



July 26, 2020

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

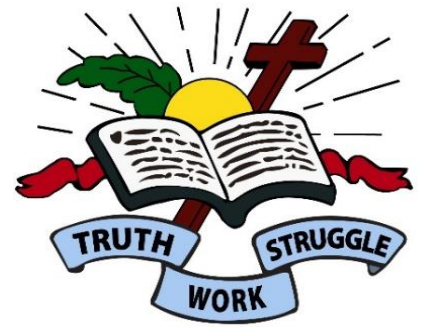
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Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Sabbath Thought

These days, win a lottery and you win more than money. With it comes various headaches, taxes, trusts, legal arrangements, unwanted fame and unsolicited requests. Faith is like that, a treasure with strings attached.

About Today's Bible Readings

1 KINGS 3:5, 7-12

God grants King Solomon one wish. What would he choose, money, health, power? The king ignores our usual desires and asks for wisdom.

Responsorial Psalm:
119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130

R. Lord, I love your commands.

ROMANS 8:28-30

The world may seem out of control, but everything is working according to the plan of God who desires the eternal good of those who love him.

MATTHEW 13:44-52

Faith is a treasure that demands a radical decision from us. In order to possess this treasure, we, must be willing to exchange everything people usually call "valuable".

ENTRANCE RITE: Proverbs 2:6-7; Wisdom 7:7

V. For the Lord gives wisdom, from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He has counsel in store for the upright, He is the shield of those who walk honestly.

R. Therefore, I prayed, and prudence was given me; I pleaded, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.

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 49:4

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. My mouth shall speak wisdom, my heart shall offer insight.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus said to his disciples:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. "Do you understand all these things?" They answered, "Yes." And he replied, "Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Worship Services

TODAY – July 26th

17th Sunday - Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – Low Mass

9:30 AM – High Mass

SUNDAY –August 2nd

18th Sunday - Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – Low Mass

9:30 AM – High Mass

The Holy Eucharist

We will continue the 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 exist 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.

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 Gertrude Matylewich. **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

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, stay safe and stay well.

MISSING PHOTO ALBUM

A photo album with pictures of NASA events, which was last seen several years ago on the table at the top of the choir steps, is missing. This album contains personal family photos and is near and dear to our sister Sandy Pfennig. If any has this album or knows of its whereabouts, please bring it back or let Fr. Sr. Donald know where it is. No judgement or questions asked, as it was most likely taken unintentionally or its return was simply overlooked. Sandy would just very much like it back. Thank you.

LIBRARY RENNOVATION

The renovation of the Library Space is progressing nicely. This was planned to happen after the pastor's office was completed but was delayed for various reasons. The two tone paint job is complete and chair rail has been installed for that high end look. The old carpet has been removed and the floor prepared for the installation of the new flooring which was purchased at the same time as the office flooring. The vendor has been holding this for us and it will soon be installed. The air conditioning unit has been cleaned and serviced. The ceiling fixtures have been cleaned and the fluorescent lamps replaced with LEDs for enhanced reliability and energy efficiency. Thanks go out to Kevin Grossman, Laura Alfano and Joe Urban for all of their hard work on this project to date.