



March 28, 2021

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

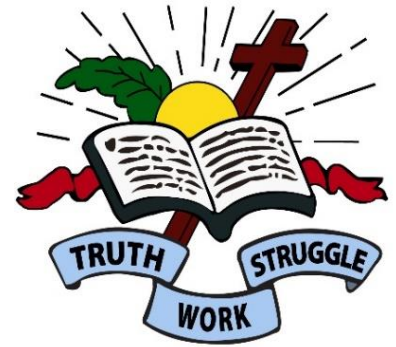
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PALM SUNDAY

A Sabbath Thought

This is a day of heights and depths. We echo the high praise with which Jerusalem blessed him who came in the name of the Lord. But we also plunge into the agony and death of that king who reigned from a cross.

About Today's Bible Readings

ISAIAH 50:4-7

The liturgy puts into Jesus' mouth both the prophet's words of resolution in the face of suffering *and* confidence in the face of despair. In God's eyes, the disadvantaged and the persecuted possess a far greater dignity than those who abuse them.

Responsorial Psalm:

22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11

"Empty" is a negative word. But, in the case of Jesus, his emptying - that is, his impoverishment in death - is our enrichment! To give completely, to hold nothing back is to live fully the life of the Lord.

MARK 14:1 – 15:47

Here in vivid detail are Jesus' last hours. They are presented, not for morbid curiosity but for our reverent contemplation. This narrative should move us to praise. Through Jesus' sorrow and suffering, joy and healing have become blessings for all.

When he appeared most defeated, he was truly triumphant. The servant Son who suffered for the sake of us all won victory through his innocence. Without a thought for himself, he gave all he had and all he was for others. By virtue of his innocence and his loving selflessness, all who believe are made holy and whole.

ENTRANCE RITE (Psalm 23:9-10)

V. Open wide the door and gates. Lift high the ancient portals. The King of glory enters; Who is the King of glory? He is God, the mighty Lord.

R. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed are You Who are have come to us so rich in love and mercy. Hosanna in the highest.

V. Lord, for us Your wounds were suffered.

R. O Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

Tract (Isaiah 62:10-11 NRSV)

V. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

R. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him."

The Gospel: Mark 14:1 – 15:47

The Gospel will be read in ensemble.

Worship Services

TODAY March 28th

Palm Sunday

**Blessing and distribution of
Palms to the Faithful
Procession**

ONE MASS ONLY

9:00 AM – HIGH MASS

Wednesday March 31st

Stations of the Cross

7:00PM

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**

Sunday, April 4th

Easter Sunday

Solemnity

**The Resurrection of Our
Lord and Savior**

Procession

ONE MASS ONLY

9:00 AM – HIGH MASS

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; For the health and wellbeing of Edward Czechowski, Patrice Czechowski, Donna Schalata, Tom Schalata and Bernice Biroscak. . **Our Father...**

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

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.

FUND RAISING RAFFLE

We will be holding a Fund Raising Raffle in the near future. Please watch your mail for details and please help by selling all of your tickets. Proceeds benefit the general fund of Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish.

