



July 16, 2023

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Sabbath Thought

Nothing grows by itself. Seeds need good soil, attentive care, frequent watering. The same is true of the faith God has planted in our hearts.

About Today's Bible Readings

ISAIAH 55:10-11

God's Word is not inert. It descends upon us, soliciting our response in faith. It changes the atmosphere of our lives, calling us to abundant growth.

Responsorial Psalm: 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14

R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

ROMANS 8:18-23

Creation is like a giant womb, pregnant with God's glory. Although the birthing is painful, the promised outcome colors with hope whatever suffering we may now experience.

MATTHEW 13:1-23

Jesus uses the realities of gardening and farming to shape his message. The Word of God is like a seed that is sown; we are the soil in which it is planted.

ENTRANCE RITE: Hebrews 4:12; John 1:14

V. Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.

R. And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

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: Luke 8:11b; 1 Thessalonians 2:13b

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. The seed is the word of God, which is now at work in you who believe.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-23

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear." The disciples approached him and said, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He said to them in reply, "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.

(OVER)

Worship Services

Today – July 16th

15th Sunday Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

Sunday – July 23rd

16th Sunday Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

Sunday – July 30th

17th Sunday Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

Sunday – August 6th

Solemnity

Transfiguration of our Lord

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

Picnic Donations

We are at this time asking for donations to help fund the Annual Polish Picnic in August. As you may know, this is our signature fund raising event of the year and require much work and sacrifice on the part of many of our parishioners. If you are financially able to donate to help offset the costs it would be greatly appreciated. Please make out any checks payable to the YMS of R as they are handling funds for the picnic. If you are donating cash, please mark the envelope clearly "PICNIC DONATION". Thank you in advance for your support and generosity. May God bless you.

Food Preparation

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who have given of their time and energy to make food in preparation for the upcoming picnic. More work is still to be done so if you have not pitched in so far there is still time to help. Please see Cheryl Weinhold.

Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and be converted, and I heal them. "But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. "Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

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 and Judy Mawson, Sharon Fitzwater, Jeannine Dresh, Amanda Dresh, Brianne Dresh, Bonnie Sue Pilot, 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 Hogg, Elizabeth McAlanis, Skye Sadowski, Barbara Waszk, Jackie Weinhold, Riley Rejniak, Jane and John Aldershoff, Pat Schiaroli, Diane Fisher, Father Senior Ed Ratajack, Jerry Butto, Eileen McCoury, Alexis, Matthew and Kristy Samsel, Janet Kelly, Bishop Bernard Nowicki, Laura Alfano, Scott Gaydos, Loretta Mikovsky, Kenneth Cerminara, John Freeman, Sr., Bob Price, Eleanor Kaczmarczyk, Sally Traczuk, and Marry Ann Bezek. For the repose of the souls of Bishop Jaroslaw Rafalko and Buddy Lord. **Our Father....**

If there are any changes to this list, please let Fr. Sr. Donald know!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, July 16th; There will be a brief meeting of the Picnic Committee after the 9:30 AM Mass and Before the 11:00 AM meeting of the Parish Committee. I hope that many of you will attend to help plan for the Picnic.

Weekends in July and August; Food making in preparation for the Annual Polish Picnic in August. Please see the Monthly Newsletter for dates and signup sheets are in the vestibule. **More help is needed than have signed up so far. Please consider volunteering a day or two of your time to help make the Picnic the huge success that it has been in the past.** Flyers are on the table in the vestibule, please take and post them wherever you shop or visit.

Thursday, July 27th; **Reading** Fightin' Phils Baseball Game. A signup sheet with more information is available on the table in the vestibule.

If there are any other events not listed here, please let Fr. Sr. Donald know!