



December 26, 2024

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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Feast of Saint Stephen the Martyr

A Festival Thought

Saint Stephen held true to his faith in God and Christ Jesus, even to the point of death. And in his dying moments asked God to forgive those who were stoning him. Can we do anything less?

About Today's Bible Readings:

Wisdom 6:1-6,21

We are told to fear the Lord's judgement if we do not act accordingly.

Responsorial Psalm: PS 31:3CD-4, 6 AND 8AB, 16BC AND 17

R. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59

This account of Saint Stephen's death is sobering. Who among us can claim such faith? With God's love to help us, hopefully, everyone.

Matthew 10:17-22

Jesus warns His disciples, and us, of the perils that face us because of His name. Like them, we must stand true when we profess our faith in the Lord.

ENTRANCE RITE – Psalm 119:23-24

V. Though princes meet and talk against me, Your servant studies Your laws.

R. Your decrees are my delight; they are my counselors.

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 – Acts 7:56

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 10:17-22

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Beware of men, for they will hand you over to courts and scourge you in their synagogues, and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans.

When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say.

You will be given at that moment what you are to say.

For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Brother will hand over brother to death, and the father his child;

children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.

You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord!