



April 28, 2024

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

A Sabbath Thought

The Easter sacraments have grafted us unto Christ so that we live through him. As members of his body, the church, the Spirit enables us to bear the fruit that identifies us as true disciples.

About Today's Bible Readings

ACTS 9:26-31

The Jerusalem community welcomes Paul and authenticates him. His friend, Barnabas, 'sponsors' him and the other members support Paul as he begins to bear witness to Christ.

Responsorial Psalm 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32

R: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

1 JOHN 3:18-24

We are right with God when the Spirit leads us to love and care for others as Christ has commanded us to do.

JOHN 15:1-8

The risen Lord is the source of life for all who have been grafted onto him through baptism. He nourishes us within the Christian community so that we may bear much fruit in his service.

ENTRANCE RITE: Romans 7:4; Galatians 5:22-23

V. In the same way, my brothers, you also were put to death to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to the One Who was raised from the dead in order that we might bear fruit for God. Alleluia.

R. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 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 (John 15:16a)

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. It was not you who chose Me, but I Who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL JOHN 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Worship Services

**TODAY – April 28th
5th Sunday of Easter**

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

**SUNDAY – May 5th
6th Sunday of Easter**

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

**THURSDAY - May 9th
Solemnity**

**Ascension of our Lord
7:00 PM – Holy Mass**

**SUNDAY – May 12th
7th Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day!**

8:00 AM – Holy Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

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.

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 Birosca, 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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, April 28th; A clean up and re-organization of the Church Kitchen is being planned. Please consider volunteering to help.

Tuesday, April 30th; Mission Commission Meeting in the library at 7:00 PM

Sunday, May 5th; Picnic Committee Meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM.

Saturday & Sunday, May 17th & 18th; Pierogi making 9:00 AM and Noon in the Hall.

Sunday, May 19th; Regular monthly meeting of the parish committee in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM.

Wednesday, May 29th; 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!

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. And thanks to all of those who have helped so far.

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. **Drinks are especially needed, water, Gatorade, etc. These items are expected to be delivered in the middle of May, so please try to get you're your donations in as soon as possible.** Thank you and God bless.

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 Cub, 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 Stephen's was represented.