

# Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

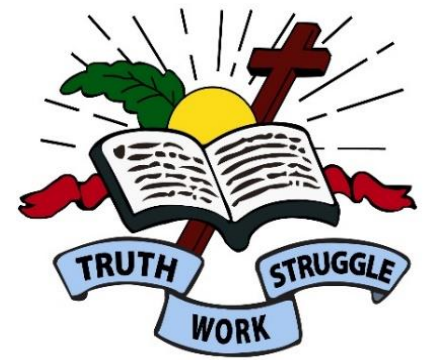
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August 21, 2022

## Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

### A Sabbath Thought

God's love has universal scope. It goes well beyond our human standards of justice and fairness. Jesus has entered our history to gather nations of every race and language into the embrace of God's kingdom.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### ISAIAH 66:18-21

God's love knows no bounds. The prophet declares that God has entered creation to bless it. By redemption, the Lord loves each nation like every other nation.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 117:1, 2

**R. Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.**

#### HEBREWS 12:5-7, 11-13

Do not lose heart, people of God, so proclaims this letter of the early church. Your trials shall produce great joy; your efforts shall produce great peace.

#### LUKE 13:22-30

God's kingdom is beyond our imagining. It will gather a variety of peoples into a unity of eternal joy and rejoicing.

### ENTRANCE RITE – Psalm 65:2-3, 4-5

*V. To You we owe our hymn of praise, O God on Zion; To You our vows must be fulfilled, You Who hear our prayers. To You all flesh must come with its burden of wicked deeds.*

**R. We are overcome by our sins; only You can pardon them. Happy the chosen ones You bring to dwell in Your courts. May we be filled with the good things of Your house, the blessings of Your holy temple!**

*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: John 10:9a

*V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*V. I am the gate. Whoever enters through Me will be saved.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### THE GOSPEL – LUKE 13:22-30

Jesus passed through towns and villages, teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" He answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough. After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door for us.' He will say to you in reply, 'I do not know where you are from. And you will say, 'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.' Then he will say to you, 'I do not know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!' And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out. And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

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

# Worship Services

**TODAY – August 21<sup>st</sup>**

**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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**SUNDAY – August 28<sup>th</sup>**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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**SUNDAY – Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>**

**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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## **THE PICNIC!**

Was a great success! Over nine hundred and sixty people attended. Almost all of the food was sold and everyone truly enjoyed themselves and they were thrilled that we had returned. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this happen. Special thanks to our Picnic Committee Chairperson, Jay Rowe for stepping up to assume this great responsibility.

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School for the youth of the Parish will start on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews for this important training and education. Snacks will be provided.

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## **WINE TASTING PARTY**

We will be having a wine tasting party at the Ridgewood Winery today, August 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:00 PM until 3:30 PM. If you have committed to attend, the cost will be \$40.00 per person payable to Sally Traczuk.

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## **CLERGY RETREAT**

I will be attending the Central Diocese Clergy Retreat Monday through Wednesday of this week. If an emergency should arise, please leave a message on the office phone or my cell phone as I will be checking them often.

## **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., Kevin Grossman, Kyle Grossman, Damon Grossman, Donald Deihm, Janice Elaine Casperson, Elizabeth McAlanis, Skye Sadowski, Barbara Waszk, Terry Leatherman, Christine Mulutzie, Jackie Weinhold, Andy Kosak, Riley Rejniak, Jane and John Aldershoff, Cheryl Heckman and Father Senior Ed Ratajack. **Our Father....**

**If there are any other individuals who should or shouldn't be on this list, please**

**email or tell Father Senior Donald so he can add them or remove them!**

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Today, August 21<sup>st</sup>;** Regular monthly meeting of the Parish Committee in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM.

**Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>;** Annual Blue Mass in Honor of our local First Responders. Please see the Newsletter for more info.

**Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>;** The ANS will meet at 11:00 AM in the Library. All are welcome to attend. If you are not a member of the ANS, please consider joining.

**Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>;** The Book Club will meet at 7:00 PM in the Library.

**Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>;** The Mission Commission will meet in the Library at 7:00 PM.

**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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## **THE KNIGHTS CLOSET**

The Reading School District has informed us that the Knights Closet Project which provides items of basic necessity to students in need will continue. 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 Fellowship Hall by the windows and we will get them to those in need. A list of needed items can be found in the literature rack in the vestibule above the weekly bulletins. Please take one as you leave. Thank you and God bless.

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## **T-SHIRTS**

We are exploring having T-Shirts made with the parish name and PNCC logo for sale to parishioners, family and friends. These can be worn during church functions or anytime you want to promote our parish. Cost is to be determined later. Please add your name, number of shirts you are interested in and sizes to the signup sheet in the vestibule.

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## **FALL MUM FUNDRAISER**

Through a joint promotion with our next-door neighbors, The Shoppes at Nolde, We are holding a Fall Mum Fundraising Event. We are taking orders for nine inch, potted mums that can be picked up at the shop next door on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Deadline to order is Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Please see the flyer in the vestibule or Tom Schalata for more info or to place your order.