



February 18, 2024

St. Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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First Sunday of Lent

A Sabbath Thought

We begin the season of Lent with Jesus' proclamation of the good news: "The time of fulfillment is now. The reign of God is near. Reform your lives." This is *good* news? Yes, it is the promise of our salvation.

About Today's Bible Readings

GENESIS 9:8-15

In the covenant with Noah, God promises that the water will never again form a flood to destroy humanity. In baptism, waters now become our salvation.

PSALM 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9.

R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

1 PETER 3:18-22

This letter of the early church makes an explicit connection between the waters that carried Noah to safety and the baptismal bath that saves us.

MARK 1:12-15

In several short sentences, the gospel of Mark outlines the purpose of Lent. Like Jesus, we enter a desert in order to confront our evil and reform our lives.

ENTRANCE RITE: Sirach 44:17-18

V. Noah, found just and perfect, renewed the race in the time of devastation. Because of his worth there were survivors, and with a sign to him the deluge ended;

R. A lasting agreement was made with him, that never should all flesh be destroyed.

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: Sirach 43:11-12 (Recited in place of the Alleluia)

V. Behold the rainbow! Then bless its Maker, for majestic indeed is its splendor.

R. It spans the heavens with its glory, this bow bent by the mighty hand of God.

THE GOSPEL: Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY – February 18th
First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM – Holy Mass
9:30 AM – Holy Mass

WEDNESDAY – Feb. 21st
Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM

**Meatless Lenten Meal will
be served at 6:00 PM**

SUNDAY – February 25th
Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM – Holy Mass
9:30 AM – Holy Mass

WEDNESDAY – Feb. 28st
Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM

**Meatless Lenten Meal will
be served at 6:00 PM**

SUNDAY – March 3rd
Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM – Holy Mass
9:30 AM – Holy Mass

WEDNESDAY – March 6th
Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM

**Meatless Lenten Meal will
be served at 6:00 PM**

SUNDAY – March 10th
Solemnity
Institution of the Polish
National Catholic Church

8:00 AM – Holy Mass
9:30 AM – Holy Mass

**Daylight Saving Time
Begins!**

Remember to set your clocks ahead!

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 Biroszak, Geri Piotrowski, Janet Katinowsky, Julia Urban, Sandy Pfennig, Janice Elaine Casperson, Elizabeth McAlanis, Barbara Waszk, Jackie Weinhold, Jane and John Aldershoff, Father Senior Ed Ratajack, Eileen McCoury, Alexis, Matthew and Kristy Samsel, Janet Kelly, Laura Alfano, Scott Gaydos, Donald Barth, Kenneth Cerminara, John Freeman, Sr., Bob Price, Eleanor Kaczmarczyk, Mary Ann Bezek, 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, Kelly Wylezik and Shawn Siedel. For the repose of the souls of Prime Bishop Francis Hodur, Janice Dione Smith and John Leonti. **Our Father....**

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, February 18th; Monthly Parish Committee meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM.

Wednesday, February 21th; Stations of the Cross services begin at 7:00 PM on Wednesdays during Lent. Meatless Lenten meals will be served at 6:00 PM prior to the services. Please invite your relatives, friends and neighbors to join us in worship.

Sunday, February 25th; The Picnic Committee will meet in the Library at 10:30 AM.

Sunday, March 3rd; The ANS will meet in the library after the 9:30 AM Mass.

Saturday, March 9th; Lenten Penitential Service at 7:00 PM.

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

LENTEN WORSHIP BOOKLET

The Lenten Worship Booklets are on the table in the vestibule. Please take one and refer to it daily during Lent for prayers and reflections on our Lord's Passion.

PIEROGI MAKING SIGNUP SHEET

Pierogi Signup sheets are on the table in the vestibule. We are starting early this year in order to avoid the last minute rush in preparing food for the Annual Picnic in August. Help is need on each of the designated days beginning this Friday and Saturday. If you can volunteer to help it would be most appreciated. No experience is necessary. We will teach you how.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During the season of Lent we will be praying the Stations of the Cross each and every Wednesday starting this week and leading up to Holy Week. I hope that everyone will plan on attending to join together and that you urge your families, friends and neighbors to attend as well. This is a beautiful and moving form of worship and it helps to focus our thoughts and prayers on our Lord and Savior as we reflect on His Passion and Death.

