



February 21 2021

St. Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

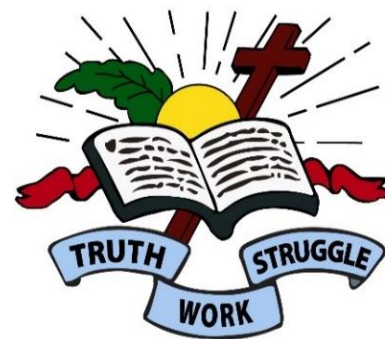
20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607
The Very Reverend Donald E. Wunderlich

Rectory: 610-775-4559

Email: fatherdon@ststephenpncc.org

Website: www.ststephenpncc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ststephenpncc



First Sunday of Lent

A Sabbath Thought

We begin the season of Lent with Jesus' proclamation of the good news: "The time of fulfillment is now. The reign of God is near. Reform your lives." This is *good* news? Yes, it is the promise of our salvation.

About Today's Bible Readings

GENESIS 9:8-15

In the covenant with Noah, God promises that the water will never again form a flood to destroy humanity. In baptism, waters now become our salvation.

PSALM 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9.

R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

1 PETER 3:18-22

This letter of the early church makes an explicit connection between the waters that carried Noah to safety and the baptismal bath that saves us.

MARK 1:12-15

In several short sentences, the gospel of Mark outlines the purpose of Lent. Like Jesus, we enter a desert in order to confront our evil and reform our lives.

ENTRANCE RITE: Sirach 44:17-18

V. Noah, found just and perfect, renewed the race in the time of devastation. Because of his worth there were survivors, and with a sign to him the deluge ended;

R. A lasting agreement was made with him, that never should all flesh be destroyed.

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: Sirach 43:11-12 (Recited in place of the Alleluia)

V. Behold the rainbow! Then bless its Maker, for majestic indeed is its splendor.

R. It spans the heavens with its glory, this bow bent by the mighty hand of God.

THE GOSPEL: Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan.

He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:

"This is the time of fulfillment.

The kingdom of God is at hand.

Repent, and believe in the gospel."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY– February 21st

First Sunday of Lent

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

WEDNESDAY– Feb. 24th

Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM

SUNDAY– February 28th

Second Sunday of Lent

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

WED.– March 3rd

Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM

SUNDAY– March 7th

Third Sunday of Lent

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During the season of Lent we will be praying the Stations of the Cross each and every Wednesday starting this week and leading up to Holy Week. I hope that everyone will plan on attending to join together and that you urge your families, friends and neighbors to attend as well. This is a beautiful and moving form of worship and it helps to focus our thoughts and prayers on our Lord and Savior as we reflect on His Passion and Death.

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 soul of 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 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.

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