



October 1, 2023

St. Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607
The Very Reverend Donald E. Wunderlich
Rectory: 610-775-4559

Email: fatherdon@ststephenpncc.org

Website: www.ststephenpncc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ststephenpncc



Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Sabbath Thought

Among us human beings, reputation is one thing, results is another. In the eyes of God, who we *are* depends on what we *do*, both publicly and privately.

About Today's Bible Readings

EZEKIEL 18:25-28

There is a basic logic to God's justice. The Lord meets in mercy the human beings who truthfully confess their evil.

Responsorial Psalm: 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

**R. Remember your mercies,
O Lord.**

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

Jesus is Lord, in spite of everything; indeed, *because* of everything. We must honor him.

MATTHEW 21:28-32

Words and deeds, moral theologians may argue about the balance between the two, but Jesus is interested only in results.

ENTRANCE RITE – Hebrews 13:20a, 21

V. May the God of peace, furnish you with all that is good, that you may do His will.

R. May He carry out in you what is pleasing to Him through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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 – Sirach 11:20

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. My son, hold fast to your duty, busy yourself with it, grow old while doing your task.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people:

"What is your opinion?

A man had two sons.

He came to the first and said,

'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.'

He said in reply, 'I will not, '

but afterwards changed his mind and went.

The man came to the other son and gave the same order.

He said in reply, 'Yes, sir, 'but did not go.

Which of the two did his father's will?"

They answered, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you,

tax collectors and prostitutes

are entering the kingdom of God before you.

When John came to you in the way of righteousness,

you did not believe him;

but tax collectors and prostitutes did.

Yet even when you saw that,

you did not later change your minds and believe him."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY – Oct. 1st

26th Sunday Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SUNDAY – Oct. 8th

Solemnity

The Christian Family

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

Blessing of the Animals in the Church Parking Lot at Noon in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi.

SUNDAY – Oct. 15th

28th Sunday Ordinary Time

Heritage Sunday

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SUNDAY – Oct. 22nd

29th Sunday Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SUNDAY – Oct. 29th

30th Sunday Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

100TH ANNIVERSARY

Next Sunday, October 8th, Saints Peter and Paul Parrish, in McAdoo, PA will celebrate one hundred years of worshipping and serving the Lord with an Anniversary Mass at 3:00 PM Celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, bishop of the Central Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church. Dinner will follow. Fr. Sr. Donald will be attending to join in this joyous occasion and all are welcome to attend. See Fr. Sr. Donald for information. Please pray that the good Lord grants them another one hundred years. Sto lat!

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, 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, 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, Eric Meck, Darryl Weinhold, Scott Kallish, Damon Grossman, Joseph Grossman, Jr., Skye Sadowski, Jeannine Dresh, Violet Hart and Nancy Ziolkowski. **Our Father....**

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 15th; Regular Monthly meeting of the Parrish Committee in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM.

Wednesday, October 18th; The Book Club will meet in the Library at 7:00 PM.

Sunday, November 12th; The ANS will meet in the Library after the 9:30 Mass.

Wednesday, November 15th; The Book Club will meet in the Library at 7:00 PM.

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

PLEA FOR RELIEF

In the wake of the terrible rains very recently in the Scranton, PA area, our Diocesan secretary and administrator of the Diocesan Enlivening program, Janet Kelly, had her house condemned due to irreparable water damage to it. We will be collecting funds for her to replace domestic and personal items lost to the waters that destroyed her house. Donations to Janet in this venture can be made through the Primate's office with checks payable to Janet Kelly and mailed to

Prime Bishop Mikovsky
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505.

Donors who prefer to remain anonymous can mail checks payable to: Central Diocese PNCC. These checks can be mailed to:

Central Diocesan Chancery
515 East Locust Street
Scranton, PA 18505

Your help in this matter will be tremendously appreciated.

In addition to this effort, the Parrish Committee has decided that all of the donations made to the Little White Church on the table in the Vestibule for the remainder of the month of September and the entire month of October also will be designated to help Janet in her attempts to recover from this disaster.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Next Sunday, October 8th at Noon St. Stephens will hold its annual "Blessing of the Animals" Service in the church parking lot. Bring your pets for the special blessing to be held at that time. In addition, we are pleased to announce that The Magic Groom Bus, a mobile grooming service from Bowmansville, will be on the premises to do limited grooming that day. Nicole will also provide info if you are interested in having the bus come to your house for your pet services. More information and pricing will be included in the next parish newsletter or see Tom Schalata for details.