

August 22, 2021

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 Saint Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

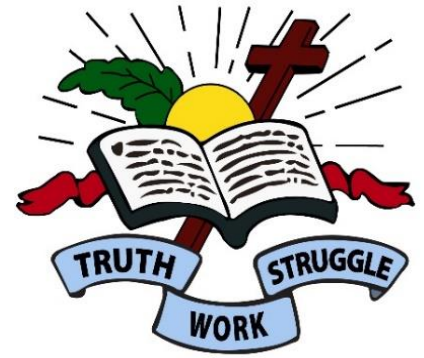
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Twenty First Sunday Ordinary Time

A Sabbath Thought

Every time we gather to hear the Word and break the Bread, we are renewing *our* covenant with the Lord. In this celebration, we choose to follow *him* and not serve the gods of this world. To whom else shall we go? Only Jesus has the words of eternal life.

About Today's Bible Readings

JOSHUA 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

In a solemn ceremony, Joshua leads the Israelites in a pledge of faithfulness to the Lord: "Far be it from us to forsake the Lord for the service of others gods."

Responsorial Psalm: 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

EPHESIANS 5:21-32

Here is a list of suggestions for unity and mutual respect within the family. Like the Christian church, the Christian family is modeled on Christ and his example of love.

JOHN 6:60-69

Impossible words call for an impossible response. When Jesus speaks truths hard to swallow, Peter acknowledges that only faith can accept these "words of eternal life."

ENTRANCE RITE:

V. Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful song.

R. Enter His gates with thanksgiving, His courts with praise; give thanks to Him; bless His Name.

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 147:5

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. Great is our Lord and mighty in power: to His wisdom there is no limit.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: John 6:60-69

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father."

As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him.

Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Worship Services

TODAY – August 22nd
21st Sunday - Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – Holy Mass
9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SUNDAY – August 29th
22nd Sunday - Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – Holy Mass
9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SUNDAY – September 5th
23rd Sunday - Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – Holy Mass
9:30 AM – Holy Mass

NOVEMBER FOOD SALE

We will be holding a pierogi only food sale sometime in November. We will need to begin to make them soon. Please consider volunteering to help. Signup sheets are in the vestibule. Please volunteer to help make this sale a success. And not only women can make pierogi, men can too!

CELEBRATE YOUR FAITH NIGHT

Last Sunday's Celebrate Your Faith Night at the Reading Fighting Phils game was a big success. Everyone had a great time. I hope that we can do something like this in the future and that more of you will join us.

Who Will You Serve?

Today we are challenged to make a choice, a choice that will define who and what we are. We are asked who we will follow, to whom will we pledge our fealty. This is not a matter to be taken lightly when it comes to the Lord. The Lord, Our God, has done great things for us and has blessed us a thousand times over. Who else can we follow? Who else can we turn to? Who else has the Words of eternal Life?

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 Isabella Mularczyk, Edward Czechowski, Patrice Czechowski, Donna Schalata, Tom Schalata, David Wunderlich, Bernice Biroscak, Jean Loose, Geri Piotrowski and Riley Rejniak. **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

Monday, August 23rd; The Mission Commission will meet at 7:00PM in the Library. All are welcome to attend.

Friday, August 27th; Pierogi Prep. Please sign up to volunteer.

Saturday, August 28th; Pierogi Making. Please sign up to volunteer.

Friday, September 10th; Pierogi Prep. Please sign up to volunteer.

Saturday, September 11th; Pierogi Making. Please sign up to volunteer.

Friday, September 24th; Pierogi Prep. Please sign up to volunteer.

Saturday, September 25th; Pierogi Making. Please sign up to volunteer.

Friday, October 15th; Pierogi Prep. Please sign up to volunteer.

Saturday, October 16th; Pierogi Making. Please sign up to volunteer.

Monday, September 13th; The fund raising committee will meet at 7:00PM. All are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, September 14th; The Y.M.S. of R. will meet at 7:00PM in the Church Hall. All of the men of the church are encouraged to attend.

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

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 take a token from the table in the vestibule and fill the need on it. Please leave your contributions on the table in the Library and we will get them to those in need.

HOAGIE SALE

We will be holding a Hoagie Sale on August 29th. Order forms are available in the vestibule. Orders must be pre-paid for delivery. Deadline to submit your orders to Father Senior Don or Janet Katinowski is Today, Sunday, August 22nd. This sale is open to all so tell your friends about it.

