

December 4, 2022

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

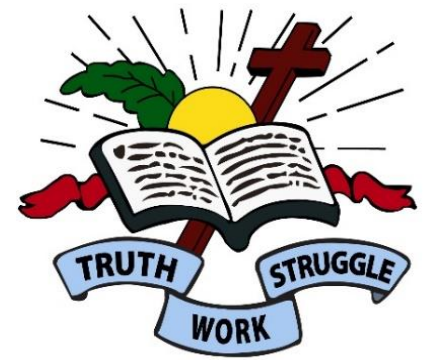
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The Second Sunday of Advent

A Sabbath Thought

Advent is a promise, a time of hope and expectation. The fulfillment of the promise depends on our level of preparation. Therefore, prepare and wait. Do not lose heart.

About Today's Bible Readings

ISAIAH 11:1-10

The prophet Isaiah inspires our preparation. There will come a day when God's holy kingdom will be a place of peace and justice. Be patient in waiting for that day.

Responsorial Psalm: 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.

ROMANS 15:4-9

Because Jesus is the hope of every race and tongue, Paul prays that we may all live in harmony with one another.

MATTHEW 3:1-12

The Savior's Advent is not to be taken lightly. We must purify our lives and prepare our hearts. Our conversion will help straighten the world's crooked ways.

ENTRANCE RITE – John 1:6-8

V. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through Him.

R. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

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

Let us fall into the hands of the Lord and not into the hands of men, for equal to His majesty is the mercy that He shows.

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY—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

SUNDAY—Dec. 11th
The Third Sunday of Advent
GAUDETE SUNDAY- Rejoice!

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

2023 PNCC HOME LITURGICAL CALENDAR

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 the various 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 yours up so that you will be ready to support our beloved Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish in the coming year.

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.

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. For the repose of the souls of Donald Deihm, and Joseph Seliga. **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 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.

Tuesday, December 6th; Choir Practice at 7:00 PM.

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 haven't already, would please correct this oversight, it would be much appreciated. Thank you and God bless you.

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."