

St. Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

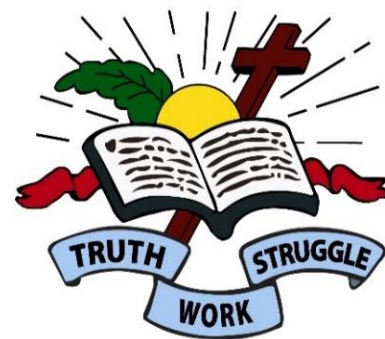
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September 20, 2020

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Sabbath Thought

Do we need to be reminded that God's ways are not our ways? We do, when we forget that the divine habit is generous, that the divine action is merciful.

About Today's Bible Readings

ISAIAH 55:6-9

Here is the first lesson in divine forgiveness: forget *human* calculations. God marches to a different drummer when it comes to mercy.

Responsorial Psalm: 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

PHILIPPIANS 1:20C-24, 27A

Here is a dilemma we may find hard to grasp. Death for the believer is as valuable as life. Only faith reveals the balance between life and death.

MATTHEW 20:1-16A

There is no use imagining God after our own image. We are the ones made in the divine image. Therefore, in *human* eyes, mercy will always be foolish, illogical and irrational.

ENTRANCE RITE – Psalm 145:8-9

V. The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in love.

R. The Lord is good to all, compassionate to every creature.

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 – Romans 9:15b

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. I will show mercy to whom I will, I will take pity on whom I will.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 20:1-16A

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.' So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.' When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.' When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.' He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

**TODAY—September 20th
25th Sunday - Ordinary Time**

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

Altar flowers today are in memory of Ferne Concordia offered by Carole and Joseph Urban

**SUNDAY—September 27th
27th Sunday - Ordinary Time
SPOJNIA SUNDAY**

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

Intentions for all living and deceased members of the Polish National Union of America

Sponjia Sunday

The month of September is designated by the Church as Sponjia Month. This year Sponjia Sunday will be celebrated next Sunday, September 27th. Traditionally the intentions for the Mass on this day are for the living and deceased members of Sponjia. Please remember everything that The PNU does for the Church and for its members and clergy and support them whenever and however you possibly can. They offer competitively priced life insurance and a credit union open to all PNCC members. For more information please visit:

www.pnu.org
or call 570-344-1513.

Thank you and God bless.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

We will continue to distribute the Holy Eucharist after Mass in a safety enhanced format to those who wish to receive. Please remain seated until called forward. Thank you.

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. **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

Today, September 20th – Regular monthly meeting of the Parish Committee at 11:00 AM in the Social Hall and via WebEx as needed. I hope all committee members will be able to participate.

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.

THE KNIGHTS CLOSET

The Reading Area School District has informed us that the Knights Closet Project which provides items of basic necessity to students in need will resume even under the COVID restrictions. The parish has generously participated in this worthwhile cause in past years and I hope that we will find it in our hearts to continue to do so. Please leave your contributions in one of the empty pews near the rear of the church and we will get them to those in need. A list of needed items can be found on the table in the vestibule near the offering baskets. Please take one as you leave. Thank you and God bless.

CONSECRATION

On Monday I attended the consecration of Bishop-elect Jaroslaw Rafalko. It was a beautiful ceremony marred only by the low attendance due to COVID health restrictions. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky celebrated the Mass and acted as Consecrator. We thank God for His gift of such a good and holy man to guide the faithful of His holy church. Please keep Bishop Rafalko, his family and his ministry in your thoughts and prayers.

Should anyone wish to extend congratulations or prayers to Bishop Rafalko, his address is:

The Rt. Rev. Jarosław Rafalko
Chancery of the Western Diocese
920 North Northwest Highway
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