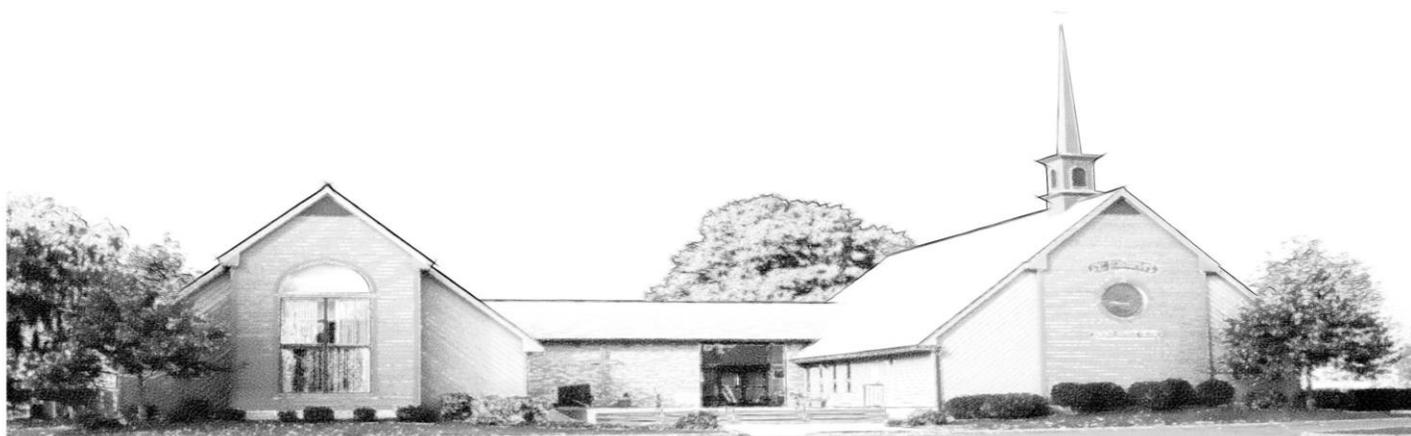


St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



4th Sunday of Easter, Year B

April 22nd, 2018

PARISH CONTACTS

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Nancy Sirois

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. So what does that mean for us as individuals, and as a faith community? One definition given for a shepherd is someone who guides or directs in a particular direction. In today's gospel passage Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd, guiding or directing his own. Ultimately, it is up to us to decide who we will take direction from. Joshua, upon taking possession of the land of Canaan, clearly framed this decision for the Israelites.

"If it is displeasing to you to serve the Lord, choose today whom you will serve, As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15 NABRE

Jesus declares that as the Good Shepherd he came to guide us so that we may have life and have it more abundantly. The decision seems clear.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Tom

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 pm - Sunday Vigil

Sunday: 9:00 am

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

I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. (John 10:10 NABRE)

When you think of living an abundant life what comes to mind? An abundance of possessions? An abundance of talent? An abundance of fame? What do you imagine Christ was speaking of when he said that he came that we might have life and have it more abundantly? Can you identify any barriers in your life to living abundantly as Christ has promised us?

Help Our Neighbors While Spring Cleaning

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:35-40 NABRE

It may not feel like it, but the calendar says it's Spring. And as you're cleaning your closets, please remember our less fortunate neighbors who need your help! If you have clothes, shoes, household linens (sheets, towels, etc.) you won't be using, please bring them here to St. Joseph's to donate to the "clothes closet" at Blessed Sacrament Church. Your donations will be given a new life and greatly appreciated by those in need.

And remember you can bring in donations of non-perishable items any time during the month. We commonly think of "feeding the hungry" at holiday time, and as a result, food banks face their greatest need between January and August.

Contributed by Jane Pelland

PARISH CALENDAR

April 22nd

Parish Board meeting - 10:15 am

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

Next Sunday's readings:

Acts 9:26-31

1 John 3:18-24

John 15:1-8

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Dance like nobody's watching; love like you've never been hurt. Sing like nobody's listening; live like it's heaven on earth."

Mark Twain

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+

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 hospital.

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Acts 4:8-12

Peter, filled with the holy Spirit, said:
“Leaders of the people and elders: If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a cripple, namely, by what means he was saved, then all of you and all the people of Israel should know that it was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead; in his name this man stands before you healed. He is ‘the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.’ There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved.”

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

Responsorial Psalm

The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-2

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel

John 10:11-18

Jesus said:

“I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father.”

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

