



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

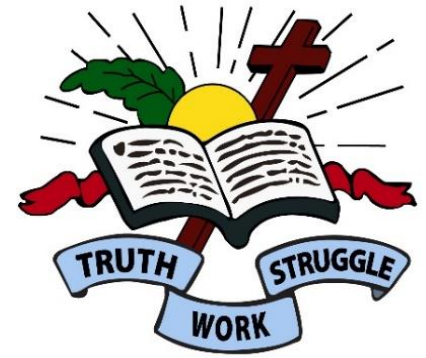
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December 15, 2019

The Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday

REJOICE!

A Sabbath Thought

To make our faith our own, we need to ask Jesus the questions in our hearts, and to listen with our hearts to his response.

About Today's Bible Readings

ISAIAH 35:1-6, 10

Isaiah echoes the deepest longing of the people: to be touched by their God with healing and joy.

Responsorial Psalm: 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

R. Lord, come and save us.

JAMES 5:7-10

James exhorts us to patiently wait for the Lord's coming, demonstrating the paradox that Christ's healing of the world is both 'already' and 'not yet'.

MATTHEW 11:2-11

John the Baptist sends Jesus a piercing question: "Are you the one?" Jesus' response makes the connection between his unique ministry and the tradition that undergirds John.

ENTRANCE RITE – Isaiah 26:19b; 29:19

V. Awake and sing, you who lie in the dust. For your dew is a dew of light, and the land of shades gives birth.

R. The lowly will ever find joy in the Lord, and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

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 – Malachi 3:23

Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the day of the Lord comes.

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you. Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY December 15th

The Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday - Rejoice

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

SUNDAY December 22nd

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

TUESDAY December 24th

Christmas Eve

Pasterka

“Shepherd’s Mass”

MIDNIGHT – HOLY MASS

The Saint Stephen’s Choir will
present a program of Christmas
Carols at 11:45 PM.

Please encourage all you know,
family, friends and neighbors to
join us as we celebrate the birth
of Our Lord.

WEDNESDAY December 25th

Solemnity

Nativity of the Lord

9:00 AM – HOLY MASS



[https://www.ststephenpncc.org/
bulletins-and-newsletters/](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, Ruth Mechowski and Bernice Biroscak. For the repose of the soul of Jennie Katinowsky. **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

Saturday, Dec. 14th: Penitential Devotion, 7:00 PM.
This will be a new format. Please join us for an Advent housekeeping of the soul.

Sunday, Dec. 15th: YMS of R Egg Sandwich Sale after both Masses!
Also, a Polish Food sale will be held from Noon until 2:00 PM or until sold out. Come early, NO PRE-SALES, cash only.
There will be snacks and singing, fellowship and fun in the Church Hall after the 9:00 Mass today. Please plan on joining us as we Rejoice this Gaudete Sunday.

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!

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.
