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Coming Later This Month... Semi-Annual Contribution Report in mail

Saint Stephen the Martyr PNCC

PARISH NEWSLETTER

20 St. Stephen's Church Lane, Reading PA 19607 - July 2024

News You Can Use!

Helpful Info

Great Advice

Need to Know

Solve Your Problem

UKRAINIAN RELIEF

Deadline for tonations to the Ukrainian Relief Organization is SUN., July 7 on designated table in Fellowship Hall. Items needed: Wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, unexpired medical supplies (9 mos. from exp.), adult & children diapers, personal hygiene products sanitary wipes and pads, canned foods, protein snacks blankets, towels and linens, new undergarments & socks, flashlights & batteries.

FALL CLAMBAKE & PICNIC

A September Clambake & Picnic at the church is being planned for sometime in September. Initial pricing will be in the range of $12-15 per dinner for choice of clams, mussels & shrimp. A plain chicken bake and a hot dog or hamburger meal will also be offered.

Details and order forms will follow shortly. Stay tuned!

COFFEE DISCUSSION GROUP

Plans are in the works to start *(CONT'D ON PAGE 2)*

Picnic Update NEXT MEETING SUN. JULY 14 @11

It's Almost Time: Bring on the Pierogi, Polkas and the People!

The picnic committee met on Sunday, June 9 to discuss a variety of matters for the August event set for Sunday, August 11.

Some of the areas already secured are: band (Eddie Foreman Orchestra) booked; Willow Glen Park, under contract and prices established; beer wagon, reserved; refrigerated trailer reserved *(*this is booked for the en-tire week leading up to the picnic and will serve as refrigerator storage to save space and work);* golf carts- reserved *(*still looking for a utility cart or gator).*

After a discussion that featured a variety of opinions, it was agreed that the committee should invest in wrist bands to identify paid guests for the event, as locals do tend to wander onto the grounds whenever an event takes place on site.

Initially, it was believed that we had secured someone to set up an AMT machine on the grounds that day, but the supplier noted that due to the size of the anticipated crowd, an up front fee of $150 would have to be charged to make the service work financially. The committee voted to pass on the offer, but Cheryl Weinhold agreed to set up a "Square Account" for the parish and this would allow us to accept credit cards that day for transactions.

One handicap Port-a-John will be located near the regular restrooms on the grounds.

The Welcome Tent will be set-up on the parking lot side of the main tent, and handle raffle ticket sales, credit card transactions and serve as a meeting point for the golf carts shuttle.

An open roofed pavillion will be the service area for the soup stand, potato pancakes, and baked goods. Two burners have been secured for soup stand and an extra griddle has been purchased for the platzki *(potato pancakes)*.

Food tickets and raffle tickets have been printed. The raffle tickets were mailed to parishioners on June 17. All are asked to return sold/unsold tickets (with money) in a timely manner in order to evaluate our sales. The early deadline is 7/21 and final deadline 8/4.

Food preparation dates for golumpki, halushki and soup are listed below. Thank you!

Message from Fr. Sr. Donald Wunderlich

"Sometimes our thoughts of Jesus & The Holy Eucharist become routine"

A few weeks ago, we celebrated "Corpus Christi - The Body of Christ," but we often merely acknowledge God's presence as part of just another ritual that we grew up learning as a child.

It is very easy to fall into such a routine. With so much on our minds, we depend on our brains to see us through the weekly rituals of the Mass, and our spiritual needs.

We firmly believe that Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, and our faith tells us He is in the tabernacle when we are in church, but do we take Him in our hearts at those times?

Yes, we bless ourselves with holy water and make the sign of the cross. We bow and genuflect as we approach the altar, but do we give Our Savior the undivided attention He deserves?

When you genuflect do you bow as if you were truly in the presence of a king or queen? After all, you stand before His throne, and He is the "King of Kings," wearing a glorious crown or a crown of thorns.

In a profession of Faith and Declaration formulated by the Polish National Catholic Bishops in Lancaster, New York, April 28, 2008, it was stated, "Considering that the Holy Eucharist (Holy Mass) has always been the true central point of Catholic worship, ... by believing that we receive the Body and Blood (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

2024 Golumpki, Halushki & Soup Prep Dates:

Aug. Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 Golumpki Prep.	2 Golumpki Prep.	3 Golumpki Making
4 Golumpki Making	5	6	7 Haluski Making	8	9 Soup Making	10 Food Making

St. Stephen the Martyr Parish Committee Report

Committee REPORTS

Highlights of June Meeting

"Keeping YOU Informed of Parish Matters!"

