



HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

Polish National Catholic Church
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TODAY, MARCH 2, 2025

QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to be celebrated in the Traditional Rite.

OPENING HYMN

TO THEE WE COME, O LORD, OUR GOD

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.



ENTRANCE HYMN

(Psalm 26:1-3)

V. Grant me justice, Lord! I have walked without blame. In the Lord, I have trusted; I have not faltered.

R. Test me, Lord, and try me; search my heart and mind. Your love is before my eyes: I walk guided by Your faithfulness.

V. 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.

OPENING PRAYER

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

V. Let us pray: Almighty Father, through Your Son, You taught us that no one is without guilt. Help us to recognize our faults, confess them, and strive to faithfully follow Your Son, Jesus Christ. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

R. Amen.



**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF SIRACH
(Sirach 27:4-7)**

When a sieve is shaken, the husks appear; so, do one's faults when one speaks. As the test of what the potter molds, is in the furnace, so, in tribulation, is the test of the just. The fruit of a tree shows the care it has had; so too does one's speech disclose the bent of one's mind. Praise no one before he speaks, for it is then that people are tested.

C. The Word of the Lord.

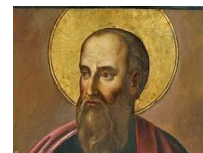
R. Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

(Proverbs 11:20-21)

V. The depraved in heart are an abomination to the Lord, but those who walk blamelessly are His delight.

R. Truly the evil man shall not go unpunished, but those who are just shall escape.



**A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF
PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS
(1 Corinthians 15:54-58)**

Brothers and sisters: When this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

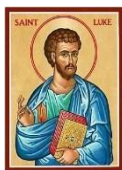
V. The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

TRACT
(Proverbs 11:3)

V. The honesty of the upright guides them.

R. The faithless are ruined by their duplicity.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE
(Luke 6:39-45)

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

V. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

R. Glory be to You, O Lord.

Jesus told His disciples a parable, “Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,’ when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother’s eye. “A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil

person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.”

V. The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH – THE NICENE CREED

**I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth
Of all that is seen and unseen.**

**I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
The only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father.**

**God from God, Light from Light, True God
from true God, begotten not made
Of one being with the Father.**

**Through Him all things were made
For us and for our salvation.**

**He came down from heaven:
By the power of the Holy Spirit
He was born of the Virgin Mary**

AND BECAME MAN.

**For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again
In fulfillment of the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven and
Is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
To judge the living and the dead
And His kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Lord and Giver of Life
Who proceeds from the Father,
With the Father and the Son
He is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in One, Holy, Catholic
and Apostolic Church**

**I acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.**

**I look for the resurrection of the dead
And the + life of the world to come. Amen.**

OFFERTORY VERSE
(Psalm 25:21)

V. Let honesty and virtue preserve me; I wait for
You, Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

All forgiving Lord our God, though we are not without fault, in humility we offer this oblation, through which You make us holy. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Let us Pray: Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

COMMUNION VERSE

(Psalm 41:13)

V. For my integrity You have supported me and let stand in Your presence.

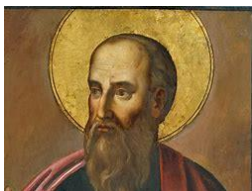
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

V. Let us pray. Almighty and Merciful Father, through the power of this Eucharist, uphold us in the life of virtue, that we may find fulfillment in Your service. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.



“For You are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by all, shown to be a letter of Christ.”
- 2 Corinthians 3:2

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

A “letter of recommendation,” also known as a “letter of reference,” is a document by which one presents oneself along with their qualities, characteristics, and capabilities to fulfill and perform a particular task or function.” Today letters of recommendation are typically related to employment, admission to institutions of higher education, or even scholarship eligibility.

In the letters of Paul to the Corinthians, he speaks of morality, which the city of Corinth lacked. He states that the words of God, are not written on paper by any one individual, but rather they are written spiritually, on the hearts of the individuals, by the grace of God. Paul further writes that these letters are not written on tablets of stone, but upon the hearts of flesh and not with ink but rather by the Spirit of the living God.

I believe that Paul in referencing the word “letter” is speaking about the character of the individual.

