



Saint Stephen the Martyr PNCC PARISH NEWSLETTER



20 ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH LANE, READING PA 19607 - OCTOBER 2024

2024 ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS, TOPS LAST YEAR'S SUCCESS!

Despite New Challenges, Picnic Committee, Workers Pleased with Results

CUMRU TOWNSHIP- Picnic Committee members and volunteer workers met in the St. Stephen's Fellowship Hall for post-picnic debriefing, Sunday, September 8 to discuss "the good, the bad & the ugly" of this year's annual fund-raising event.

In the end, while opinions varied from voices heard that day, the overall response was largely positive.

According to the majority of picnic committee members, the main stumbling event for the event was dealing with the flea market vendors, attendees and traffic. These factors caused a variety of logistic issues including: setting-up, use of the golf carts, confusion over picnic food lines, and gate/parking personnel.

Although Pat Konopelski did a great job of trying to keep matters flowing, etc. the double-event situation proved to be a problem until about 1:30 - 2 pm.

Hence, there was overwhelming support to move next year's picnic to Saturday, August 9, Noon 'til 6 pm. This will also make the breakdown of the picnic equipment and transport back to the church easier, and gives all who work the picnic Sunday to re-cooperate. That is a benefit, as well!

The news everyone seems to be anxious to hear is how well did we do financially. While Joe Faranda is still pouring over figures, receipts and countless notes from various departments, the bottom line will be in the \$18,000 range. That is a net figure after all

expenses and re-imburements are made.

Here are some bullet points from that recent picnic committee meeting:

- Re-work the food lines (especially the platzki, soup stand and bake sale).
- Move the Beer Wagon closer to the bar, move the Welcome Tent further away from the band to converse with patrons, and move the Children's Activity Tent in the center near the swings and playground area.
- Move the refrigerator trailer and food take-out station on the other side of the kitchen doors where it can have better visibility.
- ADD THE FOLLOWING: more, larger signs, arrows, large price sheet/map, first aid station on the grounds, solicit help from a

Cont'd on Page 2

MESSAGE FROM FR. SR. DONALD E. WUNDERLICH



PARISH COMMITTEE REPORTS SEPT.



UPCOMING EVENTS, PRAYER LIST & CALENDAR



News You Can Use!

Helpful Info
Great Advice
Need to Know

Celebrating the Solemnity of the Christian Family!

On Sunday, October 13, the PNCC will celebrate the Solemnity of the Christian Family.

Just as we commemorated the Solemnity of Brotherly Love in September, this special date on our liturgical calendar, created by Bishop Hodur, could not come at a better time.

The entire globe seems to be caught up in a multitude of acts of violence and aggression, and we are not just members of the Polish National Catholic Church, but the greater Christian Family.

In 2016, as part of his youtube message, Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, of the Eastern Diocese, quoted Matthew 12:46-50: "While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, His mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to Him."

Cont'd on Page 2

Committee Closes 3rd Quarter Quietly PNCC Synod Set!

The Parish Committee held its monthly meeting Sunday, Sept. 15 in the Fellowship Hall. Here are some of the highlights of that meeting:

- ✓ PNCC DIOCESAN SYNOD will be held Saturday, Oct. 12 via Zoom. The synod was originally set to be hosted by St. Stephen's but as noted has been replaced by a zoom version. Fr. Sr. Don, Mike & Sally Traczuk will meet at the church that day to participate. Tom Schalata was appointed as an alternate delegate.
- ✓ WOODPECKER REPELLING PAINTING is still waiting to be scheduled. The i's are dotted and the t's are crossed, just waiting for contractor to start project.
- ✓ ALTAR REPAIR COMMITTEE is still on hold, also.

Cont'd on Page 2

Calendar Heats up- Forecast Calls for Busy Fall & Winter!

Heading in to the holiday season, the parish calendar begins to fill up quite a bit.

