



# Saint Stephen the Martyr PNCC PARISH NEWSLETTER



20 ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH LANE, READING PA 19607 - JANUARY 2025

## Parish Concludes Busy Year in 2024

The year 2024 proved to be another busy one for St. Stephen the Martyr, as the calendar showed very little mercy for events and activities.

We will reserve the important details for the Annual Parish Meeting at the end of January, but the highlights of this year included the following events.

February saw the traditional Lenten Soup Suppers commence on Wednesdays before Stations of the Cross Services. This included a highly successful fish fry during that time.

The faithful began in earnest, pierogimaking for the annual picnic with sessions in March, April and May. All agreed it beat the hot weather sessions that were typical in the past.

Picnic plans continued throughout the summer, and despite moving from St. Benedict's Grove to Willow Glen Park, the event was once again successful.

There were some lessons to be learned, but once again, most agreed the changes were worth the effort.

Jay Rowe received the financial report from Joe Faranda, and the records revealed that the 2024 event was comparable to the last few years, perhaps slightly above the year prior.

The major change for 2025, as voted upon by the parish, would be to move the picnic to Saturday. This is due to an overlap with the venue's weekly flea market on Sundays. While the date switch adds a bit of uncertainty to the matter, it was agreed that the change would make the event run much

smoother

The balance of the year included all of the usual events and activities, including the celebration and commemoration of Memorial Day, Veterans Day, All Souls Day, Thanksgiving, and the Advent and Christmas seasons.

The parish was also busy with the celebration services of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

A last minute Polish Food Sale was held in time for Christmas Celebration. A dedicated work crew made a batch of pierogies for our own members.

### PLANS FOR HOLIDAY OPALTEK DINNER & ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This year, the 4th Annual Parish Opaltek Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall, Sunday, January 12 at 11:30 AM.

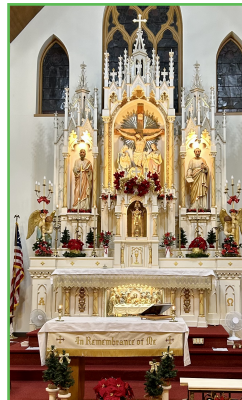
The menu will feature baked ham, kielbasa and various sides and drinks. Dessert and cookie donations are welcome, but the dinner itself will be free of charge to all. Free-will donations will also be accepted. Sign-up sheets and flyers can be found on the table in the vestibule of the church. Deadline to R.S.V.P. is Sunday, January 5, 2025.

The Annual Parish Meeting is set for Sunday, January 26 at 10:30, also in the Fellowship Hall. Inclement weather date is Sun., Feb. 2.

The Picnic Committee will also try to have a meeting on Feb. 2 after the 9:30 Mass if the Annual Meeting is not held on that date.

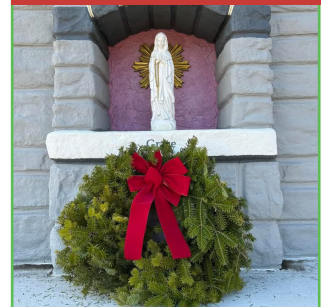


Nativity Scene

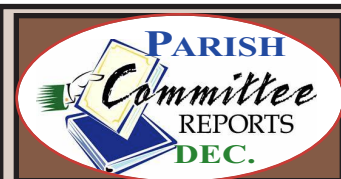


Nativity Scene

Wreaths Across America at Parish Cemetery



Bishop Hodur Choir



✓ ALTAR REPAIR COMMITTEE is still on hold. Will meet later next year.

✓ RECTORY & CHURCH REPAIRS: Kevin Grossman will look into the issue with the leaking trap in the bathroom. On the subject of church maintenance and

repairs, the following issues were discussed: Still checking on the water heater issues; Chimney repair: we will get more estimates in the Spring.

- ✓ NEW BUSINESS: Successful Pierogi Sale was held Dec. 15.
- ✓ Opaltek Dinner is set for Sunday, January 12 @ 11:30 am
- ✓ Next Parish Committee Meeting will be held Sunday, January 19. Annual Meeting Agenda will be set at that time. (\*Sun., Jan. 26).
- ✓ Picnic Committee will schedule a meeting for Sunday, Feb. 2 after 9:30 Mass if the date is not needed for the Annual Parish Meeting.

**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

**ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR**

*Opaltek Holiday Dinner Party*

**SUNDAY, JAN. 12 @ 11:30 AM**

- \* **SIT-DOWN HAM DINNER WITH KIELBASA, SIDES AND DRINKS**
- \* **DESSERT DONATIONS & CHRISTMAS COOKIES WELCOME**
- \* **MUSIC, FUN, GAMES AND FELLOWSHIP - DON'T MISS IT!**

**There will be NO CHARGE for this dinner!**  
It will be a free-will donation.  
Please sign-up by January 5 so we can plan on the amount of food.

**Sign-up Sheet in Vestibule For Reservations, please see Tom Schalata (610-780-5035) or email: tomschalata@yahoo.com**

**MESSAGE FROM FR. SR. DONALD E. WUNDERLICH**



*My Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year! I humbly ask God's Blessing to allow us to continue His Holy Work, here at St. Stephen the Martyr, and look forward to the coming year with hope, prosperity and peace throughout the world. — Fr. Sr. Donald*



**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!

**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*

**January 2025 - Calendar of Events & Special Dates**

Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 AM ANS Meeting Library following 9:30 Mass	Sunday Donuts Downstairs ARE Back!		HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL !!!	1	2	3	4
						SAVE THIS CALENDAR Put it on Your Fridge !!!	
Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 AM Solemnity of the Holy Family *Opaltek Deadline*	Epiphany of Our Lord	6	7	8	9	10	11
Please Do NOT forget to sign-up for this year's HOLIDAY OPALTEK DINNER - SUN., JAN. 12, 2025 *SEE ABOVE*							
Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 AM Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord	SUN. Jan. 12 Opaltek Dinner 11:30 AM Fellowship Hall	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 AM Parish Committee Meeting@ 11:00 AM in Fellowship Hall	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
*PLEASE CHECK THE WEEKLY SUNDAY BULLETIN OR ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR ANY CHANGES OR ADDITIONAL DATES FOR EVENTS!							
One MASS 9:00 AM Annual Parish Meeting@ 10:30 AM in Fellowship Hall	26	27	28	29	30	31	
REMEMBER ANNUAL PARISH MEETING !!!!!							
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!							