

## Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

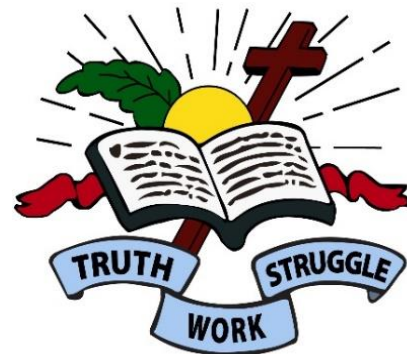
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April 19, 2020

## Second Sunday of Easter – Low Sunday

### A Sabbath Thought

The apostle Thomas will always be known as 'doubting' even though he doubts no more! His example invites us to affirm our faith in the risen Jesus whom we, too, can touch and adore and love.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### ACTS 2:42-47

The resurrection of Jesus had effects on the community that believed in him. Easter always leaves a trail we can follow.

#### Responsorial Psalm: 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

**R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

#### 1 PETER 1:3-9

What kind of faith should be ours? This early church letter invites us to make our belief both full-hearted and full-throated.

#### JOHN 20:19-31

Jesus continues to be with those who gather in his Name on the first day of the week. He comes into our midst to give us peace and unity.

### ENTRANCE RITE: Psalm 40:2-4

*V. I waited, waited for the Lord; Who bent down and heard my cry, drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the mud of the swamp, set my feet upon rock, steadied my steps. Alleluia.*

**R. And put a new song in my mouth, a hymn to our God. Many shall look on in awe and they shall trust in the Lord. Alleluia.**

*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.**

### ALLELUIA: Psalm 30:2,4

*V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*V. I praise You, Lord, for You raised me up and did not let my enemies rejoice over me. Lord, You brought me up from Sheol; You kept me from going down to the pit.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### The GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

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

# Worship Services

**CANCELLED!**

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

**TODAY – April 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**  
**(Low Sunday)**

9:00 AM – Holy Mass

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**SUNDAY – April 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

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**SUNDAY – MAY 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

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## The Octave of Easter

Over these next few weeks, we will be learning about the time that Jesus spent on Earth after His resurrection and before His glorious Ascension to the right hand of the Father in Heaven. We will hear of these deeds from the apostles who were the witnesses of them. Then we will celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Disciples, filling them with wisdom, knowledge and power as well as the gift of tongues or the ability to speak so that all people could understand them regardless of their own languages. So as you can see, Easter is not just one day. It is not even the Octave, or eight weeks that we celebrate. No, Easter is every day of the year. Christ risen from the grave happens eternally and forever for the forgiveness of our sins.

## 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, Bernice Biroscak 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.

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