

St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



Palm Sunday

March 25th, 2018

PARISH CONTACTS

PASTOR
Fr Michal Gitner

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Nancy Sirois

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

Holy Week is a spiritually busy time for Catholics. Holy Thursday and Good Friday are normal working days. However, it is also time of remembering what Jesus has done for us. The key word here is 'sacrifice'. We are not doing anything for God here but for ourselves. The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday and the Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Friday lead us into the Resurrection. It was true in Jesus' life and it is the same for us. There is no resurrection without the cross.

Last chance to use the envelopes in our pews to support the outreach initiative of our parish, namely The Lord's Kitchen. Let us also remember that almsgiving is one of the essential aspects of our Lenten observance.

Good Friday is a day abstinence and fast. We are not eating meat on that day but also we supposed to eat less if we are between 18-59 years of age. The rule does not apply to anyone with a medical condition.

Fr Michal

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 pm - Sunday Vigil

Sunday: 9:00 am - Mass for the soul of Jerry Smith

Wednesday: 9:00 am Mass for health

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FAITH MATTERS

GOSPEL CHALLENGE

'Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.' (Mk 14:10-11)

Is that one of the most disturbing lines in the Scriptures? A human being betraying God

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPEL

As we come to know the liturgy better we recognize that it is a masterpiece, wisely shaped over the centuries as the Holy Spirit has guided the Church. Today, as the greatest week of the Church's year begins, the lesson of the liturgy is astoundingly restrained and simple, yet so appropriate.

We are reading from Mark's gospel. In his very simple telling of the story the brief acclaim of the entry into Jerusalem is in contrast with the stark horror of the story of the passion. The people cry out that 'the kingdom of our father, David, has come'. How ironic is the way in which these words are to be fulfilled!

The reading from Isaiah invites us to learn from the example of the Savior - the confidence we should have in our Father in heaven, whatever the trials we may face. But it is something else which makes the reading so appropriate on the threshold of Holy Week – with him we must have minds and hearts open to a new meeting with our God in what lies ahead. Like God's Servant we should be glad that the Lord 'wakes us to hear, to listen like disciples'. We are invited to learn something that it is beyond the power of human words to express; to learn anew the astounding generosity of our God as we meet it in the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus – to find how true is the old saying, 'Actions speak louder than words'.

In the second reading, from the letter to the Philippians – echoing a hymn used in the liturgy of the first generation of the Church – Paul summarizes with majestic brevity the drama of what God has done in the Savior's PASCHAL MYSTERY: how he 'emptied himself', shared our human condition, even to 'accepting death on a cross', and finally, how he is now 'raised high', one with the Father in the glory of the divine name.

The principal reading, of course, is the telling of the story of the Lord's passion and death, confronting us in Mark's factual and forthright style, with the cruelty and horror of a horrendous miscarriage of justice. In the darkness which descends upon 'the whole land', the rending of the temple veil 'from top to bottom', and the confession of the gentile centurion - 'In truth this man was a son of God!' - we have the dawning light of the new order of things which will be inaugurated with the Saviour's resurrection.

Actions speak louder than words. The age-old custom of preserving the palms from this day's liturgy is a wonderful reminder of how real was the drama which opened the way to eternal life for the whole world – a drama in which we are all involved. The liturgies of the Church's coming celebration of the Paschal Mystery will teach us, not with fine oratory, but by recounting the great events in which the divine Truth found expression in our human history. Let this recognition set the tone for our participation in the liturgies of Holy Week.

PARISH CALENDAR

March 28th

The Lord's Kitchen - 5:00 pm

April 8th

Easter brunch – after 9:00 am Mass

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 25th April 1st

9:00 am Dee Smith

Next Sunday's readings:

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*"If something is true, no matter who said it,
it is always from the Holy Spirit."*

St Thomas Aquinas

NEWS AND EVENT

Easter brunch - April 8th after 9:00 am Mass. We will celebrate Christ Resurrection sharing meal as faith community. The food will be prepared and donated by the Ladies' Society. The offering is just \$5.00 per person and portion of the proceedings will support The Lord's Kitchen.

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 - thank you to Meg K., Joe and Jane P. and Jean M. for organizing the event and giving us the opportunity to share the joy of the Resurrection in such special and meaningful way.

Lordship Community Church - holds its annual all-you-can-eat Spring Chicken Dinner on Saturday, April 14, 2018, at 6 p.m. The cost is \$12 per adult and \$9 per senior (62 and over). Contact [203-377-6568](tel:203-377-6568) for information and to reserve before April 13.

Sunday Readings

First Reading

The Lord GOD has given me
a well-trained tongue,
that I might know how to speak to the weary
a word that will rouse them.
Morning after morning
he opens my ear that I may hear;
and I have not rebelled,
have not turned back.
I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;
my face I did not shield
from buffets and spitting.
The Lord GOD is my help,
therefore I am not disgraced;
I have set my face like flint,
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
something to be grasped.
Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness;
and found human in appearance,
he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
of those in heaven and on earth and under the
earth, and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 50:4-7

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

Christ became obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name which is above every
name.

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

Gospel

Reading of the Passion according to St Mark 14:1-15:47



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.

