

St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



2nd Sunday, Ordinary Time, yr B

January 14th, 2018

PARISH CONTACTS

PASTOR
Fr Michal Gitner

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Nancy Sirois

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you to the Ladies Society for last Sunday's wonderful Christmas brunch. As always, the spread of food was quite amazing. Santa seems to be like a good wine – the older he grows, the better he performs! The best news though is the last though. We collected \$ 195.00 for The Lord's Kitchen from \$5 donations and \$207.00 for the food pantry. This is simple remarkable.

New Year presents us with new challenges. Some of them carried on from 2017. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the siding on the north side of the church building was repaired, the chimney and some of the boards were replaced. All cracks and holes were filled in with silicon. Once the weather gets warmer, everything will be stained, matching the existing color. The cost of that \$2,752.00.

Obviously, we were all concerned what's happening with the church furnace with the challenges we faced over the last two weekends. A detailed assessment of the problem, and plan of action, are spelled out on page 3. The bottom line though is the fact that many the issues we are dealing with now is the lack of a preventative maintenance over the years. Hopefully, we are getting on top of it.

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

He said to them, "Come, and you will see" (John 1: 38)

God doesn't make a lot of noise when He wants our attention but He is transmitting a lot more clearly than we realize, it's just that there's a lot of interference, from other sources, that drowns out the broadcast.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPEL

After his baptism in the Jordan, Jesus set out on his great mission. Throughout this year, we follow the course of his mission in readings from the gospel of Mark. The gospel readings of this Sunday (from John) and next Sunday (from Mark) invite us to set out on this journey of discovery as disciples of the Lord. Just as he called the first disciples, the Savior has a personal call for each one of us to become his 'disciple'. The recovery of the long neglected theme of 'discipleship' is one of the signs of new vitality on today's Church. The word, 'disciple', occurs many times in the New Testament. Why was it so important for the first Christians? Discipleship, the privileged relationship one can have with a great and inspiring leader, has been an important factor in the shaping of human history. The leader's vision and commitment call forth admiration and confidence – the lives of their followers are changed, and they face life with a new inspiration and hope. Clearly, those who made up the communities of the New Testament experienced this kind of relationship with the Risen Lord. Today's reading from John's gospel helps us to understand how we too can have this kind of relationship with the Savior.

Many factors are at work, as disciples come to meet and appreciate their leader. Those who met the Savior in today's reading, we are told, have been 'disciples' of John the Baptist. It is his selfless witness that leads them to 'follow' Jesus. In the gospel story, of course, the Baptist represents the faith and expectations of the Old Testament. Knowledge of the great themes of the old Israel's hopes is fundamental if we are to understand the message and vision of the Savior. Closer to home, it is often unselfish expressions of faith, hope and love on the part of other members of a vital Christian community that are important in our coming to know the Savior.

It is important that we seek that incomparable intimacy with the Savior that is our birthright through baptism – not relating to him as a remote figure, but confidently sharing our lives, in all their complex tangles, with him. Today's story of the two disciples encourages this trust and confidence. Encouraged by the Baptist, they approached Jesus; he gave them a warm welcome – 'Come and see'; and they spent the rest of the day with him.

As disciples of inspiring leaders, many men and women have had the experience of finding themselves, and giving a meaning to their lives. We can look forward to that same experience, if we accept the Lord's invitation to share our lives with him. Today's reading reminds us that Peter found his true self in the new name Jesus gave him. The Scriptures reflect the fact that for many cultures a person's name points to the mysterious identity of each person. For the wisdom of Christian faith, this personal identity has its origin in the eternal designs of God. Samuel was called by name. Simon's unique place in the plan of God was declared in the new name Jesus gave him. He still had much to learn, but the path that was to lead to his eternal glory had been made clear.

PARISH CALENDAR

Jan 21st

Parish Board meeting

Feb 14th

The Lord's Kitchen

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 14th Jan 21st

9:30am Emily Discepola Charlie Vasas

Next Sunday's readings: Jonah 3:1-5,10
1 Cor 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.
To keep our faces toward change
and behave like free spirits
in the presence of fate
is strength undefeatable."

Helen Keller

NEWS AND EVENTS

THE REV DR MARTIN LUTHER KING SERVICE

this Sunday, January 14th at 3:00pm at First Baptist Church, 1301 Stratford Ave, Stratford

FOOD PANTRY AND CLOTHS

Please remember that items for the food pantry, as well as clean, usable clothing, can be brought in at any time during the month for delivery to Blessed Sacrament and the South End Community Center.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. . . Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:35-36, 40)

ST. MARK SCHOOL IN STRATFORD is hosting an Open House on Sunday, January 28th from 10:00am to 1:00pm for grades Prek3 through 8th. They are located at [500 Wigwam Lane](#). All families are invited to tour St. Mark school, meet with faculty and students, and enjoy some refreshments while learning more about the St. Mark difference. For more information please call [203-375-4291](tel:203-375-4291) or visit their website at www.stmarkschool.org.

PARISH DUES 2017

Please try to meet the obligation of paying the dues by the end of the year. Contact Fr Michal with the payment, which is \$108.00 for a single person and \$216.00 per family.

ENCON recommendation on church furnace

1. Check the flame rectification to be certain we have a strong signal. Leading cause of nuisance lock outs.
2. Research updating the controller that allows better "Visibility" into the flame proving safety. See attached ticket and recommendation
3. Ascertain if the Church is being feed with high or low pressure gas
4. Consider installing a manual reset low pressure switch to see if flame failure is connected to poor gas pressure. If the Church is on low pressure gas, the Lordship area is notorious for low pressure problems and frozen water in gas mains.

Sunday Readings

First Reading

1 Sam 3:3-10,19

Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was. The LORD called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am." Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me."
"I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep. Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli.
"Here I am," he said. "You called me." But Eli answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep."
At that time Samuel was not familiar with the LORD, because the LORD had not revealed anything to him as yet. The LORD called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me."
Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."
When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening."
Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect.

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

Response to the Psalm

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Second Reading

1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20

Brothers and sisters:
The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body;
God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God,

and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

We have found the Messiah:
Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel

John 1:35-42

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them,
"What are you looking for?"
They said to him, "Rabbi" — which translated means Teacher —, "where are you staying?"
He said to them, "Come, and you will see."
So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" — which is translated Christ —.
Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" — which is translated Peter.

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.

