



# Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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April 21, 2024

## Fourth Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday

### A Sabbath Thought

As we journey in faith through the Easter mysteries, we turn our attention today to the mission to which Christ calls us all. Our lives must bear witness to our belief in the risen Lord.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### ACTS 4:8-12

By the power of Jesus' Name, the disciples restore a lame man to wholeness, thus symbolizing the salvation offered to all the world.

#### Responsorial Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29

**R: The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.**

#### 1 JOHN 3:1-2

In the Easter sacraments, we have become God's own daughters and sons. Therefore, we are to act as God's beloved offspring in imitation of the risen Lord.

#### JOHN 10:11-18

The good shepherd knows each of us as his own. We must learn to recognize his voice in our lives.

### **ENTRANCE RITE: Ezekiel 34:31; Psalms 79:13**

*V. You, My sheep, you are the sheep of My pasture, and I am your God, says the Lord God. Alleluia.*

**R. Then we, Your people and the sheep of Your pasture, will give thanks to You forever; through all generations we will declare Your praise. Alleluia.**

*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** (1 Corinthians 5:7b-8a, c)

*V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

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

*V. And when the Chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. For He is our God, and we are the people He shepherds, the flock He guides.*

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

### **THE GOSPEL JOHN 10:11-18**

Jesus said:

“I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father.”

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

# Worship Services

**TODAY – April 21<sup>st</sup>  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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**SUNDAY – April 28<sup>th</sup>  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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**SUNDAY – May 5<sup>th</sup>  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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**THURSDAY - May 9<sup>th</sup>  
Solemnity**

**Ascension of our Lord**

**7:00 PM – Holy Mass**

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## **The Octave of Easter**

Over these next few weeks, we will be learning about the time that Jesus spent on Earth after His resurrection and before His glorious Ascension to the right hand of the Father in Heaven. We will hear of these deeds from the apostles who were the witnesses of them. Then we will celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Disciples, filling them with wisdom, knowledge and power as well as the gift of tongues or the ability to speak so that all people could understand them regardless of their own languages. So as you can see, Easter is not just one day. It is not even the Octave, or eight weeks that we celebrate. No, Easter is every day of the year. Christ risen from the grave happens eternally and forever for the forgiveness of our sins.

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**Coffee and Donuts are back in the Fellowship Hall after each Mass! Please join us!**

## **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, Nicole Dapp, 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, Elizabeth McAlanis, Barbara Waszk, Jackie Weinhold, Jane and John Aldershoff, Father Senior Ed Ratajack, Eileen McCoury, Alexis, Matthew and Kristy Samsel, Janet Kelly, Laura Alfano, Scott Gaydos, Donald Barth, Kenneth Cerminara, John Freeman, Sr., Bob Price, Eleanor Kaczmarczyk, Mary Ann Bezek, Eric Meck, Darryl Weinhold, Scott Kallish, Damon Grossman, Joseph Grossman, Jr., Skye Sadowski, Jeannine Dresh, Violet Hart, Nancy Ziolkowski, John Bennett, Alicia Bennett, David and Judy Wunderlich, Tammy Bolich, Berne Bloom, Marilyn Seiders, Larry Bagenstose, Peggy Smith and family, Chi Koch, Vicki Shoemaker, William Kutenits, Todd Shaffer, Cristin Burke, Kelly Wylezik Shawn Siedel, Father Carmen Bolock, Christine Mulutzie, Sarah Ludwig, Frederick Smith and David Metzger. **Our Father...**

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

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Friday and Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>;** Cheese pierogi making in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 AM. Please sign the sheet on the table in the vestibule to volunteer.

**Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>;** The Parish Committee will meet at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall for its regular monthly meeting.

**Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>;** A clean up and re-organization of the Church Kitchen is being planned. Please consider volunteering to help.

**Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>;** Ladies Night Out at Doc and Bubba's, 6:00 PM until ?. All women of the parish and their lady friends are invited to a "Night Out" sponsored by the ANS. Meals and drink costs will be the responsibility of the attendees. Join us for some fun and Christian Fellowship.

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

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## **PIEROGI MAKING SIGNUP SHEET**

Pierogi Signup sheets are on the table in the vestibule. Help is need on each of the designated days. If you can volunteer to help it would be most appreciated. No experience is necessary. We will teach you how. And thanks to all those who have helped so far.

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## **THE KNIGHTS CLOSET**

The Reading School District has informed us that the Knights Closet Project which provides items of basic necessity to students in need will continue. The parish has generously participated in this worthwhile cause in past years and I hope that we will find it in our hearts to continue to do so. Please leave your contributions on the table in the Fellowship Hall by the door and we will get them to those in need. A list of needed items can be found in the literature rack in the vestibule above the weekly bulletins. Please take one as you leave. Thank you and God bless.

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## **POLISH OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT**

The Polish American Heritage Assoc. will be holding their 15th annual Polish Open Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 15, 2024, at the Manor Golf Club, 153 Bran Rd., Sinking Spring. The scramble format starts at 1:30pm. The cost is \$95. per golfer and includes greens fees, cart, refreshments, lunch, dinner, tee gift and prizes. Proceeds support the Polish American Cultural Center at the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts. For questions call Marilyn at 610-779-5523. Deadline for reservations is June 5, 2024. Please see the flyers on the table in the vestibule. It would be nice if Saint Stephens was represented.