



March 7, 2021

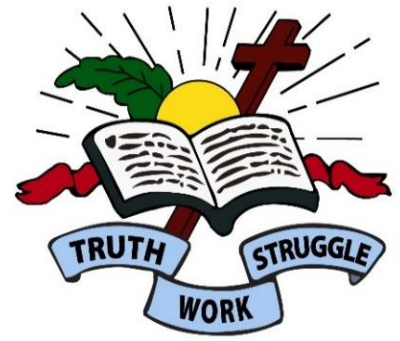
St. Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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Third Sunday of Lent

A Sabbath Thought

We travel a dangerous road on this Lenten journey that leads to death. We must set aside our comfortable ways and take a risk by accepting the cross as a sign of life in a world of empty promises.

About Today's Bible Readings

EXODUS 20:1-17

Given by a God who brings exiles to a place of covenant, the ten commandments present an outline for our ordered life as a community of faith.

PSALM 19:8, 9, 10, 11

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:22-25

The cross is a scandal that shows God's real power in our world today.. Our self-inflated wisdom proves empty.

JOHN 2:13-25

Setting aside previous ways, Jesus ushers in a new age of worship where his body is the center of the community of faith.

ENTRANCE RITE: Deuteronomy 6:4-5, 13

V. Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength.

R. The Lord your God shall you fear; Him shall you serve, and by His name shall you swear.

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.

TRACT: Romans 8:3-4 (Recited in place of the Alleluia)

V. For what the Law, weakened by the flesh, was powerless to do, this God has done; by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for the sake of sin,

R. He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the righteous decree of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who live not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 2:13-25

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, Zeal for your house will consume me. At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY– March 7th

Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM – Low Mass

9:30 AM – High Mass

Swearing in of new Committee Members for 2021.

WED.– March 10th

Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM

SUNDAY– March 14th

Solemnity

Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church

Daylight Saving Time Begins

8:00 AM – Low Mass

9:30 AM – High Mass

WED.– March 17th

Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM

SUNDAY– March 21st

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Passion Sunday

8:00 AM – Low Mass

9:30 AM – High Mass

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During the season of Lent we will be praying the Stations of the Cross each and every Wednesday leading up to Holy Week. I hope that everyone will plan on attending to join together and that you urge your families, friends and neighbors to attend as well. This is a beautiful and moving form of worship and it helps to focus our thoughts and prayers on our Lord and Savior as we reflect on His Passion and Death.

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 Edward and Anna Czechowski, Patrice Czechowski, Donna Schalata, Tom Schalata and Bernice Biroscak. For the repose of the soul of Anna Czechowski.

Our Father...

If there are any other individuals who should be on this list, please email or tell Father Senior Donald so he can add them!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 7th, 9:30 AM – Swearing in of new Committee Members for 2021. All new committee members should plan on attending the 9:30 Mass.

Monday, March 8th, 7:00 PM – Mission Commission Meeting

The Mission Commission will meet in the Church Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, March 9th, 7:00 PM – YMS of R Meeting

The Young Men's Society of the Resurrection will meet in the Church Hall. All of the men of the Parish are encouraged to attend.

Wednesday, March 10th, 7:00 PM – Stations of the Cross

We will be observing the Stations of the Cross each Wednesday of Lent

Monday, March 15th, 7:00 PM – Fund Raising Committee Meeting

The Fund Raising Committee will meet in the Church Hall. All are welcome to attend.

All events are subject to review and the appropriate health and safety restrictions. Please check the website or Facebook page for updated information. Take care, stay safe and stay well.

THE KNIGHTS CLOSET

The Reading Area School District has informed us that the Knights Closet Project which provides items of basic necessity to students in need will resume even under the COVID restrictions. 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 Library and we will get them to those in need. A list of needed items can be found on the table in the vestibule near the offering baskets. Please take one as you leave. Thank you and God bless.

