



## Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

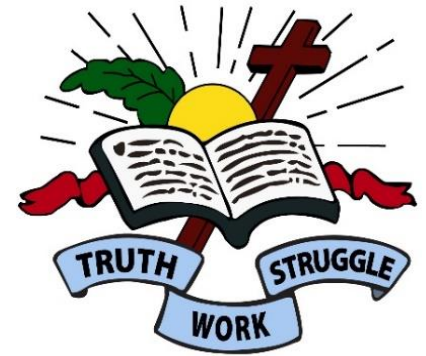
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February 16, 2020

### Sexagesima Sunday

#### A Sabbath Thought

God wants us to love one another, This theme dates back to the ancient times and carries over to today.

#### About Today's Bible Readings

##### Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

God tells Moses to instruct the Israelites that they are to love their neighbors as themselves.

##### RESPONSORIAL PSALM 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

##### 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16-23

God's wisdom transcends all. He makes foolish the wise and reminds us to whom we truly belong.

##### MATTHEW 5:38-48

Jesus continues His sermon on the mount, urging us to turn the other cheek when we are disparaged and to love one another no matter what may occur, for that is what It means to be a follower of Christ.

#### ENTRANCE RITE – James 2:1,9

*V. My brothers and sisters, show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.*

**R. But if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.**

*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.**

#### TRACT – James 2:8 (Recited in place of the Alleluia)

*V. However, if you fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself, "*

**R. you are doing well.**

#### THE GOSPEL – Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples:

"You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand over your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go for two miles. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.

"You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."

**This is the Gospel of the Lord!**

# Worship Services

Today February 16<sup>th</sup>  
Second Sunday of Pre-Lent  
Sexagesima

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

Installation of the new Parish  
Committee members

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Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Third Sunday of Pre-Lent  
Quinquagesima

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

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Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup>  
Ash Wednesday  
LENT BEGINS

9:00 AM – HOLY MASS  
Blessing and distribution  
of ashes to the faithful

7:00 PM – HOLY MASS  
Blessing and distribution  
of ashes to the faithful

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## The Season of Pre-Lent

The Polish National Catholic Church has officially reinstated the Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima Sundays in 2014 throughout the entire Church. The celebration of this season as a preparation for Holy Lent is now highlighted as a part of the Liturgical Year. "Septuagesima" means "seventy," and Septuagesima Sunday comes roughly seventy days before Easter. Subsequently, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima Sundays come roughly sixty and fifty days before Easter, respectively. The liturgical color of this season which prepares us to anticipate the spiritual rigors of the Lenten Season is rose. Lent then takes on the somber hue of purple signifying the seven-week period of penitence and introspection and our conversion of heart.

## 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 John Czechowski, Thomas Grodkiewicz, John Aldershoff, Tom Schalata, Joseph Ross, Stanley Sub, Bea Sub, Peggy Kowalik, Ruth Mechowski, Julie Urban, Frank and Shellie Fisher, Jackie Weinhold and Walter Schilling. **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

Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup>; 11:00 AM in the upstairs classroom  
Monthly Parish Committee Meeting. **NEW TIME AND DAY!**

Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup>; Lenten Preparations of the Church  
If anyone is able to stay after Mass and help with changing the Altar linens and other preparations for the Lenten Season, it would be very much appreciated. Thank you and God Bless.

Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>; 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall  
The Book Club will meet to discuss the book "The Trunk" by our own Tom Schalata who will be join the discussion. Please plan to attend as this is a wonderful book rich in Polish history and traditions.

**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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## Koleda – Blessing of Homes

My sincerest apologies for not getting around to bless all of your homes. The stress and strains of caring for my wife during her illness and the tremendous amount of work associated with her passing has wreaked havoc with my day to day schedule. I promise to visit every home next Epiphany Season as has been the tradition here at Saint Stephen's in the past. Meanwhile, if anyone would like to have their home blessed this year, please call or email me and I will try my best to accommodate them. Again, my apologies and thank you for your understanding, patience and support during this most difficult time.

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## LENTEN SEASON

Ash Wednesday is February 26<sup>th</sup>. That is right around the corner. I hope that everyone is already spending some time each day in thoughtful prayer and meditation as we approach the solemn season of Lent. Lent gives us a chance to ponder the earth shattering implications of Christ's passion, death and resurrection on the world, both then and now, and how it impacts our lives each and every day as we follow Him to eternal glory.

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