



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 Saint Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

The Very Reverend Donald E. Wunderlich

Parish Office: 610-775-4559

Email: fatherdon@ststephenpncc.org

Website: www.ststephenpncc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ststephenspncc



December 31, 2023

Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A Festival Thought

Today we reflect on the humble shepherds and why God chose them, among the lowliest of people, to spread the good news of great joy.

About Today's Bible Readings:

JEREMIAH 31:10-14

The joy of the coming of the Saviour and the salvation of Israel are extolled.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. A light will shine on us this day; The Lord is born for us.

GALATIANS 4:1-7

St. Paul tells us that the coming of Christ elevates us from childhood to children of God.

LUKE 2:15-20

The shepherds see the Christ Child in the manger and, filled with awe, return to spread the Good News.

ENTRANCE RITE: Wisdom 18:14-15a; Psalm 93:2

V. For when peaceful stillness compassed everything and the night in its swift course was half spent, Your all-powerful Word from heaven's royal throne bounded, a fierce warrior, into the doomed land.

R. Your throne stands firm from of old; You are from everlasting, 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 93:1a

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. The Lord is King, robed with majesty; the Lord is robed, girded with might.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: Luke 2:15-20

When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Worship Services

**TODAY – December 31st
SOLEMNITY**

**Feast of the Humble
Shepherds**

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

**SATURDAY – January 6th
SOLEMNITY**

Epiphany of Our Lord

7:00 PM – Holy Mass

BLESSED CHALK AND INCENSE

The chalk and incense that will be blessed Saturday night as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord will be available on the table in the vestibule next Sunday. Please take one home for your own use.

**SUNDAY – January 7th
SOLEMNITY**

Baptism of Our Lord

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

DONATION ENVELOPES 2024

The Donation Envelopes for 2024 are available on the table in the Library. Please remember to pick up yours so that you are ready to faithfully support our beloved Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish in the coming year.

2024 PNCC HOME LITURGICAL CALENDER

The 2024 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.

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. 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 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. For the repose of the soul of Herman Hartman. **Our Father...**

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

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. **And please see Tom Schalata after Mass to purchase your tickets!**

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; Annual Parish Membership Meeting at 11:00AM in the Fellowship Hall. I urge every member of Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish to attend this important meeting. Many issues vital to the health and success of our parish will be discussed and decided upon. The key to success in any democratically oriented organization is in the participation of the membership. Our parish is facing many challenges and your thoughts and ideas on how to solve them are of the utmost importance. Please plan to attend, engage and to elect or volunteer to be elected representatives to the various offices and positions in our parish for the upcoming terms. Our ancestors fought for this right when they founded the Polish National Catholic Church one hundred and twenty four years ago. **Please respect it and make use of it by attending and participating.**

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

NEW YEAR

As we enter the new year please be aware of the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting on January 28th. I would also like to remind all of the various parish organizations to be sure to have their year-end reports ready in preparation for the meeting.

KOLEDA- BLESSING OF HOMES

Father Senior Donald will be blessing homes this Epiphany Season. He will be happy to bless any home at your request. Please print your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet in the vestibule along with the best time for you to have this done. Or, simply call him at 610-775-4559 to set up a time and date. He will be happy to see you and more than happy to bless your home.

COFFEE, DONUTS AND FELLOWSHIP

Please join us after each Mass in the Fellowship Hall downstairs beginning January 14th. Have a cup of coffee, a donut and some Christian Fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Catch up with old friends and maybe make some new ones.