



November 28, 2021

## Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 Saint Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

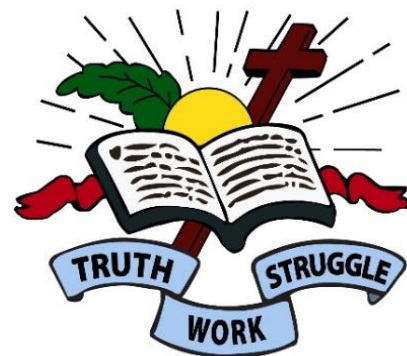
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## First Sunday of Advent – Cycle C

### A Sabbath Thought

There *is* something to wait for. The shoot *will* blossom, the promise *will* materialize, the Lord *will* come again. What we *expect* should color our lives. *Who* we wait for should warm our hearts.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### JEREMIAH 33:14-16

This Advent season is rooted in the ancient promise outlined here: A bare shoot will blossom into salvation, safety and security for all God's people.

#### Responsorial Psalm: 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

**R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

#### 1 THESSALONIANS 3:12-4:2

We make our own this prayer of Paul's for the Thessalonians: "May God strengthen our hearts, making them holy and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

#### LUKE 21:25-28, 34-36

The thought of the end may be scary, but its meaning is clear: With Christ's coming, our redemption will be complete. Therefore, we can hold our heads high.

### ENTRANCE RITE: Psalm 92:2-3

*V. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to Your name, Most High,*

**R. To proclaim Your love in the morning, Your faithfulness in the night.**

*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: 1 Thessalonians 3:12a, 13b

*V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*V. May the Lord strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His holy ones.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### THE GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

# Worship Services

## INTENTIONS:

**TODAY – November 28<sup>th</sup>**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**Blessing of the Advent Wreath**

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

### **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, our families and friends, especially Isabella Mularczyk, Edward Czechowski, Patrice Czechowski, Donna Schalata, Tom Schalata, David Wunderlich, Bernice Biroscak, Geri Piotrowski, Janet Katinowsky, Julia Urban, Sandy Pfennig, Courtney Pierce, Joseph Grossman and Riley Rejniak. For the repose of the soul of Henry Nalepa. Let us Pray: **Our Father....**

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**SUNDAY – December 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Confirmation and First Holy Communion**

**ONE MASS – 10:00AM**

**Please note the time change!**

**Please join us in welcoming the Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki**

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

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PLEASE JOIN US IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

**Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**; Confirmation and First Holy Communion. One Mass at 10:00AM. Please join us to welcome The Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Bishop Ordinary of the Central Diocese of the PNCC, who will celebrate mass and confer the Sacrament of Confirmation to Skye Sadowski. Scarlett Sadowski will receive First Holy Communion.

**Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**; The Mission Commission will meet at 7:00PM in the Library.

**Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**; The Y.M.S. of R. will meet at 7:00PM in the Church Hall. All of the men of the church are encouraged to attend.

**Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**; The book club will meet at 7:00PM in the library. Since we are between books, this meeting will, once again, take the format of an Adult Forum or round table discussion hosted by Fr. Sr. Donald. Tonight's topic will be Penitential Services in preparation for Advent Penitential Services Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**; Advent Penitential Service at 7:00PM.

**Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**; The Ladies Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament will meet in the library at 11:00 AM. All of the ladies of the parish are invited and encouraged to attend.

**Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**; The YMS of R will be holding one of its famous Egg Sandwich Sales after each Mass. PLUS – a special guest appearance by St. Nick!

**Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**; The Fund Raising Committee will meet in the Library at 7:00PM. All are welcome to attend.

**Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**; **Parish Christmas Party** – from 1:00PM until whenever. Refreshments, songs and other fun and exciting Christmas related revelry.

**Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup>**; Regular Monthly Meeting of the Parish Committee.

**Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**; Christmas Eve, Shepard's Mass – Pasterka at 12:00 Midnight.

**Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**; Christmas Day, Solemnity – Nativity of the Lord.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2022**; Saint Stephen's Annual Picnic returns! From 10:00AM until whenever at Saint Benedict's Picnic Grove in Mohnton. We have a band, a beer wagon and of course, great Polish Food. The picnic has been sorely missed the past few years by almost everyone, parishioner and non-parishioner alike so let's get behind the Picnic Committee and volunteer to help when the time comes in order to make the return of the Picnic a rousing success.

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

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## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

For the months of October, November and December all of the donations to the Little White Church will be used to help the less blessed of our community as the winter and holiday seasons come upon us. These donations will be used for heating assistance and other such necessities.

## ADVENT!

Today is the first Sunday of the Advent Season. Advent gives us the opportunity to prepare ourselves, physically, emotionally and spiritually for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. There are booklets on the table in the vestibule. Please take one and resolve to spend a few minutes each day in prayer and reflection so that you may truly appreciate God's great gift to His people, Eternal Life in the form of the Baby Jesus.

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### **Oplatki Christmas Wafers**

The Christmas wafers or Oplatki are here and are on the table in the vestibule. Please take what you need and donate what you can. This is a beautiful tradition to maintain with the family at your Christmas table.