



# Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

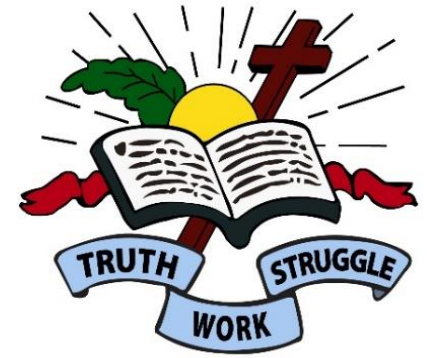
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March 29, 2020

**Fifth Sunday of Lent – Passion Sunday**

## A Sabbath Thought

Not even death is safe from life. In bringing his friend Lazarus from the tomb, Jesus proves that he is 'the resurrection and the life.' We who have come to life in baptism now will never die.

## About Today's Bible Readings

### EZEKIEL 37:12-14

The prophet gives voice to the Lord's promise: "O my people, I will open your graves and you shall live!"

### Responsorial Psalm

130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

**R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

### ROMANS 8:8-11

The Apostle renews the divine promise from old: 'The God who raised Jesus from the dead will also bring us life.'

### JOHN 11:1-45

Jesus declares himself the source of life: 'They who believe in me, though they die, will come to life.'

## ENTRANCE RITE – Daniel 12:2-3

*V. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; Some shall live forever, others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.*

**R. But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.**

*V. Lord, for us Your wounds were suffered.*

**R. O Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.**

## TRACT – Romans 6:8-9

*V. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.*

**R. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over Him.**

## THE GOSPEL – John 11:1-45

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. So the sisters sent word to him saying, "Master, the one you love is ill." when Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." He said this, and then told them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him." So the disciples said to him, "Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved." But Jesus was talking about his death, while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep. So then Jesus said to them clearly, "Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him." So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go to die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

(OVER)

# Worship Services

## CANCELLED!

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

**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>d</sup>**

**Stations of the Cross**

**and**

**Benediction of the  
Most Blessed Sacrament**

**7:00PM**

**Please pray together  
from home!**

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**SUNDAY April 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Palm Sunday**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass  
With blessing of Palms**

**Please pray together  
from home!**

**Palms will be distributed to  
the faithful beginning at  
9:30 AM at the main doors  
on the upper level. Please  
turn right at the lower level  
of the church and drive  
around to the upper level,  
following the ONE WAY  
SIGNS.**

**DO NOT PARK OR GET  
OUT OF YOUR CARS.**

**Father Senior Donald will  
be at the main doors and  
will hand you whatever  
number of palms you need.**

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**EASTER WEEK  
WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

*Will be posted on the website.  
This is assuming that we will be  
able to gather for worship.*

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying, "The teacher is here and is asking for you." As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him. For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him. So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

**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. Inflamm 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.