



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: fatherdon@ststephenpncc.org

Website: www.ststephenpncc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ststephenspncc



April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter – Low Sunday

A Sabbath Thought

We are told that after the first Easter, "the community of believers were of one heart and one mind" (Acts 4:32). That is the purpose of our gathering in this Easter season: In the community that breaks down all barriers, we find the risen Lord.

About Today's Bible Readings

ACTS 4:32-35

What the resurrection did for the first believers, it can do for us. Away with selfishness and greed! Long live faith, hope and love!

Responsorial Psalm: 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1 JOHN 5:1-6

Faith is the key to our new life in Christ. Through his resurrection, we have overcome.

JOHN 20:19-31

In time, over 100,000 Sundays separate us from our doubting brother, Thomas. But the risen Lord does not hesitate to bless us who have not seen and yet believe.

ENTRANCE RITE: Psalm 40:2-4

V. I waited, waited for the Lord; Who bent down and heard my cry, drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the mud of the swamp, set my feet upon rock, steadied my steps. Alleluia.

R. And put a new song in my mouth, a hymn to our God. Many shall look on in awe and they shall trust in the Lord. 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: Psalm 30:2,4

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. I praise You, Lord, for You raised me up and did not let my enemies rejoice over me. Lord, You brought me up from Sheol; You kept me from going down to the pit.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

**TODAY – April 7th
2nd Sunday of Easter
(Low Sunday)**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass
9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

**SUNDAY – April 14th
3rd Sunday of Easter**

**8:00 AM - Holy Mass
9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

**SUNDAY – April 21st
4th Sunday of Easter**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass
9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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

**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 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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 14th; The ANS will meet at 11:00 AM at Louie's Kitchen and Bar, in Flying Hills; 12 Village Center Drive; Reading, PA 19607.

Wednesday, April 17th; The Book Club will meet in the Library at 7:00 PM.

Friday and Saturday, April 19th and 20th; 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 21st; The Parish Committee will meet at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall for its regular monthly meeting.

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

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. No experience is necessary. We will teach you how. And thanks to all those who have helped so far.

23rd ANNUAL MISSION AND EVANGELISM WORKSHOP

The 23rd Annual Mission and Evangelism Workshop of the PNCC will be held this year at Saint Barbara's Parish in Houtzdale, PA, April 12th through April 14th. Flyers are on the table in the vestibule. The Parish will pay the \$50.00 registration fee for anyone wishing to attend. Hotel and travel expenses will be the responsibility of the attendee. See Fr. Sr. Donald for more information.

