



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

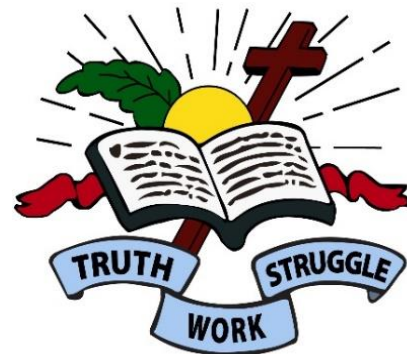
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May 3, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter

A Sabbath Thought

Is the blazing glory of a risen God too overwhelming for you? This same Lord of life is also the shepherd who gently tends our needs. He is no stranger to our wants; he is no despiser of our plight. He is always with us.

About Today's Bible Readings

ACTS 2:14, 36-41

Peter's Pentecost sermon makes the main point about Jesus: through baptism in his Name, we receive the forgiveness of our sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm:

23: 1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6

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

1 PETER 2:20-25

Jesus is the shepherd who guards our lives. He serves as the model for the way we should live through faith. Like him, we must seek God's will as we make our way toward the kingdom.

JOHN 10:1-10

Shepherd and sheepfold may strike us as quaint images, but they teach us about the central role of Jesus in our salvation.

ENTRANCE RITE: Ezekiel 34:31; Psalm 79:13

V. You, My sheep, you are the sheep of My pasture, and I am your God, says the Lord God. Alleluia.

R. Then we, Your people and the sheep of Your pasture, will give thanks to You forever; through all generations we will declare Your praise. 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: 1 Peter 5:4; Psalm 95:7

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. And when the Chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. For He is our God, and we are the people He shepherds, the flock He guides.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The GOSPEL: JOHN 10:1-10

Jesus said:

"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers." Although Jesus used this figure of speech, the Pharisees did not realize what he was trying to tell them.

So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

CANCELLED!

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

TODAY – MAY 3rd
Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SUNDAY – MAY 10th
Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

Bishop Joseph Padewski

This Sunday, May 10, 2020 marks the 69th anniversary of the Martyrdom of Bishop Joseph Padewski who died in prison in Poland at the hands of the communist leaders of Poland. Please pray for him and for all those martyred in the name of Christ Jesus.

SUNDAY – MAY 17th
Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

The Month of May

During the Month of May we give special attention to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We will pray the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary after the service each Sunday this month as we beseech the Mother of Our Lord to intercede with the Father and her Beloved Son on our behalf. I urge each of you to spend a few moments each day in reflection, asking for her prayers and remembering her sacrifice.



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.

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!

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!

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.

MEMBER INFORMATION FORM

You should have received a mailing containing a Member Information Update Form. Many of you have completed it and returned it to the church. Thank you for your prompt action. If you have not done so yet, please complete the form or forms and return them as soon as you can. There is a pre-addressed, postage paid envelope in the mailing to make this as easy as possible. We need to update our records in order to continue to serve you in the very best way possible so please help us to help you. If you need more copies of the form, you can find it on the website under “Bulletins”. Thank you and God bless you and yours.