

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 Saint Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

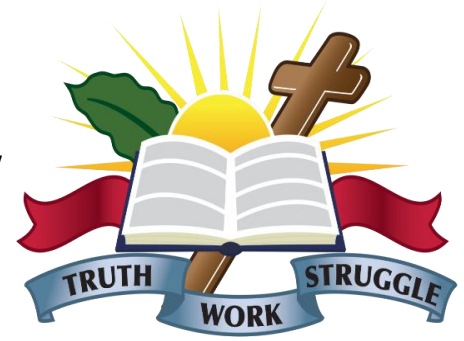
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August 18, 2024

Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time

A Sabbath Thought

What is the wise thing to do? Many people think we should live for *now* because there is no *later*. Some of us think *now* does not matter *because* there is a *later*. Is there a middle ground?

About Today's Bible Readings

PROVERBS 9:1-6

Our ancient scriptures remind us of an age-old invitation as new as the morning's sunrise: Seek wisdom because the alternative leads to destruction.

Responsorial Psalm: 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

EPHESIANS 5:15-20

The writer to the Ephesians repeats the ancient wisdom: Act wisely, avoid foolishness, be grateful.

JOHN 6:51-58

Eating is a daily activity, but is there a food that guarantees sustenance for more than 24 hours? Yes; it is the bread of life that gives life for more than a day.

ENTRANCE RITE: Deuteronomy 8:3

V. He therefore let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your fathers.

R. In order to show you that not by bread alone does man live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the Lord.

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: Isaiah 55:2b

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. Heed Me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: John 6:51-58

Jesus said to the crowds:

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Worship Services

Today – August 18th
20th Sunday - Ordinary Time

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

Sunday – August 25th
21st Sunday - Ordinary Time

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

Sunday – Sept. 1st
22nd Sunday - Ordinary Time

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

Sunday – Sept. 8th
Solemnity – Brotherly Love

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

Sunday – Sept. 15th
24th Sunday - Ordinary Time

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

Central Diocese Clergy Conference and Retreat

I will be attending the Central Diocese Clergy Conference and Retreat held at the Saint Francis Retreat House in Easton, PA from Monday, August 26th until Wednesday August 28th. During that time, should an emergency arise, I can be reached by calling the Parish Office at 610-775-4559 and leaving a message stating that it is an urgent matter. Please pray for your clergy.

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, 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 Cerninara, John Freeman, Sr., Bob Price, Eleanor Kaczmarczyk, Mary Ann Bezek, Eric Meck, Darryl Weinhold, Scott Kallish, Damon Grossman, Joseph Grossman, Jr., Corby Beck, Tom Beck, Skye Sadowski, Jeannine Dresh, Violet Hart, Nancy Ziolkowski, John Bennett, Alicia Bennett, David and Judy Wunderlich, Tammy Bolich, Berne Bloom, Marilyn Seiders, Peggy Smith and family, Chi Koch, Vicki Shoemaker, William Kutenits, Todd Shaffer, Cristin Burke, Kelly Wylezik Shawn Siedel, Father Carmen Bolock, Christine Mulutzie, James Horning, Frederick Smith, David Metzger, Amber Irving, Paul Edling, Natalie Frankfort, Cheryl Weinhold, Carol Urban and Kenneth Borah. For the repose of the soul of Donna Karoscik. **Our Father...**

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, August 18th; Regular Monthly meeting of the Parish Committee in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM.

Sunday, September 8th; Deadline for contributions to our Ukrainian Relief Effort. Please leave your donations on the designated table in the Hall. See the Newsletter for details.

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

YMS of R GOLF TOURNAMENT

The YMS of R will be holding its 10th Annual Golf Tournament on August 24, 2024. Hosted by the Buffalo Branch of the YMS of R. Please see the flyer on the table in the vestibule and contact Father Senior Donald for more information.

ANNUAL POLISH-AMERICAN FAMILY FESTIVAL & COUNTRY FAIR

The Polish American Heritage Assoc. is running a bus trip to the Polish American Family Festival & Country Fair on September 7, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown. Please see the flyer on the table in the vestibule for more information.

THE ANNUAL PICNIC

The Annual Picnic is over! It was an unquestionably success! There were some obstacles to work around at the new venue of Willow Glen Park, but our resourceful Picnic Volunteers rallied together to overcome them. Final financial calculations are not yet available, but it looks like we did almost as well as last year. The learning curve will be adjusted for next year and we hope to do even better. One suggestion under consideration is moving the day to a Saturday to avoid the conflict with the Flea Market. With all that said, many thanks and congratulations to everyone who helped in any way to make this event so grand. Special thanks, of course, go out to our intrepid Picnic Committee Chairperson, Jay Rowe, for his tireless efforts in this endeavor.

