

# Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

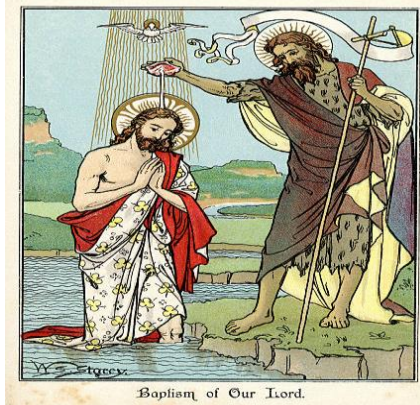
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January 7, 2024

## Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord

### A Festival Thought

We who have been baptized have been baptized into the death of Jesus. We have also been baptized into his life. Like the Lord, we must go about doing good as living examples of the mercy that has been shown us.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### ISAIAH 42:1-4, 6-7

What befits the servant whom the Lord commissions to achieve the victory of divine justice? The gifts are healing compassion and majestic might.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

**R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

#### ACTS 10:34-38

The good news of peace is about Jesus, the merciful healer who cures even the fatal wound of death that afflicts us all.

#### MARK 1:7-11

Jesus at his baptism stands revealed as God's chosen and beloved one, the one who will bathe the world in saving waters.

### ENTRANCE RITE: MATTHEW 3:16-17 Psalms 72:13

*V. After Jesus was baptized, He came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened, [for Him], and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon Him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased."*

**R. He shows pity to the needy and the poor and saves the lives of the poor.**

*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 114:3-4

*V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*V. The sea beheld and fled; the Jordan turned back. The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs of the flock.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### THE GOSPEL: MARK 1:7-11

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed:

"One mightier than I is coming after me.

I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.

I have baptized you with water;

he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John.

On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him.

And a voice came from the heavens,

"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

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

# Worship Services

**TODAY – January 7<sup>th</sup>**

## **SOLEMNITY**

**Baptism of Our Lord**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

*Intentions for the repose of the soul of Edward Ratajack, Sr. offered by Father Senior Donald.*

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**SUNDAY – January 14<sup>th</sup>**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ordinary time**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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**SUNDAY – January 21<sup>st</sup>**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Ordinary time**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

*Intentions for the repose of the soul of Beverly Rush Wunderlich offered by Father Senior Donald and Danielle Wunderlich.*

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**SUNDAY – January 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Septuagesima – Pre Lent 1**

**ONE MASS ONLY!**

**ANNUAL MEETING!**

**9:00 AM – Holy Mass**

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## **BLESSED CHALK AND INCENSE**

The chalk and incense that was blessed last night as we celebrated the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord is available on the table in the vestibule. Please take one home for your own use.

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## **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.

## **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 Cerninara, 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 Edward Ratajack, Sr. **Our Father....**

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

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Today, 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 14<sup>th</sup>;** Oplatki 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 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>;** 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 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!**

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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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## **COFFEE, DONUTS AND FELLOWSHIP**

Please join us after each Mass in the Fellowship Hall downstairs beginning January 14<sup>th</sup>. 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.