



March 22, 2020

## Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

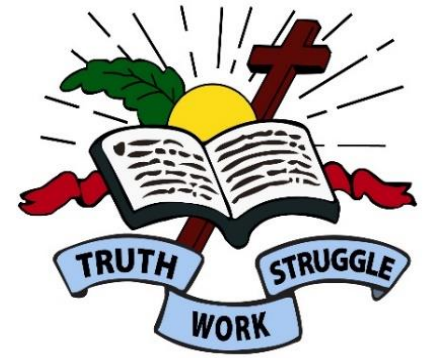
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### Fourth Sunday of Lent

#### A Sabbath Thought

Life can blind us to *real* life. That is why this exercise called *Lent* is necessary. It invites us to go aside into the desert of faith to take the time to clear our vision.

#### About Today's Bible Readings

##### 1 SAMUEL 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

David was not born a king. He was a shepherd chosen by God to lead the people.

##### Responsorial Psalm

23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

##### EPHESIANS 5:8-14

God has brightened world history and our personal lives with the light of Jesus Christ. We must not obscure that light with deeds that muffle charity.

##### JOHN 9:1-41

Jesus opens the eyes of a man born blind - a favor he has performed for all of us who were born blind to the light of faith. But God washed us in baptism and gave us sight - the insight we lacked.

#### ENTRANCE RITE – Isaiah 43:8-9a; Jeremiah 5:21-22a

*V. Lead out the people who are blind though they have eyes; who are deaf though they have ears. Let all the nations gather together, let the peoples assemble!*

**R. Pay attention to this, foolish and senseless people who have eyes and see not, who have ears and hear not. Should you not fear Me, says the Lord, should you not tremble before Me?**

*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 – Psalm 36:9-10

*V. We feast on the rich food of Your house; from Your delightful; stream You give us drink.*

**R. For with You is the fountain of life, and in Your light we see light.**

#### THE GOSPEL – John 9:1-41

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam", which means Sent. So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." So they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"

He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see." And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know."

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a Sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?" His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue.

(OVER)

# Worship Services

## CANCELLED!

*Celebrated by the Clergy  
for you, the people of God*

**TODAY March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**9:30 AM – Holy MASS**

**Please pray together  
from home!**

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**Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Stations of the Cross  
and**

**Benediction of the  
Most Blessed Sacrament**

**7:00PM**

**Please pray together  
from home!**

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**SUNDAY March 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Passion Sunday**

**9:30 AM – Holy MASS**

**Please pray together  
from home!**

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**Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Stations of the Cross  
and**

**Benediction of the  
Most Blessed Sacrament**

**7:00PM**

**Please pray together  
from home!**

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For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; question him." So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out. When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains. **This is the Gospel of the Lord!**

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### ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

(Recited together in place of the reception of the Holy Eucharist)

Most loving Jesus,  
I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in Which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior.

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### **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, Donna Schalata, Joseph Ross, Stanley Sub, Bea Sub, Ruth Mechowski, Julie Urban, Frank and Shellie Fisher, Joe Brinsko, Walter Schilling and Isabella Mularczyk.  
**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**

**All Masses, services and other events are cancelled until further notice. Please check the website or Facebook page for updated information. Thank you and God Bless. Take care and stay well.**

**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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### **A CORONAVIRUS PRAYER**

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, that we may experience your healing love, now and forever more. AMEN.