

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

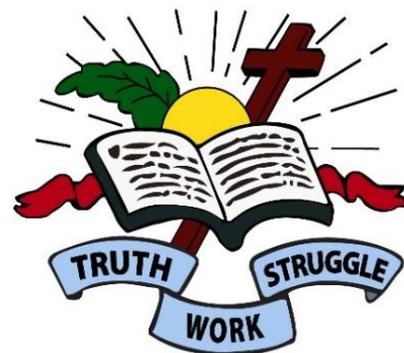
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February 26, 2023

First Sunday of Lent

A Sabbath Thought

Life is a continuum of choices. This Lent is a time to examine the choices we make. In the company of Jesus, we become desert dwellers who confront the demons that tempt us.

About Today's Bible Readings

GENESIS 2:7-9, 3:1-7

Here is where Lent began - back at the beginning - when the first human beings chose something other than God and goodness.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

ROMANS 5:12-19

And here, in Paul's impacted thought, is where Lent turns to Easter: in the life and death of Jesus Christ who firmly chose God.

MATTHEW 4:1-11

Finally, in the desert, Jesus faces the temptations that also mark our Lenten time. Two roads lie before us. Which will we choose?

ENTRANCE RITE – Psalm 91:1-2; Psalm 17:8

V. You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, say to the Lord, "My refuge and fortress, my God in Whom I trust."

R. Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

TRACT – 1 Corinthians 10-13b; Matthew 6:13

V. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial He will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it.

R. Do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one.

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 4:1-11

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone." Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test." Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve." Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

Today February 26th
First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY 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 – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

Wednesday March 8th

Stations of the Cross

7:00PM

Lenten Meal preceding at

6:00 PM

(No charge, free will donations accepted)

Sunday March 12th

SOLEMNITY

The Institution of the Polish
National Catholic Church

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

Daylight Saving Time begins at
2:00AM today. Don't forget to
set your clocks ahead one hour!



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, Eileen McCoury, Alexis, Matthew and Kristy Samsel. **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

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, Sally Traczuk or Cheryl Weinhold 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.

Monday, March 13th; 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 Cheryl Weinhold for more information.

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During the season of Lent we will be praying the Stations of the Cross every week leading up to Holy Week. This will be on Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM. I hope that everyone will plan on participating in at least two of these gatherings and that you will urge your families, friends and neighbors to attend as well. This is a beautiful and moving form of worship and it helps to focus our thoughts and prayers on our Lord and Savior as we reflect on His Passion and Death. I hope to see many of you there.