



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

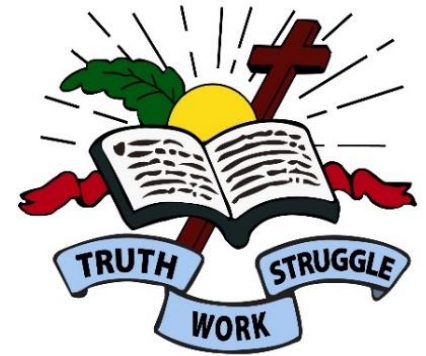
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March 1, 2020

First Sunday of Lent

A Sabbath Thought

Life is a continuum of choices. This Lent is a time to examine the choices we make. In the company of Jesus, we become desert dwellers who confront the demons that tempt us.

About Today's Bible Readings

GENESIS 2:7-9, 3:1-7

Here is where Lent began - back at the beginning - when the first human beings chose something other than God and goodness.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

ROMANS 5:12-19

And here, in Paul's impacted thought, is where Lent turns to Easter: in the life and death of Jesus Christ who firmly chose God.

MATTHEW 4:1-11

Finally, in the desert, Jesus faces the temptations that also mark our Lenten time. Two roads lie before us. Which will we choose?

ENTRANCE RITE – Psalm 91:1-2; Psalm 17:8

V. You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, say to the Lord, "My refuge and fortress, my God in Whom I trust."

R. Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

TRACT – 1 Corinthians 10-13b; Matthew 6:13

V. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial He will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it.

R. Do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one.

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 4:1-11

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone." Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test." Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve." Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

Today 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

Friday March 6th

Stations of the Cross

and

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament

7:00PM

Sunday March 8th

SOLEMNITY

The Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

Second Collection for The National Church Center

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00AM today. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour!

Wednesday March 11th

Stations of the Cross

and

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament

7:00PM



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, John Aldershoff, Tom Schalata, Joseph Ross, Stanley Sub, Bea Sub, Peggy Kowalik, Ruth Mechowski, Julie Urban, Frank and Shellie Fisher, 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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, March 1st; Ladies ANS Monthly Meeting, After the 9:30 Mass In the upstairs classroom.

This is the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the ANS Society. All members are urged to attend and all of the ladies of the parish are invited to join in and see what the ANS is all about. The ANS is not all work and no play. Fellowship and sisterhood fosters exciting plans and activities for the greater glory of God and for the good of our beloved parish. Please, come and see for yourselves.

Wednesday, March 4th; Book Club; 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.

Sunday, March 15th; Monthly Parish Committee Meeting, After the 9:30 Mass

This is the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the committee. I hope all Members will plan to attend.

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During the season of Lent we will be praying the Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament every week leading up to Holy Week. This will be on either Friday or Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM. Please check the weekly bulletin available in church each Sunday or on line at the URL listed below. I hope that everyone will plan on participating in at least two of these gatherings and that you will urge your families, friends and neighbors to attend as well. This is a beautiful and moving form of worship and it helps to focus our thoughts and prayers on our Lord and Savior as we reflect on His Passion and Death. We are using NEW BOOKLETS with five different settings of the Stations which will be alternated each week so as to keep things fresh and different. I hope to see many of you there.



<https://www.ststephenpnc.org/bulletins-and-newsletters/>