

## Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

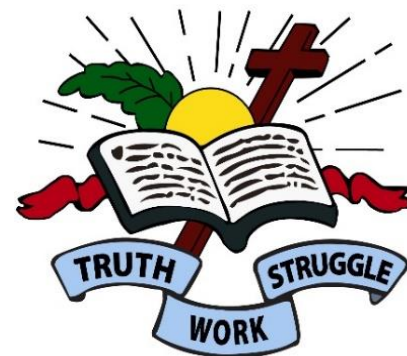
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April 11, 2021

## Second Sunday of Easter – Low Sunday

### A Sabbath Thought

We are told that after the first Easter, "the community of believers were of one heart and one mind" (Acts 4:32). That is the purpose of our gathering in this Easter season: In the community that breaks down all barriers, we find the risen Lord.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### ACTS 4:32-35

What the resurrection did for the first believers, it can do for us.

Away with selfishness and greed! Long live faith, hope and love!

#### Responsorial Psalm: 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

**R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

#### 1 JOHN 5:1-6

Faith is the key to our new life in Christ. Through his resurrection, we have overcome.

#### JOHN 20:19-31

In time, over 100,000 Sundays separate us from our doubting brother, Thomas. But the risen Lord does not hesitate to bless us who have not seen and yet believe.

### ENTRANCE RITE: Psalm 40:2-4

*V. I waited, waited for the Lord; Who bent down and heard my cry, drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the mud of the swamp, set my feet upon rock, steadied my steps. Alleluia.*

**R. And put a new song in my mouth, a hymn to our God. Many shall look on in awe and they shall trust in the Lord. Alleluia.**

*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.**

### ALLELUIA: Psalm 30:2,4

*V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*V. I praise You, Lord, for You raised me up and did not let my enemies rejoice over me. Lord, You brought me up from Sheol; You kept me from going down to the pit.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### The GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord!**

# Worship Services

## SUNDAY – April 11<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday)

8:00 AM – Low Mass

9:30 AM – High Mass

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## SUNDAY – April 18<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM - Low Mass

9:30 AM – High Mass

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## SUNDAY – April 25<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday of Easter Good Shepherd Sunday

8:00 AM – Low Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

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### The Octave of Easter

Over these next few weeks, we will be learning about the time that Jesus spent on Earth after His resurrection and before His glorious Ascension to the right hand of the Father in Heaven. We will hear of these deeds from the apostles who were the witnesses of them. Then we will celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Disciples, filling them with wisdom, knowledge and power as well as the gift of tongues or the ability to speak so that all people could understand them regardless of their own languages. So as you can see, Easter is not just one day. It is not even the Octave, or eight weeks that we celebrate. No, Easter is every day of the year. Christ risen from the grave happens eternally and forever for the forgiveness of our sins.

## 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!**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>;** The Mission Commission will meet in the Church Hall at 7:00 PM. All are invited to attend.

**Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>;** The YMS of R will meet in the Church Hall at 7:00 PM. All of the men of the Parish are encouraged to attend and join if you do not already belong.

**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.**

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## 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.

