



February 13, 2022

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

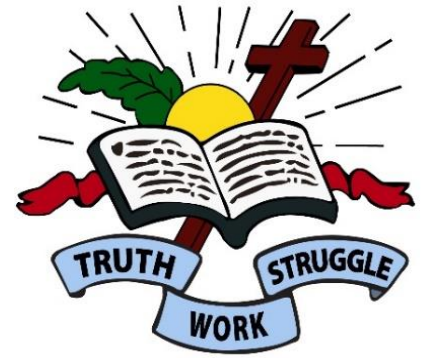
The Very Reverend Donald E. Wunderlich

Rectory: 610-775-4559

Email: fatherdon@ststephenpncc.org

Website: www.ststephenpncc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ststephenspncc



SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

A Sabbath Thought

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers a stark contrast in options. We must choose sides because there is no middle ground. Either we grow - or we wither.

About Today's Bible Readings

JEREMIAH 17:5-8

Dry bushes, dry hearts - they are all the same, says the prophet. What is needed is the water of compassion.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 1:1-2, 3, 4 AND 6

R. Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:12, 16-20

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cardinal point of history. We must, therefore, make it a linchpin of our lives.

LUKE 6:17, 20-26

In a series of blessings and curses, Jesus delineates our options: If you give, you win; if you take, you lose.

ENTRANCE RITE – Psalm 1:1-3

V. Happy those who do not follow the counsel of the wicked, Nor go the way of sinners, nor sit in company with scoffers. Rather, the law of the Lord is their joy; God's law they study day and night.

R. They are like a tree planted near streams of water, that yields its fruit in due season; Its leaves never wither; whatever they do prospers.

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.

TRACT : Psalm 84:12-13

V. The Lord withholds no good thing from those who walk without reproach.

R. O Lord of hosts, happy are those who trust in You.

THE GOSPEL – Luke 6:17, 20-26

Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a stretch of level ground with a great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon. And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY – February 13th

**First Sunday – Pre-Lent
Septuagesima**

*Intentions for the repose of the
soul of John Halecky, Jr. offered
by Fr. Sr. Donald.*

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

SUNDAY – February 20th

**Second Sunday – Pre-Lent
Sexagesima**

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

SUNDAY – February 27th

**Third Sunday – Pre-Lent
Quinquagesima**

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

WEDNESDAY – March 2nd

ASH WEDNESDAY

*Blessing and distribution of
Ashes to the faithful.*

9:00 AM – HOLY MASS

7:00 PM – HOLY MASS

Pre-Lent

The Season of Pre-Lent, sometimes referred to as Shrovetide, begins today as we celebrate Septuagesima Sunday. The PNCC continues to observe this season although other rites have abandoned it. It is marked by the use of Rose colored vestments and a period of merrymaking including Mardi Gras before the solemn observance of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which this year falls on the second of March.

PICNIC COMMITTEE

As we begin preparation for the return of our annual picnic, much help is needed. If you can and are willing to help, please contact Jay Rowe, our committee chairperson at jrowe@oblan.com or call him at 484-332-9409. We need your help to make this a success.

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, Geri Piotrowski, Janet Katinowsky, Julia Urban, Sandy Pfennig, Courtney Pierce, Joseph Grossman Sr., Joseph Grossman Jr., Kyle Grossman, Damon Grossman, Ed Edling, and Riley Rejniak: **Our Father....**

If there are any individuals who should be on this list or should be removed from it, please email or tell Fr. Sr. Donald so he can make the changes!

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE JOIN US IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Today, February 13th; In celebration of Saint Valentine's Day, some additional cakes and pastries will be available as well as coffee and donuts in the Fellowship Hall after each Mass. Please join us.

Sunday, February 20th; Monthly Parish Committee meeting at 11:00AM in the Fellowship Hall. I hope all committee members are planning to attend

Monday, February 21st; The Fundraising Committee will meet in the Library at 7:00PM. All are cordially invited to attend. New ideas are always welcome.

Wednesday, March 2nd; **ASH WEDNESDAY. Mass at 7:00PM.** The ANS will be serving grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup beginning at 6:00PM.

Monday, March 7th; The Mission Commission will meet in the Library at 7:00PM.

Tuesday, March 8th; The YMS of R will meet at 7:00PM in the fellowship Hall. All of the men of the Parish are encouraged to attend and to join if you are not already members.

Wednesday, March 9th; **STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 7:00PM.** The Mission Commission will be serving potato soup beginning at 6:00PM.

Wednesday, March 16th; **STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 7:00PM.** The YMS of R will be serving potato pierogis and soup or haluski.

Thursday March, 10th; The Book Club will meet at 7:00PM in the library. The book that will be discussed is "Where Do We Go From Here" by Dr. David Jeremiah. All are welcome.

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

Hymn of Resolve

Moved to the depths of our very soul, Lord
we now turn homeward with grateful tear.
For words divine, the breaking of bread and
Thy joyous myst'ries which we did hear.
{For now, O Christ, we gain understanding
Of thine own purpose and judgement true.
Thy font of grace and water of cleansing
with which Thy children Thou didst imbue.}

And though the tempest rages on Earth, Lord
even though lightning strikes at our feet.

Naught will deter us, naught will destroy us,
If only Father thou with us be.

{Thy heav'nly light has shown forth again, Lord,
through the despair and darkness of night;
as we unto Thy word ever faithful,
o'er all shall triumph and conquer might.}