

# Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 Saint Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

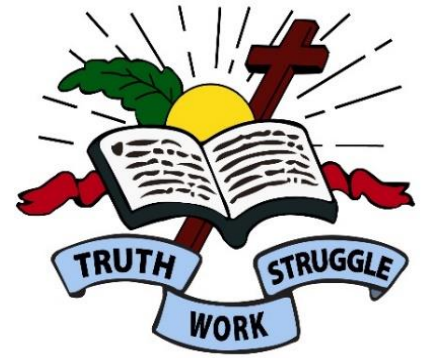
**The Very Reverend Donald E. Wunderlich**

Parish Office: 610-775-4559

Email: [fatherdon@ststephenpncc.org](mailto:fatherdon@ststephenpncc.org)

Website: [www.ststephenpncc.org](http://www.ststephenpncc.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ststephenspncc](http://www.facebook.com/ststephenspncc)



October 3, 2021

## Twenty Seventh Sunday Ordinary Time

### A Sabbath Thought

Statistics tell the story: In our country, marriage is a troubled institution. But Jesus teaches that the marriage bond should be a lasting one. Such love requires the willing co-operation of two people who are both lovers and friends.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### GENESIS 2:18-24

The creation story tells us that God made us, male and female, for each other. The divine design is written into the heart of married love.

#### Responsorial Psalm: 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

**R. May the Lord bless us  
all the days of our lives.**

#### HEBREWS 2:9-11

In the figure of the suffering Jesus, we perceive the depth of God's love for us. Jesus became human so that we might become divine.

#### MARK 10:2-16

A trick question leads Jesus to reveal the depth of married love. In marriage, we forge lasting bonds.

### ENTRANCE RITE: Sirach 25:1; 26:4

*V. With three things I am delighted, for they are pleasing to the Lord and to men: Harmony among brethren, friendship among neighbors, and the mutual love of husband and wife.*

**R. Be he rich or poor, his heart is content, and a smile is ever on his face.**

*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: Proverbs 19:14

*V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

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

*V. Home and possessions are an inheritance from parents, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.*

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

### THE GOSPEL: Mark 10:2-16

The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, "Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?" They were testing him. He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?" They replied, "Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her." But Jesus told them, "Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate." In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

# Worship Services

**TODAY – October 3<sup>rd</sup>  
27<sup>th</sup> Sunday - Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

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**MONDAY-October 4<sup>th</sup>  
Feast of St. Francis of Assisi  
Blessing of Animals**

**12:00 Noon**

**In the Parking Lot in front of the  
Church Doors**

*A short service of about fifteen minutes to bless all pets of any species. Please make sure your pet is in a suitable carrier or on a secure leash for the safety of all.*

*Sorry for the short notice.*

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**SUNDAY – October 10<sup>th</sup>  
Solemnity  
The Christian Family**

**Blessing of First Responders**

**Welcome Back Breakfast  
After each Mass**

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

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## NOVEMBER FOOD SALE

We will be holding a Polish Food sale November 20<sup>th</sup>. We have begun to make pierogis. Thanks to everyone who volunteered and showed up already. 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!

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## COFFEE AND DONUTS

We are pleased to offer the Fellowship hour in the Church Hall following each Mass. Coffee and donuts will be served with the coffee being free and the suggested donation for each donut being \$1.00. I hope that many of you will join us.

## 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!**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Today, October 3<sup>rd</sup>;** The ANS will meet at 11:00AM in the Library. All members and all of the ladies of the Parish are encouraged to attend.

**Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>;** The YMS of R will be sponsoring a free Welcome Back Sausage Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. This will be in conjunction with the celebration of our first ever Blue Mass honoring the brave first responders in our area, who are also invited to this free breakfast. I hope to see everyone there to show our support and appreciation to the first responders for all that they do.

**Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>;** The Mission Commission will meet at 7:00PM in the Library. All are welcome to attend.

**Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>;** 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, October 15<sup>th</sup>;** Pierogi Prep. Please sign up to volunteer.

**Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>;** Pierogi Making. Please sign up to volunteer.

**Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>;** 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.

**Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>;** Polish Food Sale. 9:00 AM until sold out. Tell your friends.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2022;** Saint Stephen's Annual Picnic returns! From 10:00AM until whenever at Saint Benedict's Picnic Grove in Mohnton. We have a band, a beer wagon and of course, great Polish Food. The picnic has been sorely missed the past few years by almost everyone, parishioner and non-parishioner alike so let's get behind the Picnic Committee and volunteer to help when the time comes in order to make the return of the Picnic a rousing success.

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

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## THE KNIGHTS CLOSET

I want to thank everyone who donated to the Knights Closet Project. The items were delivered to the Reading School District last Thursday and were greatly appreciated.

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## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

For the months of October, November and December all of the donations to the Little White Church will be used to help the less blessed of our community as the winter and holiday seasons come upon us. These donations will be used for heating assistance and other such necessities. We will soon be placing the Angel Tree in the vestibule so that gifts can be donated for the elderly and shut in individuals of our community. Please be as generous as you can. Thank you and God bless.

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## 2021 POLISH OPEN

On Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, the Polish American Heritage Association of Berks County will be holding its annual Golf Tournament at the Manor Golf Course in Sinking Spring. Information is available on the flyers on the table in the vestibule. I hear that some of the golfers in our congregation will participate and represent Saint Stephens.