

St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



5th Sunday of Lent, Yr B

Passion Sunday

March 18th, 2018

PARISH CONTACTS

PASTOR
Fr Michal Gitner

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Nancy Sirois

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

Today, the fifth Sunday of Lent was known as Passion Sunday. It marked the beginning of a two-week-long period known as Passiontide, which is still observed by various Protestant denominations and by some more traditional Catholics, like the PNCC. To mark the beginning of Passiontide, we cover the crosses and statues and use the Preface of the Passion of the Lord.

Today also, we gather at the Meal in the Upper Room at 4:30 pm.

Welcome to Fr Tom Walsh, who will be joining us at St Josephs for the next few Sunday to get the feel for the liturgical life of the parish, before taking over as an administrator from April 9th. Fr Tom is not a stranger to our parish and I am sure that in a very short time he will become all rounded in all aspect of parish life. Coming from Holy Savior parish in Union City, CT, undoubtedly Fr Tom will have a fair share of information about St Joseph's, which should make life so much smoother and easier for all the parties concerned.

Wishing everyone a fruitful Passiontide journey.

Fr Michal

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 pm - Sunday Vigil

Sunday: 9:00 am

Sunday 25th - Mass for the soul of Jerry Smith

Wednesday: 9:00 am Mass for health

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FAITH MATTERS

GOSPEL CHALLENGE

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. (John 12:23-24)

For a Christian person in order to live, one must die. Jesus speaks about here and now not after or later.....

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPEL

As our destination draws near, at the end of an important journey, we may well have mixed feelings. We look forward to arrival; but we may be uncertain and anxious about the outcome.

As we face the challenge of entering deeply into the climax of the Church's year of faith - the commemoration of the Savior's PASCHAL MYSTERY – it is as if the liturgy of this last Sunday of our journey anticipates our mood and reassures us. The readings bring us some of the greatest texts of the Scriptures, texts which – as we stand among the Greek pilgrims who wanted to 'see Jesus' - help us, in the words of the gospel, to come to terms with 'the kind of death Jesus was to die'.

The horror of the Savior's Cross is plainly stated: his 'obedience' to the Father's will, according the letter to the Hebrews, is made with 'prayer and entreaty, with loud cries and tears'. And John's gospel tells us, 'his soul was troubled', as his fateful 'hour' approached – in which he was to give all, like 'a wheat grain' which 'falls on the ground and dies'.

If he invites us to share this fate with him – 'wherever I am, my servant will be there too' – he also helps us to trust in his Father, as we face the ordeals of our personal lives. His prayer is 'heard', and through the sufferings which have been a sharing in the destructiveness and darkness of our world, he enters into a new and final existence. In the words of the letter to the Hebrews, he is 'made perfect'; as John's gospel puts it, he is 'glorified'. This is a powerful statement in biblical language - God's 'glory' is the incomparable divine greatness. Having 'emptied himself' to become one with us, the manhood he shares with us is now filled with divine greatness – and the grain which falls to the ground 'yields a rich harvest', transforming the whole of creation.

The outcome is certain, therefore, and beyond all humanity's imagining. It is the inauguration of the 'new covenant written in our hearts', foretold by Jeremiah, and sealed with the Savior's blood. The Crucified One will become 'a source of eternal salvation' for all who become his followers (Hebrews). Having been 'lifted up from the earth', he will 'draw all people to himself', that they may share in his new existence (John).

The Church's liturgy prepares us well for what lies at the end of our journey. May it prove a faith-filled meeting with the generosity of our God, for each one of us.

PARISH CALENDAR

March 18th

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 18th March 25th

9:00 am Jean Macionus Dee Smith

Next Sunday's readings: Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2: 6- 11 Mark 14:1-15:47

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Never miss an opportunity to make others
happy. Even if you have to leave them alone in
order to do it.

Anonymous

NEWS AND EVENT

Stations of the Cross - March 23rd

6:00 pm - light supper, 6:30 pm - devotion

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. Payment due at time of order. Make checks payable to St. Joseph Church. The crosses will arrive March 21st.

There is still time to place your order with Meg Krasko, Jean Macionus or Joe/Jane Pelland

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant, and I had to show myself their master, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD. I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives how to know the LORD. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Second Reading

Hebrews 5: 7-9

In the days when Christ Jesus was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

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

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

Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, there will my servant be.

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

Gospel

John 12:20-33

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

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.

