



November 24, 2019

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

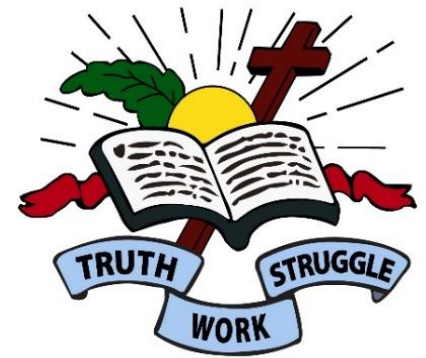
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Solemnity – Christ the King

A Festival Thought

The last Sunday of the church year is our independence day. We honor our leader, Jesus Christ. We honor the captain of our salvation who has freed us from sin and death. We pay homage to him who conquers not by violent arms but by overbearing love.

About Today's Bible Readings

2 SAMUEL 5:1-3

The people ask David to be their king. He is one of them but God has granted him the gifts of leadership.

Responsorial Psalm: 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

COLOSSIANS 1:12-20

These words, first addressed to the early church, supply us with countless motifs for our praise of Jesus who is the fullness of redemption.

LUKE 23:35-43

Even as he dies, Jesus exercises the power of his love, showing the qualities that make him our eternal Lord and Savior.

ENTRANCE RITE – Sirach 18:3; Psalms 22:28-29

V. The Lord guides the world with a turn of His hand, and all things obey His will. For He is King of all, and by His power He separates what is holy from what is not.

R. All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; All the families of the nations shall bow down before Him. For dominion is the Lord's, and He rules the nations.

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 – ISAIAH 43:15

I am the Lord, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.

THE GOSPEL – LUKE 23:35-43

The rulers sneered at Jesus and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews."

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY November 24th
Solemnity Christ the King

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

8:00 AM – LOW MASS
9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

THURSDAY November 28th

Thanksgiving Day

9:00 AM – HOLY MASS

SUNDAY December 1st

**The First Sunday of Advent
Cycle "A" begins**

8:00 AM – LOW MASS
9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

*Adoration of the Most Blessed
Sacrament following the 9:30AM Mass.*



[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, Beverly Wunderlich, Tom Schalata, Joseph Ross, Stanley Sub, Bea Sub, Peggy Kowalik and Ruth Mechowski. **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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 8th: Advent Tea, Program starts at 11:00AM; **Note the date change!** This promises to be an enriching and an enlightening event for all.

Tuesday, December 10th: YMS of R meeting at 7:00PM in the Church Hall. All men of the Parish are encouraged to join the YMS of R. Much good work is done and many good times are experienced. Come and see for yourselves.

Saturday, Dec. 14th: Penitential Devotion

Sunday, Dec. 15th: YMS of R Egg Sandwich Sale after both Masses!

Sunday, Jan. 5th: ANS Meeting at 11:00AM

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

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

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 is up in the hall. 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 8th. Thank you for your loving kindness and generosity towards those less blessed than ourselves.

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.

THE CHOIR

The Saint Stephen the Martyr Choir is in need of new members. Together with our organist, Cheryl Heckman, the current members do an excellent job but more voices are needed to achieve that full, robust sound of the past. If you are even slightly musically inclined or just like to sing, please reach out to any of the members or talk to Father Senior Don about joining the choir.

And if you can play the organ, we would very much like to talk to you also as backup would be great to have.

"O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."