



December 1, 2024

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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First Sunday of Advent

A Sabbath Thought

There *is* something to wait for.
The shoot *will* blossom, the
promise *will* materialize, the
Lord *will* come again. What we
expect should color our lives.
Who we wait for should warm
our hearts.

About Today's Bible Readings

JEREMIAH 33:14-16

This Advent season is rooted in
the ancient promise outlined
here: A bare shoot will blossom
into salvation, safety and
security for all God's people.

Responsorial Psalm: 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

**R. To you, O Lord, I lift
my soul.**

1 THESSALONIANS 3:12-4:2

We make our own this prayer of
Paul's for the Thessalonians:
"May God strengthen our hearts,
making them holy and
blameless at the coming of our
Lord Jesus Christ."

LUKE 21:25-28, 34-36

The thought of the end may be
scary, but its meaning is clear:
With Christ's coming, our
redemption will be complete.
Therefore, we can hold our
heads high.

ENTRANCE RITE: Psalm 92:2-3

*V. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to Your name,
Most High,*

**R. To proclaim Your love in the morning, Your faithfulness in the
night.**

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: 1 Thessalonians 3:12a, 13b

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*V. May the Lord strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness
before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all
His holy ones.*

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and
the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring
of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what
is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.
And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and
great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise
your heads because your redemption is at hand.

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and
drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by
surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the
face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the
strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before
the Son of Man."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Worship Services

INTENTIONS:

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 Debra Caldwell, Dan Shaner, Sharon Fitzwater, Isabella Mularczyk, Edward Czechowski, Patrice Czechowski, Donna Schalata, Tom Schalata, Bill and Bernice Birosca, 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, Alexis, Matthew and Kristy Samsel, Janet Kelly, Laura Alfano, Scott Gaydos, Donald Barth, Kenneth Cerminara, John Freeman, Sr., Bob Price, Eleanor Kaczmarczyk, Mary Ann Bezek, Eric Meck, Damon Grossman, Joseph Grossman, Jr., Kevin Grossman, Corby Beck, Tom Beck, Skye Sadowski, Jeannine Dresh, Violet Hart, Nancy Ziolkowski, John Bennett, Alicia Bennett, David and Judy Wunderlich, Tammy Bolich, Berne Bloom, Marilyn Seiders, Peggy Smith and family, Chi Koch, Vicki Shoemaker, William Kutenits, Todd Shaffer, Kelly Wylezik Shawn Siedel, Father Carmen Bolock, Christine Mulutzie, David Mulutzie, Greg Sharpe, Frederick Smith, David Metzger, Amber Irving, Paul Edling, Natalie Frankfort, Cheryl Weinhold, Dwayne Schwarz, Joe Bezek, Bud Hoffman and Dr. Brandon Ishaque. **Our Father...**

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, December 1st; The ANS will meet in the library after the 9:30 AM Mass.

Saturday, December 14th; Advent Penitential Service at 7:00 PM.

Sunday, December 15th; YMS of R Egg Sandwich Sale! After each Mass. Don't miss out on this classic treat.

Sunday, December 15th; *Wigilia* sponsored by the Polish American Heritage Society of Berk's County. Please see the Flyer on the table in the vestibule for more information.

Decorating for Christmas; Help will be needed to help decorate the church for Christmas on December 22nd and 23rd. Please let Sally Traczuk know if you are available to help.

Sunday, December 22nd; Monthly meeting of the Parish committee at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

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

THE KNIGHTS CLOSET

The Reading School District has informed us that the Knights Closet Project which provides items of basic necessity to students in need will resume this year. The parish has generously participated in this worthwhile cause in past years and I hope that we will find it in our hearts to continue to do so. Please leave your contributions on the table in the Fellowship Hall and we will get them to those in need. **A special request is being made for bags of assorted Christmas candies, Gatorade, Granola bars and water.** Please leave your donations no later than Sunday, December 15th. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY - THE ANGEL TREE PROJECT

All of the tags on the tree have been taken! Thank you all for your kind generosity!

2025 PNCC HOME LITURGICAL CALENDARS

The PNCC Home Liturgical Calendars are here and on the table in the vestibule for \$7.50 each. Only a limited number are available so get yours before they are gone!

COFFEE AND DONUTS

We are pleased to gather for the Fellowship hour in the Church Hall following each Mass. Coffee and donuts will be served with the coffee being free and the suggested donation for each donut being \$1.00. I hope that many of you will join us.

2025 DONATION ENVELOPES ARE IN THE LIBRARY!

Today – Dec. 1st
1st Sunday of Advent

Cycle “C” begins.

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

Sunday – Dec. 8th
2nd Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

Saturday – Dec. 14th
Advent Penitential Service

7:00 PM

Sunday – Dec. 15th
3rd Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

Sunday – Dec. 22nd
4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

ADVENT!

There are booklets on the table in the vestibule. Please take one and resolve to spend a few minutes each day in prayer and reflection so that you may truly appreciate God's great gift to His people, Eternal Life in the form of the Baby Jesus.

UKRAINIAN RELIEF

We will be delivering the donated items on Dec. 10th. Please have your contributions on the table in the Fellowship Hall no later than Dec. 8th.

OPLATKI

They are here and on the table in the vestibule. Please take what you need and donate what you can.