



April 18, 2021

Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

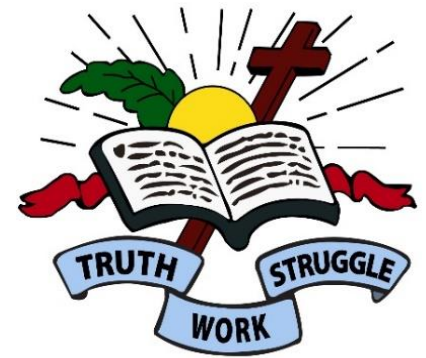
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Third Sunday of Easter

A Sabbath Thought

One of the most elusive mysteries of our faith is the paradox of God's love for sinful mankind. Today we celebrate the triumph of God's redeeming love over the powers of doubt and fear. We have won that victory in the resurrection of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

About Today's Bible Readings

ACTS 3:13-15, 17-19

Filled with the Spirit, Peter proclaims Christ crucified and risen from the dead. He urges his hearers to put their faith in the risen Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9

R: Lord, let your face shine on us.

1 JOHN 2:1-5

As a loving steward in God's household, John reminds us that to love one another in Christ is to know God.

LUKE 24:35-48

The risen Lord appears to the disciples and overcomes their fears. He gives them his Spirit and makes them witnesses to his resurrection.

ENTRANCE RITE: PSALMS 66:2-3

V. Shout joyfully to God, all you on earth, sing praise to the glory of His name; proclaim His glorious praise. Alleluia.

R. Say to God, "How tremendous are Your deeds! for Your great strength Your enemies fawn upon You. 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. He has sent deliverance to His people; He has ratified His covenant forever; holy and awesome is His name.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL (LUKE 24:35-48)

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way, and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread. While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them. He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Worship Services

TODAY – April 18th

Third Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM - Low Mass

9:30 AM – High Mass

SUNDAY – April 25th

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Good Shepherd Sunday

8:00 AM – Low Mass

9:30 AM – Holy Mass

SUNDAY – May 2nd

Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM – Low 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.

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 Edward Czechowski, Patrice Czechowski, Donna Schalata, Tom Schalata and Bernice Biroscak. **Our Father....**

If there are any other individuals who should be on this list, please email or tell Father Senior Donald so he can add them!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, May 11th; The YMS of R will meet in the Church Hall at 7:00 PM. All of the men of the Parish are encouraged to attend and join if you do not already belong.

Monday, May 17th; The Mission Commission will meet in the Church Hall at 7:00 PM. All are invited to attend.

If there are any other events not listed here, please email or tell Father Senior Donald so he can add them!

All events are subject to review and the appropriate health and safety restrictions. Please check the website or Facebook page for updated information. Take care, stay safe and stay well.

THE KNIGHTS CLOSET

The Reading Area School District has informed us that the Knights Closet Project which provides items of basic necessity to students in need will resume even under the COVID restrictions. 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 Library and we will get them to those in need. A list of needed items can be found on the table in the vestibule near the offering baskets. Please take one as you leave. Thank you and God bless.

