

# Holy Spirit Polish National Catholic Church

Father Rafal Dadello will be celebrating Holy Mass on Sunday February 3rd at 11.00 a.m. All are welcome. It is the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

The first reading is from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah 1:4-5,17-19

The second reading is from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 12:12-31;13:13

The Holy Gospel is from St. Luke 4:21-30

Father Dadello will also be celebrating Holy Mass for the Catholic community on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4.00 p.m. in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 32 West Main Street in St. Johnsville.

Coffee Hour will follow the Holy Mass and be sponsored by Amy Brien and Cheryl Crandall

Our Annual Parish meeting will be held on February 10 after Holy Mass. All parishioners are encouraged to take part in that meeting.

## Our Sunday Message

At the point when today's Gospel begins, Jesus has just read from the Hebrew Scriptures in the synagogue. His reading, from Isaiah, has been received with reverence. On sitting down, Jesus makes a shocking declaration. The promise of Isaiah is fulfilled here, today. The response of the people is fascinating. They embrace and accept him. Amazed by his gracious words and conscious of his background, '*all spoke well of him.*' All seems well with the world — the prophet is honored and the people are happy.

Jesus shatters this illusion. He cuts through the veneer of platitude. He realizes that the implications of what he has said have escaped them. He exposes how capricious and fleeting is human praise. He challenges the members of the synagogue to see that God works outside their predetermined ideas. Jesus points to the example of the Gentiles who received the help of God's prophet. Israel, in contrast, had a history of turning its back on God's chosen messengers. Now, in their presence, stood the One to whom the law and the prophets testified. Jesus declares that to reject him is far more serious than to reject the prophets of old. Listening to his teaching, the people's apparent approval of Jesus quickly wanes.

This incident highlights a fundamental question from which no one can escape. The question is: who do you think Jesus is? A prophet? A holy man? An impressive religious leader? We can't go through life and not address this question. There is a bottom line with Jesus: we either accept him or reject him. The synagogue congregation could not ignore him — he challenged their world and he challenges ours too.

The PNCC was organized in Scranton, PA in 1897. The denomination has over 25,000 members in North America. The church in Little Falls belongs to the Mohawk Valley Seniorate district, which also includes churches in Latham, Schenectady, New York Mills, Rome and Syracuse. More information about the PNCC can be obtained by calling Fr. Dadello at 823-0793, also by visiting [WWW.PNCC.ORG](http://WWW.PNCC.ORG) or [WWW.HOLYSPIRITPNCC.ORG](http://WWW.HOLYSPIRITPNCC.ORG) Anyone needing a ride to Holy Mass can call Karen Filipski at (315) 823-4152 or John Rogers at (315) 429-9314.

May the blessing of the Lord be upon you.