

Saint Stephen the Martyr PNCC PARISH NEWSLETTER



20 St. Stephen's Church Lane, Reading PA 19607 - Feb/March 2025

Annual Parish Meeting

Parish Approves 2025 Agenda, No Major Changes...

On Sunday, January 26, the St. Stephen the Martyr Parish held its annual membership meeting, and the event was very productive, yet largely uneventful. That is, lacking in controversy.

Following the usual agenda of parish reports from Fr. Sr. Donald E. Wunderlich, and various other parish organizations, these are the highlights of the topics that were discussed:

■ **Annual Picnic:** Improving the financial breakdown of picnic income and expenses will be a priority, especially regarding donations, etc.

It was noted that a lot of help will be needed again this year with food prep for the picnic and in the kitchen at the picnic grove.

A fund-raiser is being considered to purchase new light-weight folding tables for picnic use.

■ **Finances of the church** will also be evaluated with the goal of getting out of the "red."

■ **Kevin Grossman** is researching what needs to be done regarding the painting of the altars. He

noted that they may need to be checked for lead paint. Then, determine what needs to be done.

■ **Regarding building matters**, the refrigerator in the kitchen needs to be repaired. It is not working. The service call is scheduled. Toilets in the building are being checked and replaced where needed.

■ **St. Stephen's will mark its 100th Anniversary in 2027. An Anniversary Committee was established. The members are:** Jay Rowe, chair; Janet Katinowsky; Ned Kotula; Janet Reed; Mike Traczuk; Sally Traczuk and Carol Urban. Ned Kotula is still looking for church related memorabilia.

■ **School of Christian Living** now has three students, as reported by Janet Katinowsky.

■ **MISC. NEWS:** New financial contribution system seems to be working. New parish members were welcomed. Joe Dowd II added to Parish Committee as a trustee. Rebecca Kotula was recognized as she will be attending law school. Also, Kevin Grossman for all the work he has done for parish.



**Message
from
Fr. Sr.**

Donald Wunderlich

The Polish word "Kolędy" actually has two meanings. The word "Kolędy" is translated into English to mean Christmas Carols. They are often religious songs that are sung in church or in the home. They are simple and pure, and are sometimes described as being both prayers and musical dramas.

Kolędy may also refer to a Polish Catholic custom where priests visit parishioners' homes after Epiphany. During these visits, the priest blesses the homes and write "20 K + M + B + 25" on the main entrance door.

The message, written in chalk above the door includes the year, three crosses, and the initials of the three kings in Polish. They are Kacper, Melchior, and Baltazar. They are the Polish names for the three wise men who visited baby Jesus, also known as Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

The priest may also offer pastoral remarks at this time.

The blessing is a way to protect the home's inhabitants from misfortune, and is a chance for the priest to see how parishioners are living and to invite lapsed parishioners back to the church.

In order to prepare for a house blessing, place a lighted candle, an icon of Christ, and a bowl to hold holy water on your dining room table or family altar. You may also have a prayer list ready.

I look forward to visiting your homes during this special season.

Please add your name to the list on the table in vestibule to schedule my visit. Thank you.

God Bless!

Fr. Sr. Donald

Annual Parish Picnic

Plans Begin for 2025 Event, Food Prep Priority

The Picnic Committee met Sunday, February 2, and immediately set in to motion its plans for this year's festivities.

Jay Rowe, picnic committee chairperson, set the agenda for the meeting, and reported that several key areas have already been established. They are: the band (booked), Willow Glen Park (reserved), and the beer wagon (reserved).

Critical to the success of the picnic, of course, is the food-preparation, and that was the main focus of the meeting. The committee established tentative dates for pierogi-making. They are as follows: March 14 & 15, March 28 & 29 (Potato); April 11 & 12 (Potato); April 25 & 26 (Cheese); May 9 & 10 (Cheese), May 30-31 (Cheese); Sauerkraut- to be determined. A sign-up sheet will be available in the vestibule for volunteers.

