



St. Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

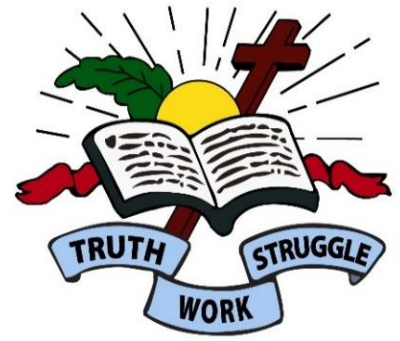
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January 31, 2021

Septuagesima Sunday

A Sabbath Thought

When we gather here as God's people in worship, we are not to be a closed circle that excludes certain people. Like our God, we must dwell in the warmth of love; we must act with the power of healing.

About Today's Bible Readings

LEVITICUS 13:1-2, 44-46

In land of ancient Israel, ritual regulations required the ostracism of those afflicted with the terrible disease of leprosy.

PSALM 32:1-2, 5, 11

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31-11:1

Paul is so secure in his close identification with Christ that he can invite others to imitate him.

MARK 1:40-45

Jesus offers a new solution to the problem of lepers. He does not ostracize them, he heals them.

ENTRANCE RITE – Luke 4:27; Psalm 41:5

V. There were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naman the Syrian.

R. Once I prayed, "Lord, have mercy on me; heal me, I have sinned against You.

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.

Tract (Recited in place of the Alleluia)

V. Lord, if You wish, You can make me clean.

THE GOSPEL – Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean."

Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."

The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once.

He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY– January 31st

**First Sunday – Pre Lent
Septuagesima Sunday**

8:00 AM – Lay Service
9:30 AM – High Mass

SUNDAY– February 7th

**Second Sunday – Pre Lent
Sexagesima Sunday**

8:00 AM – Lay Service
9:30 AM – High Mass

SUNDAY– February 14th

**Third Sunday – Pre Lent
Quinquagesima Sunday**

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

WEDNESDAY– Feb. 17th

Ash Wednesday

7:00 PM – High Mass
Blessing and distribution of
Ashes to the faithful

. Pre-Lent

The Liturgical Season of Pre-Lent, sometimes referred to as Shrovetide, begins today as we celebrate Septuagesima Sunday. The PNCC continues to observe this season although other rites have abandoned it. It is marked by the use of Rose colored vestments and a period of merrymaking including Mardi Gras before the solemn observance of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which falls on February 17th this year.

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, John Aldershoff, Jane Aldershoff, Bernice Biroscak and Isabella Mularczyk..
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

Wednesday, February 17th, 7:00 PM – Ash Wednesday

The Lenten Season begins! Please plan to attend.

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.

FATHER SENIOR DONALD IS BACK!

While I am not one hundred percent recovered, I am feeling much better and will be easing back into my duties here at Saint Stephen's. I will be celebrating the 9:30 AM Masses this Sunday and next and hope to resume celebrating both Masses the following Sunday. My road to recovery has been littered with obstacles but with God's grace and your support I am overcoming them one by one. My heartfelt thanks to every one for your thoughts and prayers, cards and letters and all other offerings of love and support. They have helped sustain and uplift me as I have labored to recover from not one but three separate medical issues.