



## Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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December 15, 2024

## Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday

### A Sabbath Thought

We are preparing ourselves to celebrate the feast of Christmas. But what is the point of what we are doing? If we are to enter into the real meaning of the feast, we must get back to basics, like love and joy.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18

The prophet urges us to rejoice because the Lord's presence is a guarantee of deliverance.

#### Responsorial Psalm: IS 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

**R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

#### PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

Clear your minds of anxiety, urges the apostle, and fill your hearts with joy.

#### LUKE 3:10-18

Even now says John the Baptist, you can prepare the way of the Lord by righting wrongs.

### ENTRANCE RITE: Psalm 85:6-7; 90:14

*V. Will You be angry with us forever, drag out Your anger for all generations? Please give us life again, that Your people may rejoice in You.*

**R. Fill us at daybreak with Your love, that all our days we may sing for joy.**

*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: Matthew 6:33

*V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*V. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### THE GOSPEL: Luke 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages." Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

# Worship Services

Today – Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Gaudete Sunday

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

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Sunday – Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

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## OPLATKI

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

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## NEW YEAR

As we approach the new year please be aware of the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting in January. I would 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 minimum contributions are met

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## 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.

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**2025 DONATION  
ENVELOPES ARE IN  
THE LIBRARY!**

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## THE ANGEL TREE PROJECT

All of the tags on the tree have been taken! Thank you all for your kind generosity! If you have not returned your gift to the office I the Annex, please do so ASAP.

## 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, 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, 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., 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, 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. For the repose of the souls of Kelly Wylezik, Ruth Mullen and Tom Lucas. **Our Father....**

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

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Today, December 15<sup>th</sup>;** YMS of R Egg Sandwich Sale! After each Mass. Don't miss out on this classic treat.

**Today, December 15<sup>th</sup>;** *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 decorate the church for Christmas on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please let Sally Traczuk know if you are available to help.

**Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>;** 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!**

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## 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 today. Thank you.

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## 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!

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## Christmas Worship Schedule

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve

Choir Presentation prior to Mass at 11:45PM

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

Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day

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

Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup> – Feast of Saint Stephen

Holy 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.***