

St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



6th Sunday, Ordinary Time, yr B (Quinquagesima)

February 11th, 2018

PARISH CONTACTS

PASTOR
Fr Michal Gitner

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Nancy Sirois

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

Ash Wednesday - this coming Wednesday, February 14th. We begin our journey of penance, prayer and works of charity with **Masses at 9:00 am and 6:30 pm.**

As in previous years, there are Lenten reflections booklets for us to take home and very brief Stations of the Cross meditations pamphlets.

For details of the usual Lenten devotions of the Stations of the Cross and Bitter Lamentations, please see page 3 of the bulletin. Once again, prior to the Stations, there will be a light supper at 6:00 pm in the parish hall. A list for those willing to help in preparing the Lenten Suppers is displayed on the table, under St Joseph's stain glass window.

Our Lenten retreat day will take place on February 24th (snow day – March 3rd) from 9:00 am to 12 noon. An invitation will be send to all the parishes of the Southwest Seniorate – Norwich, Plantstville, Manchester, Union City, Wallingford and New Britain.

Fr Michal

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 pm - Sunday Vigil

Sunday: 9:30 am - Mass for Mike Chernesky (RIP)

Wednesday: 9:00 am Mass for health

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

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said,
“If you wish, you can make me clean.” (Mark 1:22)

If you wish Lord, you can....is this how I pray? If you wish Lord...

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPEL

Jesus proclaimed the coming of the Kingdom, by preaching and by the healings that signalled the Kingdom's mysterious coming in his own person.

Critical studies of the miracle narratives of the four gospels have produced important conclusions. They concern a relatively small number of events – about 30 in all. These narratives offer a distinct contrast to the characteristics of typical ‘wonder stories’. Though part of the Christian message from the beginning, they are constantly associated with a concern that they not give rise to a superficial popular enthusiasm, but be understood as signs of the coming of the Kingdom. We have already recognized the importance of this concern of Mark. His account of the healing of the leper, as Jesus begins his Galilean ministry presses home the point.

What a magnificent encounter with which to introduce the missionary journeys of Jesus. It would be hard to find a more telling symbol of the human miseries that Jesus was sent to overcome, than the plight of the leper who threw himself at the feet of Jesus – ‘If you want to you can cure me’. It was a situation produced in large part by human ignorance and fear, accentuated by traditions of ritual cleanness. Our first reading from Leviticus describes this pathetic condition in graphic detail – obliged to wear torn clothes, with hair dishevelled, and sounding the warning cry, ‘Unclean!’, that ostracized the leper from normal society. What the biblical writings called ‘leprosy’ included not only the dread Hansen’s disease, but many other skin disorders, many of which modern medicine recognizes not to be contagious.

As the Savior is moved with compassion in the presence of this human misery, we are reminded that the Servant of God of the late Isaiah’s writings, who embodied God’s saving designs, by ‘bearing the sorrows’ of the people, is described as assuming the condition of a leper – ‘Despised, familiar with suffering, one from whom we averted our gaze’ (Is 53:3). In fact, Jesus made an astounding gesture of solidarity with the man in his misery. As he healed the leper with his word of prophetic authority, he ‘stretched out his hand and touched him’. In doing so, according to the Law, he had made himself ritually unclean.

Those who claimed the power of healing were not uncommon in the world in which Jesus lived. Being seen as one of their number could seriously compromise the evangelizing mission that had been so tellingly expressed in the healing of the leper. Jesus urged the man, therefore, to go off quietly, fulfilling the Law’s prescription by having the priests verify his cure. But the man who had been cured could not contain himself. So important, however was it to Jesus – that the notoriety his healing had attracted be minimized – that he was forced to keep away from the towns. Nevertheless, the people were still drawn to him – Who is this man?

