

## Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

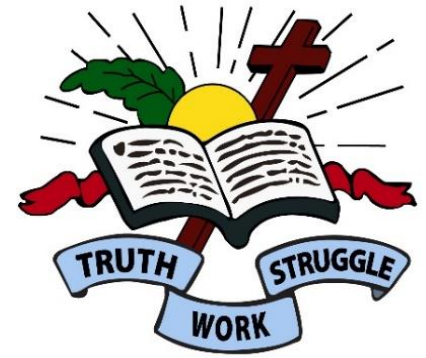
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December 8, 2019

## The Second Sunday of Advent

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### A Sabbath Thought

Advent is a promise, a time of hope and expectation. The fulfillment of the promise depends on our level of preparation. Therefore, prepare and wait. Do not lose heart.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### **ISAIAH 11:1-10**

The prophet Isaiah inspires our preparation. There will come a day when God's holy kingdom will be a place of peace and justice. Be patient in waiting for that day.

#### **Responsorial Psalm: 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17**

**R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.**

#### **ROMANS 15:4-9**

Because Jesus is the hope of every race and tongue, Paul prays that we may all live in harmony with one another.

#### **MATTHEW 3:1-12**

The Saviour's Advent is not to be taken lightly. We must purify our lives and prepare our hearts. Our conversion will help straighten the world's crooked ways.

### ENTRANCE RITE – John 1:6-8

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*V. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through Him.*

**R. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.**

*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

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Let us fall into the hands of the Lord and not into the hands of men, for equal to His majesty is the mercy that He shows.

### THE GOSPEL – Matthew 3:1-12

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John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

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# Worship Services

**TODAY December 8<sup>th</sup>**

**The Second Sunday of Advent**

**8:00 AM – LOW MASS**

**9:30 AM – HIGH MASS**

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**MONDAY December 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Solemnity – Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**9:00 AM – HOLY MASS**

.....  
**SUNDAY December 15<sup>th</sup>**

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

**8:00 AM – LOW MASS**

**9:30 AM – HIGH MASS**

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**SUNDAY December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**8:00 AM – LOW MASS**

**9:30 AM – HIGH MASS**

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**TUESDAY December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Eve  
Vigil of the Nativity**

**MIDNIGHT – HOLY MASS**

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**WEDNESDAY December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Solemnity  
Nativity of the Lord**

**9:00 AM – HOLY MASS**

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



[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. **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

**Today, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>:** 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 10<sup>th</sup>:** 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. 14<sup>th</sup>:** Penitential Devotion; 7:00PM

**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 Weinholt 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 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 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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## ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

On Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM a program of Advent Carols, music and scripture readings will be presented at:

The Saint Stanislaus PNCC Cathedral  
529 E. Locust Street  
Scranton, PA 18505

Scranton, PA. The Saint Stanislaus Cathedral Chorale and the Saint Stanislaus Handbell Choir will be featured. All are welcome to attend.