



February 19, 2023

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

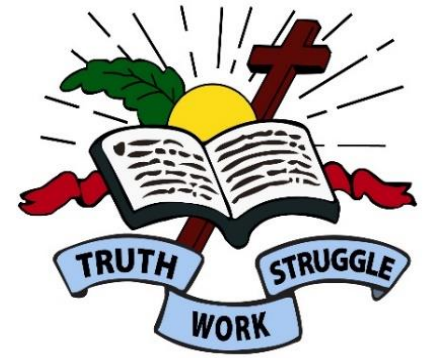
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Quinquagesima Sunday

ASH WEDNESDAY IS THIS WEDNESDAY!

A Sabbath Thought

We are reminded today that the Lord, our God will never forsake us. He will care for us always if only we seek Him first. Do not worry.

About Today's Bible Readings

Isaiah 49:14-15

No more than a mother can forget her infant, can the Lord forget us.

Responsorial Psalm 62:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

R. Rest in God alone, my soul.

1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-5

Do not worry about what others think of you. Only God can judge you.

MATTHEW 6:24-34

If the Lord will feed the birds and nourish the grass, will He not do that and more for His children?

ENTRANCE RITE – Psalm 77:2-3

V. I cry aloud to God, cry to God to hear me.

R. On the day of my distress I seek the Lord; by night my hands are raised unceasingly; I refuse to be consoled.

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 – Wisdom 1:2 (Recited in place of the Alleluia)

V. Because He is found by those who test Him not,

R. and He manifests Himself to those who do not disbelieve Him.

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 6:24-34

Jesus said to his disciples:

"No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your lifespan? Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

Today February 19th

**Third Sunday of Pre-Lent
Quinquagesima**

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

Wednesday February 22nd

**Ash Wednesday
LENT BEGINS**

9:00 AM – HOLY MASS

*Blessing and distribution
of ashes to the faithful*

7:00 PM – HOLY MASS

*Blessing and distribution
of ashes to the faithful*

Sunday February 26th

First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

Wednesday March 1st

Stations of the Cross

7:00PM

Lenten Meal preceding at

6:00 PM

**(No charge, free will donations
accepted)**

Sunday March 5th

Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM – LOW MASS

9:30 AM – HIGH MASS

Paper Cutter

The paper cutter seems to have left us for sunnier climes. But thanks to Arden and Bonnie Edling for their generous donation of a new paper cutter. This is much appreciated. God bless you both.

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 Debra Caldwell, Dan Shaner, Ken Mawson, Sharon Fitzwater, Jeannine Dresh, Amanda Dresh, Brianne Dresh, Bonnie Sue Pilot, Lisha Rowe, Lorah Zawoski, Isabella Mularczyk, Edward Czechowski, Patrice Czechowski, Donna Schalata, Tom Schalata, Bill and Bernice Biroscak, Geri Piotrowski, Janet Katinowsky, Julia Urban, Sandy Pfennig, Janice Elaine Casperson, Janis Brunson, Elizabeth McAlanis, Skye Sadowski, Barbara Waszk, Terry Leatherman, Jackie Weinhold, Riley Rejniak, Jane and John Aldershoff, Cindy Golowski, Pat Schiaroli, Diane Fisher, Father Senior Ed Ratajack, Jerry Butto and Eileen McCoury. For the repose of the soul of Andrew Kosak. **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

Today, February 19th; Monthly Parish Committee meeting at 11:00AM in the Fellowship Hall. I hope all committee members are planning to attend.

Saturday, March 4th; Wine and Polish Food Tasting Event in the Fellowship Hall at 4:30 PM. The cost will be \$50.00 per person for wine from the Ridgewood Winery and Polish food samplings prepared by our own Saint Stephen's cooks. Flyers are on the table in the vestibule. Cutoff date to reserve is February 26th. Please see Tom Schalata for tickets.

Tuesday, March 14th; The YMS of R will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 PM. I encourage all of the men of the parish to attend and to join if you are not already members.

Wednesday, March 15th; The first meeting of the Picnic Committee will be held in the library at 7:00 PM. I encourage all to attend to prepare for the Annual Polis Picnic.

Thursday, March 16th; There will be a combined Book Club and ANS Meeting at 6:30PM. Pizza will be served.

Saturday, March 25th; Lenten Penitential Service at 7:00 PM.

Sunday, March 26th; The YMS of R will be holding one of its famous egg sandwich sales after each Mass. Don't miss out on this tasty treat.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, April 28th, 29th, 30th; The Annual Workshop of the National Mission and Evangelism Commission of the PNCC will be held here, at Saint Stephen the Martyr. Registration is free. More info to follow soon. I hope that many of you will attend and welcome our brothers and sisters from around the country.

Saturday, May 6th; We will be holding a Mother's Day Craft Event from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM with outside vendors offering their wares. For this to be successful, we need to get the word out to the community. Please spread the word to all you come in contact with. Flyers are on the table in the vestibule. Please contact

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

LENTEN SEASON

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd. That is right around the corner. I hope that everyone is already spending some time each day in thoughtful prayer and meditation as we approach the solemn season of Lent. Lent gives us a chance to ponder the earth shattering implications of Christ's passion, death and resurrection on the world, both then and now, and how it impacts our lives each and every day as we follow Him to eternal glory. Devotional booklets to help focus you are available on the table in the vestibule. Please take one as you leave.