It was also noted that an attempt will be made to cut-back on the amount produced at these sessions in order to make the day's work more manageable. For example, instead of making 140+ dozen, we would try to cut it back to 100 dozen.

The point was made that we need to pay special attention to the sizes of the scoops used to portion the fillings, and adjust the recipe to suit the quantity of pierogies to be produced.

The committee also addressed concerns over the production of golumpki, this year. Since the

issue of golumpki-making may be a problem, Tom Schalata agreed to check with Shady Maple to see if we could purchase the filled cabbages from them. This was done two years ago when most of our's were lost due to a problem with the freezer in which the product was stored. More than half of our inventory was spoiled from the incident.

It was also suggested that the flyers for this year's picnic be ready to go by spring.

Finally, it was stressed that promotion of the picnic would be more important than ever, since the event was switching from a traditional Sunday date to Saturday, in order to avoid the conflict with the ongoing flea market at the grounds.





St. Stephen the Martyr Parish Committee Report (Highlights of the Recent Meetings) "Keeping **YOU** informed of Parish Business"

For a variety of reasons, we are unable to provide a report from the January Parish Committee Meeting. However, please look for an update in the next edition of your parish newsletter.

Here is a list of Your Parish Committee Officers for 2025, as voted upon and approved at the Annual Parish Meeting:

Chairperson: Tom Schalata

Vice-Chairperson: Jay Rowe

Recording Secretary:

Janet Katinowsky

Financial Secretary:

Lynne Dowd

Assistant Financial Secretary:

Michael Traczuk

Treasurer:

Frank Kaczmarczyk Jr.

Trustees:

David Bustard

Joseph Dowd II

Joseph Faranda

Francis Golembeski

Kevin Grossman

Theodore Rysz

Carole Urban

Thank you. We look forward to serving you in the coming year.



Please remember all those on our prayer list. Check the Weekly bulletin or the St. Stephen's website for an updated list of those in need.

Prayer is such a powerful tool in our spiritual journey. Take time to ask God's help for those in need, the growth of our parish, and peace in this world. As we enter the Lenten Season, there is no better time to take time to reflect in prayer.

Please let Fr. Sr. Donald know if any changes need to be made to the list. Thank you!

Tune in each month to **THE POLISH AMERICAN CONNECTION**

with Tom Gajewski
on BCTV on First Tuesday of Month - 7:30 pm
First Wed. after First Tues. - 7:30 pm
First Fri. after First Tues. - 1:30 pm
First Mon. after First Tues. - 10:30 am
Second Tues. - 3:30 pm
Comcast Reading Channel 15, Comcast Southern Berks CH. 965, Service Electric CH. 19 & Streaming on youtube channel!

Y.M.S. of R. NEW PICNIC TABLE DRIVE

The YMS of R is seeking donations to purchase new, lightweight, plastic picnic tables for use during the annual picnic at a cost of approx. \$85 each.
Cash Donations should be placed in a separate envelope marked "YMS of R Table Drive" and checks should be made payable to: "St. Stephens YMS of R and noted Table Drive. Thank you in advance for your support & generosity

DON'T MISS IN THE APRIL NEWSLETTER

- Complete Remaining Lenten & Easter Services and Events
- Picnic Updates
- Up-to-date news about YOUR Parish!



Upcoming EVENTS

Please Participate in these
Events, Meetings & Activities.
*Sign-up Sheets if Noted

Meetings

Y.M.S. OF R. (Men's group)

Tues., Feb. 11 @ 7 pm in Hall
Annual Meeting w/pizza

ANS : LADIES ADORATION SOC.

Sun., Feb. 16 @ 10:30 am

PARISH COMMITTEE

Feb. 16 @ 11 am in the
Fellowship Hall & March 16.

