



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

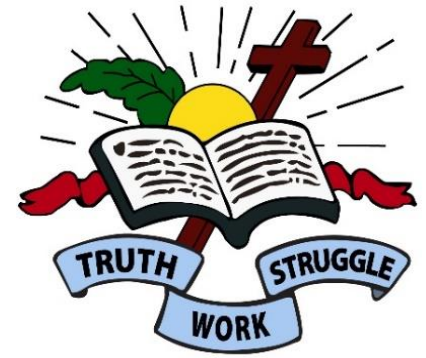
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April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday

A Sabbath Thought

As we journey in faith through the Easter mysteries, we turn our attention today to the mission to which Christ calls us all. Our lives must bear witness to our belief in the risen Lord.

About Today's Bible Readings

ACTS 4:8-12

By the power of Jesus' Name, the disciples restore a lame man to wholeness, thus symbolizing the salvation offered to all the world.

Responsorial Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29

R: The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

1 JOHN 3:1-2

In the Easter sacraments, we have become God's own daughters and sons. Therefore, we are to act as God's beloved offspring in imitation of the risen Lord.

JOHN 10:11-18

The good shepherd knows each of us as his own. We must learn to recognize his voice in our lives.

ENTRANCE RITE: Ezekiel 34:31; Psalms 79:13

V. You, My sheep, you are the sheep of My pasture, and I am your God, says the Lord God. Alleluia.

R. Then we, Your people and the sheep of Your pasture, will give thanks to You forever; through all generations we will declare Your praise. 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 (1 Corinthians 5:7b-8a, c)

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. And when the Chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. For He is our God, and we are the people He shepherds, the flock He guides.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL JOHN 10:11-18

Jesus said:

"I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Worship Services

TODAY – April 25th

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Good Shepherd Sunday

8:00 AM – Low Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SUNDAY – May 2nd

Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM – Low Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SUNDAY – May 9th

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mothers' Day

8:00 AM – Low Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday and Saturday, April 30th – May 1st: PNCC Virtual Mission and Evangelism Workshop – Online via Zoom. Since the COVID Virus caused last years workshop to be cancelled, the Church did not want to let another year go by without getting together to share our thoughts and ideas so they will be holding a virtual workshop online. All those wishing to participate need to email pbmikovsky@pncc.org for an access code. The deadline to request this code is tomorrow so please do so today.

Tuesday, May 11th: 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.

Monday, May 17th: The Mission Commission will meet in the Church Hall at 7:00 PM. All are invited to attend.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, June 17th – 19th: The National YMS of R Bishop Belinski Memorial Spiritual Retreat for Men. Held at the Bishop Hodur Retreat Center, Waymart, PA. Please email unitedymsofr@gmail.com for more information. This is open to all men.

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.

