



December 17, 2023

St. Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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The Third Sunday of Advent

A Sabbath Thought

Advent is a time of expectation that teaches us to look forward to Christ's coming. But it is not in the spectacular that we will find him. He comes in the midst of our daily routine, calling us to live after his example.

About Today's Bible Readings

ISAIAH 61:1-2, 10-11

The prophet describes the mission and the mandate the Lord has given him.

Responsorial Psalm: Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

Paul urges Christian integrity and perseverance in the anticipation of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

Because the task of John the Baptist is to announce the coming of Jesus, he does not draw attention to himself but points directly to the one he heralds, Jesus Christ himself.

ENTRANCE HYMN – Philippians 4:4-5; Palms 119:151,162

V. Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.

R. You are near, O Lord; by Your edict give me life. I rejoice at Your promise, as one who has found rich spoil.

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 62:5b

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. And as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so shall your God rejoice in you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

THE GOSPEL – JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

SUNDAY – Dec. 17th

*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.*

SUNDAY – Dec. 24th

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ONE MASS ONLY!

9:00 AM – Holy Mass

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.

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.

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.

THE ANGEL TREE

If you have not returned your gift for the Angel Tree Project, please leave it in the upstairs office in the Annex or see Father Senior Donald. Thank you.

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, Nicole Dapp, 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, Father Senior Ed Ratajack, Eileen McCoury, Alexis, 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, For the repose of the soul of Thomas Lucas.
Our Father....

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, December 17th; Advent Tea sponsored by the ANS in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 PM. Please watch for an invitation in the mail.

Today, December 17th; 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 7th; 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!

Christmas Worship Schedule

**Sunday, December 24th, Fourth Sunday of Advent
Holy Mass at 9:00 AM**

**Sunday, December 24th, Christmas Eve
Choir Presentation at 11:40 PM**

Shepherd's Mass, Pasterka at 12:00 Midnight

**Monday, December 25th, Christmas Day
Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, Holy Mass at 9:00 AM**

**Tuesday, December 26th, 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.***