



July 23, 2023

# Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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The Very Reverend Donald E. Wunderlich

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## Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### A Sabbath Thought

It is happening now even as you read these words: the kingdom of God is growing although we may not avert to it. But we can hone our sense to perceive God's reign. We will hear the world percolating, stirring and straining under God's shaping hand.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### WISDOM 12:13, 16-19

What kind of God do we worship? The ancient book of Wisdom offers us some advice: recognize who is the Lord by what he does.

#### Responsorial Psalm: 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16

**R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

#### ROMANS 8:26-27

Weakness is not failure. It is the seedplace of God's Spirit who sits in our hearts and sings the songs of love that we must learn.

#### MATTHEW 13:24-43

The signs of God's governance and authority are all around us: in the fields, in the garden, in the kitchen. Simple things like crops, shrubs and bread have much to teach us.

### ENTRANCE RITE: Psalm 86:5-6

*V. Lord, You are kind and forgiving, most loving to all who call on You.*

**R. Lord, hear my prayer; listen to my cry for help.**

*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: 2 Peter 3:9a,c

*V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

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

*V. The Lord does not delay His promise, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

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

### THE GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-43

Jesus proposed another parable to the crowds, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn."

He proposed another parable to them. "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'" He spoke to them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened."

(OVER)

# Worship Services

## Today – July 23<sup>rd</sup>

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

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## Sunday – July 30<sup>th</sup>

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

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## Sunday – August 6<sup>th</sup>

*Solemnity*

*Transfiguration of our Lord*

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## Landscaping

Many thanks to the parishioners that have donated their time and energy to clean up the landscaping around the church, especially Bill Katinowsky and Kevin Grossman.

All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables. He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet: I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation of the world. Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

## This is the Gospel of the Lord

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## 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, Brienne 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!**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**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. 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, with permission, of course.

**Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>;** Reading Fightin' Phils Baseball Game – CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF INTEREST. Maybe some other time?

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

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## PICNIC BAKE SALE

This year the bake sale will be returning to the Annual Polish Picnic. This is a call to all of the bakers in the parish to show us what you can do. If you are able to donate any baked goods for sale at the picnic, please contact Marcia Hinner at 610-621-9758 for information and to reserve space for your donation. Thank you for your kind generosity and may God bless you all.