

St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



10th Week in Ordinary Time, Year B

June 10th, 2018

PARISH CONTACTS

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Fr. Tom Walsh

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Dear Parishioners,

We read in today's Gospel passage how Jesus, the Son of God, was hidden in plain sight. When Jesus' relatives looked at him they ascribed his behaviors to being the actions of a man "out of his mind." They saw the man Jesus but failed to see the Son of God. When the Jewish leaders of the time, the Scribes, looked at Jesus they ascribed his behaviors to being the actions of a man possessed by the prince of demons, Satan. They too saw the man Jesus but failed to see the Son of God.

In the Gospel narratives it is often the unclean spirits who recognize who Jesus is, the Son of God, while the disciples look on not seeming to get it. The lesson of this Gospel passage seems clear. Are we able to recognize God's presence in our lives?

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Tom

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 pm - Sunday Vigil **Sunday:** 9:00 am

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GOSPEL CHALLENGE

His mother and his brothers arrived. Standing outside they sent word to him and called him. A crowd seated around him told him, "Your mother and your brothers and your sisters are outside asking for you." But he said to them in reply, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" (Mark 3:12-33 NABRE)

So often we are challenged by these words "who are my mother and my brothers," though it may not be obvious to us at the time. The passerby on the street seeking directions, the elderly neighbor needing help with a chore, a local civic organization recruiting volunteers. It is easy to ignore pleas for help if we are can distance ourselves from those asking for help. But would it be so easy to walk away if we recognized the many ways that we are related to one another, a shared identity, a common struggle, a desire to do good?

Seeking God's Presence in Prayer

A great way to pray is to look for God's presence in your life. More than 400 years ago St. Ignatius Loyola encouraged prayer-filled mindfulness by proposing what has been called the Daily Examen. The Examen is a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God's presence and to discern his direction for us. Try this version of St. Ignatius's prayer.

- 1. Become aware of God's presence.** Look back on the events of the day in the company of the Holy Spirit. The day may seem confusing to you. Ask God to bring clarity and understanding.
- 2. Review the day with gratitude.** Gratitude is the foundation of our relationship with God. Walk through your day in the presence of God and note its joys and delights. Pay attention to small things—the food you ate, the sights you saw, and other seemingly small pleasures. God is in the details.
- 3. Pay attention to your emotions.** One of St. Ignatius's great insights was that we detect the presence of the Spirit of God in the movements of our emotions. Reflect on the feelings you experienced during the day. Boredom? Elation? Resentment? Compassion? Anger? Confidence? What is God saying through these feelings?
- 4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.** Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to something during the day that God thinks is particularly important. It may involve a feeling. It may be a significant encounter with another person or a vivid moment of pleasure or peace. Or it may be something that seems rather insignificant. Pray about it. Allow the prayer to arise spontaneously from your heart—whether intercession, praise, repentance, or gratitude.
- 5. Look toward tomorrow.** Ask God to give you light for tomorrow's challenges. Pay attention to the feelings that surface as you survey what's coming up. Allow these feelings to turn into prayer. Seek God's guidance. Ask him for help and understanding. Pray for hope.

St. Ignatius encouraged people to talk to Jesus like a friend. End the Daily Examen with a conversation with Jesus. Ask forgiveness for your sins. Ask for his protection and help. Ask for his wisdom about the questions you have and the problems you face. Do all this in the spirit of gratitude. Your life is a gift, and it is adorned with gifts from God. End the Daily Examen with the Our Father. *Adapted from "How Can I Pray," found on IgnatianSpirituality.com*

PARISH CALENDAR

June

June 10th – Retirement party for Fr. Tom Lynch, pastor of St James Church, at 1pm.

June 17th – Father's Day; Parish Council Meeting

June 27th – St. Joseph's to serve at Lord's Kitchen

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 Tom by Wednesday: trpwalsh@gmail.com*

READERS ROSTER

<u>June 10th</u>	<u>June 17th</u>	<u>June 24th</u>
Ed Slonina	Charles Vazas	Emily Desepola

Readings for next Sunday, June 17th: Ezekiel 17:22-24; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10; Mark 4:26-34

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Good merchandise, even hidden,
soon finds buyers.

Plautus

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Nancy Anzalone, prayers for **Desiree & Thomas**.

Prayers for those who have no one else to pray for them. [6/10]

Danika, healing prayers for **Mrs. Jukowski**.

Rosalie Graczyk, healing prayers for **Rich**.

Paul Lonzenski for **Marilyn**.

Jean Macionus for **John & Julie Macionus, Scott & Ralph Frissora**.

Prayers of remembrance offered by Carol Morrison for **Joyce Czepiel Pike** who passed on April 25th, 2018 & **Charles Pike** who passed on May 26th, 2018.

Dee Smith for **James Smith & Maj. Scott Krasko**.

Yvonne Walsh for **all service men and women** who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. [6/3]

For those intentions we hold in our hearts known to God alone.

NEWS AND EVENT

Convo 2018

This year, the Central Diocese has prepared a fantastic theme: "Anointed Lifeguard: You Have Been Chosen, Anointed, Empowered, and Blessed to Do Jesus' Work." Convo will be hosted at The University of Scranton, July 23-27, 2018. Download the 2018 application and helpful hints regarding participation expectations at www.Convo2018.org Participants are ages 12-20. Chaperones and guests are 21+

Please see Fr. Tom for tickets for a chance to win a \$500 VISA gift card. Two cards will be awarded. The tickets are \$5.00 each or 3/\$10.00. The drawing will take place at Convo.

Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat 2018

The retreat will be held at Camp Howe in Goshen, MA from August 19-23, 2018. Please see Fr. Tom for registration and health forms, or email RobNem21@aol.com. The cost is \$150 per person.

April 29th – July 29th issues of the bulletin are sponsored by Carla Misurale. If anyone wishes to contribute to the printing cost of the bulletin, please contact Fr. Tom.

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Genesis 3:9-15

A reading from the Book Genesis

After the man, Adam, had eaten of the tree, the LORD God called to the man and asked him, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself." Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked? You have eaten, then, from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat!" The man replied, "The woman whom you put here with me— she gave me fruit from the tree, and so I ate it." The LORD God then asked the woman, "Why did you do such a thing?" The woman answered, "The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you shall be banned from all the animals and from all the wild creatures; on your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel."

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

Responsorial Psalm

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

A reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:
Since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, *I believed, therefore I spoke*, we too believe and therefore we speak, knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia

Now the ruler of this world will be driven out, says the Lord; and when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.

Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel

Mark 3:20-35

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus came home with his disciples. Again the crowd gathered, making it impossible for them even to eat. When his relatives heard of this they set out to seize him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." The scribes who had come from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "By the prince of demons he drives out demons." Summoning them, he began to speak to them in parables, "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand; that is the end of him. But no one can enter a strong man's house to plunder his property unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder the house. Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin." For they had said, "He has an unclean spirit." His mother and his brothers arrived. Standing outside they sent word to him and called him. A crowd seated around him told him, "Your mother and your brothers and your sisters are outside asking for you." But he said to them in reply, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

**The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

