



# St. Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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September 24, 2023

## Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### A Sabbath Thought

Do we need to be reminded that God's ways are not our ways? We do, when we forget that the divine habit is generous, that the divine action is merciful.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### ISAIAH 55:6-9

Here is the first lesson in divine forgiveness: forget *human* calculations. God marches to a different drummer when it comes to mercy.

#### Responsorial Psalm: 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

**R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.**

#### PHILIPPIANS 1:20C-24, 27A

Here is a dilemma we may find hard to grasp. Death for the believer is as valuable as life. Only faith reveals the balance between life and death.

#### MATTHEW 20:1-16A

There is no use imagining God after our own image. We are the ones made in the divine image. Therefore, in *human* eyes, mercy will always be foolish, illogical and irrational.

### ENTRANCE RITE – Psalm 145:8-9

*V. The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in love.*

**R. The Lord is good to all, compassionate to every creature.**

*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 – Romans 9:15b

*V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

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

*V. I will show mercy to whom I will, I will take pity on whom I will.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

### THE GOSPEL – Matthew 20:1-16A

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.' So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.' When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.' When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.' He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

**This is the Gospel of the Lord!**

# Worship Services

# INTENTIONS:

**TODAY – Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>**

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time**

**Spojnia Sunday**

*Intentions for the living and deceased members of Spojnia.*

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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**SUNDAY – Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>**

**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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**SUNDAY – Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Solemnity**

**The Christian Family**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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## SPOJNIA SUNDAY

The month of September is designated by the Church as Spojnia Month. This year Spojnia Sunday will be celebrated today, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Traditionally the intentions for the Mass on this day are for the living and deceased members of Spojnia. Please remember everything that The PNU does for the Church and for its members and clergy and support them whenever and however you possibly can. They offer competitively priced life insurance and a credit union open to all PNCC members. For more information please visit:

www.pnu.org

or call 570-344-1513.

Thank you and God bless.

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## 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 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. I will be attending to join in this joyous occasion. Please pray that the good Lord grants them another one hundred years. Sto lat!

## 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!**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

**Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**; The ANS will meet in the Library after the 9:30 Mass.

**Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**; 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!**

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## 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.

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## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On Sunday, Oct 8 at Noon St. Stephens will hold its annual "Blessing of the Animals" Service in the church 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.