

St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



1st Sunday of Lent, yr B

February 18th, 2018

PARISH CONTACTS

PASTOR
Fr Michal Gitner

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Nancy Sirois

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

We have begun Lent in a very special way this year. In between the morning and evening Masses, as a parish we served at The Lord's Kitchen, with again 100+ meals were provided. We had the largest number (12) of volunteers ever. You know who you are, so thank you. However, special tanks to Joe Shandrowski for spearheading the project and Meg Krasko for baking 100 cupcakes and preparing special Valentine's Day treats.

Lenten reflection booklets are still available in the foyer. A good way to use them is to read the daily reflection/meditation and spent a few moments in silence.

Lenten suppers at 6:00 pm followed by the **Stations of the Cross** at 6:30 pm every Friday. A sign-up sheet for anyone willing to prepare s simple suppers in the foyer.

Lenten Day of Recollection is on February 24th.

Daylight Saving Time ends on March 11th. Sunday Mass will return to 9:00am.

Fr Michal

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 pm - Sunday Vigil

Sunday: 9:30 am

Wednesday: 9:00 am Mass for health

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FAITH MATTERS

GOSPEL CHALLENGE

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. (Mark 1: 12)

Discovering who we are called to be is not an easy process. It takes time and it requires distancing ourselves away from that which would distract, overwhelm or engulf us.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPEL

Undertaking an important journey, we must be well prepared. As we set out on our journey to Easter, we must be clear about the destination that gives meaning to this journey.

Today's gospel reading invites us to prepare ourselves in the company of Jesus. As he set out on the journey that was to lead to Easter, he prepared himself by withdrawing to some desert place, and confronting the temptation to avoid the great task that lay ahead of him. This is an astounding moment in the life of Jesus. Have we taken seriously the fact that, in sharing our human experience, Jesus knew the weight of human decisions and the temptations involved – though, of course, he was without sin in the response he made? This testing brought Jesus new strength, and he began to proclaim the Good News of the coming reign of God. In his company, during the coming days, let us recognize the nature of our temptations, and the bonds of selfishness from which we want to be freed as we make our journey to Easter.

Jesus found strength in the certainty with which he looked to the end of his journey. Though what lay ahead would not be easy, he knew that God's goodness and mercy would be victorious in the end – through his generous response to the call of his Father.

The beginning of our journey is a time for personal reflection for each of us. Perhaps, however, we need to ponder more deeply the astonishing fact that Jesus knew temptation, though he was without sin in his response to its challenge.

First Sunday of



PARISH CALENDAR

Feb 24th (snow day - March 3rd)
Lenten Parish Retreat 9:00 am - 12noon

March 4th
Parish annual meeting

March 18th
Meal in the Upper Room

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 18 th	Feb 25 th
9:30am	Joe Pelland	Jean Macionus

Next Sunday's readings:
Genesis 22:1-2,9,10-13, 15-18
Romans 8:31-34 Mark 9:2-10

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**"Worrying won't stop
the bad stuff from happening.
It just stops
you from enjoying the good."**

Author Unknown

NEWS AND EVENTS

Lenten Devotions:

Stations of the Cross

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

February 23rd

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

Bitter Lamentations - 10:45 am

February 18th, 25th, March 4th

Parish Lenten Retreat

February 24th, 9:00 am - 12 noon. The theme: Two kinds of time". Prayer, reflection, sharing. Morning tea/coffee and lunch provided.

Parish Annual Meeting

Please mark March 4th in your calendars. After 9:30 am Mass we will gather as a parish community to assess year 2017, reflect on what has been done, and more importantly, discuss and plan for the year 2018. So, it is very much about sharing our wisdom, talents and hopes as a faith community. Hope to see you on the day.

Meal in the Upper Room

March 18th - 5:00pm

It has become a tradition in our parish for the past 4 years or so that on Passion Sunday, two weeks before Easter we gather on Sunday afternoon and share silent meal, intertwined with Scripture readings. We have been getting around 12+ people but there is always room for more. Please watch for the sign-up sheet and mark your calendars.

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-15

God said to Noah and to his sons with him:
“See, I am now establishing my covenant with you
and your descendants after you
and with every living creature that was with you:
all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals
that were with you and came out of the ark.
I will establish my covenant with you,
that never again shall all bodily creatures be
destroyed
by the waters of a flood;
there shall not be another flood to devastate the
earth.”

God added:
“This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come,
of the covenant between me and you
and every living creature with you:
I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign
of the covenant between me and the earth.
When I bring clouds over the earth,
and the bow appears in the clouds,
I will recall the covenant I have made
between me and you and all living beings,
so that the waters shall never again become a flood
to destroy all mortal beings.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Response to the Psalm

**Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those
who keep your covenant.**

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

Beloved:
Christ suffered for sins once,
the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous,
that he might lead you to God.
Put to death in the flesh,
he was brought to life in the Spirit.
In it he also went to preach to the spirits in prison,
who had once been disobedient
while God patiently waited in the days of Noah
during the building of the ark,
in which a few persons, eight in all,
were saved through water.

This prefigured baptism, which saves you now.
It is not a removal of dirt from the body
but an appeal to God for a clear conscience,
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
who has gone into heaven
and is at the right hand of God,
with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth from the mouth
of God.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

Gospel

Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,
and he remained in the desert for forty days,
tempted by Satan.
He was among wild beasts,
and the angels ministered to him.
After John had been arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of
God:
“This is the time of fulfillment.
The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

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.

