

Thomas answered and said to Him
my Lord and my God



April 27, 2025

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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The Second Sunday of Easter

A Sabbath Thought

Absence, we say, makes the heart grow fonder. But the apostle Thomas discovers that the risen Christ's absence can be a source of doubt. The power that eventually healed Thomas' heart is still at work in our world.

About Today's Bible Readings

ACTS 5:12-16

After Christ's resurrection, the disciples' faith allowed them to lead others to Christ.

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

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

REVELATION

1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

This selection from the opening chapter of Revelation introduces us to a prophet's spiritual experience of Christ's risen presence.

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.

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 27th
Second Sunday of Easter
(Low Sunday)

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

SUNDAY – May 4th
Third Sunday of Easter
Crowning
of the Mother Mary

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

SUNDAY – May 11th
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday
MOTHER'S DAY!

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

SUNDAY – May 18th
Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

SUNDAY – May 25th
Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM – HOLY MASS

9:30 AM – HOLY MASS

The Month of May
"The Blessed Virgin Mary"

During the Month of May we give special attention to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We will pray the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary after each Mass each Sunday this month as we beseech the Mother of Our Lord to intercede with the Father and her Beloved Son on our behalf. I urge each of you to spend a few moments each day in reflection, asking her for her prayers and remembering her sacrifice.

INTENTIONS:

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, 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, Barbara Waszk, Jackie Weinhold, Jane and John Aldershoff, Father Senior Ed Ratajack, Eileen McCoury, Janet Kelly, Laura Alfano, Scott Gaydos, Donald Barth, Kenneth Cerminara, John Freeman, Sr., Eleanor Kaczmarczyk, Mary Ann Bezek, Michael Lucas, Damon Grossman, Gwen Grossman, Lukas Grossman, Aaron Grossman, Tom Beck, Skye Sadowski, Jeannine Dresh, Violet Hart, Nancy Ziolkowski, David and Judy Wunderlich, Tammy Bolich, Berne Bloom, Marilyn Seiders, Peggy Smith and family, William Kutenits, Todd Shaffer, Father Carmen Bolock, Frederick Smith, David Metzger, Amber Irving, Paul Edling, Cheryl Weinhold, Dwayne Schwarz, Joe Bezek, Bud Hoffman, John Halecky III, Leina Jean Meier, Brenda Hoffa, Teri Hettinger, Joe Gimont, Dan Chujko, John DeHart and Bob Price. For the repose of the soul of Greg Potash, Marilyn Kovacs and Pope Francis. **Our Father....**

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, April 27th; Regular monthly meeting of the Parish Committee in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM.

Today, April 27th; The ANS will meet in the Library after the 9:30 AM Mass.

Sunday, May 4th; Picnic Meeting in the Fellowship Hall after the 9:30 AM Mass.

Thursday, May 29th; The Book Club will meet for dinner at 6:00 PM at Mom Chaffe's Restaurant located at 148 Tulpehocken Avenue in West Reading. The next book chosen to be read was "The Prayer Box" by Lisa Wingate. This will be read over the summer with discussions picking up at the next meeting to be scheduled in September.

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

NEW PICNIC TABLE DRIVE

The drive continues. Donations, if made in cash, should be placed in a separate envelope marked "YMS of R Table Drive" and checks should be made payable to: "St. Stephens YMS of R" and noted for Table Drive. Thank you for your support.

PIEROGI MAKING

The Picnic Committee has established tentative dates for pierogi-making. They continue as follows: May 9 & 10 (Cheese), May 30-31 (Cheese); Sauerkraut- to be determined. Sign Up Sheet for Pierogi Making is on the table in the vestibule. Please take a moment and see if you are available to help. The pierogi sheet is for multiple days so please sign up for as many days as you can. These are for the picnic so please help. Thank you and God bless. And thanks to all who have helped thus far!

24th NATIONAL MISSION & EVANGELISM WORKSHOP

The 24th National Mission and Evangelism Workshop will be held on Friday, May 30th through Sunday, June 1, 2025 at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in Denver, Colorado. Please see the Pamphlets on the table in the vestibule for more information.

POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE ASSOC. GOLF TOURNAMNET

The Polish American Heritage Assoc. will be holding their 16th annual Polish Open Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 21, 2025, 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 11, 2025. Please see the flyers on the table in the vestibule.