



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

The Very Reverend Donald E. Wunderlich

Rectory: 610-775-4559

Email: fatherdon@ststephenpncc.org

Website: www.ststephenpncc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ststephenspncc



December 25, 2023

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord – During the Day

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

A Festival Thought

The profound mystery of the Word made flesh causes us to celebrate with joy every aspect of our redemption. Through Christ's birth, by Christ's death and in Christ's marvelous resurrection, we find ourselves saved!

About Today's Bible Readings:

ISAIAH 52:7-10

God's word of salvation for Israel meant freedom from exile, a return home, a chance to rebuild.

Responsorial Psalm: 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

HEBREWS 1:1-6

God's word of salvation, first spoken through the prophets, became a living reality in the person and mission of Jesus Christ.

JOHN 1:1-18

God's word of salvation, finally made flesh in Jesus, is the source of our light, love and peace.

ENTRANCE RITE – Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

V. A Child has been born for us, a Son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

R. Sing a new song to the Lord, Who has done marvelous deeds.

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 – Traditional – Liturgy of the hours antiphon

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. A sanctified day has shown upon us; come, you nations, and adore the Lord: for this day a great Light has descended upon the earth.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

THE GOSPEL – John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY Dec. 25th

Solemnity

Nativity of the Lord

9:00 AM – HOLY MASS

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

TUESDAY Dec. 26th

Feast of Saint Stephen

7:00 PM – HOLY MASS

WEDESDAY Dec. 27th

Feast of Saint John

Apostle and Evangelist

Blessing and

Distribution of Wine

7:00 PM – HOLY MASS

SUNDAY– Dec. 31st

SOLEMNITY

Feast of the Humble

Shepherds

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SATURDAY– Jan. 6th

SOLEMNITY

Epiphany of Our Lord

7:00 PM – Holy Mass



Peace on Earth



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 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. **Our Father...**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 7th; 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 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. 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.

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

Sunday, January 21st; 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 28th; 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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

On behalf of the Parish Committee, myself and my daughter, Danielle, I would like to wish each and every one of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, Blessed and most prosperous New Year!