

January 9, 2022

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

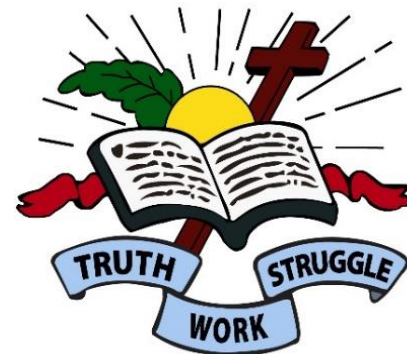
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Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord

A Festival Thought

We who have been baptized have been baptized into the death of Jesus. We have also been baptized into his life. Like the Lord, we must go about doing good as living examples of the mercy that has been shown us.

About Today's Bible Readings

ISAIAH 42:1-4, 6-7

What befits the servant whom the Lord commissions to achieve the victory of divine justice? The gifts are healing compassion and majestic might.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

ACTS 10:34-38

The good news of peace is about Jesus, the merciful healer who cures even the fatal wound of death that afflicts us all.

LUKE 3:15-16, 21-22

Jesus is baptized and the Spirit descends on him, the same Spirit who animates us, the church.

ENTRANCE RITE – Matthew 3:16-17; Psalm 72:13

V. After Jesus was baptized, He came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened, [for Him], and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon Him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased."

R. He shows pity to the needy and the poor and saves the lives of the poor.

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 114:3-4

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. The sea beheld and fled; the Jordan turned back.

The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs of the flock.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL – Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

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."

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

SUNDAY - January 9th

Solemnity

Baptism of our Lord

Intentions for the repose of the soul of Prime Bishop Emeritus John Swantek.

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

SUNDAY - January 16th

2nd Sunday Ordinary Time

Intentions for the repose of the soul of Beverly Rush Wunderlich, offered by Fr. Sr. Donald and Danielle Wunderlich.

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

The Passing of Prime Bishop Emeritus John Swantek

The fifth Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, the Most Reverend John Swantek, died Friday, January 7, 2022 at 4:30 in the morning and entered into the eternal rest of the Lord. Please keep Prime Bishop John in your prayers for the repose of his soul. And please uplift in prayer as well his wife, Arlene, and the entire family for their solace in this difficult time.

Future Direction Newsletter

For those of you who are not subscribed to the Future Direction Newsletter, I urge you to sign up now. This can be done by sending an email with your email address to: futuredirection@pncc.org. For those without email or internet access, a limited number of the directives will be available in print form in the vestibule, entitled Discipleship. This is a very important resource published by the church and should be read by all.

Blessed Incense and Chalk

For those of you who were unable to join us in celebrating the Solemnity of the Epiphany on Thursday evening, there is blessed incense and chalk available on the table in the vestibule for your use. The plastic bags contain incense and chalk while the foil packages just incense.

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 Biroszak, Geri Piotrowski, Janet Katinowsky, Julia Urban, Sandy Pfennig, Courtney Pierce, Joseph Grossman Sr., Joseph Grossman Jr., Kyle Grossman, Damon Grossman, Ed Edling, Cheryl and Darryl Weinhold and Riley Rejniak. For the repose of the soul of Prime Bishop Emeritus John Swantek. Let us Pray: **Our Father....**

If there are any individuals who should be on this list or should be removed from it, please email or tell Fr. Sr. Donald so he can make the changes!

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE JOIN US IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Today, January 9th; School of Christian Living Open House at 11:00 AM. Please join us and bring your children and grandchildren to learn about our Sunday school options for children of all ages. Light refreshments will be served.

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.

Thursday, January 13th; The Book Club will meet at 7:00PM in the library. The book that will be discussed is "Where Do We Go From Here" by Dr. David Jeremiah. All are welcome and we hope to make participation online available via TEAMS. Check back for details.

Sunday, January 16th; Monthly Parish Committee meeting at 11:00AM in the Fellowship Hall. I hope all committee members are planning to attend.

Sunday, January 30th; Annual Parish Membership Meeting at 11:00AM in the Fellowship Hall. I urge every member of Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish to attend this important meeting. Many issues vital to the health and success of our parish will be discussed and decided upon. The key to success in any democratically oriented organization is in the participation of the membership. Our parish is facing many challenges and your thoughts and ideas on how to solve them are of the utmost importance. Please plan to attend, engage and to elect or volunteer to be elected representatives to the various offices and positions in our parish for the upcoming terms. Our ancestors fought for this right when they founded the Polish National Catholic Church one hundred and twenty four years ago. Please respect it and make use of it by attending and participating.

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

NEW YEAR

As we enter the new year please be aware of the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting on January 30th. 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. And be sure to pick up your donation envelopes for 2022. They are in the Library. Thank you.

Koleda – Blessing of Homes

As a departure from past practice, Fr. Sr. Donald will not be blessing every home automatically. He will be happy to bless any home at your request. Please print your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet in the vestibule along with the best time for you to have this done. Or, simply call him at 610-775-4559 to set up a time and date. He will be happy to see you and more than happy to bless your home.