

# St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

## National Catholic Church

Since 1907

### Weekly Bulletin



**Corpus Christi, yr A**

**June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

#### **PARISH CONTACTS**

*PASTOR*  
Fr Michal Gitner

*PARISH CHAIRPERSON*  
Nancy Sirois

*FINANCIAL SECRETARY*  
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

Today's Solemnity of Corpus Christi brings our attention to the gift of the Eucharist. In our Catholic Tradition it is the belief in the Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Christ. We venerate it, we remember and above all, despite of our imperfections, we are called to imitate that mystery in our lives.

Today is even more special for Julia Vasas, who is making her First Holy Communion. Congratulations Julia. May you always appreciate that gift of Jesus to you.

A very happy Father's Day to all dads, grandfathers and godfathers. May God bless each and everyone of you.

Thank you for your donations to The Lord's Kitchen. Last Wednesday we served over 100 meals to the needy of our town. We have never heard so many words of appreciation for the service. It was either the quality of the food or the fact that we worked in very hot conditions or both. Special thanks to Paul Lonzenski, Joe Shandrowski, Nancy Anzalone, Jane and Joe Pelland and Jeanine May.

Fr Michal

#### **MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday:** 5:00 pm

**Sunday:** 9:00 am – for Lee Niedzielski (RIP) from Mary DiMenna

Wednesday - Mass for health 9:00 am

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford CT 06615-7639

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

[www.stjosephsofstratford.org](http://www.stjosephsofstratford.org)

## FAITH MATTERS

### GOSPEL CHALLENGE

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever" (John 3:51)

'Eating' of this bread means not only taking Communion. It is about being transformed and living in the way that it makes others willing to ask why do you love, forgive, help out.

### SOME THOUGHTS ON THE READINGS

Do this in memory of me'. Many of the great things of life are kept alive through the 'remembering' of cherished traditions. Moses says to the people, 'Remember ... do not forget, the Lord fed you with manna'. In the words of John's gospel before the passage we read today, Jesus has recalled this story of the Exodus, and likened himself to the manna given to the people in the midst of their complaining. Now he announces the inauguration of a new tradition - and, as John tells us, it too will be met with complaining. To this point, Jesus has been telling the people that he was foreshadowed in the manna. He came to nourish their old faith. Now, however, he makes a dramatic announcement. In all that he does, he is giving expression to the ways of his Father - taking up the initiative himself. He will become the nourishment of God's people in a way that could never have been anticipated: 'The bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world'.

John uses the word 'flesh (sarx)' in this reference to the Eucharist. We are accustomed to using another term, speaking of the 'body (soma)' of Christ. In the early Church, both terms were in use. When we recall the Prologue of John's gospel - 'The Word became flesh' - we can recognize the implications of this term. 'All flesh is grass', Isaiah declares, 'The grass withers; but the word of God remains forever' (Is 40:6-8). When the Prologue of John's gospel echoes these words - 'The Word was made flesh' - it is underlining the full implications of the Incarnation: the Son of God 'emptied himself', as Paul says, coming to share our humanity in all its frailty. John is presenting the Eucharist as the sacrament of this Incarnation and all that it was to give to the world. He is also affirming the 'healthy materialism' of the biblical tradition. For all its frailty, the human body is God's creation; and in the Incarnate Christ it has become our salvation and the source of eternal life for us.

'This is my body, given, broken, for you. This is my blood poured out for the whole world'. All this is clearly, but subtly, implied in the words of John's gospel. 'Sent by the Father', Jesus is still carrying out - in the Eucharistic mystery - the great task he had been given. In John's account of the last days of the Savior, Jesus declares, 'And when I am lifted up from the earth I shall draw all people to myself' (Jn 12:32). In the Mass, we are given to share in the Savior's return to the Father, making intercession for the whole human family. 'As I draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me' - our sharing in 'this one loaf' is nothing less than a sharing the life of the Father. It is unfortunate that discussion of this passage often does not get beyond a defence of the 'real presence'. The Eucharist is the sacrament of the whole drama of salvation - 'Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day'. 'Communion', the term we have long associated with this sacrament, has implications that have been neglected. Our 'communion' in the Savior's return to the Father - his Paschal Mystery - is what unites us as members of his Church.

This gospel, in its emphatic rejection of the murmuring of those who do not accept the teaching of Jesus, certainly upholds the challenging truth of the Eucharist in what has been the Church's faith since the beginning. The repeated reference to 'eating and drinking' clearly echoes the eucharistic practice of the apostolic Church.

