

## Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

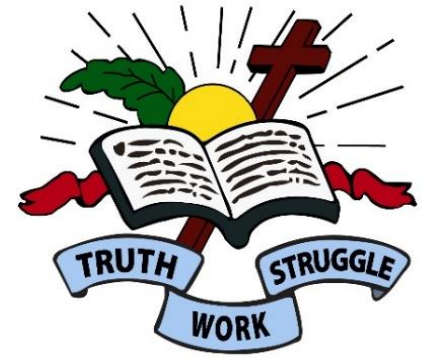
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March 8, 2020

**Solemnity – Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church**

### A Festival Thought

Christ calls us to serve Him, now and forever. And to help make this possible, He gave us the great gift of the Polish National Catholic Church, the anniversary of the founding of which we commemorate today.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### Wisdom 5:1-5

The wicked are overwhelmed and amazed at the power and the glory of the righteous one.

#### Responsorial Psalm:

2:2-3, 5-6, 8-9, 10-11

**R. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice before him; with trembling pay homage to him.**

#### 1 Timothy 4:1-5

Saint Paul cautions us to beware of those who try to tell us to disobey the Lord, for all things made by Him are good and pleasing to the soul.

#### John: 12:1-7

The branches are us, the people of God, called together as the body of Christ, His One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. If we remain faithful to Him, we will bear good fruit to the Glory of His Holy Name.

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

*V. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. In green pastures You let me graze; to safe waters You Lead me, You restore my strength. You guide me along the right path for the sake of Your name.*

**R. You set a table before me as my enemies watch;  
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

*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 31:2

*V. In You, Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.*

**R. In Your justice deliver me.**

### THE GOSPEL – John 12:1-7

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.”

**This is the Gospel of the Lord!**

# Worship Services

TODAY March 8<sup>th</sup>

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

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**Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup>**

Stations of the Cross  
and

Benediction of the  
Most Blessed Sacrament

7:00PM

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SUNDAY March 15<sup>th</sup>

Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

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**Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup>**

Stations of the Cross  
and

Benediction of the  
Most Blessed Sacrament

7:00PM

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SUNDAY March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

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## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During the season of Lent we will be praying the Stations of the Cross each and every week leading up to Holy Week. I hope that everyone will plan on attending to join together as the one body of Christ 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.

## 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 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!**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>: YMS of R Meeting 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall**

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Young Men's Society of the Resurrection will be held in the hall. As always, I encourage all men of the parish to attend and to become members. As with all of our societies and organizations, it is not all work and no play. Yes, there is work for the good of the parish and the greater glory of God, but there is still time for fellowship and fun. Please, join us and see for yourselves.

**Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>; 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!**

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## HEALTH PRECAUTIONS AT CHURCH

At this time, the 'better-safe-than-sorry' approach to our common life in our Parish is the approach to take for the immediate future. Therefore, at the passing of the Peace during Mass, we will eliminate handshaking, kissing and hugging as signs of God's peace being with you. Instead, a wave, a peace sign 'V', a smile can be substituted for the other gestures to ensure the health and safety of all and to remove from some the stigma of their not desiring to participate in the Peace at this time while others would.

Greeting the clergy with a handshake at the doors after Mass will no longer take place. A smile and the brief greetings offered as usual will be sufficient. Coughing and sneezing into your elbow and arm instead of uncovered into the air around you will be appreciated by everyone and reduce the risk of infection.

As always, parishioners who are ill on a Sunday morning or exhibiting flu-like symptoms should remain at home from Mass until they are fully recovered from their illness.

The clergy will continue to wash their hands before Mass as they always do. Additionally, they will use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after distributing communion.

Use of the Holy Water fonts at the entrances is also to be considered optional at this time. Bless yourselves on entering God's house as usual but use the Holy Water only if you are comfortable with doing so.

The CDC explains the following: Coronavirus symptoms include a fever, cough and shortness of breath. Symptoms could appear two to 14 days after exposure. The virus spreads through droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. People can also become infected by touching something with the virus on it then touching their mouth, nose or possibly eyes.

We will observe these precautions as long as necessary.