October kicks off Fall with an Ice Cream Social for the Solemnity of the Christian Family on Sunday, October 13, and the Post Picnic Party is set for the end of the month on Sunday, October 27 at Noon.

November gets even busier with services for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

All Souls Day, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving round out the calendar heading into the Advent season and you know the rest just gets busier!

Cont'd on Page 4

LOOK!

NEXT MONTH

- *All Souls Day
- *Veterans Day
- *Thanksgiving

UKRAINIAN RELIEF

Donations for the Ukrainian American Relief Organization were collected and delivered to the organizations HQ on Cottman Ave., Phila. Volunteers were extremely grateful for the items, and stressed that this project is still of vital importance to those affected by the war!

MORE ON THE UKRAINE

BCTV Polish American Connection host, Tom Gajewski reported that an acquaintance of his assisted a woman from the Ukraine to come to the U.S., who was seeking refuge from the war-torn country. He paid her expenses to come her, but due to her limited knowledge of English and the country, she needs some help adjusting. Tom Schalata put him in touch with the Ukrainian American Relief Org, but if anyone has any local sources to help out, please let Tom know so he can pass it on!

Cont'd on Page 3

Picnic Committee, Workers Pleased with Results

CONT'D FROM PAGE ONE

Lion's Club, local sports team, etc.
 ● Additional help is needed in the following areas: a set-up crew day before (five people required), kitchen crew needed from early morning through afternoon to heat food as needed, check on food temps, move heavy pans of food and other supplies.

● We need to use two kiosk's for ticket sales, welcome area and raffle ticket sales, etc.

● Linda S. is officially retiring from golumpki-making. Carole Celius said she would be a major planner/worker but defers heading up the position to someone else.

● Agreed to review heating and serving food procedures. This is needed to achieve better serving times and eliminate broken pierogi and golumpki that create waste and reduce profits.

● The Y.M.S. of R. has agreed to purchase 10 lighter, plastic folding tables for the food service. Two additional tables have been donated to the cause.

● Gate/Parking Crew suggested that we have Entrance/Exit Signs made. and agreed some parking donations were lost due to those attending the flea market. Despite



More than 1,000 picnic attendees enjoyed this year's event at Willow Glen

those issues (*plus neighborhood walk-ins) the gate fees were up slightly over 2023. Therefore, our net profit likely would have been greater, as well!

● T-shirts will be ordered for next year in a new color scheme and offered for sale to the public.

● As of this printing a meeting with Pat Konopelski has been scheduled to go over next year's details on Thursday, Sept. 26 @ 3:30 pm at the catering office. Anyone wish to attend, please inform Fr. Sr. Donald.

Picnic Chairperson, Jay Rowe, addressed those in attendance that he was "extremely pleased with the way the event went off considering

all the changes and obstacles we needed to overcome."

He went on to say, "the amount of work and effort that went into this project was unbelievable, and I speak for many in the parish, when I say we are very grateful for everybody's hard work and dedication from the food prep to right down to carrying in the last boxes from the picnic grounds. Thanks to you all!"

St. Stephen's Picnic 2025 Info:
DATE: Sat. 8/9/25
TIME: Noon to 6 pm
Place: Willow Glen Park Sinking Spring, PA

MESSAGE FROM FR. SR. DONALD E. WUNDERLICH



CONT'D FROM PAGE ONE

Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you."

He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

The bishop went on to explain, "We often think of the Christian Family as being similar to the nuclear family of Jesus, Joseph and Mary. So, we often reflect on mom, dad and the children, but Jesus is telling us in this paragraph that it is much bigger than this. It is all of us."

In his message Bishop Sobiechowski reminds us that through baptism we are not only brothers and sisters in Christ, but we are sons and daughters of God.

He went on to say, "We share in the joys of the Christian Family, but that also places on us a responsibility that being brothers and sisters and mothers and fathers to one another."

