



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

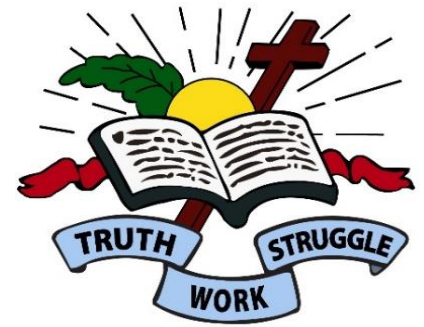
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August 2, 2020

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Sabbath Thought

In Jesus' feeding of the crowd, we have a foreshadowing of the abundant feasts the Lord now supplies his church. His truth nourishes our minds; his bread and wine enliven our spirits.

About Today's Bible Readings

ISAIAH 55:1-3

We work to eat, but the Lord promises through the prophet to give us free food and drink.

Responsorial Psalm: 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

ROMANS 8:35, 37-39

There is nothing - absolutely nothing - that can come between us and God.

MATTHEW 14:13-21

The crowds follow Jesus in the hope that he will fill their hunger. He does not disappoint them.

ENTRANCE RITE: Isaiah 25:6a; Psalm 145:15-16

V. On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines.

R. The eyes of all look hopefully to You; You give them their food in due season. You open wide Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

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: Song of Songs 2:4

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. He brings me into the banquet hall and His emblem over me is love.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 13:13-21

When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves." But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here." Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over — twelve wicker baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Worship Services

TODAY –August 2nd

18th Sunday - Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – Low Mass

9:30 AM – High Mass

SUNDAY –August 9th

Solemnity

Transfiguration of the Lord

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.

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 Donna Schalata, Tom Schalata, John Czechowski, John Aldershoff, Jane Aldershoff, Joseph Ross, Ruth Mechowski, Julie Urban, Frank and Shellie Fisher, Joe Brinsko, Bernice Biroscak, Isabella Mularczyk and Stanley Sub.

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 RENOVATION

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 new flooring which was purchased at the same time as the office flooring has been 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. The next step is to move the furniture back into the space and arrange it for optimum utilization of the room. Thanks go out to Kevin Grossman, Laura Alfano and Joe Urban for all of their hard work on this project to date.

PNU SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The PNU Education and Youth Commission has decided not to sponsor the traditional raffle to raise monies for the Youth Scholarship fund this year due to the various issues that have challenged us all. They are asking that each of us make a prayerful donation instead to support this most important cause. Please take one of the flyers found between the collection baskets in the vestibule on your way out and please be as generous as you are able to be. Thank you and God bless.