



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 Saint Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

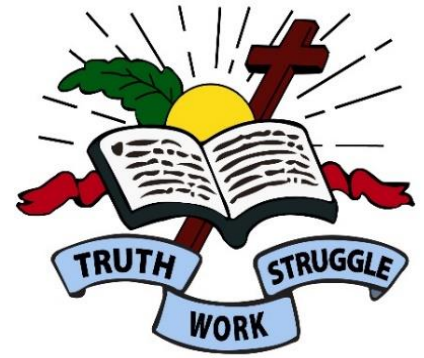
The Very Reverend Donald E. Wunderlich

Parish Office: 610-775-4559

Email: fatherdon@ststephenpncc.org

Website: www.ststephenpncc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ststephenspncc



December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

A Sabbath Thought

The Lord is coming and we have spent this Advent season in preparation. But are we really ready for him?

About Today's Bible Readings

MICAH 5:1-4

In God's plan, great things grow from small beginnings. For instance, from humble Bethlehem will come the glorious shepherd of God's people.

Responsorial Psalm: 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

HEBREWS 10:5-10

Jesus holds nothing back. He came to do God's will - totally, fully, literally.

LUKE 1:39-45

Two women exchange greetings and acknowledge the power of God to change their lives in order to redeem human history.

ENTRANCE RITE: Micah 5:1

V. But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah.

R. From you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times.

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.

ALLELUIA: James 5:8

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth with the heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Worship Services

INTENTIONS:

**TODAY – December 19th
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:00 AM – Holy Mass
9:30 AM – Holy Mass

FRIDAY – December 24th

Choir Presentation
11:45 PM

**CHRISTMAS EVE – PASTERKA
(SHEPHERD'S MASS)**

12:00 AM - Midnight
HOLY MASS

Saturday – Dec. 25th

**CHRISTMAS DAY
NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

9:00 AM – HOLY MASS

SUNDAY – Dec. 26th

**Solemnity – Humble
Shepherds**

Saint Stephen the Martyr

9:00 AM – HOLY MASS

ONE MASS ONLY!

ADVENT!

As we conclude our Advent journey, I urge you to spend a few minutes each day in prayer and reflection. Try to imagine and appreciate the incredible gift that God is about to give mankind, His only begotten Son, freely given in expiation for our sins. Booklets are in the vestibule to help guide you in this.

Oplatki

The Christmas wafers or Oplatki are here and are on the table in the vestibule. Please take what you need and donate what you can. This is a beautiful tradition to maintain with the family at your Christmas table.

PIEROGIS

There are still some potato pierogis left from the food sale. If you would like to purchase any, please see Carol Urban downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after Mass.

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 Isabella Mularczyk, Edward Czechowski, Patrice Czechowski, Donna Schalata, Tom Schalata, David Wunderlich, Bernice Biroscak, Geri Piotrowski, Janet Katinowsky, Julia Urban, Sandy Pfennig, Courtney Pierce, Joseph Grossman, Ed Edling and Riley Rejniak. For the repose of the soul of Mike Heim. Let us Pray: **Our Father...**

If there are any other individuals who should be on this list, please email or tell Father Senior Donald so he can add them!

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE JOIN US IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Today December 19th; Regular Monthly Meeting of the Parish Committee at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Friday, December 24th; Christmas Eve, Shepard's Mass – Pasterka at 12:00 Midnight.

Saturday, December 25th; Christmas Day, Solemnity – Nativity of the Lord. Mass at 9:00AM.

Sunday, January 2nd: The ANS will meet at 11:00 AM in the Library. All of the women of the parish are encouraged to attend and to join the ANS if you are not already members.

Sunday, January 9th; School of Christian Living Open House at 11:00 AM. Please join us and bring your children and grandchildren to learn about our Sunday school options for children of all ages. Light refreshments will be served.

Monday, January 10th; The mission Commission will meet in the Library at 7:00PM. All are cordially invited to attend. New ideas are always welcome.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2022; Saint Stephen's Annual Picnic returns! From 10:00AM until whenever at Saint Benedict's Picnic Grove in Mohnton. We have a band, a beer wagon and of course, great Polish Food. The picnic has been sorely missed the past few years by almost everyone, parishioner and non-parishioner alike so let's get behind the Picnic Committee and volunteer to help when the time comes in order to make the return of the Picnic a rousing success.

If there are any other events not listed here, please email or tell Father Senior Donald so he can add them!

NEW YEAR

As we approach the new year please be aware of the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting on January 30th. We are in need of someone to step up and fill the positions of Vice-Chairperson and of Secretary as well as volunteers for the Picnic Committee. If you are interested in serving your parish, please see Fr. Sr. Donald or Tom Schalata. I would also like to remind all of the various parish organizations to be sure to have their year-end reports ready in preparation for the meeting And if you have not already done so, please see to it that your yearly dues are paid up to date. Thank you and God bless.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Friday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

Shepherd's Mass - "Pasterka" at 12:00 Midnight

Saturday, December 25th - Christmas Day

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord - Mass at 9:00 AM

Please encourage all you know, family, friends and neighbors to join us as we celebrate the birth of Our Lord.