



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

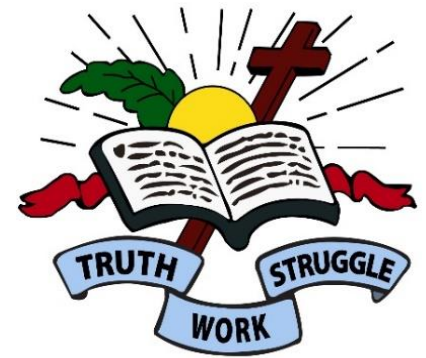
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May 16, 2021

Solemnity – The Ascension of Our Lord

A Festival Thought

This Easter season of joyous celebration now draws towards its close as we salute Jesus' return to the Father's glory. But what is the joy that marks this time? It is part and parcel of the journey from death to life.

About Today's Bible Readings

ACTS 1:1-11

Even as Jesus departs, he promises the sending of the Spirit. He will not leave us orphans.

Responsorial Psalm: 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

EPHESIANS 1:17-23

In Jesus' resurrection and glorification, God has tipped his hand. The power at work in Jesus is also at work in us.

MARK 16:15-20

In returning to the Father, Jesus leaves us neither lonely nor idle. In the power of the Spirit, he commissions his church to complete the task of redemption.

ENTRANCE RITE: Luke 24:51-53

V. As He blessed them He parted from them and was taken up to heaven. Alleluia.

R. They did Him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God. 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: PSALM 47:6

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; the Lord, amid trumpet blasts.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: MARK 16:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Worship Services

TODAY – May 16th

Solemnity

Ascension of Our Lord

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SUNDAY – May 23rd

Solemnity - Pentecost

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SUNDAY – May 30th

Solemnity – Holy Trinity

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

COFFEE AND DONUTS AND FELLOWSHIP

As the Covid Crisis slowly but surely begins to lessen in severity and with the increasing number of people having received the vaccine, we will once again be offering coffee and donuts downstairs in the Church Hall after each Mass. To offset the cost we are suggesting a minimum donation of at least \$.70 per donut and whatever you deem fair for coffee. It is suggested that you continue to wear your masks except when eating or drinking and that you maintain social distancing. While each of you will need to individually assess your own risk factors, we hope that many of you will join us as we strive to move forward by taking this first step in an attempt to return to normalcy. I hope to see many of you there.

INVITE A FRIEND

Many people say that they would attend church if invited by a close friend. Please reach out to your friends, especially those that do not regularly attend church services. Tell them about how wonderful our Parish is. Tell them about how welcoming and inclusive we can be. Always speak highly of our Parish when talking to outsiders and try to get them to be insiders.

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, John Zawoski, Bailey Bennet, 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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 16th; Monthly meeting of the Parish Committee after the 9:30 Mass. I hope all committee members will plan to attend.

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

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, June 17th – 19th; 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 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.

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.

