



November 20, 2022

## Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

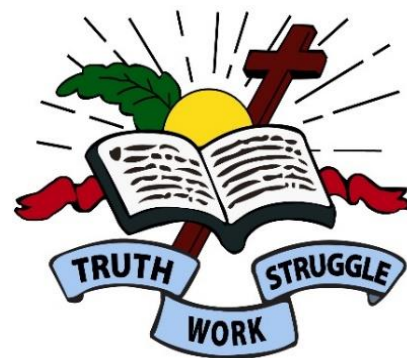
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## Solemnity – Christ the King

### A Festival Thought

The last Sunday of the church year is our independence day. We honor our leader, Jesus Christ. We honor the captain of our salvation who has freed us from sin and death. We pay homage to him who conquers not by violent arms but by overbearing love.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### 2 SAMUEL 5:1-3

The people ask David to be their king. He is one of them but God has granted him the gifts of leadership.

#### Responsorial Psalm: 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5

**R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

#### COLOSSIANS 1:12-20

These words, first addressed to the early church, supply us with countless motifs for our praise of Jesus who is the fullness of redemption.

#### LUKE 23:35-43

Even as he dies, Jesus exercises the power of his love, showing the qualities that make him our eternal Lord and Savior.

### ENTRANCE RITE – Sirach 18:3; Psalms 22:28-29

*V. The Lord guides the world with a turn of His hand, and all things obey His will. For He is King of all, and by His power He separates what is holy from what is not.*

**R. All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; All the families of the nations shall bow down before Him. For dominion is the Lord's, and He rules the nations.**

*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 – ISAIAH 43:15

I am the Lord, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.

### THE GOSPEL – LUKE 23:35-43

The rulers sneered at Jesus and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews."

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

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

# Worship Services

**TODAY – Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Solemnity – Christ the King  
Last Sunday of the Liturgical  
Year. Cycle “C” ends.**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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**SUNDAY–Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>**

**The First Sunday of Advent  
Cycle “A” begins**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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**SUNDAY–Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>**

**The Second Sunday of  
Advent**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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## Wigilia Dinner

The Polish American Heritage Association of Berks County will be holding their annual traditional Wigilia dinner on Sunday, December 18th, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Reading. Doors open at 4:15PM.

Adult Members: \$65.

Adult Non-Members: \$75.

For questions or reservations, please call Henry Pruski at 610-372-1279 after 7:00PM. Deadline for reservations is December 9th.

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## ADVENT

When the season of Advent arrives, here are some changes that people often notice in Church. Probably the most obvious of these is that the color of the vestments changes to violet or blue. On the Third Sunday of Advent, which is also called *Gaudete Sunday*, as the Advent season is already half over, the joy of the Nativity begins to break in and on that day rose colored vestments may be used. Also, the hymn *Glory to God in the highest* is omitted at Mass, and one will find that there is a certain moderation in the decoration of the altar. While flowers may still be used, the decoration of the altar should not express the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord.

## 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, Bill and Bernice Biroscak, Geri Piotrowski, Janet Katinowsky, Julia Urban, Sandy Pfennig, Courtney Pierce, Joseph Grossman Sr., Joseph Grossman Jr., Kevin Grossman, Kyle Grossman, Damon Grossman, Donald Deihm, Janice Elaine Casperson, Elizabeth McAlanis, Skye Sadowski, Barbara Waszk,,Terry Leatherman, Jackie Weinhold, Andy Kosak, Riley Rejniak, Jane and John Aldershoff, Cindy Golowski, Pat Schiaroli, Diane Fisher, Joseph Seliga and Father Senior Ed Ratajack. For the repose of the soul of Jay Dresh. **Our Father....**

**If there are any other individuals who should or shouldn't be on this list, please email or tell Father Senior Donald so he can add them or remove them!**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Today, November 20<sup>th</sup>**; Regular monthly meeting of the Parish Committee in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM.

**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**; Advent Penitential Service at 7:00 PM. I hope to see many of you there.

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**; The ANS will meet at 11:00 AM in the Library. All are welcome to attend. If you are not a member of the ANS, please consider joining.

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**; The YMS of R will be holding one of its famous Egg Sandwich Sales after each Mass.

**Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**; The YMS of R (Young Men's Society of the Resurrection) will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00PM. All men of the Parish are invited to attend and to join the YMS of R if they are not already members.

**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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## ANGEL TREE FOR THE BERKS 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 Fellowship 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 11<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you for your loving kindness and generosity.

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## THE KNIGHTS CLOSET

The Reading School District has informed us that the Knights Closet Project which provides items of basic necessity to students in need will continue this year. The parish has generously participated in this worthwhile cause in past years and I hope that we will find it in our hearts to continue to do so. Please leave your contributions on the table in the Hall near the windows and we will get them to those in need.

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## The ANS and YMS of R

The ANS (Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament) and the YMS of R (Young Men's Society of the Resurrection) are two of the prominent groups in our Parish that perform many beneficial and fund raising functions. The women and men of these societies work hard and donate their time and their talents for the greater glory of God and for the good of Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish. There is more to being a good parishioner than just going to Mass. Please consider becoming a member of these groups. It is not all work and no play. You will meet new people, make new friends, learn new skills and be filled with the joy of doing God's work. For more information, you can speak to Cheryl Weinhold (ANS) or Francis Golembeski (YMS of R) or Father Senior Don.

***“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”***