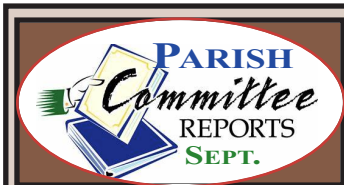
The bishop further explained his point by also reminding us what Jesus said, "They will know you are my disciples by the way you love one another."

As part of my own message this month, I would like all of us here at St. Stephen's to dedicate this month to being more active towards others, not only here in our parish, but as the bishop suggests, as part of the greater Christian Family.

"Let us love one another in Christian love," Bishop Sobiechowski concluded in that 2016 video, "so we can truly be a Christian Family for all to see and all to be a part of."

I totally agree. Let us all keep our fellow brothers and sisters in our prayers. Don't forget to join the ANS at the ice cream social on that day, Oct. 13.

God Bless! Fr. Don



CONT'D FROM PAGE ONE

✓ PICNIC STAFF T-SHIRTS were very successful at the event. There are some shirts left over. Check with Janet Katinowsky on availability. Tom Schalata will send the invoice to the Diocese for re-imbursment from the Enlivenment Program. Hopefully, they will approve the expense. New shirts in a different color will be ordered next year, and a version will be offered for sale to the general public. Tom is also looking into a commemorative mug to sell at next year's picnic. Details will be announced in the future.

✓ CEMETERY NEWS: Joe Dowd reports all is well with the upkeep of the parish cemetery. Plans to remove the dumpster from the grounds will need to wait until the end of our contract with the trash hauler, as it would be too costly to do so at this time.

✓ RECTORY REPAIRS: The clothes dryer was repaired and the trap in the bathroom is leaking. Kevin Grossman will look into it.

✓ POLISH LIBRARY BOOKS: Tom has not heard from Alvernia College regarding a selection of Polish books they are looking to donate locally. Tom re-

ported that he and Fr. Sr. Don will check out the collection and see what can be used by either our parish, the Berks County Polish American Heritage Society, and other sources.

✓ POST PICNIC PARTY: The date for the picnic volunteers party is set for Sunday, Oct. 27 @ Noon in the Fellowship Hall. (*See detailed story on this event on Page 3 of this newsletter) Thank you!

✓ PARISH COMMITTEE MEETINGS: The October Parish Committee Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 20 at 11 AM in the Fellowship Hall. However, due to the Confirmation Service scheduled for Sunday, November 17, the regular Parish Committee Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 24 at 11 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Make a note!

✓ SPECIAL NOTE ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT: The good news for September from Lynn Dowd, financial secretary, the September net deficit in the checking account was only \$957.35 with expenses at \$8,162.35 and income of \$7,205.00. Year-to-date net income is -\$37,625.98. Upon donation by the Y.M.S. of R. from the picnic proceeds that should cut that deficit close to half.

However, remember, if you are financially able, please continue to add to your weekly, monthly etc. contributions. It is still incumbent of the parish to replace those funds from the elimination of annual dues. Thank you for your support!



BOSCOV'S ANS PROMO

The Ladies Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament is selling Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Coupons. For a \$5 donation to the ANS you will receive a coupon good for 25% off your entire purchase at any Boscov's store or online on Tuesday, Oct. 22, from 8 am until 11 pm. (exclusions apply). Please see the table in the vestibule or contact Sally Traczuk or any ANS member to purchase your pass.

NEW FEATURE...GRAPEVINE!

The St. Stephen's Monthly Newsletter is always looking for new features and stories. Check-out below "Parishioner News & Notes from the Grapevine." If you know someone who could use a note, or someone celebrating a birthday or anniversary or other milestone, please let us know, so we can include it. Also, we need ideas for our regular Parishioner "Spotlight feature." Inform Tom Schalata of your ideas. Thank you!

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

When "News You Can Use" was started earlier this year we hoped to have some workshops on tax help, restaurant reviews, prescription plans, etc. Let us know what info YOU can USE! Let Tom Schalata know, and we'll work on it. Better yes, volunteer to help with one of these ideas!

