



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

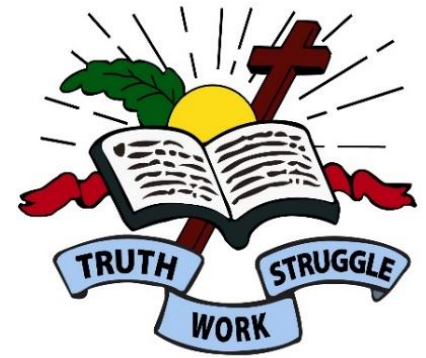
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December 11, 2022

The Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday

REJOICE!

A Sabbath Thought

To make our faith our own, we need to ask Jesus the questions in our hearts, and to listen with our hearts to his response.

About Today's Bible Readings

ISAIAH 35:1-6, 10

Isaiah echoes the deepest longing of the people: to be touched by their God with healing and joy.

Responsorial Psalm: 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

R. Lord, come and save us.

JAMES 5:7-10

James exhorts us to patiently wait for the Lord's coming, demonstrating the paradox that Christ's healing of the world is both 'already' and 'not yet'.

MATTHEW 11:2-11

John the Baptist sends Jesus a piercing question: "Are you the one?" Jesus' response makes the connection between his unique ministry and the tradition that undergirds John.

ENTRANCE RITE – Isaiah 26:19b; 29:19

V. Awake and sing, you who lie in the dust. For your dew is a dew of light, and the land of shades gives birth.

R. The lowly will ever find joy in the Lord, and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

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 – Malachi 3:23

Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the day of the Lord comes.

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you. Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY—Dec. 11th

The Third Sunday of Advent
GAUDETE SUNDAY- Rejoice!

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SUNDAY—Dec. 18th

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SATURDAY Dec. 24th

Christmas Eve

Pasterka

“Shepherd’s Mass”

MIDNIGHT – HOLY MASS

The Saint Stephen’s Choir will present a program of Christmas Carols at 11:45 PM.

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

SUNDAY Dec. 25th

Solemnity

Nativity of the Lord

9:00 AM – HOLY MASS

2023 PNCC HOME LITURGICAL CALENDER

The 2023 PNCC HOME LITURGICAL CALENDAR is now available in limited quantities. They can be found on the table in the vestibule and cost \$6.50 each. They are a great way to keep up with Holy Days and other liturgical celebrations during the year.

Donation Envelopes 2023

The Donation Envelopes for 2023 are available on the table in the Library. Please remember to pick up yours.

Mobility Scooter and Wheelchair

Sally Traczuk has a Mobility Scooter and an Electric Wheelchair available. Please contact Sally after the 9:30 Mass for more information.

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 Sharon Fitzwater, Jeannine Dresh, Lorah Zawoski, Isabella Mularczyk, Edward Czechowski, Patrice Czechowski, Donna Schalata, Tom Schalata, Bill and Bernice Biroscak, Geri Piotrowski, Janet Katinowsky, Julia Urban, Sandy Pfennig, Courtney Pierce, 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, 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

Today, 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.

Thursday, December 15th; The Book Club will meet in the Library at 7:00 PM.

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. Please return your gifts by today or tomorrow.

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.

Oplatki

The Oplatki Wafers are here! They are available on the table in the vestibule. Please take a package or two for a small donation and share the joy, blessings and happiness of Christmas with your friends and families at your Christmas dinners.

Recessional Hymn – Please, Join With the Choir

HIS ADVENT

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free
From our sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee.**

**Israel’s Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Long desired of every nation, Joy of every waiting heart.**

**Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child yet God, our King,
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By Thine own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone,
By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy Glorious throne. Amen**