



February 7, 2021

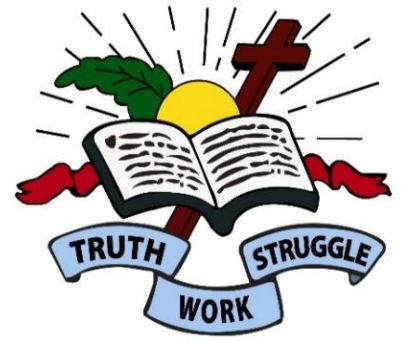
St. Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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Sexagesima Sunday

A Sabbath Thought

God is doing something new. He delivers Israel from its paralyzing and sinful ways. Jesus typifies God's intent as "Son of Man," one to whom God has granted the power to forgive.

About Today's Bible Readings

ISAIAH 43:18-19,22,24b-25

Even though the people sin, God wipes out their sin. A new Exodus, far surpassing the crossing of the Red Sea, will deliver them once more.

PSALM 41:2-3, 4-5, 13-14

**R. Lord, heal my soul,
for I have sinned
against you.**

2 CORINTHIANS 1:18-22

The Word of God is constant. It is not "yes" now and "no" later. Jesus is God's "yes" to us.

MARK 2:1-12

By forgiving the paralytic, Jesus claimed the divine power to forgive sins. The Son of Man is present, the fulfillment of God's word is at hand.

ENTRANCE RITE: Daniel 9:8-9

V. O Lord, we are shamefaced, like our kings, our princes, and our fathers, for having sinned against You.

R. But Yours, O Lord, our God, are compassion and forgiveness! Yet we rebelled 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: ACTS 13:38a, 39 (Recited in place of the Alleluia)

V. You must know, my brothers that through Him forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you.

THE GOSPEL: Mark 2:1-12

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them. They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Jesus immediately knew in his mind what they were thinking to themselves, so he said, "Why are you thinking such things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth", he said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home." He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY– 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, continues today as we celebrate Sexagesima 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. For the repose of the soul of Leon Waszk. . **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 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.