

St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



2nd Sunday of Easter, yr B

April 8th, 2018

PARISH CONTACTS

PASTOR
Fr Michal Gitner

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Nancy Sirois

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Thank you to one and all for the past seven and half years of our faith journey at St Joseph's in Stratford. Best wishes for the next chapter in the parish history under the spiritual guidance of Fr Tom Walsh.

Allow us to share with you a reflection, which we believe is the essence of life here on earth for a believer and those searching for God.

God bless,

Fr Michal, Geraldine and Claire

"Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in a love in a quite absolute, final way.

What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the mornings, what you will do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything."

- Pedro Arrupe, S.J.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 pm - Sunday Vigil

Sunday: 9:00 am

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford CT 06615-7639

Tel: 203 377-9901 (office), 203 923-2424 (rectory), Fax: 203 375-6439

www.stjosephsofstratford.org

FAITH MATTERS

GOSPEL CHALLENGE

But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25)

Perhaps I do not need to put my finger into the wounds made by the nails or my hand into His side. After all, I shared so many Easter brunches etc. But has the Easter experience changed my attitude, my way of seeing life and people? A personal 'resurrection' perhaps?

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPEL

St John's gospel, written long after the other three gospels, is a meditation upon the events of the Saviour's life filled with Resurrection light. It is not surprising, therefore, that the gospel readings for the Sundays of the Easter season are from the fourth gospel. Today's readings are a celebration of the Resurrection faith that makes it possible to know and enter into the Paschal Mystery. They come to a climax with the story of how the original 'doubting Thomas' found faith.

This gospel invites us to share the experience of the disciples, finding faith through the coming of the Lord into their midst on the evening of his Resurrection Day. What a dramatic situation – they are to meet the one whom they have deserted and abandoned to his fate. There is no word of reproach, no reference to what has taken place, only 'Peace be with you' and again 'Peace be with you' – you are forgiven come once more into my friendship. Their finding faith is a meeting with God's generous and reconciling love. And he sends them forth with the good news of the forgiveness of sins.

For many faith does not come easy and they are helped by the testimony that echoes down through the centuries of hard headed Thomas - as he owns that it is indeed the crucified one - the one who shared the deepest darkness of the world we have made – to whom we can entrust ourselves, as our 'Lord' and our 'God'.

The Resurrection faith today's liturgy celebrates is a faith which must find expression in action. The reading from Acts describes the first community of Christian faith, no longer a group of discouraged and disillusioned followers, but galvanized into action: sustained by the power of the apostles' witness, united in heart and soul, sharing what they had with those in need. The apostolic witness and preaching are echoed for us in the reading from John's first letter. The faith that unites believers in the Resurrection is a 'victory' – not a victory achieved by violence and power, but the triumph that belongs to those who have truly learned the ways of the Risen Lord – whose greeting was 'Peace' and the forgiveness of sins. Authentic Resurrection faith awakens a sense of responsibility and brings a call to mission: 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you'.



PARISH CALENDAR

April 22nd

Parish Board meeting - 10:15 am

May

Polish supper – DTB

EASTERN DIOCESE

April 11th

Clergy conference – Fall River, MA

BY THE WEEK

Sundays: Mercy Tabernacle Church
12:30 - 2:30 pm

Tuesdays: Mercy Tabernacle Church
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Wednesdays: AA meeting 12:00 pm
Irish dance classes 6:00 pm

Thursdays: AA men's meeting 7:30 pm

*For news input in the weekly bulletin, please contact
Father Tom by Wed: trpwalsh@gmail.com*

READERS ROSTER

April 8th April 15th

9:00 am Joe Pelland Dee Smith

Next Sunday's readings: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
1 John 2:1-5, Luke 24:35-48

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"If you focus on the hurt,
you will continue to suffer.
If you focus on the lesson,
you will continue to grow."

Gerard Armond Powell

NEWS AND EVENT

Parish Easter brunch

It is today after 9:00 am Mass that we gather as a faith community to celebrate the Easter miracle of Jesus' resurrection. Thank you to the Ladies' Society of preparing the celebration and sharing the proceeds with the parish efforts at the Lord's Kitchen. Donation is just \$5.00 per adult.

The Palm Cross Project earned a profit of \$227 for St. Joseph's? the Lord's Kitchen?
28 parishioners/(and) friends participated.
Thanks to all who made this fundraiser a success.

Convo 2018

This year, the Central Diocese has prepared a fantastic theme: "Anointed Lifeguard: You Have Been Chosen, Anointed, Empowered, and Blessed to Do Jesus' Work."

Convo will be hosted at The University of Scranton, July 23-27, 2018. Download the 2018 application and helpful hints regarding participation expectations at www.Convo2018.org
Participants are ages 12-20. Chaperones and guests are 21+

Parish Dues

A reminder that our parish dues are set at \$108.00 for an individual and \$216.00 for family. Barbara and Val Chernesky are the persons one should contact with a payment or to find out one's outstanding balance.

Wednesday's Mass

Please note that there will be no Wednesday 9:00 am Mass for health until further notice due to Fr Tom's commitments at Yale hospital.

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Acts 50:4-7

The community of believers was of one heart and mind,
and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common.
With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all.
There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

**The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

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

Second Reading

1 John 5:1-6

Beloved:
Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God,
and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him.
In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments.
For the love of God is this,
that we keep his commandments.
And his commandments are not burdensome,
for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world.
And the victory that conquers the world is our faith.
Who indeed is the victor over the world
but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
This is the one who came through water and blood,
Jesus Christ,
not by water alone, but by water and blood.
The Spirit is the one that testifies,
and the Spirit is truth.

**The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord;
blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe!
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.

**The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