PEST CONTROL/WOODPECKER UPDATE: The parish will have the exterior of the church and the rectory painted with a special paint to deter the on-going damage caused by woodpeckers. Kevin Grossman reports that the color is "Autumn" (a tan/beige shade). The paint will be done by a contractor/ The power washing and lift rental expenses are included in the cost of the project.

CEMETERY NEWS: Joe Dowd is still working on plans to remove the broken gate from the cemetery entrance. The gate will likely have to be cut into pieces with a saw and disposed through scrap or whatever means necessary.

KITCHEN ORGANIZATION: A tool box for the kitchen is being donated, and a and re-stocking of the first aid kits is in the works and a First Aid Kit for use at the Annual Picnic.

MISSION COMMISSION MAILING: The Mission Commission has a post card mailing to promote new members for the parish and the picnic. This will be mailed to 50,000 households in the Reading area on the third week of July 17. The mailing will cost $19,500, but will be paid by the Enlivenment program of the Central Diocese.

Mail routes surrounding the City of Reading will be targeted, especially in the zones closest to the picnic grounds and the parish.

In a related matter, The Picnic Committee, along with the Mission Commission, has applied to the Enlivenment Program to have special Fluorescent green t-shirts printed for members of the church to wear at special activities and community functions for promotion.

NEWS TO USE

(CONT'D from Page 1)

new coffee discussion group, at St. Stephen's, perhaps on one Saturday morning a month.

The idea is a coffee circle to talk about questions on the bible, faith, or just interesting topics of the day. Political discussion and controversial issues will be discouraged, however.

Another unique concept about this group will be treating those in attendance to upscale coffee and tea related beverages such as cappuccino, lattes, espresso, and specialty treats such as homemade baked goods, bagles.

This promises to be a unique morning of fellowship. Interested? Let Tom Schalata know!

St. Stephen's Book Club

"Jesus Behaving Badly," takes a look at a different view of Jesus. Mark L. Strauss offers a side of The Man from Galilee as He was perceived by many. He was dangerous, troubling, demanding and politically rebellious. Join the group for some interesting discussions about The Lord, Jesus.

My Two Cents

Tom Schalata

A Look at Poland's "Kapliczki" - Bringing God to Every Village...

If you read a copy of my book, *"The Gospels According to St. Stephen's,"* which was published in 2017 to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of our parish, you may recall an in-depth look at the rather obscure Polish tradition of Kapliczki."

When my wife, Donna and I travelled to Poland in 2007, in search of my relatives who hailed from the small village of Mroczno, we ran across dozens of these small roadside chapels. They are more like religious shrines. However, in Polish, "kaplica," means chapel, and "kapliczka," refers to something smaller than a chapel, but today, the terms are basically interchangeable.

A little research reveals that the tradition goes back to the 7th century. Despite the fact that these shelters today are of a strictly Christian nature, their origins are likely traced back to pagan times. Polish kapliczki can be found in most every small village, along thoroughfares, at major crossroads, and especially close to cemeteries.

Initially, these monuments were to provide a safe journey for travellers with magical powers to ward off evil spirits that may be lurking in the shadows.

In time, the Poles accepted their new faith, Christianity, but as we know, many old beliefs die hard. Gradually, these roadside shrines became sacred places for refuge, and were erected by families to express gratitude for the harvest, establishment of a new home or to remember those who fought in battles, etc. These wayside chapels also served as a

LEFT: Kapliczka RIGHT: Mroczno Fire Dept

place for religious worship when travel to larger towns with churches was not possible.

Most kapliczki were crafted with a crucifix, a statue of the Blessed Mother, a saint, or some other sacred image. They are often decorated with colored streamers and flowers.

During the 17th century, the church issued a decree ordering local priests to make sure all shrines in their area had a sign of the cross represented. The purpose was to insure that these monuments were in no way connected to the beliefs of pagans or heretics.

