

March 28, 2024

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607 **The Very Reverend Donald E. Wunderlich** Parish Office: 610-775-4559 Email: <u>fatherdon@ststephenpncc.org</u> Website: <u>www.ststephenpncc.org</u>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ststephenspncc



Holy Thursday – The Last Supper

A Reflective Thought

The liturgy of Holy Thursday moves us into the celebration of "The Three Days" - the Easter Triduum, during which we make memory of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. These three days are really one solemn liturgy. If you participate in the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper you will notice that there is no dismissal at the end. Neither is there a welcome or dismissal at the liturgy of Good Friday. The liturgy from Holy Thursday through the Easter Vigil is meant to be a continuous memorial and celebration of the climactic moments in the life of Jesus and in the life of the Christian community.

The Readings:

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14

RESPONORIAL PSALM: 116:12-13, 15-16BC, 17-18

R: Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Please see the order of service booklets for the Processional Hymn and Vespers after the Mass.

Entrance Rite (Galatians 6:14; Psalm 67:2)

- V. May I never boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through it, the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.
- R. May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let His face shine upon us.
- V. Lord, for us Your wounds were suffered.
- R. O Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

Tract (John 13:34-35)

- V. I give you a new commandment: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you should love one another.
- R. This is how all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

THE GOSPEL (JOHN 13:1-15)

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. So, during supper, fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God, he rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Master, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well." Jesus said to him, "Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so you are clean, but not all." For he knew who would betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean." So when he had washed their feet and put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!