

August 23, 2020

## Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

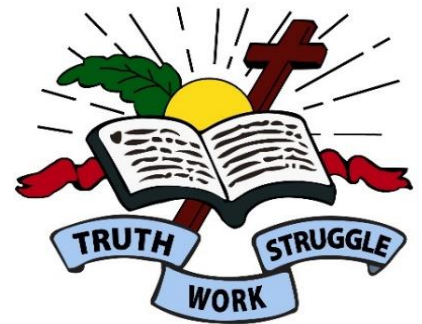
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## Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

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### A Sabbath Thought

Today's business world has turned the noun 'power' into an adjective, as in the phrases 'power lunch,' 'power clothes,' etc. In the same way, we are a 'power church' - devoted to mercy.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### ISAIAH 22:15; 19-23

An official of the royal government of ancient Israel stands as a model for all those whose authority comes from God. Power *over* people is to be used *for* people.

#### Responsorial Psalm: 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8

**R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.**

#### ROMANS 11:33-36

The God who is far beyond us is very near to us. He has reached out to us - we who could never hope to reach out to him on our own.

#### MATTHEW 16:13-20

In a key incident, Jesus founds his church on fragile human beings whose authority is to be exercised for the sake of mercy and the forgiveness of sins.

#### ENTRANCE RITE: Deuteronomy 32:3-4

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*V. For I will sing to the Lord's renown. Oh, proclaim the greatness of our God!*

**R. The Rock - how faultless are His deeds, how right all His ways!  
A faithful God, without deceit, how just and upright He is!**

*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 Samuel 2:2

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*V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*V. There is no Holy One like the Lord; there is no Rock like our God.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

#### THE GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

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Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

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# Worship Services

**TODAY –August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday - Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM – Low Mass

9:30 AM – High Mass

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**SUNDAY –August 30<sup>th</sup>**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday - Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM – Low Mass

9:30 AM – High Mass

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## The Holy Eucharist

We will continue the trial of distributing the Holy Eucharist to those of the faithful wishing to receive it.

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 Edward and Anna Czechowski, Patrice Czechowski, Donna Schalata, Tom Schalata, Father Senior Joseph Soltysiak, Father Senior Augustyn Sicard, Father Thomas Sheha, Father Paul Zomerfeld, John Aldershoff, Jane Aldershoff, Joseph Ross, Ruth Mechowski, Julie Urban, Frank and Shellie Fisher, Joe Brinsko, Bernice Biroscak, Isabella Mularczyk, and Walter Schilling, Jr.. For the repose of the soul of JoAnn Danton. **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!**

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## 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, stay safe and stay well.**

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## SECOND ANNUAL HEART AND SOUL AWARD

The PNU is accepting nominations for the Second Annual Heart and Soul Award which is given in loving memory of former PNU CEO Irene Jugan. The nominating criteria is available on the table in the vestibule or by contacting Fr. Sr Don.

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## LIBRARY RENOVATION

The renovation of the Library Space is complete! The hours of hard work are finally done and we have a beautiful, useful space for conducting meetings and other activities. The books have been organized and categorized and are now available for all to peruse and study. Please feel free to visit the Library and avail yourselves of the printed treasures there. Thanks go out to Kevin Grossman, Laura Alfano and Joe Urban for all of their hard work on this project to date.

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## 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.