

# Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

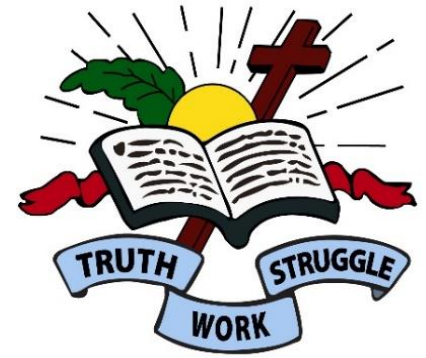
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November 17, 2019

## Thirty Third Sunday Ordinary Time

### A Sabbath Thought

Christians live in an interim period, in a time between the two comings of Jesus. What we do today with the memory and reality of his first appearance will prepare us to recognize him on his return. Within the tension between the two advents of Jesus, the church is daily challenged as it joyfully anticipates its full flower in an abundant eschatological harvest.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### MALACHI 3:19-20

Warning against complacency, the prophet foretold a Day of the Lord that would spell healing for the just and conflagration for the evildoers.

#### Responsorial Psalm:

98:5-6, 7-8, 9

**R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.**

#### 2 THESSALONIANS 3:7-12

Paul's letter reminds all who wait for the Lord's return to channel their enthusiasm into co-operative and loving service.

#### LUKE 21:5-19

Since the future is known only to the Father, worry and anxiety are futile; patient endurance and joyful trust characterize the true believers.

### ENTRANCE RITE – 2 Peter 3:10, 13

*V. The day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.*

**R. But according to His promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

*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.**

### ALLELUIA – Daniel 3:10

How great are His signs, how mighty His wonders; His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion endures through all generations.

### THE GOSPEL – LUKE 21:5-19

While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, Jesus said, "All that you see here, the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down." Then they asked him, "Teacher, when will this happen? And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?" He answered, "See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and 'The time has come.' Do not follow them! When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will not immediately be the end." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky. "Before all this happens, however, they will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute. You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

**This is the Gospel of the Lord!**

# Worship Services

TODAY November 17<sup>th</sup>  
33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

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SUNDAY November 24<sup>th</sup>

Solemnity  
Christ the King

The last Sunday of the  
Liturgical Year  
Cycle "C" ends

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

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SUNDAY December 1<sup>st</sup>

The First Sunday of Advent  
Cycle "A" begins

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

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[https://www.ststephenpncc.org/  
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## ADVENT

When the season of Advent arrives, here are some changes that people often notice in Church. Probably the most obvious of these is that the color of the vestments changes to violet or blue. On the Third Sunday of Advent, which is also called *Gaudete Sunday*, as the Advent season is already half over, the joy of the Nativity begins to break in and on that day rose colored vestments may be used. Also, the hymn *Glory to God in the highest* is omitted at Mass, and one will find that there is a certain moderation in the decoration of the altar. While flowers may still be used, the decoration of the altar should not express the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord.

## INTENTIONS:

**My Brothers and Sisters:** Our prayers are needed: For the increase in men called to the priesthood and diaconate of the Polish National Catholic Church; For the health and growth of our Parish; For all of the sick and homebound members of our Parish, especially John Czechowski, Thomas Grodkiewicz, John Aldershoff, Cindy Whitehead, Beverly Wunderlich, Tom Schalata, Joseph Ross, Stanley Sub, Bea Sub, Peggy Kowalik and Ruth Mechowski. For the repose of the soul of Stella Grebloskie. **Our Father...**

**If there are any other individuals who should be on this list, please email or tell Father Senior Don so he can add them!**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>:** ANS Soup and Barbeque Sale after both Masses.

**Monday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>:** Regular monthly meeting of the Parish Committee; 7:00PM

**Sunday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>:** Advent Tea, Program starts at 11:00AM; **Note the date change!**

**Saturday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>:** Penitential Devotion

**Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>:** YMS of R Egg Sandwich Sale after both Masses!

**Sunday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>:** ANS Meeting at 11:00AM

**Sunday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>:** **Oplatek Dinner.** Tickets can be purchased from Mary Cooper, Cheryl Weinhold and Father Senior Don. Tickets must be purchased no later than December 29<sup>th</sup>.

**If there are any other events not listed here, please email or tell Father Senior Don so he can add them!**

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## ANGEL TREE FOR THE BERK'S COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING

Our Parish will once again be participating in the Angel Tree Program for the elderly who might be alone this Christmas. The Tree will be up either this week or next. When you take a card, please write your name and phone number on the sheet by the tree and check that column when you return the card. The deadline for returning the card is December 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your loving kindness and generosity towards those less blessed than ourselves.

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## THE KNIGHT'S CLOSET

We continue to collect needed supplies to help the less blessed students of Reading Area High School. The list of items needed can be found in the church hall or by asking Sally Traczuk or Janet Katinowsky. Please look into your heart and try to envision what life must be like for these young people as they try to simply survive and get the education they need to better their lot in life. Be as generous as you possibly can, remembering that Jesus said *"Whatever you do for the least of these, you do it for Me."* Thank you and may God bless you always.

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## ANS and YMS of R

The ANS (Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament) and the YMS of R (Young Men's Society of the Resurrection) are two of the prominent groups in our Parish that perform many beneficial and fund raising functions. The women and men of these societies work hard and donate their time and their talents for the greater glory of God and for the good of Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish. There is more to being a good parishioner than just going to Mass. Please consider becoming a member of these groups. It is not all work and no play. You will meet new people, make new friends, learn new skills and be filled with the joy of doing God's work. For more information, you can speak to Cheryl Weinhold (ANS) or Francis Golembeski (YMS of R) or Father Senior Don.

***"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."***