



August 20, 2023

# Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

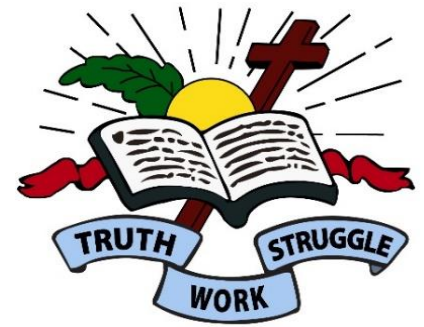
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## Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### A Sabbath Thought

We live in a world of distinctions, marked by social, racial and economic differences. But, in God's kingdom, there is only one identifying characteristic. It is faith - faith that looks to the Lord of healing and mercy.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### ISAIAH 56:1, 6-7

Where you come from does not matter, says the Lord. The important things are who you are and what you do.

#### Responsorial Psalm: 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

**R. O God, let all the nations praise you!**

#### ROMANS 11:13-15, 29-32

God never goes back on his word. No one is rejected in his sight because Christ has been designated the savior of all.

#### MATTHEW 15:21-28

A foreign woman demonstrates faith and wins from Jesus healing for her sick daughter.

### ENTRANCE RITE: Baruch 5:5; psalm 122:1-2

*V. Up Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God.*

**R. I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." And now our feet are standing within your gates, Jerusalem.**

*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: ISAIAH 45:22

*V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

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

*V. Turn to Me and be safe, all you ends of the earth, for I am God; there is no other!*

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

### THE GOSPEL: Matthew 15:21-28

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her. Jesus' disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me." He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

# Worship Services

**Today – August 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time**

**ONE MASS ONLY**

**9:00 AM – HOLY MASS**

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**Sunday – August 27<sup>th</sup>**

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

**8:00 AM – HOLY MASS**

**9:30 AM – HOLY MASS**

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**Sunday – Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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

**8:00 AM – HOLY MASS**

**9:30 AM – HOLY MASS**

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## **PICNIC A SUCCESS!**

The Annual Polish Picnic last Sunday was a great success! Thanks to all of the volunteers for their tireless efforts be it in making food, helping the day of the picnic, financial support, donations or whatever else they may have done. God bless all of you. Special thanks to our picnic chairperson, Jay Rowe, for another great outcome.

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## **Central Diocese Clergy Conference and Retreat**

I will be attending the Central Diocese Clergy Conference and Retreat held at the Saint Francis Retreat House in Easton, PA from Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup> until Wednesday August 23<sup>rd</sup>. During that time, should an emergency arise, I can be reached by calling the Parish Office at 610-775-4559 and leaving a message stating that it is an urgent matter. Please pray for all of the clergy of the Central Diocese as we join together in prayerful reflection to strengthen and increase our faith and devotion to God's Holy people.

# 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, 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, Donald Barth, Kenneth Cerminara, John Freeman, Sr., Bob Price, Eleanor Kaczmarczyk, Mary Ann Bezek, Kaleb Gates, Larkspur Dente and Eric Meck. For the repose of the soul of Laura Ewaskiewicz. **Our Father....**

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

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>**; Regular monthly meeting of the Parish Committee in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM.

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

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## **FLOOD VICTIMS**

Recently, our area was impacted by several flash floods. These brought devastating damage to many homes and properties. Some of our own members have been affected by these acts of nature. During the month of August we are designating all of the donations made to the Little White Church in the vestibule to go towards helping them to recover from this catastrophe. Please be as generous as you can and thank you in advance for your kindness and love.

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