POST PICNIC PARTY **Date, Menu Set for Picnic Party For All Workers, Volunteers & V.I.P.'s**

The pierogi-pinching is done! The golumpki's are all rolled, and snug in their beds! The picnic-goers came... they ate... they drank... they polka'd, and they had a great time!

The sun shined brightly... the band play on... and we worked our tails off!

With visions of flea market vendors and tail-gaters still dancing in our heads, we can look back and say whewww!

It was a success, we're glad it's over, and the only thing missing is our pierogi pinata!

To celebrate all the many hours of hard work by many during the last few months, we will celebrate with a party!

The date is set for **Sunday, October 27 at 12 noon** in the

Fellowship Hall, and the Y.M.S. of R. will be supplying most of the food and drink.

We want as many individuals as possible to join in the celebration. Whether you pinched, boiled or bagged, rolled the dough, mopped the floor, parked cars, served up the food, painted kids faces, sweated your dupa off in the kitchen, or sold the tickets, we want you there!

If you tapped the beer, mixed the highballs or carried trays to the serving tent, or if you made a financial contribution, dished out the peach pie and brownies, were covered in flour, dripping with butter or crying over cutting up the onions, you need this party, too!

If you loaded and un-loaded

supplies, ladled bowls of soup, fried up the platzki's, gave someone directions or helped out in one of many other ways, your R.S.V. P. is required!

The menu is almost set (*some alterations may be required). No financial or covered dish is requested. We will supply everything. However, if you wish to contribute a snack or dessert, it will be gladly accepted. Just let us know, so we have an idea how to plan!

Sign-up sheets will be on the table near the Little White Church in the vestibule. Questions? Contact" Tom Schalata.

(**Possibly some Halloween Treats for the kiddies that day, also). **DEADLINE: SUN., OCT. 20 following 9:30 MASS.**

PROPOSED MENU:	JUST A FEW NOTES:
<input type="checkbox"/> Tom's World Famous Smoked, juicy BBQ Chicken Legs & Thighs	<input type="checkbox"/> No contribution: monetary or food item is required!
<input type="checkbox"/> Hot Dogs & Hamburgers	<input type="checkbox"/> Please notify <u>ANYONE</u> you know who helped with the picnic in one way or another, food prep, day of event, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> St. Stephen's Homemade Sauerkraut Pierogies in butter!	<input type="checkbox"/> Desserts or specialty sides such as salads, beans etc. are up to you!
<input type="checkbox"/> Konopelski's Kielbasa	<input type="checkbox"/> Please add your name(s) etc. to the list in the back of church by the deadline noted above (10/20/24@11am)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mussel's Linguini in Garlicy Butter Sauce	<input type="checkbox"/> If you can help with the set-up or food prep, day of the party, please let Tom Schalata know. Thx!
<input type="checkbox"/> Shrimp Cocktail	<input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE ENJOY!
<input type="checkbox"/> Potatoes of Some Sort <i>(Baked? Fries? Dare we say Platzki's?)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Veggie/Cheese Tray	
<input type="checkbox"/> Assorted Drinks	
<i>*NOTE: The clambake idea will be reserved for another date in the future: 2025?</i>	

Parishioner News & Notes from the Grapevine:

CAROLE URBAN is recovering from back surgery from an auto accident more than a month ago. With a back brace she has been seen at Mass for the last few weeks. Wish her well when you see her, or drop her a card. Address: 213 Bradley Ave., Reading, PA 19608.

KENNETH BORAH is having foot surgery and has also been out of commission for several

weeks. He is expected to recover in time for Edgar's First Holy Communion, set for Sunday, Nov. 3. Please send him wishes for a speedy recovery, as well. Address: P.O. Box 302, Birdsboro, PA 19508.

TOM & DONNA SCHALATA have moved from Amish Country in Lancaster County to Keystone Villa@ Douglassville. Donna is in the Personal Care

Section: 1152 Ben Franklin Hwy E. Apt. 136A, Douglassville, PA 19518. Tom is Independent Living, 1180 Ben Franklin Hwy E. Apt. 218, Douglassville, PA 19518.

