

St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



5th Sunday of Easter, Year B

April 29th, 2018

PARISH CONTACTS

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Nancy Sirois

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

In today's Gospel passage Jesus speaks to his disciples of being the vine, the Father being the vine grower, and we being the branches. As branches we are called to bear much fruit, but only if we remain on the vine within Jesus. Apart from Jesus we can bear no fruit, but everyone who does bear fruit the Father will prune so that they bear more fruit. This is a powerful image especially during this time of year as our gardens bloom in the warm days of spring. But beyond the imagery what message can we draw from this passage? What fruits are we called to bear, and what does pruning entail?

A good description of fruit is that it is refreshing and nourishing. Don't forget the seeds! I think that is an apt description of what Jesus is talking about, the fruits of the Holy Spirit which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. If we were to bear these fruits our lives would be refreshed and nourished, and like seeds they would be the source of new life within us. But if our lives are over committed, too much tech clamoring for our attention, too little time for prayer and reflection, the fruit cannot grow. Today let us pray for the Father to guide us to prune back these distractions so that we may bear much fruit.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Tom

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 pm - Sunday Vigil **Sunday:** 9:00 am

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www.stjosephsofstratford.org

GOSPEL CHALLENGE

Remain in me as I remain in you. (John 15:4 NABRE)

In Church as we approach the sanctuary we bow to reverence the Blessed Sacrament, the true presence of Christ, reserved in the Tabernacle. From this verse we see that Christ remains in each one of us, we are in a sense living Tabernacles. In what ways do we show our respect to Christ's presence in our family members, friends, co-workers, ourselves?



Love. Grow. Serve.

PARISH CALENDAR

May

Polish supper – To Be Determined

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 Wednesday: trpwalsh@gmail.com*

READERS ROSTER

<u>April 29th</u>	<u>May 6th</u>	<u>May 13th</u>
Dee Smith	Jean Macionus	Joe Pelland

Next Sunday's readings: Acts 10:25-26; 34-35, 44-48; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Half an hour's meditation each day is essential, except when you are busy. Then a full hour is needed.

Saint Francis de Sales

NEWS AND EVENT

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+

Please see Fr. Tom for tickets for a chance to win a \$500 VISA gift card. Two cards will be awarded. The tickets are \$5.00 each or 3/\$10.00. The drawing will take place at Convo.

Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat 2018

The retreat will be held at Camp Howe in Goshen, MA from August 19-23, 2018. Please see Fr. Tom for registration and health forms, or email RobNem21@aol.com. The cost is \$150 per person.

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-New Haven hospital.

April 29th – July 29th issues of the bulletin are sponsored by Carla Misurale. If anyone wishes to contribute to the printing cost of the bulletin, please contact Fr. Tom.

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Acts 9:26-31

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem, and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord. He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. And when the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him on his way to Tarsus. The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

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

Responsorial Psalm

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

Second Reading

1 John 3:18-24

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia

Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit.

Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel

John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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