COFFEE & DONUTS

Sunday Fellowship Coffee &
Donut after each Mass in the
Fellowship Hall

MISSION COMMISSION

None Scheduled

ST. STEPHEN'S BOOK CLUB

To Be Announced

Services Calendar

LENTEN SEASON BEGINS

(Ash Wednesday) Wed.,

March 5 @ 9 am & 7 pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Wednesdays March 12, 19, 26

April 2, 9, 16 @ 7 pm

*Lenten Soup/Meals each of
those weeks @ 6 pm

PENITENTIAL DEVOTIONS

Sat., April 5 @ 7 pm

PASSION SUNDAY

Sun., April 6 @ 8 & 9:30 am

EGG SANDWICH SALE

YMS of R Semi-Annual

Egg Sandwich Sale, Sun. April
6 after each Mass.

(Egg, Ham & Cheese on Kaiser Roll)

PALM SUNDAY

Sun., April 13 @ 8 & 9:30 am

HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, April 17 @ 7 pm

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, April 18 @ 7 pm

HOLY SATURDAY SERVICES

Holy Saturday Blessing of
Easter Food Baskets, Sat., April
19 @ Noon. Service: Blessing of
Fire, Holy Water & Pascal Can-
dle, @ 7 pm

EASTER SUNDAY MASS

Sun., April 20 @ 9 am

*Due to early printing
deadlines, please check
weekly bulletin for any
changes. Thank you!



Contact Info & Resources

The Very Rev. Donald E. Wunderlich Parish Office (610) 775-4559
Email: fatherdon@ststephenpncc.org Website: www.ststephenpncc.org

Parish Committee: Tom Schalata 610-780-5035

Email: tomschalata@yahoo.com

Find Us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ststephenpncc

Mass Schedule: 8 AM & 9:30 AM *Unless noted

2025 Tentative Pierogi-Making Food Prep Dates:

March 14, 15
March 28, 29
Potato Pierogi
Prep- Fri 9 am
until ?
Making-Sat 9
am & 12 Noon
until ?

April 11, 12
Potato Pierogi
Prep- Fri 9 am
Making-Sat 9 am
& 12 Noon
April 25, 26
Cheese Pierogi
Prep- Fri 9 am
Making-Sat 9 am
& 12 Noon

May 9, 10
May 30, 31
Cheese Pierogi
Prep- Fri 9 am
until ?
Making-Sat 9
am & 12 Noon
until ?

Please add your name to the
sign-up sheet in the vestibule of
the church to volunteer for any
of these dates, as help is
needed for this important
fund-raising project.
Sauerkraut Pierogi & Golumpki
Making plans will be announced
in the future!

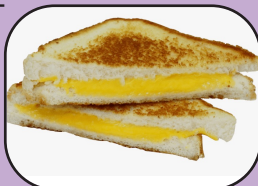
Free Lenten Meals Have Become a Popular Tradition

Over the last few years during the Lenten Season, the Stations of the Cross Service have been held on Wednesday's at 7 pm. On those evenings, at 6 pm, several St. Stephen's organizations and/or family members have sponsored a free Lenten Meal in the Fellowship Hall.



The practice has actually become quite popular, and Fr. Sr. Don reports that it has helped to increase attendance for services on those nights.

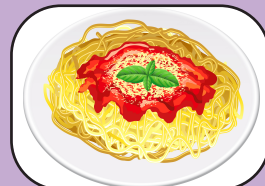
In the past, this weekly Lenten Meal has generally consisted of soup, sandwich or some other meatless fare. Such offerings have included: potato soup or clam chowder, grilled cheese sandwiches with tomato soup, tuna salad sandwiches, pizza and spaghetti with a salad. As long as it's meatless, it's sure to be a big hit!



If you're interested, look for the sign-up sheet in the church vestibule. The meals begin Wednesday, March 12 (one week after Ash Wednesday, March 5), and runs through Holy

Week, Wednesday,

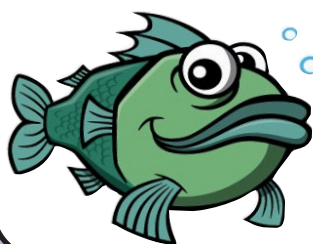
April 16. Six weeks total. (*NOTE: March 19 is already covered with the YMS of R "Fish Fry." See below).



