurance fraternal organization of the Church**

Members of the Church have a twofold duty: Spiritual & Material

Spiritual Duties: Worship, love and obedience to God expressed by private prayer; active participation in the corporate worship of the Church; active participation in the sacramental life of the Church and the proper rearing of children by the good examples of parents and guardians.

Material Duties:

- 1) Comply with enactments of General, Special, and Diocesan Synods
- 2) Comply with financial obligations adopted by the Parish, the Diocese, and the Church
- 3) Endeavor to make free will offerings as the needs of the Church and the parish require
- 4) Actively support Parish organizations and activities through donations of time & talent