PARISH CALENDAR

Feb 14th

Ash Wednesday – season of Lent Begins
Masses: 9:00 am & 6:30 pm
The Lord's Kitchen

Feb 24th (snow day – March 3rd)

Lenten Parish Retreat 9:00 am – 12noon

March 4th

Parish annual meeting

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 Michal by Wed: mgitner@gmail.com*

Readers roster

Jan 11th

Feb 18th

9:30am Emily Discepola Joe Pelland

Next Sunday's readings: Genesis 9:8-15, 1 Peter
3:18-22, Mark 1:12-15

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**“Don't compare your life to others
and don't judge them.
You have no idea
what their journey is all about.”**

Seven Rules of Life

NEWS AND EVENTS

Lenten Devotions:

Stations of the Cross

6:00 pm - light supper, 6:30 pm - devotion

February 16th, 23rd

March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd

Bitter Lamentations - 10:45 am

February 18th, 25th, March 4th

Souper Bowl of Caring

A super big “thank you” to everyone who contributed to the Souper Bowl of Caring last weekend. We collected soup and other non-perishable food items, and a total of \$85 was tossed into the “soup pot” - including \$20 from the Men's Society (thank you guys!). The soup pot will remain in the foyer this weekend for those who might have missed seeing it last week. It will be “super” if each of us could add one item to their grocery cart each shopping trip for the food pantry bin. The command “Love thy neighbor” is told to us nine times in the Bible, and there's no greater love than helping our neighbors who are less fortunate and hungry.

District 3 PNU Easter Raffle

The PNU has been supporting our Polish National Catholic Church since its organization in 1908 and with your support will continue to do so. The first prize is \$50.00 cash and the second and third prizes are \$25.00 cash. Tickets are \$1.00 each, 6 for \$5.00 and 13 for \$10.00. Please download the tickets and make as many copies as necessary. Your generous support of this District's fund raiser is greatly appreciated. Checks in payment for the Easter Raffle tickets should be made payable to “District 3 PNU”. Checks and ticket stubs should be returned to District 3 PNU c/o Blessed Trinity Parish, 37 Winthrop Street, Fall River, MA 02721.

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron,
"If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch
which appears to be the sore of leprosy,
he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest,
or to one of the priests among his descendants.
If the man is leprous and unclean,
the priest shall declare him unclean
by reason of the sore on his head.
"The one who bears the sore of leprosy
shall keep his garments rent and his head bare,
and shall muffle his beard;
he shall cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!'
As long as the sore is on him he shall declare
himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean.
He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the
camp."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to the Psalm

**I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill
me with the joy of salvation.**

Second Reading

1 Cor 10:31-11:1

Brothers and sisters,
Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do everything for the glory of God.
Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks
or the church of God,
just as I try to please everyone in every way,
not seeking my own benefit but that of the many,
that they may be saved.
Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

A great prophet has arisen in our midst,
God has visited his people.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

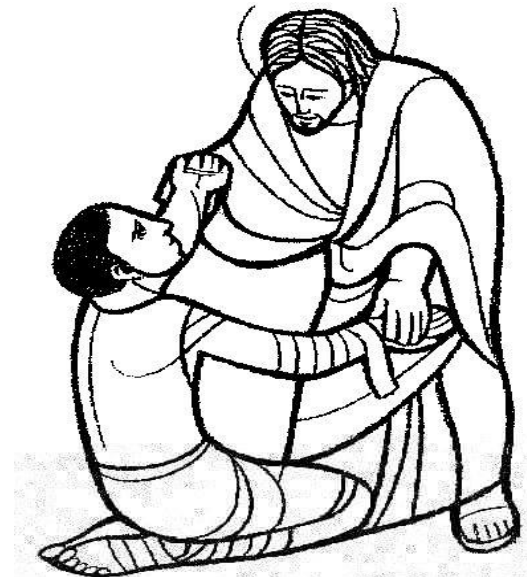
Gospel

Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged
him and said,
"If you wish, you can make me clean."
Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand,
touched him, and said to him,
"I do will it. Be made clean."
The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made
clean.
Then, warning the him sternly, he dismissed him at
once.
He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything,
but go, show yourself to the priest
and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed;
that will be proof for them."
The man went away and began to publicize the
whole matter.
He spread the report abroad
so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town
openly.
He remained outside in deserted places,
and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



December 31st - March 25th issues of the bulletin are sponsored by John & Jean Macionus

If anyone wishes to contribute to the printing cost of the bulletin, please contact Fr Michal.

