



## Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 Saint Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

The Very Reverend Donald E. Wunderlich

OFFICE: 610-775-4559

Email: [fatherdon@ststephenpncc.org](mailto:fatherdon@ststephenpncc.org)

Website: [www.ststephenpncc.org](http://www.ststephenpncc.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ststephenspncc](https://www.facebook.com/ststephenspncc)



March 30, 2025

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – LAETARE SUNDAY

### REJOICE!

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#### A Sabbath Thought

There is a thin line between the wastrel and the prodigal. Wastrels take everything for themselves. Prodigals give everything to others. Today, we hear the story of the wastrel son and the prodigal father.

#### About Today's Bible Readings

##### JOSHUA 5:9, 10-12

The chosen people experience God's loving providence in the land with which the Lord has endowed them.

##### Responsorial Psalm:

##### 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

**R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

##### 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21

God has made us instruments of reconciliation. In a ministry of prodigality, we must bring together *in love* those who are lonely or rejected.

##### LUKE 15:1-3, 11-32

In a dramatic story of losing and finding, Jesus portrays the situation of us wastrels on the way home to a prodigal God.

#### ENTRANCE RITE (Psalms 78:21a, 23-24)

*V. The Lord commanded the skies above; the doors of heaven He opened;*

**R. God rained manna upon them for food; bread from heaven He gave them.**

*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 Deuteronomy 8:3,6

*V. He therefore let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your fathers, in order to show you that not by bread alone does man live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the Lord.*

**R. Therefore, keep the commandments of the Lord, Your God, by walking in His ways and fearing Him.**

#### GOSPEL (LUKE 15:1-3, 11-32)

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them Jesus addressed this parable: "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."' So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.' He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours.'

(OVER)

# Worship Services

**TODAY – March 30<sup>th</sup>**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**Laetare Sunday**

**8:00 AM – HOLY MASS**

**9:30 AM – HOLY MASS**

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**WED. – April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Stations of the Cross**

**7:00 PM**

**“Free” Lenten Meal Before**

**@ 6:00 PM**

**Sponsored by the YMS of R  
Potato Soup &**

**Manhattan Clam Chowder**

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**Saturday – April 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Lenten Penitential Service**

**7:00 PM**

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**SUNDAY – April 6<sup>th</sup>**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**Passion Sunday**

**8:00 AM – HOLY MASS**

**First Holy Communion of**

**Johnathon Ryan Diaz**

**During the 8:00 AM Mass**

**9:30 AM – HOLY MASS**

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**WED. – April 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Stations of the Cross**

**7:00 PM**

**“Free” Lenten Meal Before**

**@ 6:00 PM**

**Spaghetti & Salad!**

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## **CLEANING & PREPPING**

After the 9:30 Mass, the Ladies of the ANS will be doing some light cleaning and preparing the church for the next phase of Lent beginning with Passion Sunday. Any and all help would be much appreciated. Thank you in advance.

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## **COFFEE & 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 each. I hope that many of you will join us.

But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.”

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

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## **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, 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, Gwen and 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, Frederick Smith, David Metzger, Greg Potash, Amber Irving, Paul Edling, Cheryl Weinhold, Dwayne Schwarz, Joe Bezek, Bud Hoffman, John Halecky III, Jer and Tim Checket, Leina Jean Meier, Cassidy Durante, Dre Curto, Brenda Hoffa, Teri Hettinger, Joe Gimont, Dan Chujko, Chester and Cherrie Kitchman, John DeHart and Bob Price. **Our Father....**

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

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**; Lenten Penitential Service at 7:00 PM.

**Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**; YMS of R Egg Sandwich sale after each Mass. Don't miss out on these famous sandwiches.

**Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**; The Book Club will resume by meeting in the library at 7:00 PM. New members are always welcome. Please join us!

**Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**; Regular monthly meeting of the Parish Committee in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM.

**Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**; The ANS will meet in the Library after the 9:30 AM 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 drive continues. 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.

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## **PIEROGI MAKING**

The Picnic Committee has established tentative dates for pierogi-making. They continue as follows: April 11 & 12 (Potato); April 25 & 26 (Cheese); May 9 & 10 (Cheese), May 30-31 (Cheese); Sauerkraut- to be determined. Please sign up!

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## **24<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL MISSION & EVANGELISM WORKSHOP**

The 24<sup>th</sup> National Mission and Evangelism Workshop will be held on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, June 1, 2025 at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in Denver, Colorado. Please see the Pamphlets on the table in the vestibule for more information.

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## **EXETER FOOD PANTRY**

The Exeter Food Pantry is asking for donations of canned hams and boxes of scalloped potatoes to help feed needy families during the Easter Season. Please see the flyer on the table in the vestibule for details.

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## **KNIGHT'S CLOSET**

We are seeking donations of bottled water, Gatorade and granola bars for the needy students of the Reading School District during Easter Season. . Please leave donated items on the table in the Fellowship Hall by April 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.