

St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



4th Sunday, Ordinary Time, yr B (Septuagesima)

January 28th, 2018

PARISH CONTACTS

PASTOR
Fr Michal Gitner

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Nancy Sirois

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

It seems that in recent weeks the front page has become a church maintenance information section. It is so because according to the PNCC Constitution the church building, rectory and cemetery are owned by the people. In other words, those entities need to be treated like our homes.

We are getting on top of the furnace/boiler issues. Thank you to Paul L. and Joe P. for meeting up with ENCON technician, who explained to us the plan of action to get the system in by changing some pumps, installing a gas valve and replacing an outdated burner.

We have problem with so called 'panic bar' on the front door. The part needs to be ordered and installed by a locksmith. Unfortunately, it can't be bought on Amazon Prime and it is taking longer than expected.

On the positive note – there is a maintenance folder now in the church office, with all the work done, and also contact numbers. So, in case if I am gone tomorrow, look up for that folder.

Please remember 'Souper Bowl of Caring' and yes, the annual Super Bowl party next Sunday. Let's do our best to enjoy both.

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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www.stjosephsofstratford.org

FAITH MATTERS

GOSPEL CHALLENGE

“The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.”
(Mk 1:22)

It is not the office one holds that gives the authority admired by people. It is about the conduct.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPEL

The gospel reading of last Sunday showed us Mark's skill as a narrator – capturing so much with a few words. He shows this same skill in today's continuation of his gospel's introductory passage. As Jesus spends the Sabbath with the disciples he has invited to join him, the events of the day point to significant characteristics of the ministry Jesus is to undertake.

Capernaum, the hometown of Simon Peter, was to become the headquarters of this Galilean ministry. That Jesus regularly took part in the worship of the synagogue had great significance. He had no intention of setting aside the authentic traditions of old Israel; he came to renew them and bring the realization of all that they foreshadowed. In doing this he identified with the role of Israel's prophets, as expressed in the first reading from Deuteronomy - a text looked upon as messianic in the time of Jesus. The people recognized that the teaching of the scribes – with their repetitious appeal to the authority of other interpreters of the Law – contrasted with the teaching of Jesus. In the tradition of the prophets, his teaching had a ring of authority, as it gave expression to Jesus' own convictions. Already there is intimated a contrast and conflict that is to shape the career of the Savior.

The authority that so impresses the people is expressed, not only in word, but also in action. For the conflict that is to shape the life of Jesus is far more than a squabble about the interpretation of the Law. Sent by the Father as the world's Savior, he must do battle with the forces of darkness and evil in the world. In the culture of the times, in which physical and mental illness were common associated with the present of 'unclean spirits', Jesus gives expression to his authority by delivering those under the influence of the forces of evil. He delivers the man in the synagogue with a simple word of authority.

Mark emphasizes the reaction of the people to this remarkable display of prophetic authority: 'Here is a teaching that is new, and with authority behind it'. Thus, in describing this eventful Sabbath, Mark alerts us to a subtext that will be present in his telling of the story of Jesus' ministry: Who is this man? Mark's gospel will seek to lead the reader beyond inadequate and superficial views of the Savior, reflecting the challenge Jesus faced as he presented himself to his audiences. Though filled with vivid expectations of a messianic figure, the hopes of the people were crude and nationalistic. Jesus had to lead his followers to understand that his saving mission went far beyond these crude expectations. He would fulfil the hopes of Israel's faith by showing himself triumphant over all the forces of evil. In a dialogue with demons who recognize the true role of Jesus, Mark introduces a device he will use more than once to point to the answer that must be given to the question that is his subtext.

PARISH CALENDAR

Jan 21st

Parish Board meeting

Feb 3rd/4th

Souper Bowl of Caring and Super Bowl party

Feb 14th

Ash Wednesday – season of Lent Begins

Masses: 9:00 am & 6:30 pm

The Lord's Kitchen

March 4th

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 28th

Feb 4th

9:30am Nancy Sirois

Next Sunday's readings: Job 7:1-4,6-7; 1 Cor
9:16-19,22-24; Mark 1:29-39

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**"People will throw stones at you.
Don't throw them back.
Collect them all
and build an empire."**

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."

On February 3 and 4, the weekend of Super Bowl LII, St. Joseph's will participate 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. Your monetary donation in the "soup pot" will be used to purchase gift cards to help those in need buy meat, dairy items, baby food, etc.

It is estimated Americans will eat more than 33 million pounds of treats and more than \$50 million worth of food on Super Bowl Sunday, while 41 million others will struggle with hunger, including 13 million children.

SUPER BOWL SOCIAL – Patriots vs Eagles

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

SUNDAY, February 4th @ 6pm Catered food!

Super Bowl Board - \$5.00/space

See Joe, John or Rob

LORDSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH, 179 Prospect Drive, Stratford, hosts a Valentine's Day Roast Beef Dinner on February 10, 2018, at 6 p.m. Cost is \$18 per adult; \$12 per senior (62 and over). Advance reservations required before February 9. Contact 203-377-6568 or lordshipchurch@sbcglobal.net to reserve and for more information

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 Deuteronomy 18:15 - 20

Moses spoke to all the people, saying:
"A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you
from among your own kin;
to him you shall listen.
This is exactly what you requested of the LORD, your God, at Horeb
on the day of the assembly, when you said,
'Let us not again hear the voice of the LORD, our God,
nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.'
And the LORD said to me, 'This was well said.
I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among
their kin, and will put my words into his mouth;
he shall tell them all that I command him.
Whoever will not listen to my words which he speaks in
my name, I myself will make him answer for it.
But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name
an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak,
or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.'"

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

Response to the Psalm

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading 1 Cor 7:32 - 35

Brothers and sisters:
I should like you to be free of anxieties.
An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord,
how he may please the Lord.
But a married man is anxious about the things of the world,
how he may please his wife, and he is divided.
An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord,
so that she may be holy in both body and spirit.
A married woman, on the other hand,
is anxious about the things of the world,
how she may please her husband.
I am telling you this for your own benefit,
not to impose a restraint upon you,
but for the sake of propriety
and adherence to the Lord without distraction.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light;
on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death,
light has arisen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel

Mark 1:21 - 28

Then they came to Capernaum,
and on the sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught.
The people were astonished at his teaching,
for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.
In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit;
he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?
Have you come to destroy us?
I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"
Jesus rebuked him and said,
"Quiet! Come out of him!"
The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry
came out of him.
All were amazed and asked one another,
"What is this?
A new teaching with authority.
He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him."
His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole
region of Galilee.

**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.

