

June 13, 2021

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

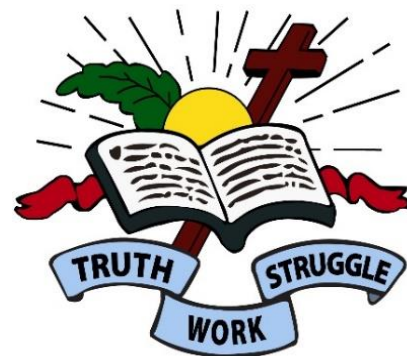
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Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

A Sabbath Thought

Today we celebrate God's kingdom of which each of us is a seed. We are leaves on God's mighty tree, we are tiles in the mosaic of his plan. No one is too small or humble to harbor the power that will eventually blanket the universe.

About Today's Bible Readings

EZEKIEL 17:22-24

The tree nourished by God grows high and wide - a symbol of the kingdom whose shelter is available to all.

Responsorial Psalm: 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16

R: Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:6-10

Believers live caught between faith and hope. We eagerly ache for the fulfillment promised in the word Christ preached.

MARK 4:26-34

What is this 'kingdom of God' of which Jesus spoke? Insight comes through several images of growth - small beginnings that yield gigantic results.

ENTRANCE RITE: Luke 17:20b-21; Daniel 6:26b

V. The coming of the kingdom of God cannot be observed, and no one will announce: 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is among you.

R. For He is the living God, enduring forever; His kingdom shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall be without end.

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: Ezekiel 21:5

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. Alas, Lord God, they say to me: Is not this the one who is forever spinning parables?

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

Jesus said to the crowds:

"This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come."

He said,

"To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Worship Services

SUNDAY – June 13th

11th Sunday - Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SUNDAY – June 20th

12th Sunday - Ordinary Time

Fathers' Day

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

VOCATIONS MONTH

June is set aside by the Church as Vocations Month. Please pray that the Lord will send more men to serve as priests and deacons in His Holy Polish National Catholic Church. And if you know anyone who may be contemplating following the calling, please encourage and support them.

FATHERS' DAY HOAGIE SALE

We will be holding a Fathers' Day hoagie sale to benefit the projects of the Mission Commission. It is cosponsored by the SOCL. Hoagies will be provided by Matt's Steaks. Order forms are available on the table in the vestibule near the Little White Church. Orders need to be in, with payment, by today, June 13th with pick up available after each of the Masses on Fathers' Day, Sunday, June 20th. Please give your orders either to Janet Katinowsky or Fr. Sr. Don. Thank you in advance for your support of this fine cause.

NOVEMBER FOOD SALE

We will be holding a pierogi only food sale sometime in November. We will need to begin to make them soon. Help will be needed to prepare for this important fund raising event. Please consider volunteering to help. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the hall and in the vestibule in the very near future.

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 Isabella Mularczyk, Edward Czechowski, Patrice Czechowski, Damon Grossman, John Zawoski, Bailey Bennet, Donna Schalata, Tom Schalata, David Wunderlich 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

Today, June 13th; The Parish Committee will meet after the 9:30 Mass. I hope that all committee members are planning to attend.

Monday, June 14th; The Parking Lot is still being patched and seal coated. This will take place section by section over several days. It is recommended that it not be driven on afterwards for three days. The weather will, of course play a part in the scheduling. Please be aware of this if you need to access the property during this time as sections may be roped off. Thank you for your understanding.

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.

Monday, June 28th; The Mission Commission will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 PM. All Parishioners are encouraged to attend. Your input will be very helpful.

Tuesday, July 13th; The Fund Raising Committee will meet at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All parishioners are cordially invited to attend. Your input and ideas are very much in need.

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

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.

MARY'S SHELTER

Our Parish is going to begin to support Mary's Shelter, an organization that provides housing, pregnancy services and counseling to women and teens. We will be sponsoring a "Christmas in July" to benefit them. All of the donations made to the "Little White Church" during June and July will be donated to Mary's Shelter. In addition, there will be, in the very near future, a tree similar to our Christmas Season Angel Tree from which you can take a card that will specify a gift needed by those staying at the shelter. If you chose to participate in this, please bring your gifts to Church and leave them in the Library. **Do not wrap the gifts.** Thank you in advance for your generous support.