The word “character” is defined as “the mental and moral qualities that are distinctive to an individual”

The late Rev. Dr. Billy Graham wrote the following about character: “When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost, but when character is lost, all is lost.”

The great 18th century poet and statesman Jonathan von Goethe wrote: “You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him.” I also come to believe that one’s character is based on what one does for another when no one is watching but God.

The late Helen Keller, also wrote about “character.” She believed that character could not be achieved with just “ease or quietness,” but believed that character is found only through experience and suffering, in which the soul of an individual is strengthened, their ambition inspired, and their success achieved.

I believe that the true followers of Christ, are those who willingly turn their lives over to Christ and strive daily to live Christ, follow Christ, and share Christ. This may be considered the “rebirth” announcing a “new” self and displayed in one’s character. Jesus

spoke about character, on his famous “Sermon on the Mount” and gave the baseline on how to judge a person’s character using a simple analogy: “A good tree does not bear bad fruit and a bad tree does not bear good fruit. It is by their fruits you shall know them.” Matthew 7:15.

St. Paul gives further definition to a Christian’s character as in Galatians 5:22-26: “By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.”

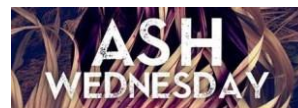
My brothers and sisters: This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, where the Christian church enters a 40-day somber retreat, reminiscence of Jesus’ journey in the wilderness. It is a 40-day journey of following Christ and His teachings more deeply. It is a time of not only reflecting on the spiritual truths of our Lord’s teachings but most importantly it is a time of examining oneself, being “Living Letters” and examples of knowing Christ.

Jesus reminds us, that the transformation of an individual can only take place for those who truly seek God. We are reminded by Saint Paul that one becomes a “new creature” when the Gospel of Christ finds its place in the heart of the individual, when one seeks to be led by the Spirit of God when one is blessed through the grace of God to “put on the Lord Jesus. This my brothers and sisters, brings about one’s salvation.

My brothers and sisters: May this upcoming season of Lent give each of us the wisdom and the insight of better knowing ourselves. May we take the words of St. Paul to heart, who concludes in today’s reading:

“We have such confidence through Christ toward God. Not that of ourselves we are qualified to take credit for anything as coming from us; rather, our qualification comes from God, who has indeed qualified us as the ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit.”

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”
- 1 Peter 2:9-10



“For this reason, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. Everyone who is on the side of truth listens to Me.”
- John 18:37

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of the “Great Lent,” and we are reminded this day of many things; Today, may we reflect on two very important scripture passages, which are read in the Common Lectionary on this day.

The first is found in the OT, in the words of the Prophet Joel 2:12-13: “Thus says the Lord: turn unto Me with your heart and with fasting and with weeping and with mourning. And rend your heart and not your garments and turn unto the Lord your God.”

The second is heard in the words spoken by the celebrant as blessed ashes are received on our foreheads: “Remember man that you are dust and unto dust you shall return, but your soul shall return unto God.” This scripture passage is found in Genesis 3:19:

References of ashes are found in both the Old and New Testaments. In the OT, sitting upon ashes or heaping ashes upon oneself was a personal act of grieving and mourning, symbolizing one separated from God. In the Book of Ezekiel 27:30, we read of the distress and utter sadness of the people over the loss of their city Tyre: “And they will make their voices heard over you and will cry bitterly. They will cast dust on their heads, and they will wallow in ashes.” In the New Testament, we hear the words of Jesus in Matthew 12:21 over the unrepentant cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida: “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you Bethsaida. For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you,

they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.”

In the second century, the great Church Father, Tertullian, speaks of the use of “ashes” which became a regular ceremony of public confession and penance. We also read that those who were excommunicated from the Church would sprinkle ashes upon their heads outside the church asking that the prayers of those entering would be heard by God and that they might again be brought into the Church and be in Communion of God. Ashes were also used to represent things that were easily scattered, perishable and therefore considered worthless. “Remember man that you are dust and unto dust you shall return, but that your soul shall return unto God.”

