



Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 Saint Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

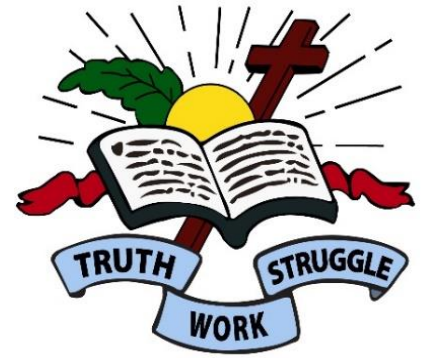
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September 5, 2021

Twenty Third Sunday Ordinary Time

Happy Labor Day!

A Sabbath Thought

Jesus offers us healing, not only for our individual ills, but also for those of our community. There is a *group* blindness, a *group* deafness, a *group* lameness that needs the Lord's miraculous touch.

About Today's Bible Readings

ISAIAH 35:4-7

"Tremble now with expectation; rejoice now in anticipation: God is coming," says the prophet. God is coming, indeed, and the divine presence will transform us.

Responsorial Psalm: 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

JAMES 2:1-5

Before God, all are equal. Therefore, nothing the Christian community says or does should deny the dignity of any person.

MARK 7:31-37

Jesus cures a deaf man with a speech impediment. Healing is a sign of what the Lord wishes to accomplish with us.

ENTRANCE RITE: Sirach 36:1-2, 6, 12

V. Come to our aid, O God of the universe, and put all the nations in dread of You! Raise Your hand against the heathen, that they may realize Your power.

R. Take pity on Your holy city, Jerusalem, Your dwelling place.

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: Sirach 36:13

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. Fill Zion with Your majesty, Your temple with Your glory.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: Mark 7:31-37

Again Jesus left the district of Tyre and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Decapolis.

And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him.

He took him off by himself away from the crowd.

He put his finger into the man's ears

and, spitting, touched his tongue;

then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him,

"*Ephphatha!*"— that is, "Be opened!" —

And immediately the man's ears were opened,

his speech impediment was removed,

and he spoke plainly.

He ordered them not to tell anyone.

But the more he ordered them not to,

the more they proclaimed it.

They were exceedingly astonished and they said,

"He has done all things well.

He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Worship Services

**SUNDAY – September 5th
23rd Sunday - Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

**SUNDAY – September 12th
Solemnity**

Brotherly Love

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

NOVEMBER FOOD SALE

We will be holding a pierogi only food sale sometime in November. We have begun to make them. Thanks to everyone who volunteered and showed up last Friday and Saturday. 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!

Old Time Movies

Many of the old movies that were taken of Parish activities over the years have been converted to electronic format. They can be viewed on the cloud at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EmQ9dYtJ07gC0Sa7EuA6Nh1_bXw-v5uC. Or if you wish, They can be placed on a USB thumb drive. Please let Father Senior Don know if you are interested.

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.

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 Biroszak, 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

Friday, September 10th; Pierogi Prep. Please sign up to volunteer.

Saturday, September 11th; Pierogi Making. Please sign up to volunteer.

Sunday, September 12th; The ANS will meet at 11:00AM in the Library. All members and all of the ladies of the Parish are encouraged to attend

Monday, September 13th; The fund raising committee will meet at 7:00PM. All are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, September 14th; 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, September 24th; Pierogi Prep. Please sign up to volunteer.

Saturday, September 25th; Pierogi Making. Please sign up to volunteer.

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.

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

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

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.