Back to Moroczno! During our visit to this tiny village where my great-grandfather, Franz Zwolinski and his wife, Rozalia Szczepanski lived over 125 years ago, we found the place to be pretty much a one-horse town.

Located in North-Central Poland, it is about midway between Gdansk and Warsaw.

There was one church, (The Church of the Sacred Heart), one fire company (with one fire truck and one pick-up truck), one small grocery store and two cemeteries!

We found no Zwolinski's during that trip but when we returned home the priest at this local Polish church put me in touch with several members of the family!

Little Church: Glenmore, PA

Speaking of little churches, approximately 22 miles from Cumru Township, is what is considered the smallest church in the world.

Located in Glenmore, Chester County, (9 miles from Downingtown, near Marsh Creek State Park), is a tiny church built at the turn of the 20th Century by Francisco Cannella, an immigrant from Palermo, Italy.

He vowed to God that if he were to come to America, and be able reunite with his wife, and provide for his family, he would attend church every day for the rest of his life.

Cannella built this roadside church, large enough for about two people with a small altar. It is about the size of a small storage shed. As a mason who worked at a local stone quarry, he used stone that he was able to purchase from the business. He visited the chapel daily, as a house of prayer, for the next 24 years until his death. He was a man who stood for what he believed in, and wasn't afraid to follow his dreams or his God.

"Remember, wherever two or more of you are gathered in my name...."

St. Stephen the Martyr Picnic & Info Questionnaires

*Please fill this out & return to: Jay Rowe, Fr. Sr. Donald or Tom Schalata by July 21, 2024
(even if you cannot help or attend - we would like to have as much information as possible for our most important fund-raising event of the year. Thank you!)

BASIC INFORMATION:

☐ Your Name & Family & Friends you expect may be able to help the day of the picnic

☐ Your/Their Contact info (telephone #/email)

☐ Your normal picnic position, preference, physical restrictions and time(s) available

*NOTE: Some volunteers have pre-arranged assignments - we will do our best to place you in the best possible situation for your needs

SOME OF THOSE AREAS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

☐ BAKE SALE STAND ☐ BEER WAGON
☐ WELCOME TENT/RAFFLE TICKETS
☐ CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES TENT
☐ BEVERAGE BAR ☐ SOUP STAND
☐ FOOD TICKET SALES BOOTH
☐ FOOD PREP/SERVING ☐ POTATO PANCAKES
☐ PARKING ☐ HANDICAP SHUTTLE

STAFF T-SHIRTS:

We are hoping to be able to supply all volunteers with staff t-shirts this year. They will be a bright, lime green with "St. Stephen the Martyr PNCC" on the back and "Picnic Staff" on the front, so that picnic attendees will be able to identify workers. At this point, we are not sure if the cost will be covered by the Enlivenment Program, the Picnic Committee or by your own personal donation. We expect the cost to be between $ 6-8.

* Please note the size you expect to need.

Also, please respond to the additional questions at the bottom of this survey where possible.

Thank you in advance for your support, your help and your donations. Your participation allows our parish to be an important part of your spiritual journey and an active part of the community!

List Name(s) of Volunteer Workers Below:	Contact Information: Tel. # / Email Address	Picnic Assignment Request: * Restrictions - Times - Etc.	T-shirt Size

I can also help with the picnic in the following ways: *Please fill in where appropriate

☐ FOOD PREP/Golumpki-Making, Halushki-Making, Soup-Making (See Schedule) _____

☐ Organizing & Loading Supplies & Equipment needed to be transported to the grounds

☐ I have a pick-up truck or vehicle that can haul supplies if needed_

☐ I am available if needed for set-up, teardown, unloading back at the church etc.

☐ FINANCIAL DONATIONS: Enclosed please find my donation towards the picnic expenses $_____or specific expenses I can contribute

☐ Please contact me, as I have additional questions or need information regarding the picnic. NAME_____ PHONE _____

Regarding the Fall Clambake: I may be interested in ☐ Clam Bake ☐ Mussels Bake ☐ Shrimp ☐ Chicken Bake ☐ Hot Dog/Hamburger Dinner ☐ Donating a side or dessert or _____

☐ I may be interested in the Coffee Club Group. Note: _____

We still need your EMAIL ADDRESS or Text #. Please submit: _____

Upcoming EVENTS

Meetings

✓ **Y.M.S. of R.** (Men's Group)
To be announced if needed

✓ **ANS : Ladies Adoration Soc.**
None Scheduled

✓ **Picnic Committee**
July 14 @11 am in the Hall

✓ **Parish Committee.**
Sun., July 21 @ 11 am in the Hall

✓ **Mission Commission**
None Scheduled

✓ **Book Club**
July 17@ 7 pm. "Jesus Behaving Badly," by Mark. L. Strauss.

