



November 27, 2022

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

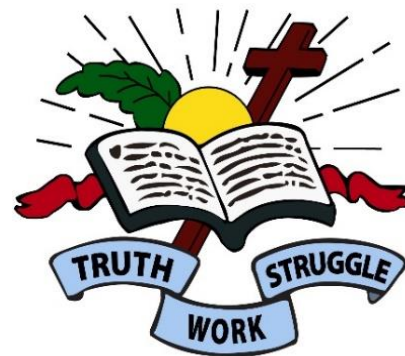
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The First Sunday of Advent

A Sabbath Thought

Those who wander are people without a goal. But God has blessed us in baptism with lives of purpose and meaning. Every day is Advent for us who work for the coming of God's kingdom.

About Today's Bible Readings

ISAIAH 2:1-5

The Lord's Day will bring instruction and peace to all peoples. That day will more than fulfill our Advent desires.

Responsorial Psalm:

122: 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

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

ROMANS 13:11-14

Here is our Advent agenda: a way of life to match the times in which we live as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

MATTHEW 24:37-44

We may know neither the day nor the hour, but one thing is certain: The Lord is coming. That fact should color all our thoughts and deeds.

ENTRANCE RITE – Psalm 25:1-3

V. I wait for You, O Lord; I lift up my soul to my God. In You I trust; do not let me be disgraced; do not let my enemies gloat over me.

R. No one is disgraced who waits for You, but only those who lightly break faith.

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

God rules over the nations; God sits upon His holy throne.

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples:

“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark.

They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man.

Two men will be out in the field;

one will be taken, and one will be left.

Two women will be grinding at the mill;

one will be taken, and one will be left.

Therefore, stay awake!

For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.

Be sure of this: if the master of the house

had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake

and not let his house be broken into.

So too, you also must be prepared,

for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY—Nov. 27th

*The First Sunday of Advent
Cycle "A" begins*

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SUNDAY—Dec. 4th

*The Second Sunday of
Advent*

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SATURDAY—Dec. 10th

*ADVENT
PENITENTIAL SERVICE*

7:00 PM

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.

ADVENT

Advent is here, and 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. **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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, November 29th: Choir Practice at 7:00 PM.

Sunday, December 4th: 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.

Saturday, December 10th: Advent Penitential Service at 7:00 PM. I hope to see many of you there.

Sunday, December 11th: The YMS of R will be holding one of its famous Egg Sandwich Sales after each Mass.

Tuesday, December 13th: 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.

Sunday, December 18th: Parish Christmas Party 12:00 Noon until 3:00 PM. Invite your family and friends, all are welcome. Food, Music and general good times for all!

Sunday, December 18th: Regular monthly meeting of the Parish Committee in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM.

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

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 and all of the tags have been claimed. However two or three people who took tags forgot to sign the sheet beside the tree. If you would please correct this oversight, it would be much appreciated. Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

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.

THE CHOIR

The Saint Stephen the Martyr Choir is in need of new members. Together with our organist, Cheryl Heckman, the current members do an excellent job but more voices are needed to achieve that full, robust sound of the past. If you are even slightly musically inclined or just like to sing, please reach out to any of the members or talk to Father Senior Don about joining the choir.

And if you can play the organ, we would very much like to talk to you also as a backup would be great to have.

"O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms."