



December 10, 2023

# St. Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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## The Second Sunday of Advent

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### ***A Sabbath Thought***

Today we continue our Advent journey. The path we travel is easy because it leads straight to Christ.

### ***About Today's Bible Readings***

#### **ISAIAH 40:1-5, 9-11**

The prophet announces that the exile would soon end and the people are to prepare for a new exodus - just as we are preparing for our final liberation by Christ.

#### **Responsorial Psalm: 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14**

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

#### **2 PETER 3:8-14**

We do not know the exact time of the Lord's coming, but he will come. Our only concern should be how prepared we are to meet the Lord.

#### **MARK 1:1-8**

Mark begins his gospel with John the Baptist's preparation for Christ's coming. By opening their hearts, John hoped to prepare them for faith in the one who was to come.

### ***ENTRANCE RITE – John 1:6-8***

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*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 62:2***

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*V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*V. See, upon the mountains there advances the bearer of good news, announcing peace!*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

### ***THE GOSPEL – MARK 1:1-8***

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#### ***The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.***

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

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# Worship Services

**TODAY – Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Second Sunday of Advent*

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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**SUNDAY – Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>**

*Third Sunday of Advent*

*Gaudete Sunday*

**REJOICE!**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

*Intentions for the repose of the soul of Thomas Lucas offered by Mary Ann Lucas and Fr. Sr. Donald.*

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**SUNDAY – Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**ONE MASS ONLY!**

**9:00 AM – Holy Mass**

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## OPLATKI WAFERS

The Christmas wafers or Oplátky are here and are on the table in the vestibule. Please take what you need and donate what you can. This is a beautiful tradition to maintain with the family at your Christmas table.

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## 2024 DONATION ENVELOPES

Church Donation Envelopes for the year 2024 are now available and are on the table in the library. Please pick yours up as soon as you can so that you will be ready to continue your most generous support of Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish. As you well know, inflation has hit every one of us hard. The church is no exception. If you are able to increase your donations going forward, and we know that not everyone can, it would go a long way towards keeping our beloved parish financially stable.

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## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

For the month of December all of the donations to the Little White Church will be used to help the less blessed of our community as the winter and holiday seasons come upon us. These donations will be used for heating assistance and other such necessities.

# 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, homebound and troubled members of our Parish, our families and friends, especially Debra Caldwell, Dan Shaner, Ken and Judy Mawson, Sharon Fitzwater, Isabella Mularczyk, Edward Czechowski, Patrice Czechowski, Donna Schalata, Tom Schalata, Bill and Bernice Biroscak, Geri Piotrowski, Janet Katinowsky, Julia Urban, Sandy Pfennig, Janice Elaine Casperson, Janis Hogg, Elizabeth McAlanis, Barbara Waszk, Jackie Weinhold, Jane and John Aldershoff, Diane Fisher, Father Senior Ed Ratajack, Eileen McCoury, Alexus, Matthew and Kristy Samsel, Janet Kelly, Bishop Bernard Nowicki, Laura Alfano, Scott Gaydos, Donald Barth, Kenneth Cerminara, John Freeman, Sr., Bob Price, Eleanor Kaczmarczyk, Mary Ann Bezek, Kaleb Gates, Larkspur Dente, Eric Meck, Darryl Weinhold, Scott Kallish, Damon Grossman, Joseph Grossman, Jr., Skye Sadowski, Jeannine Dresh, Violet Hart, Nancy Ziolkowski, John Bennett, Alicia Bennett, David and Judy Wunderlich, Tammy Bolich, Berne Bloom, Marilyn Seiders, Larry Bagenstose, Toni Wiswesser, Peggy Smith and family and Chi Koch, **Our Father....**

**If there are any changes to this list, please let Fr. Sr. Donald know!**

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Today, December 10<sup>th</sup>**; Egg Sandwich Sale sponsored by the YMS of R after each Mass in the Fellowship Hall. Don't miss out on these famous sandwiches.

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**; Advent Tea sponsored by the ANS in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 PM. Please watch for an invitation in the mail.

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**; Regular Monthly meeting of the Parrish Committee in the Upstairs Classroom at 11:00 AM. Please note the location change. All members should plan on attending to prepare for the Annual Meeting.

**Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**; Oplátky Dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 AM. Adults \$12.50, Under 16 \$9.00. Complete sit down ham dinner with sides, desserts and door prizes.

**If there are any other events not listed here, please let Fr. Sr. Donald know!**

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# Christmas Worship Schedule

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Holy Mass at 9:00 AM**

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve**

**Choir Presentation at 11:40 PM**

**Shepherd's Mass, Pasterka at 12:00 Midnight**

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day**

**Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, Holy Mass at 9:00 AM**

**Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, The Feast of Saint Stephen**

**Holy Mass at 7:00 PM**

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