



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

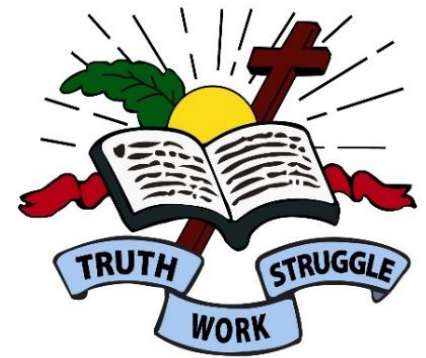
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February 9, 2020

Septuagesima Sunday

A Sabbath Thought

Zeal and zest characterize the zealot and the enthusiast. But we Christians must be more serious and sedate, or so we think. Actually, there is an eager joy that should mark our growth in faith and love.

About Today's Bible Readings

SIRACH 15:15-20

Despite excuses and rationalizations, we are basically free. What we choose reveals our heart's desires and our life's direction.

PSALM:

119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34

R. Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-10

What makes us truly wise is the revelation God has given us of the divine love in Jesus Christ.

MATTHEW 5:17-37

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus lays out new paths for his disciples to follow. Where law ruled once, infinite love now holds sway.

ENTRANCE RITE – Psalm 34:15-16

V. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

R. The Lord has eyes for the just and ears for their cry.

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 - John 15:15 (Recited in place of the Alleluia)

V. If you love Me,

R. you will keep My commandments.

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 5:17-37

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven. I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment. But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; and whoever says to his brother, 'Raqa,' will be answerable to the Sanhedrin; and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.

(OVER)

Worship Services

Today February 9th
First Sunday of Pre-Lent
Septuagesima

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

Sunday February 16th
Second Sunday of Pre-Lent
Sexagesima

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

Sunday February 23rd
Third Sunday of Pre-Lent
Quinquagesima

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS



[https://www.ststephenpncc.org/
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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.

"You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery. But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into Gehenna. "It was also said, Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce. But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife - unless the marriage is unlawful - causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. "Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow. But I say to you, do not swear at all; not by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Do not swear by your head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black. Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the evil one."

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 families and friends, especially John Czechowski, Thomas Grodkiewicz, John Aldershoff, Tom Schalata, Joseph Ross, Stanley Sub, Bea Sub, Peggy Kowalik, Ruth Mechowski, Julie Urban, Jackie Weinhold and Walter Schilling.. For the repose of the souls of Beverly Wunderlich and Dennis Dow. **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

Tuesday, February 11, 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall

Yearly organizational meeting of the YMS of R. All men of the Parish should consider joining the YMS of R. Please feel free to attend this meeting even if you are not currently a member. You can learn more about who and what the YMS of R actually is and how you can help them help our parish.

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

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.