

May 2, 2021

## Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

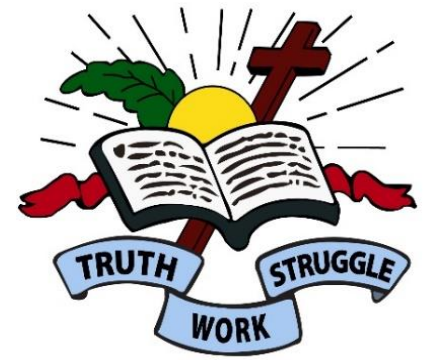
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### Fifth Sunday of Easter

#### A Sabbath Thought

The Easter sacraments have grafted us unto Christ so that we live through him. As members of his body, the church, the Spirit enables us to bear the fruit that identifies us as true disciples.

#### About Today's Bible Readings

##### ACTS 9:26-31

The Jerusalem community welcomes Paul and authenticates him. His friend, Barnabas, 'sponsors' him and the other members support Paul as he begins to bear witness to Christ.

##### Responsorial Psalm 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32

**R: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.**

##### 1 JOHN 3:18-24

We are right with God when the Spirit leads us to love and care for others as Christ has commanded us to do.

##### JOHN 15:1-8

The risen Lord is the source of life for all who have been grafted onto him through baptism. He nourishes us within the Christian community so that we may bear much fruit in his service.

#### ENTRANCE RITE: Romans 7:4; Galatians 5:22-23

*V. In the same way, my brothers, you also were put to death to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to the One Who was raised from the dead in order that we might bear fruit for God. Alleluia.*

**R. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Alleluia.**

*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 (John 15:16a)

*V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

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

*V. It was not you who chose Me, but I Who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain.*

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

#### THE GOSPEL JOHN 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

# Worship Services

**TODAY – May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

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**SUNDAY – May 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Mothers' Day**

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

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**SUNDAY – May 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Solemnity**

**Ascension of Our Lord**

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

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## **The Octave of Easter**

Over these next few weeks, we will be learning about the time that Jesus spent on Earth after His resurrection and before His glorious Ascension to the right hand of the Father in Heaven. We will hear of these deeds from the apostles who were the witnesses of them. Then we will celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Disciples, filling them with wisdom, knowledge and power as well as the gift of tongues or the ability to speak so that all people could understand them regardless of their own languages. So as you can see, Easter is not just one day. It is not even the Octave, or eight weeks that we celebrate. No, Easter is every day of the year. Christ risen from the grave happens eternally and forever for the forgiveness of our sins.

## **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 Czechowski, Patrice Czechowski, Damon Grossman, Donna Schalata, Tom Schalata and Bernice Biroscak. **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!**

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**; The YMS of R will meet in the Church Hall at 7:00 PM. All of the men of the Parish are encouraged to attend and join if you do not already belong.

**Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**; The Mission Commission will meet in the Church Hall at 7:00 PM. All are invited to attend.

**Thursday, Friday, Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>**; The National YMS of R Bishop Belinski Memorial Spiritual Retreat for Men. Held at the Bishop Hodur Retreat Center, Waymart, PA. Please email [unitedymsofr@gmail.com](mailto:unitedymsofr@gmail.com) for more information. This is open to all men.

**If there are any other events not listed here, please email or tell Father Senior Donald so he can add them!**

**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.**

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## **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.

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*I am the True Vine*



*John 15:1*