



February 16, 2025

## Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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## SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

### A Sabbath Thought

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers a stark contrast in options. We must choose sides because there is no middle ground. Either we grow - or we wither.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### JEREMIAH 17:5-8

Dry bushes, dry hearts - they are all the same, says the prophet. What is needed is the water of compassion.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM 1:1-2, 3, 4 AND 6

**R. Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

#### 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12, 16-20

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cardinal point of history. We must, therefore, make it a linchpin of our lives.

#### LUKE 6:17, 20-26

In a series of blessings and curses, Jesus delineates our options: If you give, you win; if you take, you lose.

### ENTRANCE RITE – Psalm 1:1-3

*V. Happy those who do not follow the counsel of the wicked, Nor go the way of sinners, nor sit in company with scoffers. Rather, the law of the Lord is their joy; God's law they study day and night.*

**R. They are like a tree planted near streams of water, that yields its fruit in due season; Its leaves never wither; whatever they do prospers.**

*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: Psalm 84:12-13 (recited in place of the Alleluia)

*V. The Lord withholds no good thing from those who walk without reproach.*

**R. O Lord of hosts, happy are those who trust in You.**

### THE GOSPEL – Luke 6:17, 20-26

Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a stretch of level ground with a great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon. And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way."

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

# Worship Services

**TODAY – Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Pre-Lent  
Septuagesima**

*Intentions for the repose of the soul of  
Prime Bishop Francis Hodur on the 72<sup>nd</sup>  
anniversary of his death.*

*Oath of Office administered to newly  
elected Parish Officers during  
the 9:30 Mass.*

**8:00 AM – HOLY MASS**

**9:30 AM – HOLY MASS**

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**SUNDAY – Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Pre-Lent  
Sexagesima**

*Intentions for the repose of the soul of  
Frank Grossman offered by  
Joe Grossman.*

**8:00 AM – HOLY MASS**

**9:30 AM – HOLY MASS**

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**SUNDAY – March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pre-Lent  
Quinquagesima**

*Please welcome Father Tom Basta  
as Father Senior Donald will  
be out of town.*

**8:00 AM – HOLY MASS**

**9:30 AM – HOLY MASS**

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**WEDNESDAY – March 5<sup>th</sup>**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

*Blessing and distribution  
of ashes to the faithful*

**9:00 AM – HOLY MASS**

**7:00 PM – HOLY MASS**

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## PRE-LENT

The Season of Pre-Lent, sometimes referred to as Shrovetide, begins today as we celebrate Septuagesima Sunday. The PNCC continues to observe this season although other rites have abandoned it. It is marked by the use of Rose colored vestments and a period of merrymaking including Mardi Gras before the solemn observance of Great Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which this year falls on the fifth of March.

## INTENTIONS:

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, 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, Janet Kelly, Laura Alfano, Scott Gaydos, Donald Barth, Kenneth Cerminara, John Freeman, Sr., Eleanor Kaczmarczyk, Mary Ann Bezek, Michael Lucas, Eric Meck, Damon Grossman, Gwen Grossman, Lukas Grossman, Tom Beck, Skye Sadowski, Jeannine Dresh, Violet Hart, Nancy Ziolkowski, David and Judy Wunderlich, Tammy Bolich, Berne Bloom, Marilyn Seiders, Peggy Smith and family, William Kutenits, Todd Shaffer, Father Carmen Bolock, Christine Mulutzie, David Mulutzie, Frederick Smith, David Metzger, Amber Irving, Paul Edling, Cheryl Weinhold, Dwayne Schwarz, Joe Bezek, Bud Hoffman, Dr. Brandon Ishaque, John Halecky III, Jer and Tim Checket, Leina Jean Meier, Cassidy Durante, Dre Curto, Brenda Hoffa and Teri Hettinger. For the repose of the soul of Prime Bishop Francis Hodur. **Our Father....**

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

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Today, February 16<sup>th</sup>;** Regular monthly meeting of the Parish Committee in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM.

**Today, February 16;** the ANS will meet in the Library after the 9:30 Mass.

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

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## NEW PICNIC TABLE DRIVE

The YMS of R is asking for donations to purchase new, lightweight, plastic, folding tables for use during the Annual Picnic. Our old, existing tables are wooden and quite heavy to move from the church to the picnic grounds and back, plus this is damaging them in the process. It is proposed to purchase about twenty new tables at a cost of approximately \$85.00 each. Donations, if made in cash, 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 for Table Drive. Thank you in advance for your kind generosity.

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## KOLEDA - BLESSING OF HOMES

Fr. Sr. Donald will be blessing homes during this Season of Epiphany. Please print your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet in the vestibule to have this done. Or, simply call him at 610-775-4559 to set up a time and date.

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## PIEROGI MAKING

The Picnic Committee has 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.

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## YMS OF R ANNUAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

The PNCC/WMS of R will hold its annual Bowling Tournament on May 16 – 18, 2025 in Hamtramck, Michigan. Please see the flyer on the table in the vestibule. For details on how to sign up, please contact Father Senior Donald.

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## COFFEE AND DONUTS

**We are pleased to gather for Fellowship in the Church Hall following each Mass.**

**Coffee and donuts will be served with the coffee being free and the suggested donation for donuts being \$1.00. I hope that many of you will join us.**