



September 26, 2021

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 Saint Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

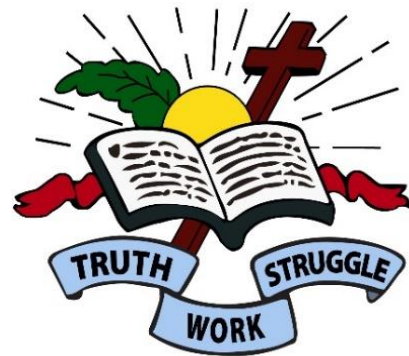
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Twenty Sixth Sunday Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE RITE: 1 Corinthians 14:1, 3; 2 Peter 1:21

A Sabbath Thought

"Anyone who is not against us is for us," says Jesus. That neat division invites us to consider just who this *us* is. What is it that binds *us* to Jesus and makes *us* part of *us*?

About Today's Bible Readings

NUMBERS 11:25-29

Who are we to argue with the favors of the Lord? God bestows his gifts with free abandon.

Responsorial Psalm: 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

JAMES 5:1-6

In speech that burns with righteous venom, the letter of James rails against the evils we commit by the misuses of money.

MARK 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Keep your eye on the goal says Jesus. That way, you will avoid the pitfalls that lead to destruction. The kingdom we seek should shape our values and guide our steps.

V. Pursue love, but strive eagerly for the spiritual gifts, above all that you may prophesy. On the other hand, one who prophesies does speak to human beings, for their building up, encouragement, and solace.

R. For no prophecy ever came through human will; but rather human beings moved by the Holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God.

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 Peter 3:18a

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. The lion roars—who will not be afraid! The Lord God speaks, who will not prophesy!

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

At that time, John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us. Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward. "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna, where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'"

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Worship Services

SUNDAY – September 26th
26th Sunday - Ordinary Time
SPOJNIA SUNDAY

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SUNDAY – October 3rd
27th Sunday - Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

NOVEMBER FOOD SALE

We will be holding a Polish Food sale November 20th. We have begun to make pierogis. Thanks to everyone who volunteered and showed up already. Please consider volunteering to help on the upcoming days. Signup sheets are in the vestibule. Please volunteer to help make this sale a success. And not only women can make pierogi, men can too!

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Hosted by *Lifeline of Berks*
on **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th**
from 6-10pm!

Join us at St. Benedict's Picnic Grounds (4541 Morgantown Rd. Mohnton, PA) for a night filled with food, raffles, giveaways, games, music and an outdoor movie the whole family will enjoy!

FREE ADMISSION!!

Visit our website for additional info at lifelineofberks.org. Please contact Maureen Helms, Development Director, at 610-374-8545 with any additional questions.

Coffee and Donuts

Beginning today, we are resuming the Fellowship hour in the Church Hall following each Mass. Coffee and donuts will be served with the coffee being free and the suggested donation for each donut being \$1.00. I hope that many of you will join us.

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, Donna Schalata, Tom Schalata, David Wunderlich, Bernice Biroscak, Jean Loose, Geri Piotrowski, Janet Katinowsky, Julia Urban and Riley Rejniak. **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

Monday, September 27th; The Mission Commission will meet at 7:00PM in the Library. All are welcome to attend.

Wednesday, September 29th; The Book club will meet at 7:00PM in the Library to review the Book "The Wedding Dress" by Rachel Hauck. All are welcome to attend.

Sunday, October 3rd; The ANS will meet at 11:00AM in the Library. All members and all of the ladies of the Parish are encouraged to attend.

Sunday, October 10th; The YMS of R will be sponsoring a free Welcome Back Sausage Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. This will be in conjunction with the celebration of our first ever Blue Mass honoring the brave first responders in our area, who are also invited to this free breakfast. I hope to see everyone there to show our support and appreciation to the first responders for all that they do.

Tuesday, October 12th; The Y.M.S. of R. will meet at 7:00PM in the Church Hall. All of the men of the church are encouraged to attend.

Friday, October 15th; Pierogi Prep. Please sign up to volunteer.

Saturday, October 16th; Pierogi Making. Please sign up to volunteer.

Saturday, November 20th; Polish Food Sale. Noon until sold out. Tell your friends.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2022; Saint Stephen's Annual Picnic returns! From 10:00AM until whenever at Saint Benedict's Picnic Grove in Mohnton. We have a band, a beer wagon and of course, great Polish Food. The picnic has been sorely missed the past few years by almost everyone, parishioner and non-parishioner alike so let's get behind the Picnic Committee and volunteer to help when the time comes in order to make the return of the Picnic a rousing success.

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 take a token from the table in the vestibule and fill the need on it. Please leave your contributions on the table in the Library and we will get them to those in need. Also, all donations to the Little White Church made during August and September will be used to supplement this endeavor. Thank you in advance for your kind generosity.

2021 POLISH OPEN

On Saturday, October 9th, the Polish American Heritage Association of Berks County will be holding its annual Golf Tournament at the Manor Golf Course in Sinking Spring. Information is available on the flyers on the table in the vestibule. I hope that some of the golfers in our congregation will participate and represent Saint Stephens.