



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

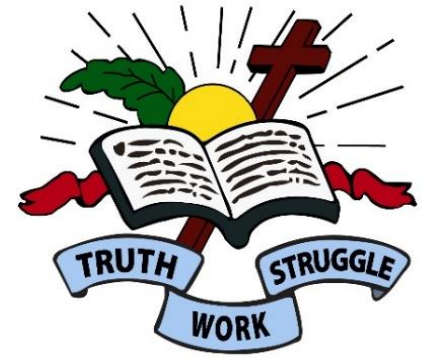
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December 1,, 2019

The First Sunday of Advent

A Sabbath Thought

Those who wander are people without a goal. But God has blessed us in baptism with lives of purpose and meaning. Every day is Advent for us who work for the coming of God's kingdom.

About Today's Bible Readings

ISAIAH 2:1-5

The Lord's Day will bring instruction and peace to all peoples. That day will more than fulfill our Advent desires.

Responsorial Psalm:

122: 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

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

ROMANS 13:11-14

Here is our Advent agenda: a way of life to match the times in which we live as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

MATTHEW 24:37-44

We may know neither the day nor the hour, but one thing is certain: The Lord is coming. That fact should color all our thoughts and deeds.

ENTRANCE RITE – Psalm 25:1-3

V. I wait for You, O Lord; I lift up my soul to my God. In You I trust; do not let me be disgraced; do not let my enemies gloat over me.

R. No one is disgraced who waits for You, but only those who lightly break faith.

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 – Psalm 47:9

God rules over the nations; God sits upon His holy throne.

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples:

“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark.

They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man.

Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left.

Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left.

Therefore, stay awake!

For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.

Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into.

So too, you also must be prepared,

for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY 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.

First Sunday of the month, second collection to support the mission work of the Church.

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SUNDAY December 8th

The Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

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MONDAY December 9th

Solemnity – Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00 AM – HOLY MASS

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SUNDAY December 15th

**The Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday - Rejoice**

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

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SUNDAY December 15th

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS



<https://www.ststephenpncc.org/bulletins-and-newsletters/>

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."