We read in Genesis 2:7: “Then the Lord God formed man out of the dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life: and man became a living soul.” We see in this scripture passage the two natures of man: the physical body and the spiritual soul. St Paul speaks in 1st Corinthians of the importance of these two natures: one which is perishable and the other which is imperishable. “Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. The perishable must put on the imperishable and this mortal must put on immortality”

What becomes of our physical bodies when we die? We will either be buried or cremated and if cremated our ashes will be placed in an urn, which is then placed to rest in a consecrated cemetery, or some will return the ashes to their loved one’s back were the ashes first came from; some have called her: “Mother earth.” But the of the imperishable, the soul of man, which was made in the image and likeness of the Creator? It is in our faith that the soul, which is imperishable, returns back unto Our Father who created us. There are so many in our society, who live only in the physical world without thought of the unseen spiritual world or even consider their own spiritual nature.

My dear brothers and sisters: Let each of us consider the significance of the ashes, this Lent, as placed on our foreheads and pause for a moment to reflect on what Lent means to you and what you would like to accomplish in these next 40 days of reflection, contrition, and commitment. Lent is a time

in which we are called upon by the Church to become more somber in the thinking of our relationship with God as proclaimed by the Good News and the sacrifice of His Beloved Son, Jesus.

As Christians, we are called upon during this season of Lent, to consider and apply the three pillars of Lent – Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving into our daily lives.



Prayer is found in the talking and the listening to God. and establishing a dialogue with God; reflecting upon the Word of God.

Fasting is to remove the excesses of daily living.

Almsgiving is a call for all Christians be more generous in helping others who are less fortunate.

The season of Lent is a time where we approach God as a penitent and as a sinner and recall the words of the Master: “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and yet lose his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?”

My dear brothers and sisters: Let each of us consider the significance of the ashes placed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday and pause for a moment to reflect on what Lent means to you and what you would like to accomplish in these next 40 days. Lent is a time in which we are called upon by the Church to become more somber in the thinking of our relationship with God as proclaimed by the Good News and the sacrifice of His Beloved Son, Jesus.

The parable of the Prodigal Son as found in the Gospel of Luke 15:11-32 takes on at this season of Lent to be sober and somber as one who comes to the awareness of falling short of honoring our Father and returning back unto the Father as one who has sinned. In this parable, the Father greets with love the one who was lost and then found. May we, as prodigal children, find our way back unto the Father.



OUR PARISH CALENDAR

March 3rd- March 9th

8:45 am Liturgy of the Hours

9:00 am Holy Mass of the Eucharist

- Mon. 3/3** **Mass of Thanksgiving**
 Marinus & Astyrius, Martyrs
 Cunegunda of Lexemburg, Q & M.
 Emeterius & Chelidonium, Martyrs
- Tue. 3/4** **Mass for Health and Healing**
 Casimir of Poland, King & Confessor
 Lucius of Rome, Bishop
 Adrian & Companions, Martyrs
- Wed. 3/5** **Ash Wednesday**
 Eusebius of Cremora, Abbot & C.
 Virgil of Arles, Bishop
 Gerasimus, Abbot
- Thur. 3/6** **Mass to the Holy Saints of God**
 Evagrius of Constantiople, Bishop
 Fridolin, Abbot
 Baldred & Bilfrid, Confessors
- Fri. 3/7** **Mass to the Holy Angels of God**
 Thomas Aquinas, Doctor & Confesor
 Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs
 Theophylact. Bishop
- Sat. 3/8** **Mass to the Most Holy Name of Jesus**
 Pontius, Doctor & Confessor
 Philemon & Apollonius, Martyrs
 Humphrey, Bishop



NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025

LENT 1

INSTITUTION OF THE PNCC

8:45 am – General Confession for adults

**9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist in the
 Traditional Rite of the PNCC.**

10:00 am – Annual Parish Meeting



ANNUAL PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING

The Annual Parish Committee meeting of Holy Name of Jesus PNCC will take place on Sunday, March 9, 2025 following Holy Mass. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend this most important meeting.



PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

In our prayers, let us please remember all our brothers and sisters, who are in need of the blessings of God for health and healing. Every week a Holy Mass of Health and Healing is celebrated. If you know of an individual who needs prayers of health and healing, please write out your request. Cards are to be found in the vestibule of our Church.

