



# St. Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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February 4, 2024

## Sexagesima Sunday

### A Sabbath Thought

God is doing something new. He delivers Israel from its paralyzing and sinful ways. Jesus typifies God's intent as "Son of Man," one to whom God has granted the power to forgive.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### ISAIAH 43:18-19,22,24b-25

Even though the people sin, God wipes out their sin. A new Exodus, far surpassing the crossing of the Red Sea, will deliver them once more.

#### PSALM 41:2-3, 4-5, 13-14

**R. Lord, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.**

#### 2 CORINTHIANS 1:18-22

The Word of God is constant. It is not "yes" now and "no" later. Jesus is God's "yes" to us.

#### MARK 2:1-12

By forgiving the paralytic, Jesus claimed the divine power to forgive sins. The Son of Man is present, the fulfillment of God's word is at hand.

### ENTRANCE RITE: Daniel 9:8-9

*V. O Lord, we are shamefaced, like our kings, our princes, and our fathers, for having sinned against You.*

**R. But Yours, O Lord, our God, are compassion and forgiveness! Yet we rebelled 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: ACTS 13:38a, 39 (Recited in place of the Alleluia)

*V. You must know, my brothers that through Him forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you.*

**R. In Him every believer is justified.**

### THE GOSPEL: Mark 2:1-12

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them. They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Jesus immediately knew in his mind what they were thinking to themselves, so he said, "Why are you thinking such things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth", he said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home." He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

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

**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, 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!**

**Worship Services**

**SUNDAY – February 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Sexagesima  
Pre Lent 2**

**Scout Sunday**

**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**

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**SUNDAY – March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>;** The ANS will meet in the Library at 11:00 AM.  
**Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>;** The Book Club will meet in the Library at 7:00 PM.  
**Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>;** Parish Committee meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM.  
**Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>;** 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 25<sup>th</sup>;** The Picnic Committee will meet in the Library at 10:30 AM.

**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).

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**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. If you can volunteer to help it would be most appreciated. No experience is necessary. We will teach you how.