



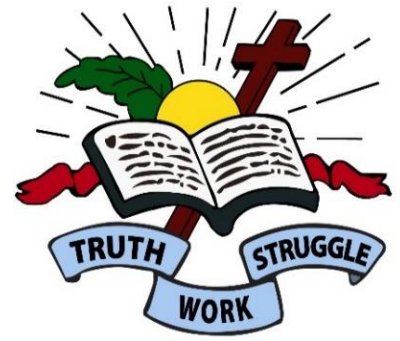
St. Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607
The Very Reverend Donald E. Wunderlich
Rectory: 610-775-4559

Email: fatherdon@ststephenpncc.org

Website: www.ststephenpncc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ststephenpncc



February 14 2021

Quinquagesima Sunday

A Sabbath Thought

Like an ardent and faithful lover, God woos us and speaks to our hearts. Jesus proclaims that he is the bridegroom of the new covenant.

About Today's Bible Readings

HOSEA 2:16, 17b, 21, 22

God calls Israel back to the innocence of their Exodus relationship. Like a lover, God calls Israel back to be healed and made righteous.

PSALM 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:1b-6

Paul needs no letter of recommendation other than the faithful community at Corinth. God's own Spirit wrote the message of salvation in their hearts.

MARK 2:18-22

Jesus is the bridegroom; the sign of the marriage covenant between God and his people. In his presence, celebration, not fasting, is the appropriate response.

ENTRANCE RITE: Isaiah 428-10a

V. I am the Lord, this is My Name; My glory I give to no other, nor My praise to idols. See now, the earlier things have come to pass, new ones I now foretell; before they spring into being, I announce them to you.

R. Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise from the ends of the earth.

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: ACTS 13:38a, 39 (Recited in place of the Alleluia)

V. From now on I announce new things to you. Hidden events of which you know not.

THE GOSPEL: Mark 2:18-22

The disciples of John and of the Pharisees were accustomed to fast. People came to Jesus and objected, "Why do the disciples of John and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus answered them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast. But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak. If he does, its fullness pulls away, the new from the old, and the tear gets worse. Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the skins are ruined. Rather,

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY– 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 imposition of
Ashes to the faithful

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday. It marks the beginning of the solemn period of Great Lent. Mass with the blessing and imposition of ashes to the faithful will be at 7:00 PM Wednesday evening. The Church urges us to fast on Ash Wednesday and every Friday of Lent. We should strive to be more reflective and prayerful during this time. Giving alms to the poor is also encouraged. This can easily be done by donating the requested items for the Knights Closet. Please see the note on the right hand side of this bulletin for details.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the cross will be observed each Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM during the season of Lent beginning on Wednesday February 24th. I hope that everyone will plan to attend.

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 and Bernice Biroscak. For the repose of the souls of Leon Waszk and Valencia Nein.

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.

Wednesday, February 24th, 7:00 PM – Stations of the Cross begins

We will be observing the Stations of the Cross each Wednesday of Lent.

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 both Masses this 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.