In our prayers, may we especially remember:

George and Janet Sadowski, Wayne and Pat Shaw, Karen Herzig, Richard Foster, Cindy Benjamin, Marge Sanderson, Carolyn Rapelye, Liam and Evelyn Spatcher , Paula Winn, Jerry Pawlikowski, as well as each others.

Let us pray. O Lord, God of mercies, in Your kindness stretch out Your hand and heal all our brothers and sisters who are in any way ailing. Make them worthy of health, deliver them from their present sicknesses and illnessness and grant them recovery in Jesus' holy name. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

PAINTING OF OUR MAIN ALTAR

Starting on Monday, March 3rd, our main altar will be prepped and painted. This will take place over the next two days. Following todays Holy Mass, altar linens and other apppointmenst will be removed from the Main altar for this work to be done.



OUR PARISH OUTREACH PROGRAMS

“Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” - Philippians 2:4



Our Food Ministry: “To Feed the Hungry”

**“I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat.”
- Matthew 25: 35**

The next date for handing out groceries will be held on **Saturday, March 15th** from 10 am while supplies last. Again, we ask for help and assistance in donating the following items:

- Cereals and packets of instant oatmeal.
- Fruit juices, - V8, Apple and cranberry
- powder milk / condensed milk.
- Hot chocolate and tea bags.
- Pasta and spaghetti sauce
- Boxes of Mac-n-cheese
- Canned tuna in water
- Canned meats- chicken, salmon, etc.
- Ramen noodles
- Soups- all varieties
- Canned veggies and fruits.
- Children’s snack pack.

Please note: we are also collecting full sized products of personal care and cleaning items for the various survival centers. Some of those items that are needed:

- Bar soaps and body wash, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, hand sanitizers, toilet paper, and personal products for incontinence (pads & panty liners, baby powder, baby wipes and diapers.
- Liquid dish soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, bathroom and kitchen cleansers, dish sponges/scrubbers, trash bags.



Collecting plastic tops

One of our dear parishioners, Maryanna Foster, who works closely with veterans, has asked for our help in collecting **white or clear plastic bottle tops** that will be donated to aid in the making of prosthetics for veterans in need. A collection container has been set up in the vestibule of our church. Please help donate your plastic tops to this new ministry. May God bless all of our endeavors.



Can Soda Tabs

We are also collecting tabs from soda cans that are then donated to aid the Shriners Hospitals for Crippled children. Please save your can soda tabs. There are containers that are located in our Parish vestibule for this purpose. Thank you to all who have donated to this cause and may God bless all our endeavors.



BLESSING OF HOMES

I will continue this week to visit the homes of our parishioners for the traditional blessing with chalk. Unfortunately, recovering from the flu that I was hit with recently, I apologize for having to cancel several appointments. I will be placing calls this week for this blessing.



FUEL ASSISTANCE

Envelopes for fuel assistance may be found in the vestibule of our Church. We truly appreciate any donations to help defray the costs of heating our Church Proper as well as the rectory. Thank you.



ED MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION WEDNESDAYS AT NOON – CALL TO PRAYER

On Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon, during the month of February, a “call to prayer” the following two prayers are said.

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God. May they receive the gift of faith that they may come to believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen..

Let us Pray: Almighty and Eternal God, You created humanity in Your own image and likeness. Grant grace to those who do not believe in You,, so that all might come to acknowledge You as the one true God and Father of us all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. +

(From a Book of Devotions and Prayers, PNCC)

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and led us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.



ED MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION LENTEN COLLECTION BOXES

At a meeting of the Eastern Diocesan M & E Commission, it was decided that beginning with Septuagesima Sunday, all parishes in our Diocese will be asked to help contribute donations during this Lenten season. It should be noted, that as in the past, each parish will determine what charitable organization(s) they wish to donate all monies collected at the end of the Lenten season. Thank you.



THE ALTAR AND THE LORD’S TABLE

The history of the “altar” has existed throughout human history in many cultures and religions.

In the Judeo- Christian tradition, one finds the roots of faith at the altar of God in the OT and in the NT, the Lord’s table.

