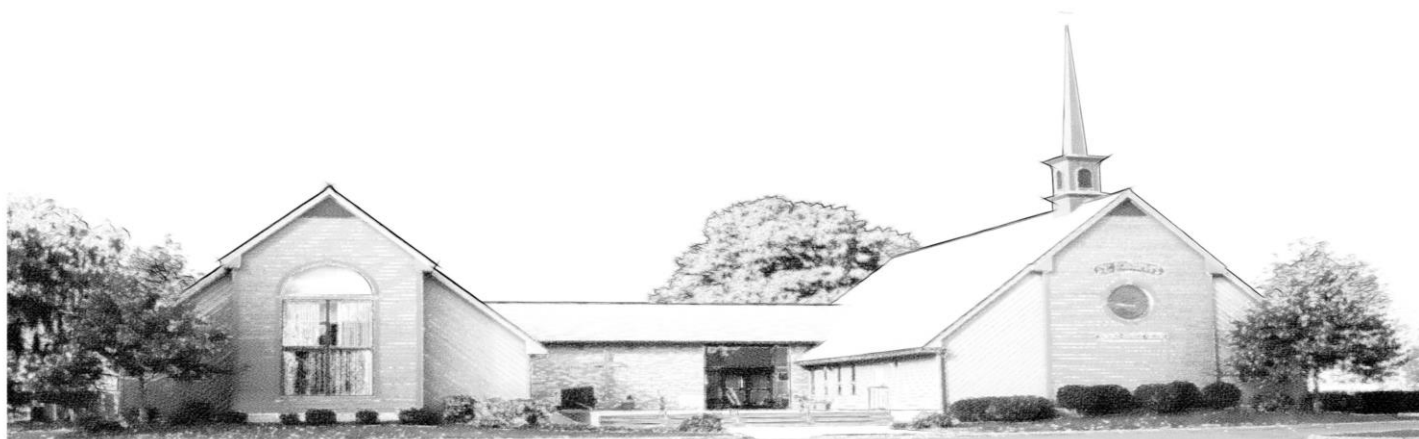


St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



26th Week in Ordinary Time, Year B

September 30th, 2018

PARISH CONTACTS

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Nancy Sirois

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

How are we to understand Jesus in today's Gospel passage? It seems that Jesus is telling us to maim ourselves if the offending body part causes us to sin. Does he really mean this or is he communicating a broader message? One way to think about this is to understand the profound connection Jesus is making between the physical and the spiritual. Heresies in the early Church spoke of a duality existing between matter (evil) versus spiritual (good). This dualistic way of thinking cannot be supported in Christianity simply because of the Incarnation, God became man. So, if our physical selves can be a cause of sin, then our physical selves can be a source of blessings. What we do, and not simply what we think or say, is a form of prayer by which we can praise God.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Tom

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 pm - Sunday Vigil **Sunday:** 9:30 am

Mass for Healing: Thursday evenings 6:30 pm with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament the first Thursday of the Month instead of Mass

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford CT 06615-7639

Tel: 203 377-9901 (office), 203 923-2424 (rectory), Fax: 203 375-6439

www.stjosephsofstratford.org

Serve God and Your Neighbor at Our Next Food Drive!

To build on the successful food drive we held in July, we need your help again at Stop and Shop on October 20. We need you to join us in collecting food and thanking the donors for their support. The generosity of the shoppers and the gratitude of the directors of the food pantries at the South End Community Center and Blessed Sacrament Church made the time spent outside Stop and Shop gratifying and worthwhile. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the foyer shortly!

- *Contributed by Jane Pelland*

PARISH CALENDAR

September

Sunday the 30th – No Mass today. Fr. Tom is away attending the Church Synod. All are encouraged to attend the Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

October

Thursday the 4th - Biblical Walk through the Mass Adult Study, 7pm. Why not join us for Mass at 6:30pm, then stay for the study!

Sunday the 7th – Ladies Meeting after Mass

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, 5:30 – 7:00pm

Thursdays: AA men's meeting 7:30 pm

For news input in the weekly bulletin, please contact Father Tom by Wednesday: frtpwalsh@gmail.com

READERS ROSTER

September 23 September 29 October 7

Nancy Sirois Ray Morrison Nancy Anzalone



A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work.

Colin Powell

BrainyQuote

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Julia Vasas for **Gianna Wilcoxson**;

Nancy Anzalone for **Desiree Anzalone**;

And for those intentions that we hold in our hearts known to God alone.

NEWS AND EVENT

Annual Quarter Night

Our annual quarter night will be held Saturday evening, October 27th (Halloween Weekend). Costumes are encouraged... last year we had a table of witches! All tables sold out last year... so please reserve your table ASAP by contacting any member of the Ladies Society. Needed to insure success are donations to be auctioned. Items with a minimum value of \$5.00 are being sought. The Ladies Society has started collecting donations now and items may be left in the classrooms and noted for "Quarter Night." Looking forward to another successful Quarter Night with lots of friends and our St. Joseph's family.

Improvements & adjustments made to the Sound System

A number of parishioners have recently expressed concerns over the quality of the sound system in the church and an inability to hear clearly during Mass. The parish board has taken steps to correct this by having a technician come to the church in the past week to adjust the system. Improvements and adjustments have been made that we hope will make a difference. For those who may still experience difficulties of any kind hearing during services – please bring your comments to a member of the board or speak to Fr. Tom.

A special thank you to PCB Electronics located in Stratford, CT for the time and attention that was given to helping us with our sound system. Please consider them for any needs you may have associated with sound systems. Their number is 203-378-3870. Thank you.

Bertha Grabowski, August 5th - October 28th, 2018. If anyone wishes to contribute to the printing cost of the bulletin, please see Fr. Tom.

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Numbers 11:25-29

A reading from the Book of Numbers

The LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses. Taking some of the spirit that was on Moses, the LORD bestowed it on the seventy elders; and as the spirit came to rest on them, they prophesied.

Now two men, one named Eldad and the other Medad, were not in the gathering but had been left in the camp. They too had been on the list, but had not gone out to the tent; yet the spirit came to rest on them also, and they prophesied in the camp. So, when a young man quickly told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp," Joshua, son of Nun, who from his youth had been Moses' aide, said, "Moses, my lord, stop them." But Moses answered him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the LORD were prophets! Would that the LORD might bestow his spirit on them all!"

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

Responsorial Psalm

The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

Second Reading

James 5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of Saint James

Come now, you rich, weep and wail over your impending miseries. Your wealth has rotted away, your clothes have become moth-eaten, your gold and silver have corroded, and that corrosion will be a testimony against you; it will devour your flesh like a fire. You have stored up treasure for the last days. Behold, the wages you withheld from the workers who harvested your fields are crying aloud; and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on earth in luxury and pleasure; you have fattened your hearts for the day of slaughter. You have condemned; you have murdered the righteous one; he offers you no resistance.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia

Your word, O Lord, is truth; consecrate us in the truth.
Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel

Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time, John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us. Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward.

"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna, where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'"

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