## PARISH CALENDAR

June 30<sup>th</sup> - Independence Day fireworks

## EASTERN DIOCESE

June 26<sup>th</sup> - Acolyte Retreat

## BY THE WEEK

Sundays: Mercy Tabernacle Church  
12:30 - 2:30 pm

Tuesdays: Mercy Tabernacle Church  
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Wednesdays: AA meeting 12:00 pm  
Irish dance classes 6:00 pm

Thursdays: AA men's meeting 7:30 pm

*News for weekly bulletin? Please contact  
Father Michal by Wed: mgitner@gmail.com*

## Readers Roster

June 18<sup>th</sup>                      June 25<sup>th</sup>

Charlie Vasas              Jean Macionus

Next Sunday's readings: Jeremiah 20:10-13,  
Romans 5:12-15, Matthew 10:26-33

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Don't ruin a new day by thinking about  
yesterday. Let it go."

Author Unknown

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### KURS camp 2017 - July 1- July 8, 2017 at Bishop Hodur Center, Waymart, PA

Theme: "We hold a Treasure." Registration and drop off of campers will be Saturday July 1st starting at 9 am. Celebration will happen that day with Holy Mass at noon by The Most Rev. Prime Bishop Anthony Pick up of campers will be Saturday July 8th at 12pm. The Kurs encampment is a Polish National Catholic Church Tradition sponsored by The YMSR Rates: Polish National Catholic Church Member- \$210.00 per child. Non PNCC member rate- \$260.00 per child.

*The daily topics are:*

*July 2nd - A Treasure, not made of gold, in earthen vessels*

*July 3rd - Eucharistic Treasure*

*July 4th - The Treasured word of God*

*July 5th - Our Church is a Treasure*

*July 6th - Treasure in Family and Community*

*July 7th - Finding Our Treasure*

**Votive candle stand** – as you may recall it was discussed and the agreed on purchasing it. To keep you up to date, it was ordered and should be delivered to St Joseph's in a week or so. When it happens, a help will be required to assembly it together. Please stay tuned in.

**Parish bulletin donations** – we have been truly blessed by donors both from the parish and friends of the parish to keep the printing cost to the bare minimum. If anyone wishes to help the parish out and would love to make a donation (\$6.00 per week), please see Fr Michal. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**Texas-Style Barbecue** at Lordship Community Church, 179 Prospect Drive, Stratford (outside, weather permitting) on June 24, 2017, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost is \$15 per adult; \$7 per senior (62 and over) and \$7 per child (10 and under). Contact [203-377-6568](tel:203-377-6568) to reserve before June 22.

**Altar flowers** - if anyone would like donate flowers in memory of your loved ones, especially while offering a Mass for them, please contact Dee Smith.

## Sunday Readings

### First Reading Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a

Moses said to the people:  
"Remember how for forty years now the LORD, your God, has directed all your journeying in the desert, so as to test you by affliction and find out whether or not it was your intention to keep his commandments. He therefore let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your fathers, in order to show you that not by bread alone does one live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the LORD.  
"Do not forget the LORD, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt that place of slavery; who guided you through the vast and terrible desert with its saraph serpents and scorpions, its parched and waterless ground; who brought forth water for you from the flinty rock and fed you in the desert with manna, a food unknown to your fathers."

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

### Response to the psalm

**Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.**

### Second reading 1 Cor 10:16-17

Brothers and sisters:  
The cup of blessing that we bless,  
is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?  
The bread that we break,  
is it not a participation in the body of Christ?  
Because the loaf of bread is one,  
we, though many, are one body,  
for we all partake of the one loaf.

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

### Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord,  
whoever eats this bread will live forever.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

### Gospel

**John 3:51-58**

Jesus said to the Jewish crowds:  
"I am the living bread that came down from heaven  
whoever eats this bread will live forever;  
and the bread that I will give  
is my flesh for the life of the world."  
The Jews quarrelled among themselves, saying,  
"How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"  
Jesus said to them,  
"Amen, amen, I say to you,  
unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink  
his blood, you do not have life within you.  
Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood  
has eternal life,  
and I will raise him on the last day.  
For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink  
Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood  
remains in me and I in him.  
Just as the living Father sent me  
and I have life because of the Father,  
so also the one who feeds on me  
will have life because of me.  
This is the bread that came down from heaven.  
Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died,  
whoever eats this bread will live forever."

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



June 11<sup>th</sup> - July 2<sup>nd</sup> issues of the bulletin are sponsored by Dee Smith in memory of her late husband Gerry.

If anyone wishes to contribute to the printing cost of the bulletin, please contact Fr Michal.

