

**LOST**  
&  
*found*

because this  
brother of yours  
was dead and  
has come to  
life; he was lost  
and has been  
found-

Luke 15:32

March 27, 2022

## Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

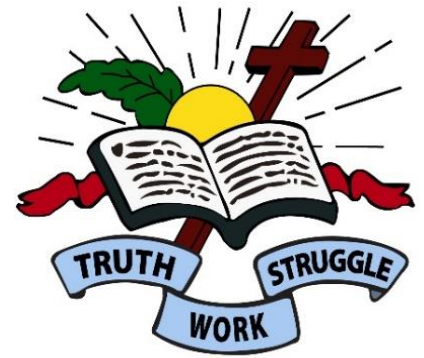
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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### A Sabbath Thought

There is a thin line between the wastrel and the prodigal. Wastrels *take* everything for themselves. Prodigals *give* everything to others. Today, we hear the story of the wastrel son and the prodigal father.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### JOSHUA 5:9, 10-12

The chosen people experience God's loving providence in the land with which the Lord has endowed them.

### Responsorial Psalm:

#### 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

**R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

#### 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21

God has made us instruments of reconciliation. In a ministry of prodigality, we must bring together *in love* those who are lonely or rejected.

#### LUKE 15:1-3, 11-32

In a dramatic story of losing and finding, Jesus portrays the situation of us wastrels on the way home to a prodigal God.

### ENTRANCE RITE (Psalms 78:21a, 23-24)

*V. The Lord commanded the skies above; the doors of heaven He opened;*

**R. God rained manna upon them for food; bread from heaven He gave them.**

*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 Deuteronomy 8:3,6

*V. He therefore let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your fathers, in order to show you that not by bread alone does man live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the Lord.*

**R. Therefore, keep the commandments of the Lord, Your God, by walking in His ways and fearing Him.**

### GOSPEL (LUKE 15:1-3, 11-32)

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them Jesus addressed this parable: "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.'" So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.' He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"

**This is the Gospel of the Lord!**

# Worship Services

TODAY – March 27<sup>th</sup>

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**8:00 AM – HOLY MASS**

**9:30 AM – HOLY MASS**

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**WEDNESDAY – March 30<sup>th</sup>**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**7:00 PM**

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**SATURDAY - April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Lenten Penitential Service**

**7:00 PM**

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**SUNDAY – April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Passion Sunday**

**8:00 AM – HOLY MASS**

**9:30 AM – HOLY MASS**

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**WEDNESDAY – April 6<sup>th</sup>**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**7:00 PM**

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**SUNDAY – April 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Palm Sunday**

**Blessing and distribution of palms to the faithful, Procession**

**ONE MASS ONLY!**

**9:00 AM – HOLY MASS**

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**RELIEF FOR UKRAINE**

We will be taking a second collection today as you leave for financial support to the Ukraine. This money will be sent to the National Church in Scranton to be forwarded to our sister Parishes of the Polish Catholic Church that are near the Ukrainian border to assist in their efforts to help refugees fleeing the conflict. Please be as generous as you can. We are also collecting items for the refugees as well. A list of what is needed is in your April Newsletter arriving in the mail soon. Thank you.

## 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, Donald Deihm, Janice Elaine Casperson, Frank Fisher, Elizabeth McAlanis 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!**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>; STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 7:00PM.** Manhattan Clam Chowder and Tuna Salad on a roll served at 6:00PM.

**Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>;** Lenten Penitential Services 7:00PM.

**Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>;** YMS of R Egg Sandwich sale after each Mass. \$5.00 each, with coffee. Eat in or take out.

**Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>;** At 11:00AM the School of Christian Living (SOCL) will be holding an Easter Egg hunt for the children of the parish. Please bring your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Treats and Pizza will be served.

**Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>;** The ANS will meet in the Library at 11:00AM. All of the Ladies of the parish are urged to attend and to join if you do not already belong

**Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>;** The Mission Commission will meet in the Library at 7:00PM

**Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>;** The YMS of R will meet at 7:00PM in the fellowship Hall.

**Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>; STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 7:00PM.** Mama's Pizza served at 6:00PM.

**Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>;** Palm Sunday, One Mass Only at 9:00AM. Blessing and distribution of Palms to the faithful, Procession.

**Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>;** Proposed trip to Scranton for the Chrism Mass at Saint Stanislaus Cathedral. More info to follow. Please sign the sheet in the vestibule if you are interested in joining us.

**Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>; STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 7:00PM.** Tuna or egg salad sandwiches served at 6:00PM.

**Thursday April, 21<sup>st</sup>;** 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!**

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## 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@oblon.com](mailto:jrowe@oblon.com) or call him at 484-332-9409 or attend the next meeting on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM in the Library. Thank you.

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## Prime Bishop Mikovsky 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination

More information is available on the flyer posted on the bulletin boards and in the information rack above the bulletins.