Please join us. The meal is free, although free-will donations are accepted to defray the costs.

YMS of R Hoping to Bring Last Year's Popular "Fish Fry" back for Lent...

Plans are still in the works, but last year's Lenten Fish Fry was so well received that the men's group is planning on giving it another try this year. The tentative date will be Wednesday, March 19 at 5:30 pm.



The menu is expected to be similar, as well, with our own freshly hand-

battered, fish filet with french fries, cole slaw and condiments.

A second fryer has been acquired since then, therefore, the guys feel the results will be bigger and better!

Mark your calendar. More details will follow, but get ready for a delicious meal at a reasonable price! Thank you for your support!



JUST A LITTLE Reminder

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS...

The following parish organizations are always seeking new members to assist with projects and to offer new ideas. These include: The ANS (Ladies' Adoration Society), Bishop Hodur Choir, St. Stephen's Mission Commission, Picnic/Fund-raising Committee, The Stephen's Book Club & YMS of R (Men's Group.) & SOCL.



Kielbasa Potato Bean Soup

- 1 pound smoked kielbasa, sliced
- 8 average potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 2 cups canned beans (navy or your choice)
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 2 sticks celery sliced
- 1/4 cup sliced carrot
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 & 1/2 cups whole milk plus 1/2 stick butter
- 2/3 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Cook kielbasa until browned, set aside. add potatoes, beans, broth, celery and carrots to a pot, add seasonings and bring to a boil then cook on low for about 15 mins until potatoes are soft. Add the milk cheese and kielbasa and cook on low for another 15 minutes then serve. *Must we say enjoy with crusty bread or rye bread and butter?*

February 2025 - Calendar of Events & Special Dates

Sunday Donuts Downstairs are back!	SAVE THIS CALENDAR Put it on Your Fridge !!!				*PLEASE CHECK THE WEEKLY SUNDAY BULLETIN OR ANNOUNCE- MENTS FOR ANY CHANGES OR ADDITIONAL DATES FOR EVENTS!	1
2 Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 AM Scout Sunday Picnic Meeting	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Sunday Masses Super Bowl Eagles/Chiefs	10	11 YMS of R Meeting Fellowship Hall 7 PM	12	13	14	15
16 Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 AM ANS Meeting-Library Parish Committee Meeting 11 AM Fellowship Hall	17 ***** PRESIDENT'S DAY	18	19	20	21	22
23 Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 AM	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2025 - Calendar of Events & Special Dates

Sunday Donuts Downstairs are back!	*PLEASE CHECK THE WEEKLY SUNDAY BULLETIN OR ANNOUNCE- MENTS FOR ANY CHANGES OR ADDITIONAL DATES FOR EVENTS!			SAVE THIS CALENDAR Put it on Your Fridge !!!		1
2 Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 AM	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday Services @ 9 AM & 7 PM	6	7	8 Daylight Savings 
9 Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 AM Solemnity of Institution of PNCC	10	11	12 Stations of the Cross @ 7 PM Lenten Meal 6 PM	13	14 POTATO PIEROGI PREP Help needed 9 AM - 12?	15 POTATO PIEROGI MAKE Help needed 9 AM - 12?
16 Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 AM Parish Committee Meeting 11 AM Fellowship Hall	17 St. Patrick's Day! 	18	19 Stations of the Cross @ 7 PM Lenten Meal 6 PM	20	21	22
23 Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 AM 30 Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 AM	24	25	26 Stations of the Cross @ 7 PM Lenten Meal 6 PM	27	28 POTATO PIEROGI PREP Help needed 9 AM - 12?	29 POTATO PIEROGI MAKE Help needed 9 AM - 12?