



September 27, 2020

St. Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

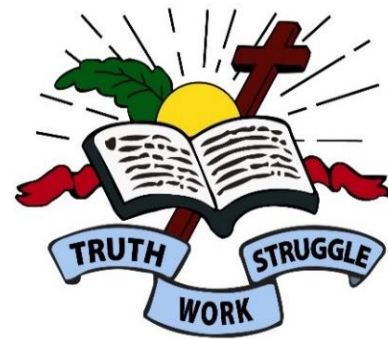
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Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Sabbath Thought

Among us human beings, reputation is one thing, results is another. In the eyes of God, who we *are* depends on what we *do*, both publicly and privately.

About Today's Bible Readings

EZEKIEL 18:25-28

There is a basic logic to God's justice. The Lord meets in mercy the human beings who truthfully confess their evil.

Responsorial Psalm: 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

**R. Remember your mercies,
O Lord.**

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

Jesus is Lord, in spite of everything; indeed, *because* of everything. We must honor him.

MATTHEW 21:28-32

Words and deeds, moral theologians may argue about the balance between the two, but Jesus is interested only in results.

ENTRANCE RITE – Hebrews 13:20a, 21

V. May the God of peace, furnish you with all that is good, that you may do His will.

R. May He carry out in you what is pleasing to Him through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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 – Sirach 11:20

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. My son, hold fast to your duty, busy yourself with it, grow old while doing your task.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people:

"What is your opinion?

A man had two sons.

He came to the first and said,

'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.'

He said in reply, 'I will not, '

but afterwards changed his mind and went.

The man came to the other son and gave the same order.

He said in reply, 'Yes, sir, 'but did not go.

Which of the two did his father's will?"

They answered, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you,

tax collectors and prostitutes

are entering the kingdom of God before you.

When John came to you in the way of righteousness,

you did not believe him;

but tax collectors and prostitutes did.

Yet even when you saw that,

you did not later change your minds and believe him."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY—September 27th

**26th 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

SUNDAY—October 4th

**27th Sunday - Ordinary Time
The Feast of
St. Francis of Assisi**

8:00 AM – Low Mass
9:30 AM – High Mass
12:00 Noon – Blessing of
Animals

Sponjia Sunday

The month of September is designated by the Church as Sponjia Month. This year Sponjia Sunday is today. 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, quietly, 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

Sunday, October 4th 12:00 Noon – Blessing of the Animals

Fr. Sr. Donald will bless the animals of the parish outside, in the parking lot. If you plan to bring your pets, please exercise caution and keep them on short leashes or preferable in carriers, You can also leave them in the car. The prayers are short and this should only take about fifteen minutes. This is to commemorate Saint Francis' love of all of God's creatures down to the smallest and least of them.

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.

ON-LINE GIVING IS BACK!

The ability to donate to the parish via the website is back. You can make a Sunday donation, pay your dues, make a charitable gift or make a donation in memory of someone. Please refer to the tabs across the top of the home page of the website, www.ststephenpncc.org, and click on on-line giving. Your personal information is safe as the processing company meets all safety and security protocols and your credit card number is neither reveal nor retained. We hope to expand this in the near future to allow us to accept credit card payments in person during our food sales and other events. Thanks to Father Jim Konicki for his invaluable assistance in making this a reality.