CHERYL WEINHOLD was scheduled to have back surgery in September. She will be out of commission for several weeks. Her presence has been missed with the choir and other church

activities. Please let her know we are praying and thinking about her. Address: 2401 Downing St., Reading, PA 19605-2852.

**If you know of anyone in the parish that could use a friendly note of cheer or have news we should know about, please let us know. We'll share it with the rest of our St. Stephen's family. Just like any other family would do!*



Upcoming EVENTS

Meetings

- ✓ **Y.M.S. OF R.** (Men's Group)
Sunday, Oct. 13 @ 10:30- Hall
- ✓ **ANS : LADIES ADORATION SOC.**
Sunday, Nov. 10 @ 11 am
PICNIC COMMITTEE
Nothing Scheduled
- ✓ **PARISH COMMITTEE.**
Sun., Oct. 20, 11am in the Hall
- ✓ **MISSION COMMISSION**
None Scheduled
- ✓ **BOOK CLUB**
To Be Announced. "Jesus Behaving Badly," by Mark Strauss
- ✓ **UKRAINIAN RELIEF**
To be Announced in the future
- ✓ **SUNDAY MASSES**
Sunday: October 6, 13, 20, 27 @ 8 & 9:30 am
*unless otherwise noted!

*Please refer to the weekly bulletin for new announcements, changes in dates, times, etc. Thank you for your cooperation!

Events/Activities

- ✓ **ICE CREAM SOCIAL-ANS**
Sunday, Oct. 13@10:45am- Hall in Celebration of the Solemnity of the Christian Family. Join in the fun of making your own Sundae that Sunday! Yummy!
 - ✓ **POST PICNIC PARTY**
Sunday, Oct. 27@12 Noon- Hall (*See Story on Page 3)
Halloween Treats for the Kids!
- LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT MONTH**
- Sunday, Nov. 3 -First Holy Communion - Edgar Avilles
 - All Saints Mass, Fri. 11/1 7:00
 - Sunday, Nov. 10 - Veterans Day Service/Breakfast
 - Sunday, Nov. 17 @9:00 am - Confirmation with Prime Bishop
 - Sunday, Nov. 24@ 11 am Parish Committee Meeting

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



PARISH 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



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 additions or deletions are needed for the list. Your devotion to prayer is a valuable tool for those in need! Thank you!

October 2024 - Calendar of Events & Special Dates

			1	2	3	4	5	
SPECIAL THANKS to everyone who helped prepare the food for the annual picnic, volunteered their time and made financial contributions. Your support is most appreciated!			If anyone in the parish needs help with medicare, medical and prescription health plans, please let Tom Schalata know and we will try to set-up assistance for you or help with your questions. Thank you!			Sunday Donuts Downstairs ARE Back!		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 AM		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 on Comcast Reading Channel 15, Comcast Southern Berks CH. 965, Service Electric CH. 19 & Streaming on youtube channel!						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 AM Y.M.S. of R. Meeting@ 10:30 AM in Fellowship Hall		ANS Sunday Sundaes! Make Your Own Sundae... Oct. 13 10:45 am in the Fellowship Hall 		*PLEASE CHECK THE WEEKLY SUNDAY BULLETIN OR ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR ANY CHANGES OR ADDITIONAL DATES FOR EVENTS!				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 AM Parish Committee Meeting@ 11:00 AM in Fellowship Hall		*Please remember that despite the elimination of dues our parish still must meet our budget requirements. Your contributions to date are enclosed to keep your informed of status. Thank you for your support!						
27	28	29	30	31				
Sunday Masses 8:00 & 9:30 AM		POST PICNIC PARTY! FREE FOOD & DRINK! Sun. Oct. 27 @ 12 Noon in the Fellowship Hall		Happy Halloween	SAVE THIS CALENDAR Put it on Your Fridge !!!			