



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

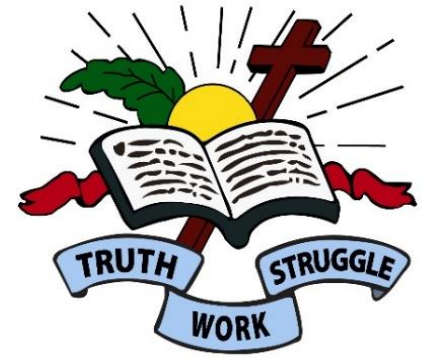
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October 13, 2019

Solemnity of the Christian Family

A Sabbath Thought

Today's scriptures fit the season. They celebrate transitions as we move into autumn. While such times may represent loss, they can also mean challenge and growth. Living our lives in the care of God reduces the anxiety that change usually brings.

About Today's Bible Readings

SIRACH 3:11-16

It is wisdom to realize that respect, honor and mutual recognition of rights makes for longevity in relationships, especially within families.

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

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

COLOSSIANS 3:12-21

Dress up to stay at home because you will need the best of clothes: shared suffering, kindness, humility, gentle mannerisms and patience. Let love be the crown you wear around the house.

LUKE 2:42-52

Jesus' own family gave him a place to grow - in strength and wisdom and God's favor. Every organized relationship of human persons has to provide that opportunity for each other.

ENTRANCE RITE – 1 Timothy 5:8; Galatians 6:10

- V. Whoever does not provide for relatives and especially family members has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*
- R. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all, but especially to those who belong to the family of the faith.**
- 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 6:20

Observe, my son, your father's bidding, and reject not your mother's teaching.

THE GOSPEL – LUKE 2:42-52

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY October 13th

**Solemnity of the
Christian Family**

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

Contemporary Rite

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

Contemporary Rite

**Halloween Party and Ice
Cream Social after the
9:30 Mass!**

SUNDAY October 20th

**29th Sunday Ordinary Time
Heritage Sunday**

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

Contemporary Rite

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

Contemporary Rite

SUNDAY October 27th

30th Sunday Ordinary Time

ONLY ONE MASS TODAY

CONFIRMATION

9:00 AM – HIGH MASS

Contemporary Rite

**Please note the time
change!**



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...**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Oct. 13th: St Stephen's Mission Commission invites everyone to an Ice Cream Social in the Parish Hall following the 9:30AM Mass. Share your heritage and have fun with our Christian Family while building your favorite ice cream sundae! Invite your friends and family to come to this unique solemnity of the PNCC and join us for ice cream following the service. See Sally Traczuk or any member of the Mission Commission for more information. Deadline to sign up is October 9th.

Sunday, Oct. 13th: Confirmation practice will be in lieu of Sunday School at 11:00AM. SOCL Halloween Party in the Parish Hall after SOCL Classes around 11:30AM. Pizza and snacks will be served. Students will be able to participate in Sundae Sunday as part of the party.

Friday, Oct. 25th: Special Synod of the PNCC in Scranton

Sunday, Oct. 27th: Confirmation of Kaitlyn Kotula and Brianna Zelek.

Saturday, Nov. 9th: Food Sale

Sunday, Nov. 17th: ANS Soup and Barbeque Sale

Sunday, Dec. 1st: Advent Tea

SPECIAL SYNOD OF THE PNCC

On October 25th a Special Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church will be held in Scranton, PA for the specific purpose of electing candidates for the position of Bishop. Please pray for all of the delegates to this Synod, especially those from our parish, that they may be filled with the Holy Spirit and inspired to make good and holy choices in this matter for the benefit of our beloved Church.

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!

PAINTING THE CHURCH

There was a Scottish painter named Smokey MacGregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the local church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings. Smokey put in a bid and, because his price was so low, he got the job. So he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with water. Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint. Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried: "Oh God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?" And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke. (You're going to love this.) "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"