



August 25, 2024

## Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

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## Twenty First Sunday Ordinary Time

### A Sabbath Thought

Every time we gather to hear the Word and break the Bread, we are renewing *our* covenant with the Lord. In this celebration, we choose to follow *him* and not serve the gods of this world. To whom else shall we go? Only Jesus has the words of eternal life.

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### JOSHUA 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

In a solemn ceremony, Joshua leads the Israelites in a pledge of faithfulness to the Lord: "Far be it from us to forsake the Lord for the service of others gods."

#### Responsorial Psalm: 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21

#### R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

#### EPHESIANS 5:21-32

Here is a list of suggestions for unity and mutual respect within the family. Like the Christian church, the Christian family is modeled on Christ and his example of love.

#### JOHN 6:60-69

Impossible words call for an impossible response. When Jesus speaks truths hard to swallow, Peter acknowledges that only faith can accept these "words of eternal life."

### ENTRANCE RITE:

*V. Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful song.*

**R. Enter His gates with thanksgiving, His courts with praise; give thanks to Him; bless His Name.**

*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 147:5

*V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*V. Great is our Lord and mighty in power: to His wisdom there is no limit.*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### THE GOSPEL: John 6:60-69

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father."

As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him.

Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

*Worship Services*  
**Today – August 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday - Ordinary Time**

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

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**Sunday – Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday - Ordinary Time**

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

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**Sunday – Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Solemnity – Brotherly Love**

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

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**Sunday – Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday - Ordinary Time**

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

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**WHO WILL YOU SERVE?**

Today we are challenged to make a choice, a choice that will define who and what we are. We are asked who we will follow, to whom will we pledge our fealty. This is not a matter to be taken lightly when it comes to the Lord. The Lord, Our God, has done great things for us and has blessed us a thousand times over. Who else can we follow? Who else can we turn to? Who else has the Words of eternal Life?

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**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 26<sup>th</sup> until Wednesday August 28<sup>th</sup>. 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!**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**; Picnic Debriefing Meeting, In the Fellowship Hall, after the 9:30 Mass. If you helped the day of the Picnic or just attended, please join us as we discuss what went right and what could be improved for next year. All input and ideas are welcome. Everything considered, things went well but we can do better next year with your help.

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

**Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**; The ANS will meet in the Library after the 9:30 Mass. All women of the Parish are invited to attend and to join the Ladies Society for the Admiration of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

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

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**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.

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**BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS**

The Ladies Society for the Admiration of the Most Blessed Sacrament is selling Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Coupons. For a \$5.00 Donation to the ANS you will receive a coupon good for 25% off for your entire purchase at any Boscov's store or online on Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8:00 AM until 11:00 PM. (Exclusions Apply) Please see the flyer on the table in the vestibule for more information and contact Sally Traczuk or any ANS member to purchase your Shopping Pass now!

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