



December 3 , 2023

# St. Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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## The First Sunday of Advent

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

Again we prepare for God's coming. Even as we wait for God's Spirit to transform us, we can celebrate the gifts we have already received. In this Advent season, the signs of God's presence are all about us.

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

#### **ISAIAH 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7**

Isaiah acknowledges the people's guilt but still calls upon God to return, to show his face, to refashion his people just as a potter lovingly molds his clay.

#### **Responsorial Psalm: 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19**

**R. Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we  
shall be saved.**

#### **1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9**

God has faithfully provided us with many gifts to be used in building the kingdom. We praise the Lord for these countless blessings.

#### **MARK 13:33-37**

The Master has left us servants in charge until he returns. Be alert for God's coming. Watch for God's presence wherever you are, in whomever you meet.

### **ENTRANCE RITE – PSALM 130:5-6; Lam. 3:25-26**

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*V. I wait with longing for the Lord, my soul waits for His word. My soul looks for the Lord more than sentinels for daybreak.*

**R. Good is the Lord to one who waits for Him, to the soul that seeks Him. It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.**

*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. My soul rests in God alone, from Whom comes my salvation.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

### **THE GOSPEL – MARK 13:33-37**

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Jesus said to his disciples:

"Be watchful! Be alert!

You do not know when the time will come.

It is like a man traveling abroad.

He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work,

and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch.

Watch, therefore;

you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming,

whether in the evening, or at midnight,

or at cockcrow, or in the morning.

May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.

What I say to you, I say to all: "Watch!"

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

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# Worship Services

**TODAY – Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*First Sunday of Advent.  
Blessing of the Advent  
Wreath and lighting of the  
first candle.*

**Liturgical Year (B) Begins**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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**SATURDAY – Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>**

*Advent Penitential Service*

**7:00 PM**

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**SUNDAY – 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**

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## ADVENT!

Today is the first Sunday of the Advent Season. Advent gives us the opportunity to prepare ourselves, physically, emotionally and spiritually for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. There are booklets on the table in the vestibule. Please take one and resolve to spend a few minutes each day in prayer and reflection so that you may truly appreciate God's great gift to His people, Eternal Life in the form of the Baby Jesus.

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## OPŁATKI CHRISTMAS WAFERS

The Christmas wafers or Opłatki 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.

# 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, 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 and Peggy Smith and family. **Our Father....**

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

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**; Advent Penitential Service at 7:00 PM

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**; Egg Sandwich Sale sponsored by the YMS of R after each Mass. 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. Details to follow soon.

**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.

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**; Christmas Eve, Shepard's Mass – Pasterka at 12:00 Midnight.

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**; Christmas Day, Solemnity – Nativity of the Lord – Holy Mass at 9:00 AM.

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

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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. Thank you for your generosity and may God bless you and yours.

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## Christian Generosity - The Angel Tree Project

And let's not forget about those individuals in our community who are less blessed than ourselves. If you are able to, please be a part of the Angel Tree Project to benefit the elderly or shut in of our community. The tree is set up in the fellowship hall. Please take a tag from it and fulfil the gift requested. Return the gift to the auxiliary office in the upstairs of the Annex by December 10<sup>th</sup> and we will see that it gets to the appropriate individual. There are only three tags left. Please help clear the tree.

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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.