



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 Saint Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

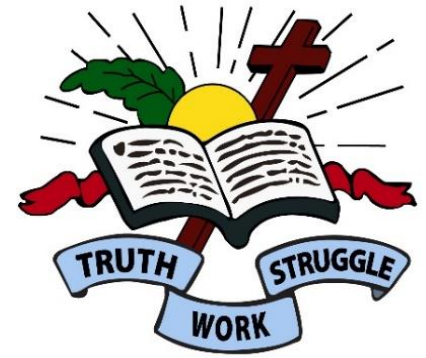
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December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday

A Sabbath Thought

We are preparing ourselves to celebrate the feast of Christmas. But what is the point of what we are doing? If we are to enter into the real meaning of the feast, we must get back to basics, like love and joy.

About Today's Bible Readings

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18

The prophet urges us to rejoice because the Lord's presence is a guarantee of deliverance.

Responsorial Psalm: IS 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

Clear your minds of anxiety, urges the apostle, and fill your hearts with joy.

LUKE 3:10-18

Even now says John the Baptist, you can prepare the way of the Lord by righting wrongs.

ENTRANCE RITE: Psalm 85:6-7; 90:14

V. Will You be angry with us forever, drag out Your anger for all generations? Please give us life again, that Your people may rejoice in You.

R. Fill us at daybreak with Your love, that all our days we may sing for joy.

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: Matthew 6:33

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: Luke 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages." Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Worship Services

**TODAY – December 12th
Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday**

8:00 AM – Holy Mass
9:30 AM – Holy Mass

**SUNDAY – December 19th
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:00 AM – Holy Mass
9:30 AM – Holy Mass

ADVENT!

As we continue our Advent journey, I urge you to spend a few minutes each day in prayer and reflection. Try to imagine and appreciate the incredible gift that God is about to give mankind, His only begotten Son, freely given in expiation for our sins. Booklets are in the vestibule to help guide you in this.

Oplatki

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.

PIEROGIS

There are still some cheese and potato pierogis left from the food sale. If you would like to purchase any, please see Carol Urban downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after Mass.

NEW YEAR

As we approach the new year please be aware of the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting in January. We are in need of someone to step up and fill the positions of Vice-Chairperson and of Secretary as well as volunteers for the Picnic Committee. If you are interested in serving your parish, please see Fr. Sr. Donald or Tom Schalata. I would also like to remind all of the various parish organizations to be sure to have their year-end reports ready in preparation for the meeting. And if you have not already done so, please see to it that your yearly dues are paid up to date.

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, 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, Ed Edling and Riley Rejniak. Let us Pray: **Our Father...**

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE JOIN US IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Today, December 12th; 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 12th; The YMS of R will be holding one of its famous Egg Sandwich Sales after each Mass. \$5.00 each. PLUS – a special guest appearance by St. Nick!

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

Saturday, December 18th; Parish Christmas Party – from 1:00PM until whenever. Refreshments, songs and other fun and exciting Christmas related revelry. Please see Tom Schalata after Mass to get your FREE tickets to help us with a head count and to be eligible to win one of the many door prizes.

Sunday December 19th; Regular Monthly Meeting of the Parish Committee.

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

Saturday, December 25th; Christmas Day, Solemnity – Nativity of the Lord. Mass at 9:00AM.

Monday, January 10th; The mission Commission will meet in the Library at 7:00PM. All are cordially invited to attend. New ideas are always welcome.

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!

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 help with heating assistance and such.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Friday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

Shepherd's Mass - "Pasterka" at 12:00 Midnight

Saturday, December 25th - Christmas Day

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord - Mass at 9:00 AM

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