

# St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, yr B

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## PARISH CONTACTS

*PASTOR*  
Fr Michal Gitner

*PARISH CHAIRPERSON*  
Nancy Sirois

*FINANCE SECRETARY*  
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

We are almost half way through the season of Lent. How is my Lenten discipline of prayer, fasting and almsgiving? It is impossible to celebrate Easter without practicing those.

Please remember, the **Lenten suppers** at 6:00 pm followed by the **Stations of the Cross** at 6:30 pm every Friday. We still need a few volunteers to prepare a simple meal. Part of Lenten observance is almsgiving (charity). 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.

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, once again we will have the opportunity to experience Meal in the Upper Room. Sign-up sheet in the foyer of the church.

**Daylight Saving Time ends next weekend on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Sunday Mass will return to 9:00am.**

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

“While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.” (John 2: 22-25)

Jesus would not trust himself to them...Hopefully, He can trust you, me, us.

### SOME THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS

The dramatic intervention, whereby Jesus drove the merchants and money changers from the Temple, may well have triggered the events which led to his death. As the gospel of Luke puts it, Jesus – knowing that his end was drawing near – ‘resolutely looked toward Jerusalem’ (9:51). It is in the holy city that he must meet the fate that was becoming inevitable. For all faithful Israelites, the journey to Jerusalem was a journey to the Temple. How old Israel loved the Temple! It was the place of God’s presence. Their faith in that presence was so vivid, that to take part in the Temple worship was ‘to see the face of God’, as the Psalms put it.

The prophets of Israel sometimes performed gestures that had a lesson for the people. What Jesus did – disrupting the normal proceedings of the Temple precincts – was more than a lesson in reverence. It pointed to the new order of things he was to inaugurate. True worship was only darkly foreshadowed in the old Temple’s ceremonial. In John’s gospel, we remember, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that true worship will not be tied to some particular sanctuary; it will be worship ‘in spirit and truth’ (4:24). Now he promises a ‘sign’ to confirm his prophetic gesture: ‘Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up’. When he had risen from the dead, his disciples recognized that ‘he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body’.

The first reading from Exodus, proclaiming the commandments which were an essential part of the covenant God made with his people in the desert, matches the gospel in today’s liturgy, because it calls us to a worship that is authentic – through the renunciation of the false securities we are tempted to put in the place of God.

With Jesus leading us, we look towards what lies at the end of our journey. The reading from the letter to the Corinthians points to the Cross, the astounding inauguration of the new order of things which will take place at the end of the Savior’s journey to the Holy City. In this new order of things, we can all worship the Father ‘in spirit and in truth’: through the Paschal Mystery – our sharing in the life and worship of the Risen Lord. We are able to share in his gift of himself to the Father, as he becomes for us ‘the power and the wisdom of God’. In the drama of the Cross, ‘God’s foolishness’ is to prove ‘wiser than human wisdom’; and ‘God’s weakness’ is shown to be ‘stronger than human strength’.



## PARISH CALENDAR

### March 4<sup>th</sup>

Parish annual meeting

### March 18<sup>th</sup>

Parish Board meeting

Meal in the Upper Room - 4:30 pm

## 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 4 <sup>th</sup>	March 11 <sup>th</sup>
9:30am	Nancy Sirois	Dee Smith

Next Sunday's readings:  
Feast of the Institution of the PNCC

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Young people have helped lead all our great movements.  
How inspiring to see it again in so many smart, fearless students standing up for their right to be safe; marching and organizing to remake the world as it should be.  
We've been waiting for you. And we've got your backs."

Barack Obama

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Lenten Devotions:

#### **Stations of the Cross**

6:00 pm - light supper, 6:30 pm - devotion  
March 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### **Bitter Lamentations - 10:45 am**

February March 4<sup>th</sup>

#### **Parish Annual Meeting**

This Sunday 9:30 am Mass we will gather as a parish community to assess year 2017, reflect on what has been done, and more importantly, discuss and plan for the year 2018. So, it is very much about sharing our wisdom, talents and hopes as a faith community.

#### **Meal in the Upper Room**

March 18<sup>th</sup> - 4:30pm

It has become a tradition in our parish for the past 4 years or so that on Passion Sunday, two weeks before Easter we gather on Sunday afternoon and share silent meal, intertwined with Scripture readings. We have been getting around 12+ people but there is always room for more. Please watch for the sign-up sheet and mark your calendars.

#### **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.

**The Thrift Shop at Our Lady of Peace** Parish Center. has reopened Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. There are 2 rooms filled with an abundance of housewares and accessories, clothing and jewelry, linens and small furniture items, all reasonable priced.

## Sunday Readings

### First Reading

**Exodus 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17**

In those days, God delivered all these commandments:  
"I, the LORD am your God,  
who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of  
slavery.

You shall not have other gods besides me.

"You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in  
vain.

For the LORD will not leave unpunished  
the one who takes his name in vain.

"Remember to keep holy the sabbath day.

Honor your father and your mother,

that you may have a long life in the land  
which the Lord, your God, is giving you.

You shall not kill.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife,  
nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass,  
nor anything else that belongs to him."

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

**Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

### Second Reading

**1 Cor 1:22-25**

Brothers and sisters:

Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom,  
but we proclaim Christ crucified,  
a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,  
but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike,  
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.  
For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom,  
and the weakness of God is stronger than human  
strength.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

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

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal  
life.

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

### Gospel

**John 2:13-25**

Since the Passover of the Jews was near,  
Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep,  
and doves, as well as the money changers seated there.

He made a whip out of cords

and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep  
and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers  
and overturned their tables,

and to those who sold doves he said,

"Take these out of here,

and stop making my Father's house a marketplace."

His disciples recalled the words of Scripture,  
Zeal for your house will consume me.

At this the Jews answered and said to him,

"What sign can you show us for doing this?"

Jesus answered and said to them,

"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

The Jews said,

"This temple has been under construction for forty-six  
years, and you will raise it up in three days?"

But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

Therefore, when he was raised from the dead,

his disciples remembered that he had said this,

and they came to believe the Scripture

and the word Jesus had spoken.

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover,  
many began to believe in his name

when they saw the signs he was doing.

But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he  
knew them all,

and did not need anyone to testify about human nature.

He himself understood it well.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

December 31<sup>st</sup> - March 25<sup>th</sup> 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.