✓ **UKRAINIAN RELIEF**
Ukrainian Relief Donations
Deadline, Sunday, July 7

✓ **Sunday Masses**
Sundays: July 7, 14, 21 & 28 @ 8 & 9:30 am (*See Weekly Bulletin for schedule changes, etc.)

Prayer List

Please remember all those on our prayer list. Check the Weekly bulletin or the St. Stephen's website for an updated list. Please let Fr. Sr. Donald know if any changes need to be made to the list. Your devotion to prayer is a valuable tool for those in need! 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/ststephenspncc
Mass Schedule: 8 AM & 9:30 AM *Unless noted

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS & CONTACTS

The following parish organizations are always seeking new members to assist with projects and to offer new ideas. These include:

Altar Flowers Donations
Carole Urban

The ANS (Ladies' Adoration Society)

St. Stephen's Book Club & Mission Commission: *Sally Traczuk*

Bishop Hodur Choir:
Cheryl Heckman

Financial Sec.: *Lynn Dowd*

Knight's Closet Reading HS Program
Sally Traczuk & Janet Katinowsky

Picnic/Fund-Raising Committee: *Jay Rowe*

School of Christian Living:
Janet Katinowsky

Special Mass Intentions & Memorial Contributions
Fr. Sr. Donald

Ukrainian Relief Donations & Newsletter
Tom Schalata

YMS of R (Men's Group):
Fran Golembeski

MESSAGE FROM FR. SR. DONALD

(Cont'd from Page 1)

of Our Savior Jesus Christ under the species of bread and wine."

The declaration goes on to state, "The Eucharistic celebration in the Church is neither a continual repetition nor a renewal of the expiatory sacrifice which Jesus offered once for all upon the Cross..."

It is also a good practice when you offer your prayers at Mass to direct them to Jesus, in the tabernacle, on the paten or even while in line for Holy Communion. You should place yourself in His presence just the same as if you were in the presence of earthly royalty.

If you need a gentle reminder, remember your A-B-C's (Adoration, words of praise), (Blessings, thank God for what you have) and (Contrition, ask forgiveness for the times when you failed to please Him).

"God Bless!"
Fr. Sr. Donald

July 2024 - Calendar of Events & Special Dates

Sunday Donuts Downstairs Back in Fall!

SAVE THIS CALENDAR Put it on Your Fridge !!!

SPECIAL THANKS to everyone who helped prepare the food for the annual picnic, and financial contributions. Your continued support is most appreciated!

Polish American Connection with Tom Gajewski replays on BCTV July @ 7:30 pm, July 5 @ 1:30 pm, July 8 @ 10:30 am & July 9 @ 3:30 pm Comcast & Service Electric.

JUNE 30 Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 AM	1	2 Polish American Connection with Tom Gajewski on BCTV & 7:30 pm	3	4 4th of July	5	6
7 Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 AM	8	9	10	11	12 *PLEASE CHECK THE WEEKLY SUNDAY BULLETIN OR ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR ANY CHANGES OR ADDITIONAL DATES FOR EVENTS!	13
14 Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 AM Picnic Committee Meeting@ 11 AM in Fellowship Hall	15	16	17 St. Stephen's Book Club Meeting@ 7 pm	18 *Please remember that despite the elimination of dues our parish still must meet our budget requirements. Your contributions to date will be mailed to you in July to keep your informed of status. Thank you for your support!*	19	20
Sunday Mass 21 8:00 & 9:30 AM 28 Mass 8:00 & 9:30 AM	22 7/21 Monthly Parish Committee Meeting@ 11 AM in Fellowship Hall	23	24	25 Ukrainian War Relief Effort for donations for the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee is Sunday, July 7. *SEE STORY ON PAGE 1.	26	27