

# St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Ordinary Time, yr B (Sexagesima)

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## PARISH CONTACTS

PASTOR  
Fr Michal Gitner

PARISH CHAIRPERSON  
Nancy Sirois

FINANCE SECRETARY  
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

So, Patriots or Eagles? Today is the big one. Someone will win, someone will lose. Some will win big and some will lose big. But what about winning regardless which team you support and still enjoy the game, party, etc? It is called **Souper Bowl of Caring** and we all can participate. Please read the 'spiel' on page 3 of the bulletin – those are very interesting statistics.

There is a saying: *"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."* What an opportunity!!!

Ash Wednesday in 10 days. Again, there will be Lenten reflections booklets for us to take home and very brief Stations of the Cross meditations pamphlets. A list for those willing to help in preparing Lenten Suppers will be out next week for each Friday during Lent and we already have dates for our Lenten retreat day – February 24<sup>th</sup>, snow day – March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please stay tuned in.

Fr Michal

## MASS SCHEDULE

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

**Sunday:** 9:30 am

**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](http://www.stjosephsofstratford.org)

## FAITH MATTERS

### GOSPEL CHALLENGE

“Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed”. (Mark 1:22)

Have you ever wondered why did Jesus prayed so much and so often? Not to lose focus of what really matters in life, not to lose connection with His Heavenly Father?

If Jesus needed prayer so much, then what about me?

### SOME THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPEL

Concluding the introductory section of Mark’s gospel, today’s reading further clarifies the nature of the mission Jesus means to share with his disciples. As we have seen, the healings and deliverance performed by Jesus are part of his preaching of the Kingdom, signs that God will triumph over all the forces of evil in the world. This is brought out by Mark, as he recalls and contrasts two moments of healing.

There are practically no details in the gospels of the family circumstances of the apostles. The account of the curing of Peter’s mother-in-law is therefore remarkable. It is generally accepted that Mark composed his gospel in Rome about the time of Peter’s martyrdom. If this is true, Peter’s telling of the story of Jesus would have been an important source of his material. In this incident we may well hear echoes of Peter’s voice describing a sequence of events. Peter brings Jesus from the synagogue to his home for a meal; they are surprised to find the old lady ill with fever; Jesus heals her instantly by taking her hand and helping her up; fully recovered she gives herself to the service of the Lord.

As we have seen, ‘Who is this man?’ is the subtext of Mark’s narrative. There is no doubt that Jesus worked miracles. Miracles, as we all know, have an unhealthy fascination for many people. Mark is concerned that his readers are not carried away by the fact that Jesus was a wonder worker. They must understand that the miracles of Jesus were signs inviting faith in the coming of God’s salvation into the world. True faith in the Saviour will come, in the end, to understand that the greatest wonder in the life of Jesus of Nazareth was the salvation he brought to the world as its crucified Saviour. Thus, as Mark’s narrative continues, we hear echoes of how Peter began to learn this lesson at the end of the eventful Sabbath Mark has described.

By evening, word had spread that there is a miracle worker in town. People came crowding around Peter’s door, bringing their sick and ‘possessed’ for healing. Jesus responded to their appeals; but in his silencing of the ‘devils who knew who he was’ we are reminded that these people still have to learn who he is. In the morning there was consternation when Peter and his companions find that Jesus was nowhere to be found. ‘Everyone is looking for you’, they protest, disappointed that he has not made the most of this instant notoriety. Later they will recognise that Jesus was concerned to lead the people beyond the wonders he worked to a renewed faith in the coming of God’s Kingdom – the great theme of the solitary prayer he shared with his Father. This could only be achieved by his preaching the message of the Kingdom. And so the ministry he was about to undertake ‘all through Galilee’ would combine his ‘preaching’ and his ‘casting out devils’.

## PARISH CALENDAR

**Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>**

Souper Bowl of Caring and Super Bowl party

**Feb 14<sup>th</sup>**

Ash Wednesday – season of Lent Begins

Masses: 9:00 am & 6:30 pm

The Lord's Kitchen

**March 4<sup>th</sup>**

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 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 11<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Dee Smith Emily Discepolo

Next Sunday's readings: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46, 1  
Cor 10:31-11:1, Mark 1:40-45

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**"Growth is painful.  
Change is painful.  
but nothing is as painful  
as staying stuck somewhere  
you don't belong."**

Author Unknown

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

*"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."*

**This weekend, St. Joseph's is taking part in the "Souper Bowl of Caring." Parishioners are asked to remember our hungry neighbors by donating cans of soup and other non-perishable food to the food pantry. Monetary donations in the "soup pot" will be used to purchase gift cards to help those in need buy meat, dairy items, baby food, etc.**

Did you know? Americans will consume 1.25 billion chicken wings this weekend. One in seven (or 48 million) will order takeout or have food delivered to them on game day. Sixty percent of takeout orders will be pizza. While wings and pizza are the two most popular Super Bowl snacks, chips are close behind with an expected 11 million pounds of chips to be consumed, as well as an estimated 4 million pounds of pretzels and 2.5 million pounds of nuts.

**Now, did you know? Nearly half a million Connecticut residents struggle with hunger. These are people from all walks of life – children, working parents, seniors or people living with disabilities. They are our neighbors, and they need our help.**

### SUPER BOWL SOCIAL – Patriots vs Eagles

Regardless which team you support or don't, join the party!

SUNDAY, February 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm Catered food!

Super Bowl Board - \$5.00/space

See Joe, John or Rob

### 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

Job 7:1-4,6-7

Job spoke, saying:  
Is not man's life on earth a drudgery?  
Are not his days those of hirelings?  
He is a slave who longs for the shade,  
a hireling who waits for his wages.  
So I have been assigned months of misery,  
and troubled nights have been allotted to me.  
If in bed I say, "When shall I arise?"  
then the night drags on;  
I am filled with restlessness until the dawn.  
My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle;  
they come to an end without hope.  
Remember that my life is like the wind;  
I shall not see happiness again."

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

### Response to the Psalm

**Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.**

### Second Reading

1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23

Brothers and sisters:  
If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast,  
for an obligation has been imposed on me,  
and woe to me if I do not preach it!  
If I do so willingly, I have a recompense,  
but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a  
stewardship.  
What then is my recompense?  
That, when I preach,  
I offer the gospel free of charge  
so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

Although I am free in regard to all,  
I have made myself a slave to all  
so as to win over as many as possible.  
To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak.  
I have become all things to all, to save at least some.  
All this I do for the sake of the gospel,  
so that I too may have a share in it.

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

### Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Christ took away our infirmities  
and bore our diseases.

### Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

### Gospel

Mark 1:29 - 39

On leaving the synagogue  
Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with  
James and John.  
Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever.  
They immediately told him about her.  
He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up.  
Then the fever left her and she waited on them.  
When it was evening, after sunset,  
they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by  
demons.  
The whole town was gathered at the door.  
He cured many who were sick with various diseases,  
and he drove out many demons,  
not permitting them to speak because they knew him.  
Rising very early before dawn, he left  
and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed.  
Simon and those who were with him pursued him  
and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you."  
He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages  
that I may preach there also.  
For this purpose have I come."  
So he went into their synagogues,  
preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole  
of Galilee.

### The Gospel of the Lord.

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



December 31<sup>st</sup> - March 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

