



# St. Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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January 28, 2024

## Septuagesima Sunday

### A Sabbath Thought

When we gather here as God's people in worship, we are not to be a closed circle that excludes certain people. Like our God, we must dwell in the warmth of love; we must act with the power of healing.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### LEVITICUS 13:1-2, 44-46

In land of ancient Israel, ritual regulations required the ostracism of those afflicted with the terrible disease of leprosy.

#### PSALM 32:1-2, 5, 11

**R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

#### 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31-11:1

Paul is so secure in his close identification with Christ that he can invite others to imitate him.

#### MARK 1:40-45

Jesus offers a new solution to the problem of lepers. He does not ostracize them, he heals them.

### ENTRANCE RITE – Luke 4:27; Psalm 41:5

*V. There were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naman the Syrian.*

**R. Once I prayed, "Lord, have mercy on me; heal me, I have sinned against You.**

*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.**

### Tract - Matthew 8:2 (Recited in place of the Alleluia)

*V. Then a leper approached, did Him homage and said,*

**R. Lord, if You wish, You can make me clean.**

### THE GOSPEL – Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean."

Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."

The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once.

He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

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

# Worship Services

## 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, Peggy Smith and family, Chi Koch, Vicki Shoemaker, William Kutenits, Todd Shaffer, Cristin Burke and Kelly Wylezik. **Our Father....**

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

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Today, January 28<sup>th</sup>;** Annual Parish Membership Meeting at 10:30AM 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 six years ago. Please respect it and make use of it by attending and participating.

**Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>;** The ANS will meet in the Library at 11:00 AM. All of the ladies of the Parish are invited and encouraged to attend.

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

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## 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.

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## OUR PRE-LENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

The Reverend Doctor Scott Lill of our Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese has prepared for all of us an excellent devotional for the season of Pre-Lent. This devotional effort of his is entitled *The Season of Pre-Lent: A Time of Preparation for Polish National Catholics*. This small reader will be available to you during this Season and can be found on the table in the vestibule. Please take one home with you. Use it daily, following its suggestions for activities, readings, meditations and self-reflective periods in Catholic Christian spirituality. Through these efforts, we'll prepare ourselves to "undertake the Lenten Journey of transformation" and "arrive at our celebration of our Lord's resurrection" with "faith strengthened, hope fortified, and divine charity fully ablaze within us .... by the aid of God's grace ...." (Pre-Lenten devotional booklet, p. 5).

**TODAY – January 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Septuagesima  
Pre Lent 1**

**ONE MASS ONLY!  
ANNUAL MEETING!**

**9:00 AM – Holy Mass**

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**SUNDAY – February 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Sexagesima  
Pre Lent 2**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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**SUNDAY – February 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Quinquagesima  
Pre Lent 3**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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**WEDNESDAY – Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>**

**ASH WEDNESDAY  
LENT BEGINS**

**9:00 AM – HOLY MASS**

*Blessing and distribution  
of ashes to the faithful*

**7:00 PM – HOLY MASS**

*Blessing and distribution  
of ashes to the faithful*

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**SUNDAY – February 18<sup>th</sup>**

**First Sunday of Lent**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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**SUNDAY – February 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**