

St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



4th Sunday of Lent, yr B

Solemnity of the institution of the PNCC

March 11th, 2018

PARISH CONTACTS

PASTOR
Fr Michal Gitner

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Nancy Sirois

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

Welcome back to 9:00 am Mass. Obviously, we are tired after the last snow storm and would love the extra hour but perhaps it is God way of saying to us that there is no resurrection without a sacrifice.

Last chance to attend the Stations of the Cross on Friday, which should be easier for us with the longer days. Lenten supper prior to the devotion at 6:00 pm.

Envelopes to support the Lord's Kitchen are at the back of the church and in the pews. Please use them by making a donation and placing it in the collection basket.

Today is out last chance to sign up for the Meal in the Upper Room, an event that became part of our Lenten journey for the past 4 years. It is open to parishioners and guests, there is no charge. All that is required is silence and reverence as we eat the meal and listen to Scripture passages.

Fr Michal

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 pm - Sunday Vigil

Sunday: 9:00 am

Wednesday: 9:00 am Mass for health

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FAITH MATTERS

GOSPEL CHALLENGE

'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.' (John 15:5)

Could Jesus be any clearer what our relationship with Him should be like?

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS

The Church is the Body of Christ, with Christ as the Head and all baptized people as Her members. The Church is a community of people who practice what Christ taught us, so that we can receive salvation. It is people who believe in Jesus Christ and His teachings. These people are baptized and joined together because of what they believe. The part of the Catholic Church to which we belong is the Polish National Catholic Church. Our Church was organized on March 14, 1897 in Scranton, Pennsylvania by Father Francis Hodur and a group of Polish people.

Today we commemorate the 121st anniversary of the organization of the Polish National Catholic Church by then Fr Francis Hodur. While we know about its democratic nature, it is fitting to remind ourselves her basic theological and spiritual principles. Below some excerpts from Bp Hodur's writings (please remember that he lived in a different era, hence the usage of mankind and man. If written today, it would have most probably read humanity or humankind and people or a person).

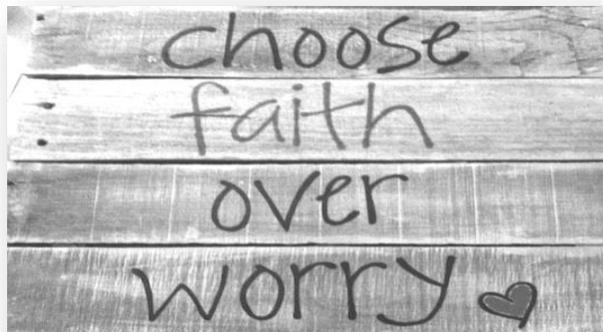
'The principles of the Polish National Catholic Church are an expression of the convictions of those who believe that the salvation of mankind and their personal relationship to God cannot be the object of bargaining and cannot be forced upon mankind but must flow from the free conscience of man.

The Polish National Catholic Church teaches and professes all the religious truths which God revealed, Jesus Christ proclaimed, and the Apostles and their successors established as the foundation of the Christian Catholic Faith, namely: that God created the world; that man needs for his perfection, happiness and salvation God's gift of divine grace; that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world; that the human soul is immortal; and that through the Holy Spirit God governs the Church and enables it to regenerate and convert human society and to unite it under one Shepherd, Christ Jesus our Lord. In this manner the kingdom of God on earth is realized.'

The religious principle of the Polish National Catholic Church is her teaching that the Church cannot save man without his sincere, personal cooperation with God. The Church teaches that the wisdom of God sanctifies and helps man in the fulfillment of his mission and the attainment of his goal on earth. A living faith in God and good works flowing from that faith will save man...'

The following norms are expected to be followed by the members of the PNCC:

1. To obey and accept what Christ taught us
2. To give glory to God by living a good (morally and ethically) life
3. To support the work of the Church
4. To help bring others into the church.



PARISH CALENDAR

March 18th

Parish Board meeting
Meal in the Upper Room - 4:30 pm

March 28th

The Lord's Kitchen - 5:00 pm

EASTERN DIOCESE

March 27th

Mass of the Holy Chrism, Woonsocket, RI

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

	March 11 th	March 18 th
9:00am	Joe Pelland	Dee Smith

Next Sunday's readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34,
Hebrews 5:7-9, John 12:20-33

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"You will learn lessons.
You are enrolled in
a full time informal school
called "life"."

Rules for Being Human

NEWS AND EVENTS

Stations of the Cross

6:00 pm - light supper, 6:30 pm - devotion
March 16th, 23rd

HOLY WEEK

Holy Thursday - March 29th

6:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
(followed by a meatless potluck)

Good Friday - March 30th

10:00am Stations of the Cross

6:00 pm Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's
Passion

Holy Saturday - March 31st

10:00 am blessing the Easter food baskets

7:00 pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday - April 1st

9:00 am - Mass of the Resurrection

Palm Crosses

Once again, we will be selling Palm Crosses in our parish. Crosses will be made by a local distributor and available for \$12.00. Crosses are 24 " tall - adorned with a lily and bow. Delivery will be on or about March 18. Payment due at time of order. Make checks payable to St. Joseph Church
Place your order with Meg Krasko, Jean Macionus or Joe/Jane Pelland

St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner

at Lordship Community Church. All-you-can-eat on Saturday, March 17, 2018, at 6 p.m. The cost is \$15 per adult, and \$12 per senior (62 and over). Contact [203-377-6568](tel:203-377-6568) for information and to reserve before March 16.

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Wisdom 5:2-5

Seeing this, the wicked shall be shake with dreadful fear, and be amazed at the unexpected salvation. They shall say among themselves, rueful and groaning through anguish of spirit: "This is the one whom once we held as a laughing stock and as a type for mockery, fools that we were! His life we accounted madness, and death dishonored. See how he is accounted among the heavenly beings; how his lot is with the holy ones!

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

Response to the Psalm

I rejoice when I hear them say: "Let us go to the house of the Lord".

Second Reading

1 Timothy 4:1-5

Now the Spirit explicitly says that in the last times some will turn away from the faith by paying attention to deceitful spirits and demonic instruction through the hypocrisy of liars with branded consciences. They forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected when received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the invocation of God in prayer.

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

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

In you, o Lord, I put my trust: let me never be put to shame; In Your justice save me.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

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 everyone 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**

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.

