

March 21, 2021

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

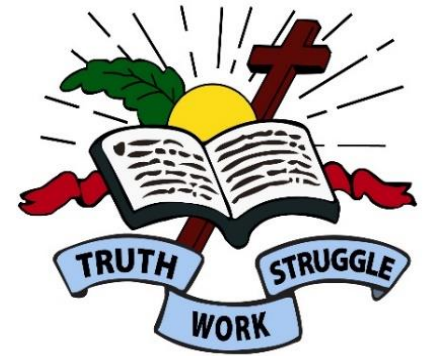
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Fifth Sunday of Lent – Passion Sunday

ENTRANCE RITE Psalm 43:1-2

V. Do me Justice, O God, and fight my fight against a faithless people; from deceitful and impious men rescue me.

R. For You, O God, are my strength. Why do You keep me so far away? Why must I go about in mourning, with the enemy oppressing me?

V. Lord, for us Your wounds were suffered.

R. O Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

TRACT: Psalm 129:1-4 (Recited in place of the Alleluia)

V. Much have they oppressed me from my youth, let Israel say, Much have they oppressed me from my youth; yet they have not prevailed against me.

R. Upon my back the plowers plowed; long did they make their furrows but the just Lord has severed the cords of the wicked.

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 12:20-33

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

A Sabbath Thought

In today's celebration, we live through the process of salvation. By falling prey to sin, we separated ourselves from God. In Jesus, we have been redeemed. God's infinite love has pardoned us and has invited us to eternal life.

About Today's Bible Readings

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

God promises a new world order in which the divine presence will touch everyone from the least to the greatest. All people will know God directly.

PSALM: 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15

R: Create a clean heart in me, O God.

HEBREWS 5:7-9

Who better to understand our weakness than God's Son who is one of us, who shared our temptations, suffered our infidelities - and yet pardons our sins?

JOHN 12:20-33

Those who approach Philip to ask for Jesus express a universal longing: to see God, to know God, to be one with God.

Worship Services

SUNDAY March 21st
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Passion Sunday

8:00 AM – LOW MASS
9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

Wednesday March 24th
Stations of the Cross
7:00PM

SUNDAY March 28th
Palm Sunday
Blessing and distribution of
Palms to the Faithful
Procession

ONE MASS ONLY
9:00 AM – HIGH MASS

THURSDAY, April 1st
Maunday Thursday
7:00 PM Holy Mass
Institution of the Most Holy
Eucharist.

Washing of feet
Procession to the Repository

FRIDAY, April 2nd
Good Friday
3:00 PM

Mass of the Pre-Sanctified
Liturgy of the Passion and
Death of Our Lord

7:00 PM
Tenebrae

SATURDAY, April 3rd
Holy Saturday
12:00 Noon

Blessing of Easter Food
7:00 PM

Blessing of New Fire, Paschal
Candle and Holy Water

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 Czechowski, Patrice Czechowski, Donna Schalata, Tom Schalata and Bernice Biroscak.

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, March 21st; Monthly Parish Committee Meeting, 11:15 AM in the Church Hall. This is the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the committee. I hope all Members will plan to attend.

Tuesday, March 23rd; 2021 PNCC Virtual Lenten Retreat 7:00 PM to 8:30PM (Via Zoom) by the PNCC Future Directions Committee. To participate, please register before Passion Sunday, March 21st by emailing pbmikovsky@pncc.org or robnem21@aol.com. I hope that everyone will participate in this moving experience.

Friday, April 2nd; YMS of R Tuna Hoagie Sale! Order forms on the table in the vestibule. Please place your orders before Sunday, March 28th. Still only \$6.00 each! Pick up on Good Friday, April 2nd after the 3:00 PM Mass or the 7:00 PM Services.

Sunday, April 11th; ANS Meeting 10:45 AM in the Church Hall. All of the women of the Parish are encouraged to attend. Annual election of officers will take place. Please note that a new President and Secretary will need to be elected, so if you are interested in serving the Parish by way of the ANS, please attend and express your desire.

Sunday, April 11th; YMS of R Egg Sandwich Sale after each Mass. \$5.00 each, pick up in the Church Hall. First come, first served!

If there are any other events not listed here, please email or tell Father Senior Donald so he can add 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.

Cemetery Spring Clean-Up

We will be performing a Spring Clean-Up of our Cemetery soon. If you have any decorations or adornments on your graves and you want to keep them, please see to it that they are removed on or before March 26th. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

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 on the table in the Library 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.