



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

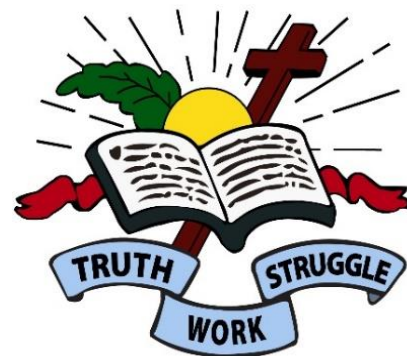
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February 23, 2020

Quinquagesima Sunday

ASH WEDNESDAY IS THIS WEDNESDAY!

A Sabbath Thought

We are reminded today that the Lord, our God will never forsake us. He will care for us always if only we seek Him first. Do not worry.

About Today's Bible Readings

Isaiah 49:14-15

No more than a mother can forget her infant, can the Lord forget us.

Responsorial Psalm 62:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

R. Rest in God alone, my soul.

1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-5

Do not worry about what others think of you. Only God can judge you.

MATTHEW 6:24-34

If the Lord will feed the birds and nourish the grass, will He not do that and more for His children?

ENTRANCE RITE – Psalm 77:2-3

V. I cry aloud to God, cry to God to hear me.

R. On the day of my distress I seek the Lord; by night my hands are raised unceasingly; I refuse to be consoled.

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 – Wisdom 1:2 (Recited in place of the Alleluia)

V. Because He is found by those who test Him not,

R. and He manifests Himself to those who do not disbelieve Him.

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 6:24-34

Jesus said to his disciples:

"No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your lifespan? Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

Today February 23rd
Third Sunday of Pre-Lent
Quinquagesima

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

Wednesday February 26th
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

Friday February 28th
Stations of the Cross
7:00PM

Sunday March 1st
First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

Second Collection for the
mission work of the Church.

Sunday March 8th
Solemnity
Institution of the PNCC

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Cemetery Cleanup

If you have memorial flowers or other adornments on graves in the cemetery and you wish to keep them, please see that they are removed before March 1st as the spring cleanup of the cemetery will be commencing soon afterwards. Thank you for your kind co-operation.

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. For the repose of the soul of Lulu Coco. **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

Sunday February 23rd; 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 4th; 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!

Kolęda – 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 you. Again, my apologies and thank you for your understanding, patience and support during this most difficult time.

LENTEN SEASON

Ash Wednesday is February 26th. 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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