

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

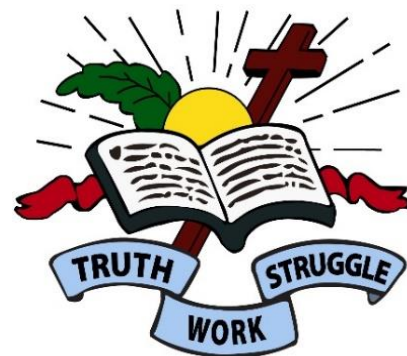
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September 15, 2019

Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Sabbath Thought

A forgiving God does not expect perfection, just repentance. We sinners *can* approach the Lord without fear because God is waiting for us, ready to welcome us home.

About Today's Bible Readings

EXODUS 32:7-11, 13-14

Moses intercedes for the people with the Lord. The Lord relents and does not punish.

1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17

The apostle Paul stands as an emblem of God's mercy. The Lord who forgave his great sin will surely have mercy on us small fries!

LUKE 15:1-32

The familiar story of the prodigal son and other parables, sum up the purpose of Jesus' coming among us.

ENTRANCE RITE – Psalm 79:9,8

V. Help us, God our savior, for the glory of Your Name. Deliver us, pardon our sins for Your Name's sake.

R. Do not hold past iniquities against us; may Your compassion come quickly, for we have been brought very low.

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.

GRADUAL Psalm 78:38-39 (Traditional Rite)

V. But God is merciful and forgave their sin; He did not utterly destroy them. Time and again He turned back His anger, unwilling to unleash all His rage.

R. He was mindful that they were flesh, a breath that passes and does not return.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19 (Contemporary Rite)

R. I will rise and go to my father.

ALLELUIA John 10:9a

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, Himself human, Who gave Himself as ransom for all.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL – LUKE 15:1-32

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them he addressed this parable. "What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance. "Or what woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it? And when she does find it, she calls together her friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.' In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

(OVER)

Worship Services

TODAY September 15th
24th Sunday Ordinary Time.

8:00 AM – LOW MASS
Traditional Rite

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS
Contemporary Rite

SUNDAY September 22nd
25th Sunday Ordinary Time.
Spojnia Sunday

8:00 AM – LOW MASS
Contemporary Rite

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS
Contemporary Rite

Spojnia Sunday

On Sunday, September 22nd as the PNCC celebrates Spojnia Sunday – let us always remember to support the efforts of our sister organization as the PNU continues to support the members, clergy and parishes of the PNCC. For more information on the Polish National Union please contact your PNU Branch Secretary, visit the web site www.pnu.org, or call the PNU Home Office at 800-724-6352.

RECTORY RENOVATION

The renovations and upgrades to Rectory have been completed. The transition committee did an absolutely incredible job. They are to be complimented and congratulated for their work. This has added to the beauty and the value of this parish asset. If anyone would like to see the results, please join us on a walk-through after the 9:30 AM Mass.

POT PIE DINNER

The Pot Pie Dinner last Sunday was a great success, good food and great fellowship. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make it happen.

Then he said, "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."' So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns, who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.' He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

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 Father...

CENTRAL DIOCESAN ANS RETREAT

At Any Age, At Any Stage; Celebrating the Christian Life

The Central Diocesan ANS will be holding a one day retreat on Saturday, October 5th, at the Saint Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA. The retreat begins at 9:30AM and concludes at 2:30PM. Cost is a modest \$20.00 per person and the event is open to women of all ages. Please take a flyer from the table in the Vestibule for more information. You do not need to be an ANS member or even a member of the PNCC to attend this life enriching event. Registration for this event is said to be exceeding expectations and filling up fast, so please contact Cheryl Weinholt if you are interested in attending.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, October 27th, there will be only one Mass at 9:00AM.

This will be the case because we will be once again have the honor of hosting a visit by the Rt. Rv. Bernard Nowicki, the Bishop Ordinary of the Central Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church. Bishop Nowicki will be here to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on two of the youth of our Parish, Kaitlyn Kotula and Brianna Zelek.

Please pray for these two young people that they may feel welcomed into full and complete communion with the Church and the Parish community.

Mark your calendars now – SAVE THE DATE.

Please plan to join together as the one body of Christ for this joyous event!