



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 Saint Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

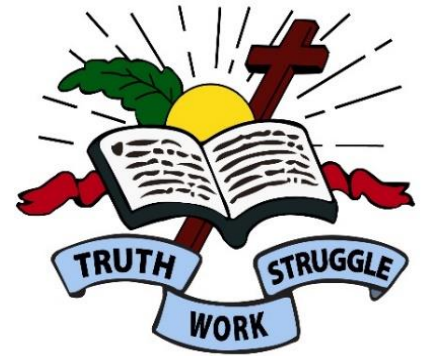
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August 29, 2021

Twenty Second Sunday Ordinary Time

A Sabbath Thought

"The unexamined life is not worth living," said Socrates. But what about unexamined hearts? If we constantly seek distraction, we will never have the time for looking inward. Yet, what is in our hearts determines who we are.

About Today's Bible Readings

DEUTERONOMY 4:1-2, 6-8

The divine commands Moses tells the people are not meant to be a burden, but are intended to be a source of wisdom and enlightenment for those who wish to serve God.

Responsorial Psalm: 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5

R. One who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

JAMES 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27

Before the water is the Word. It is the Word that converts our hearts and moves us to baptism. Always in the beginning is the Word.

MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

What is the source of sin? In answer to that question, Jesus points to our restless hearts. The heart - that symbol of love - is often the source of evil.

ENTRANCE RITE:

- V. The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul; The Decree of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.*
- R. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The command of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eye.**
- 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: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands. For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders. And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves. And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds. So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?" He responded, "Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: *This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.* You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition." He summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile. "From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Worship Services

**TODAY – 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

**SUNDAY – September 12th
Solemnity
Brotherly Love**

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 have begun to make them. Thanks to everyone who volunteered and showed up Friday and Saturday. Please consider volunteering to help on the upcoming days. 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!

Thanks to Toni and Larry

Thanks to Toni Wiswesser and Larry Bagenstose for trimming the shrubbery and weeding around the church and rectory. More work is needed to be done and they could use some help. If you can and are willing to help, please contact them or tell Father Senior Don and he will put you in touch with them.

Old Time Movies

Many of the old movies that were taken of Parish activities over the years have been converted to electronic format. They can be viewed on the cloud at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EmQ9dYtJ07gC0Sa7EuA6Nh1_bXw-v5uC. Or if you wish, They can be placed on a USB thumb drive. Please let Father Senior Don know if you are interested.

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, Janet Katinowsky, Julia Urban 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

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

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

Sunday, September 12th; The ANS will meet at 11:00AM in the Library. All members and all of the ladies of the Parish are encouraged to attend

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.

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

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

Monday, September 27th; The Mission Commission will meet at 7:00PM in the Library. All are welcome to attend.

Wednesday, September 29th; The Book club will meet at 7:00PM in the Library to review the Book "The Wedding Dress" by Rachel Hauck. All are welcome to attend.

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

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

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. Also, all donations to the Little White Church made during August and September will be used to supplement this endeavor. Thank you in advance for your kind generosity.

HOAGIE SALE

You can pick up your Hoagie orders downstairs in the Hall after each Mass today. Thank you for your support and enjoy your Hoagies.
