



July 19, 2020

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

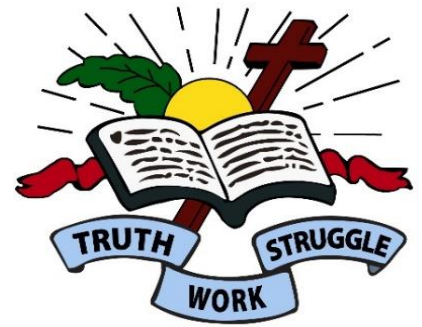
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Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Sabbath Thought

It is happening now even as you read these words: the kingdom of God is growing although we may not avert to it. But we can hone our sense to perceive God's reign. We will hear the world percolating, stirring and straining under God's shaping hand.

About Today's Bible Readings

WISDOM 12:13, 16-19

What kind of God do we worship? The ancient book of Wisdom offers us some advice: recognize who is the Lord by what he does.

Responsorial Psalm: 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

ROMANS 8:26-27

Weakness is not failure. It is the seedplace of God's Spirit who sits in our hearts and sings the songs of love that we must learn.

MATTHEW 13:24-43

The signs of God's governance and authority are all around us: in the fields, in the garden, in the kitchen. Simple things like crops, shrubs and bread have much to teach us.

ENTRANCE RITE: Psalm 86:5-6

V. Lord, You are kind and forgiving, most loving to all who call on You.

R. Lord, hear my prayer; listen to my cry for help.

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: 2 Peter 3:9a,c

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. The Lord does not delay His promise, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-43

Jesus proposed another parable to the crowds, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn."'

He proposed another parable to them. "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'" He spoke to them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened."

(OVER)

Worship Services

TODAY – July 19th
16th Sunday - Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – Low Mass
9:30 AM – High Mass

SUNDAY – July 26th
17th Sunday - Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – Low Mass
9:30 AM – High Mass

The Holy Eucharist

Today we will begin a trial of distributing the Holy Eucharist to those of the faithful wishing to receive it. Due to health and safety concerns, the procedure will be as follows:

If you do not wish to receive, please exit the church after the recessional hymn.

If you do wish to receive, please remain seated.

Those receiving will file down the center aisle, single file starting with the front rows first and will maintain a six foot spacing with masks in place until it is your turn to receive.

The Eucharist will be distributed on the tongue in the form of the Body of Christ ONLY.

The Priest will wear a mask and disinfect his fingers with alcohol after each recipient.

After you have received, please put your mask back on and exit the church via the side aisles.

This is completely optional and no one should feel any pressure to receive. Please make your own decision based on your personal health and safety concerns.

All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables. He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet: I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation of the world. Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

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. Inflame 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 Gertrude Matylewicz. **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

Wednesday, 7/22 – 3:30PM - "Virtual Convo" via ZOOM - Please email pbmikovsky@pncc.org for a link to the virtual Convo.

Saturday, 8/15 – United YMS of R Golf Tournament – Waymart, PA
Please see Fr. Sr. Donald for details if you are interested in participating

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.