



# Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

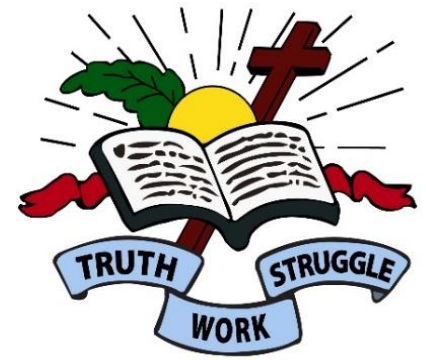
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April 26, 2020

## Third Sunday of Easter

### A Sabbath Thought

The resurrection changed Jesus in many ways, but his trademark activities remained the same. He still proclaims the word of God's love, he still yearns to unite us in his body of love, he still sets our hearts ablaze for the mission of his love.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### ACTS 2:14, 22-28

An early sermon outlines the mystery that still guides our living and believing: God raised Jesus from the dead.

#### Responsorial Psalm: 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

**R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.**

#### 1 PETER 1:17-21

Jesus' resurrection has an impact on us. Through him, God has delivered us from futility and granted us entrance into eternal life.

#### LUKE 24:13-35

In a dramatic encounter with the risen Lord, two disciples learn what their hearts already knew: Jesus is the one who sets us free from sin and death.

### ENTRANCE RITE: Psalm 25:15-16

*V. My eyes are ever upon the Lord, Who frees my feet from the snare. Alleluia.*

**R. Look upon me, have pity on me, for I am alone and afflicted. 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: John 1:29b

*V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

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

*V. Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world.*

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

### The GOSPEL: JOHN 24:13-35

That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.

(OVER)

# Worship Services

## CANCELLED!

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

**TODAY – April 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

Intentions for the repose of the soul of Frances Novak offered by Fr. Sr. Donald.

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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**SUNDAY – MAY 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

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**Prayers for Lt. Colonel  
Fr. Andrew Bilinski**

As some of you may know, Lt. Colonel Fr. Andrew Bilinski serves not only the church of God but also the United States of America in his position as a medical doctor in the U.S. Army stationed at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. Fr. Andrew has served the church as his responsibilities to the Army have permitted, most recently at St. Valentines in Philadelphia. He has informed us that the Coronavirus Pandemic has hit his posting quite hard and he and his colleagues are fighting hard against it. They are all overworked and tired but are soldiering on in the finest traditions of the U.S. Armed Forces. Please pray for them and for their patients as they need all the help they can get in this most unusual battle of their careers. With our prayers and God's good graces I know that they will emerge victorious.

With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

**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, Bernice Biroscak, Isabella Mularczyk and Lt Colonel Fr, Andrew Bilinski, his colleagues and patients. For the repose of the soul of Frances Novak. **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.