DEFINITION

An “altar” is usually described as a “raised structure or place on which sacrifices are offered or incense is burned in worship.”

Throughout the Old Testament, many of the patriarchs, kings and prophets built a raise structure unto their worship of God. Among them:

- Noah: (Gen 8:20)
- Abraham: (Gen 12:7-8) (Gen 22:9-14)
- Isaac: (Gen 26:25)
- Jacob: (Gen 33:20) (Gen 35:1-7)
- Moses: (Ex 17:15)(Ex 24:4)
- Joshua: (Josh 8:30-31)
- The Israelites: (Judges 21:4)
- Samuel: (1 Sam 7:17)
- Saul: (1 Sam 14:35)
- David: (2 Sam 24:18-25) (1 Chr 21:18-26)
- Solomon : 1 Kin 6:20-21)(1 Kin 7:48)
- Elijah: (1 Kin 18:30-39)

THE ALTAR AT THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM

The altar at the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, was the center for all of Divine services, from the daily and additional offerings by the priests, to the individual and congregational sacrifices held; from the “Passover” sacrifice, held annually on the 14th of Nissan, to the bringing forth of the first fruits on “Shavuot,” celebrated on the same day in the Christian Church, as the feast of the Pentecost.

The altar at the First Temple in Jerusalem began by King David and later finished by his son, King Solomon, circa 957 BC. It measured approximately 15

feet high, with a ramp leading up to it, and measured 16 feet wide. It was destroyed in 586 BC by King Nebuchadnezzar who took the Israelites into bondage in 585 BC to Babylon. This was to create the second Diaspora.

The second altar was erected on the same spot, as the first, in the Second Temple built in 538 BC, following the release of the Israelites from their bondage in Babylon. This second Temple would later to be destroyed, by the future Roman emperor, Titus in 70 AD.



THE PASSOVER MEAL

The Passover Meal or seder, originated and first celebrated in the fifth century BC, and became an annual meal among Jewish families, to commemorate Moses leading the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt.

It was to mark the tenth and final plague, sent of God to the Egyptians, and found in Exodus 12:12-13:

“For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. But in houses where a lamb had been sacrificed and its blood painted on the doorposts the promise was that everyone would be safe.”

So, this day, was called Passover, for it passed over the houses of the Israelites and following the death of the first born among the Egyptians, in which they were released from their slavery. We further read that following the great Exodus, Moses separated the Red Sea, and “passed over “the children of Israel from slavery to freedom.

In Christian terms, the word “altar” is defined as a “Table-like construction used in the celebration of the Eucharist.”

The word “Eucharist” also referred to as “Holy Communion” and is from taken from the Greek word “Eucharistia” or “Thanksgiving.

The Eucharist is considered by our PNCC as well as many Christian denominations, as the central theme and liturgy of their Christian worship.

While we in the PNCC and other Christian denominations, such as the Roman Catholic Church, consider the Eucharist as a Sacrament, others consider the Eucharist as an ordinance, while others reject the grace of the Eucharist. But all agree, that the Eucharist is the commemoration of Jesus’ Last Supper with His disciples,



THE LAST SUPPER & THE NEW COVENANT

The Holy Eucharist was instituted by Jesus at the “Last Supper” on the night before His crucifixion, is reported in the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew (26:26–28); Mark 14:22–24; and Luke 22:17–20. It is also mentioned in the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (I Corinthians 11:23–25). According to the Gospel accounts, Jesus established the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, with His disciples. This meal was the traditional Passover seder, At the Last Supper Jesus changed the dynamics of this meal when He blessed the bread, and said: “This is My body, and when He shared a cup of wine with His disciples and told them “This is the My blood” He therefore from this time and for all time, established the Eucharist.. According to St. Luke 22:19, Jesus also called on his followers to repeat this sacred meal in His memory. “Do this in remembrance of me.”

The Acts of the Apostles of Luke, and in and the writing of Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians demonstrates that the early Christians believed that they were to continue the celebration of this sacred meal, in anticipation of not only in their present lives of being invited to the spiritual banquet that Jesus spoke about, but was to be a part of the “eternal banquet” that was to be established in the kingdom of God.