



## Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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March 31, 2024

## PALM SUNDAY

### A Sabbath Thought

This is a day of heights and depths. We echo the high praise with which Jerusalem blessed him who came in the name of the Lord. But we also plunge into the agony and death of that king who reigned from a cross.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### ISAIAH 50:4-7

The liturgy puts into Jesus' mouth both the prophet's words of resolution in the face of suffering *and* confidence in the face of despair. In God's eyes, the disadvantaged and the persecuted possess a far greater dignity than those who abuse them.

#### Responsorial Psalm:

22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

**R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

#### PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11

"Empty" is a negative word. But, in the case of Jesus, his emptying - that is, his impoverishment in death - is our enrichment! To give completely, to hold nothing back is to live fully the life of the Lord.

#### MARK 14:1 – 15:47

Here in vivid detail are Jesus' last hours. They are presented, not for morbid curiosity but for our reverent contemplation. This narrative should move us to praise. Through Jesus' sorrow and suffering, joy and healing have become blessings for all. When he appeared most defeated, he was truly triumphant. The servant Son who suffered for the sake of us all won victory through his innocence. Without a thought for himself, he gave all he had and all he was for others. By virtue of his innocence and his loving selflessness, all who believe are made holy and whole.

### ENTRANCE RITE (Psalm 23:9-10)

*V. Open wide the door and gates. Lift high the ancient portals. The King of glory enters; Who is the King of glory? He is God, the mighty Lord.*

**R. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed are You Who are have come to us so rich in love and mercy. Hosanna in the highest.**

*V. Lord, for us Your wounds were suffered.*

**R. O Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.**

### Tract (Isaiah 62:10-11 NRSV)

*V. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.*

**R. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him."**

### The Gospel: Mark 14:1 – 15:47

**The Gospel will be read in ensemble.  
Please stand, sit if you need to.**

# Worship Services

**TODAY – March 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Palm Sunday**

**Blessing and distribution of  
Palms to the Faithful, Procession**

**One Mass Only!**

**9:00 AM – Holy Mass**

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**WEDNESDAY – March 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Stations of the Cross**

**7:00 PM**

**Lenten Meal served at 6:00 PM**

**Pizza Night Courtesy**

**Of the Book Club.**

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**THURSDAY – March 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Holy (MAUNDY) Thursday**

**Institution of the Most Holy  
Eucharist**

**Washing of feet**

**Procession to the Repository**

**7:00 PM Holy Mass**

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**FRIDAY – March 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Good Friday**

**Mass of the Pre-Sanctified  
Liturgy of the Passion and  
Death of Our Lord**

**3:00 PM**

**Tenebrae**

**7:00 PM**

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**SATURDAY - March 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Holy Saturday**

**Blessing of Easter Food**

**12:00 Noon & 6:45 PM**

**Blessing of New Fire, Paschal  
Candle and Holy Water**

**7:00 PM**

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**SUNDAY – March 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Easter Sunday - Solemnity**

**The Resurrection of  
Our Lord and Savior**

**One Mass Only**

**9:00 AM Holy Mass**

**Procession**

## 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, 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 Shawn Siedel, Father Carmen Bolock, Christine Mulutzie, Sarah Ludwig and Frederick Smith.

**Our Father....**

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

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**; The ANS will meet at 11:00 AM at Louie's Kitchen and Bar, in Flying Hills; 12 Village Center Drive; Reading, PA 19607.

**Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**; The Book Club will meet in the Library at 7:00 PM.

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

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## PIEROGI MAKING SIGNUP SHEET

Pierogi Signup sheets are on the table in the vestibule. 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. And thanks to all those who have helped so far.

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## 23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL MISSION AND EVANGELISM WORKSHOP

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mission and Evangelism Workshop of the PNCC will be held this year at Saint Barbara's Parish in Houtzdale, PA, April 12<sup>th</sup> through April 14<sup>th</sup>. Flyers are on the table in the vestibule. The Parish will pay the \$50.00 registration fee for anyone wishing to attend. Hotel and travel expenses will be the responsibility of the attendee. See Fr. Sr. Donald for more information.

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## Recessional Hymn – The Old Rugged Cross

**Please join with the choir in singing along!**

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
the emblem of suff'ring and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

### CHORUS

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it someday for a crown.*

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
Then He'll call me someday to my home far away,  
Where His glory forever I'll share.

### CHORUS