



July 12, 2020

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

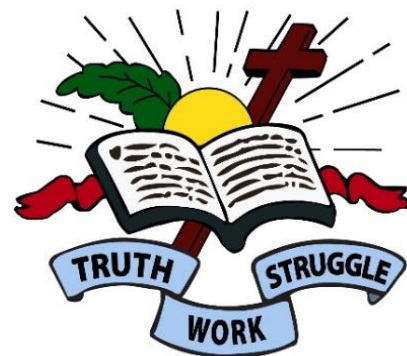
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Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Sabbath Thought

Nothing grows by itself. Seeds need good soil, attentive care, frequent watering. The same is true of the faith God has planted in our hearts.

About Today's Bible Readings

ISAIAH 55:10-11

God's Word is not inert. It descends upon us, soliciting our response in faith. It changes the atmosphere of our lives, calling us to abundant growth.

Responsorial Psalm: 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14

R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

ROMANS 8:18-23

Creation is like a giant womb, pregnant with God's glory. Although the birthing is painful, the promised outcome colors with hope whatever suffering we may now experience.

MATTHEW 13:1-23

Jesus uses the realities of gardening and farming to shape his message. The Word of God is like a seed that is sown; we are the soil in which it is planted.

ENTRANCE RITE: Hebrews 4:12; John 1:14

V. Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.

R. And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

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: Luke 8:11b; 1 Thessalonians 2:13b

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. The seed is the word of God, which is now at work in you who believe.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 12:1-23

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear." The disciples approached him and said, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He said to them in reply, "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.

(OVER)

Worship Services

TODAY – July 12th

15th Sunday - Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – Low Mass

9:30 AM – High Mass

SUNDAY – July 19th

16th Sunday - Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – Low Mass

9:30 AM – High Mass

Rebecca Kotula Wins Berk's Best 2020 Taylor Seitzinger Award for Community Service

Congratulations to our own Rebecca Kotula on winning the prestigious Best in Berk's Award for Community service. We all know how involved Becca is with both our parish and the youth organizations of the national Church, but she is every bit as involved with other activities in the community. She is also chair of her school's Mini-THON committee, stage manager of the drama club, president of her class and student council, and captain of the varsity soccer and indoor and outdoor track teams. Where she finds the time or the energy for all of this is a mystery, but thank God she does. Through these activities she spreads the Word and the love of God to many people who are in need of it. Great work, Becca, you make us proud.

(My humble apologies for being a bit tardy in sharing this news with all of you. My bad.)

Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and be converted, and I heal them. "But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. "Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

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, Jane Aldershoff, Tom Schalata, Donna Schalata, Joseph Ross, Ruth Mechowski, Julie Urban, Frank and Shellie Fisher, Joe Brinsko, Bernice Biroscak, Isabella Mularczyk and Stanley Sub. For the repose of the soul of 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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events are subject to review and the appropriate health and safety restrictions. Please check the website or Facebook page for updated information. Take care and stay well.