



December 24, 2023

# St. Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607  
The Very Reverend Donald E. Wunderlich  
OFFICE: 610-775-4559

Email: [fatherdon@ststephenpncc.org](mailto:fatherdon@ststephenpncc.org)

Website: [www.ststephenpncc.org](http://www.ststephenpncc.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ststephenpncc](http://www.facebook.com/ststephenpncc)



## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

### A Sabbath Thought

By our openness to the action of the Spirit, we Christians serve to bring Jesus into the world. In this, we follow the example of Mary whose humble assent to the Spirit was a means of giving glory to God.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### 2 SAMUEL 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a-16

David wants to prove his love for God by building a temple to house the ark of the covenant. But God speaks through the prophet Nathan and points David in a different direction.

#### Responsorial Psalm: 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

**R. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

#### ROMANS 16:25-27

Giving glory to God is not just a matter of saying prayers or singing. The greater glory is to surrender ourselves to his love in all that we are and do.

#### LUKE 1:26-38

There are different ways to bring God into the world. Mary gave birth to the historical Jesus. We members of his body bring Jesus to new birth by allowing his Spirit to work through us.

### ENTRANCE HYMN – Luke 1:28-42; Judith 15:9b

*V. Hail favored one! The Lord is with you. Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!*

**R. You are the glory of Jerusalem, the surpassing joy of Israel! You are the splendid boast of our people.**

*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. I am the Lord, the God of all mankind! Is anything impossible to Me?*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

### THE GOSPEL – Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

# Worship Services

TODAY – Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

**ONE MASS ONLY!**

**9:00 AM – Holy Mass**

\*\*\*\*\*

TONIGHT – Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>  
**Christmas Eve!**

Choir Presentation  
11:40 PM

**PASTERKA  
(SHEPHERD'S MASS)**

12:00 MIDNIGHT  
HOLY MASS

\*\*\*\*\*

TOMORROW – Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>  
SOLEMNITY

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9:00 AM – HOLY MASS

\*\*\*\*\*

TUESDAY – Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>

**The Feast of St. Stephen**

7:00 PM – HOLY MASS

\*\*\*\*\*

WEDNESDAY – Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>

FEAST OF SAINT JOHN  
APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

Blessing and  
Distribution of Wine

7:00 PM – Holy Mass

\*\*\*\*\*

SUNDAY – Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>

SOLEMNITY  
FEAST OF THE HUMBLE  
SHEPHERDS

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2024 Donation Envelopes

The 2024 Donation Envelopes are ready and are on the table in the library. Please pick yours up as soon as possible and thank you for your continuing support of Saint Stephens.

## 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, Herman Hartman, and Chi Koch, **Our Father...**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**; The ANS will meet in the library immediately following 9:30 Mass. All of the women of the parish are invited and encouraged to attend.

**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. Please see the flyer on the table in the vestibule and sign the sheet if you are planning to attend so that we know how much food to prepare. Thank you.

**Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**; The Book Club will meet in the library at 7:00 PM.

**Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**; Regular monthly meeting of the parish committee in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM. All committee members should plan on attending to prepare for the Annual Parrish Congregational Meeting.

**Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**; The Annual Parish Congregational Meeting. In the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM. All members should plan on attending as it is vital to the proper functioning of a democratic church that all members participate in the making of vital decisions affecting the parish.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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 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 \$7.00 each. They are a great way to keep up with Holy Days and other liturgical celebrations during the year.