

# St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent, yr B

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## PARISH CONTACTS

*PASTOR*  
Fr Michal Gitner

*PARISH CHAIRPERSON*  
Nancy Sirois

*FINANCE SECRETARY*  
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

Last Wednesday, St Joseph's hosted the Stratford Clergy Association meeting with the new Mayor of Stratford, Laura Hoydick, in attendance. It was interesting to listen to the Mayor about her vision for Stratford, her hopes and dreams. Very much like all of us starting something new. We wish Madame Mayor every success.

There is hope on my part that the new Parish Hymnal will be accepted favorably, used well (please be not afraid to sing) and taken care of. It was a tedious team effort, however special thanks go to Val Chernesky for typing, formatting and re-formatting etc. the hymns.

Please remember, the **Lenten suppers** at 6:00 pm followed by the **Stations of the Cross** at 6:30 pm every Friday. We still need a few volunteers to prepare a simple meal. Part of Lenten observance is almsgiving (charity). Envelopes to support the Lord's Kitchen are at the back of the church and in the pews.

**Daylight Saving Time ends on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Sunday Mass will return to 9:00am.**

Fr Michal

## MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday:** 5:00 pm - Sunday Vigil

**Sunday:** 9:30 am - for the souls of Richard Lill, Sr. & Rachel Laufer

**Wednesday:** 9:00 am Mass for health

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# FAITH MATTERS

## GOSPEL CHALLENGE

'As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.' (Mk 9:9-10)

Do I wonder what does rising from the dead mean? Do I believe it's happening here and now?

### SOME THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPEL

The destination of our Lenten journey is clearly to be seen in today's readings: the mystery of the Cross, in which the father 'did not spare his own Son', and the glory which was to be the Risen Christ's in his final triumph, glimpsed on the mountain.

The testing of Abraham is one of the masterpieces of the Old Testament. The story echoes a brutal age in which the sacrifice of children was not uncommon – in fact, the people of the old Israel were taught to sacrifice an animal in place of their offspring, to turn them away from this horrendous temptation.

But the real point of the story, made so wonderfully, is the absolute trust that is asked of Abraham, making him the model of all true believers. To the people of Abraham's world there was nothing more important in life than descendants who would remember and honor them. Long after the age when he could expect a child, God gave Abraham a son. If he gives up Isaac, he has nothing left but his trust in God. That trust is rewarded – those who will call him their father will be countless; all the peoples of the earth will be blessed in his name – through the salvation brought by the Cross of Christ.

This heart-rending story of the testing of a father's love is linked in today's liturgy with the basic truth of our Christian faith, proclaimed by St Paul, in the second reading. The eternal Father, who for our sake 'did not spare his own Son', will not refuse anything to his people in their need.

The promise made to Abraham was to be fulfilled in the victory of the Savior's resurrection. As he undertakes the journey towards the Cross and its glorious aftermath, he gives the chosen three among his followers a glimpse of the triumph in which he would fulfil the promise of the Law (Moses) and realize all the hopes of the prophets (Elijah). Again, the Father's love shines through: 'This is my beloved Son – listen to him!'

It was a long journey from Abraham's testing to the final fulfilment of God's promises. We are privileged that the route our journey must take is so clearly marked out for us.



*'This is my beloved Son – listen to him!'*

## PARISH CALENDAR

### March 4<sup>th</sup>

Parish annual meeting

### March 18<sup>th</sup>

Parish Board meeting  
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 25 <sup>th</sup>	March 4 <sup>th</sup>	
9:30am	Jean Macionus	Dee Smith	
Next Sunday's readings:	Ex 20:1-1, Cor 1:22-25, Jn 2:13-25		1

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**“Learning lessons does not end.  
There's no part of life  
that doesn't contain it's lessons.  
If you're alive,  
that means there are still lessons to be  
learned.”**

Rules for Being Human

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Lenten Devotions:

#### **Stations of the Cross**

6:00 pm - light supper, 6:30 pm - devotion  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### **Bitter Lamentations - 10:45 am**

February 25<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup>

#### **Parish Annual Meeting**

Please mark March 4<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> - 4:30pm

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.

#### **Palm Crosses**

Once again, we will be selling Palm Crosses in our parish. Crosses will be made by a local distributor and available for \$12.00. Crosses are 24 " tall - adorned with a lily and bow. Delivery will be on or about March 18. Payment due at time of order. Make checks payable to St. Joseph Church  
Place your order with Meg Krasko, Jean Macionus or Joe/Jane Pelland

## Sunday Readings

### First Reading Genesis 22:1-2,9a, 10-13, 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am!" he replied. Then God said:

"Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah.

There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you."

When they came to the place of which God had told him,

Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it.

Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son.

But the LORD's messenger called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I am!" he answered.

"Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger.

"Do not do the least thing to him.

I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son.

Again the LORD's messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing - all this because you obeyed my command."

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.**

### Responsorial Psalm

**I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.**

### Second Reading Rom 8:31b-34

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen on

ones? It is God who acquits us, who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died—or, rather, was raised—who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

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

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:

This is my beloved Son, listen to him.

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

### Gospel

**Mark 9:2-10**

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves.

And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.

Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,

"Rabbi, it is good that we are here!

Let us make three tents:

one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified.

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them;

from the cloud came a voice,

"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



