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Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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September 17, 2023

Twenty-Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time

A Sabbath Thought

For believers forgiveness is not an *option*. It is the very air we breathe as church. God's forgiveness has made us who we are. Our forgiveness must be equally creative to others.

About Today's Bible Readings

SIRACH 27:30-28:7

There is an acid more powerful than any chemical. It is the hatred that corrodes the human heart and reduces it to an unfeeling stone.

Responsorial Psalm: 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

ROMANS 14:7-9

For believers there is one principle in life - and in death. It is the Lord for whom we live, for whom we die in order to live forever.

MATTHEW 18:21-35

The bottom line is that there is no bottom line. When it comes to forgiveness, numbers cease to exist.

ENTRANCE RITE – Sirach 10:6-7; Ephesians 4:32

V. No matter the wrong, do no violence to your neighbor, and do not walk the path of arrogance. Odious to the Lord and to men is arrogance, and the sin of oppression they both hate.

R. Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.

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 17:3b

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 18:21-35

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY – Sept. 17th

24th Sunday Ordinary Time

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SUNDAY – Sept. 24th

25th Sunday Ordinary Time

Spojnja Sunday

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SUNDAY – 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

COFFEE AND DONUTS

We are resuming the Fellowship hour in the Church Hall following each Mass. Coffee and donuts will be served with the coffee being free and the suggested donation for each donut being \$1.00. I hope that many of you will join us and spend some quality time with your brothers and sisters in Christ, maybe make some new friends.

SUNDAY MORNING

A mother called her son on Sunday morning to make sure he got out of bed and was ready for Church. "I'm not going," he replied. "Yes you are going, so get out of that bed!" his mother demanded. "Give me ONE good reason why I should go," said her son. "I'll give you THREE good reasons ... One, I'm your mother, and I say you're going. Two, you're 40 years old, so you're old enough to know better ... and three, you're the Pastor, so you need to be there."

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 and Jeannine Dresh. **Our Father....**

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, September 17th; Regular Monthly meeting of the Parrish Committee in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM. The ANS will meet in the Library following the 9:30 Mass.

Wednesday, September 20th; The Book Club will resume by meeting in the Library at 7:00 PM.

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

THE KNIGHTS CLOSET

School is back in session. The parish has generously participated in this worthwhile cause in the past, helping those students of the Reading School District who are in need and I hope that we will find it in our hearts to continue to do so. A list of needed items can be found in the literature rack above the weekly bulletins. Please leave your contributions on the table by the stage in the Fellowship Hall and we will get them to those in need. Thank you in advance for your kind generosity.

