

St. Joseph's of Stratford Parish
National Catholic Church
Since 1907
Weekly Bulletin



Eighteenth Sunday Ordinary Time, Year C

August 4th, 2019

**PARISH
CONTACTS**

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Dear Parishioners,

In today's Gospel passage Jesus admonishes the crowd to guard against all greed. From this we can be sure of one thing, that greed was prevalent then, two millennia ago, and it still is today. Not much has changed because greed is basic to human nature. But what does it mean to say that someone is greedy? That their only concern is to hoard things, wealth, possessions? Actually, it may be more nuanced than that.

Without taking too much away from next week's Gospel passage I believe that anxiety underlies greed. Anxiety that the resources we need are scarce so we better get what we can while we can. No one is rushing to the beach to scoop up sand fearing that there won't be enough to go around. There is plenty, more than enough for everyone, calm down!

Lurking at the core of anxiety is fear. Fear that we have to fend for ourselves and our loved ones on our own. It's a dog eat dog world! And this fear betrays our lack of faith. Occupying our hearts with the pursuit of treasure leaves little time and space in our lives for building a relationship with God. This is self-defeating because it is through that relationship, built on strong faith, that we can find lasting inner peace that no amount of earthly treasure can serve up.

Grace and Peace,
Fr. Tom

MASS SCHEDULE

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

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Saints of the Day

August 4. John Vianney, Priest (1786-1859)

His work as a confessor is John Vianney's most remarkable accomplishment. In the winter months, he was to spend eleven to twelve hours daily reconciling people with God. In the summer months, this time was increased to sixteen hours. Unless a man was dedicated to his vision of a priestly vocation, he could not have endured this giving of self day after day.

August 7. Sixtus II and Companions, Pope and Martyr; Martyrs (d. 258)

The emperor Valerian published his first decree against Christians in 257 and forbade them to hold assemblies. Pope Sixtus had been pope for only one year when he was murdered while presiding at the Eucharist in one of the underground caverns used as cemeteries (catacombs). He and four deacons were seized and beheaded. Two other deacons were probably martyred the same day, and St. Lawrence (August 10) four days later.

August 7. Cajetan, Priest (1480-1557)

Cajetan seemed headed for an ordinary life—first as a lawyer, then as a priest engaged in the work of the Roman Curia. His life took a characteristic turn when he joined the Oratory of Divine Love in Rome, a group devoted to piety and charity, shortly after his ordination at thirty-six. When he was forty-two he founded a hospital for incurables at Venice. At Vicenza, he joined a “disreputable” religious community that consisted only of men of the lowest stations of life—and was roundly censured by his friends, who thought his action was a reflection on his family. He sought out the sick and poor of the town and served them.

August 8. Dominic, Priest, (1170-1221)

Dominic, with three Cistercians, began itinerant preaching according to the Gospel ideal. He continued this work for ten years, being successful with the ordinary people but not with the leaders. His fellow preachers gradually became a community, and in 1215 he founded a religious house at Toulouse, the beginning of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans). His ideal, and that of his order, was to link organically a life with God, study and prayer in all forms, with a ministry of salvation to people by the word of God. His ideal: *contemplata tradere*: “to pass on the fruits of contemplation” or “to speak only of God or with God.”

August 8. Mary MacKillop, Virgin (1842-1909)

Born in Melbourne in 1842 to parents who had emigrated from Scotland, Mary grew up in a family that faced constant financial struggles. As a young woman she was drawn to religious life but could not find an existing order of sisters that met her needs. In 1860 she met Fr. Julian Woods, who became her spiritual director. Together they founded a community of women—the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, also known as the Josephite Sisters. Its members were to staff schools, especially for poor children, as well as orphanages, and engage in other works of charity.

August 10. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr (d. 258?)

We know very little about his life. He is one of those whose martyrdom made a deep and lasting impression on the early Church. Celebration of his feast day spread rapidly. He was a Roman deacon under Pope St. Sixtus II (August 7). Four days after this pope was put to death, Lawrence and four clerics suffered martyrdom, probably during the persecution of the Emperor Valerian. Legendary details of his death were known to Damasus (December 11), Prudentius, Ambrose (December 7), and Augustine (August 28). The church built over his tomb became one of the seven principal churches in Rome and a favorite place for Roman pilgrimages.

PARISH CALENDAR

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
Thursdays: Yoga with Carla Loxsom, 6:30-7:30pm in
the Classroom
AA men's meeting 7:30 pm

FLAG DONATION



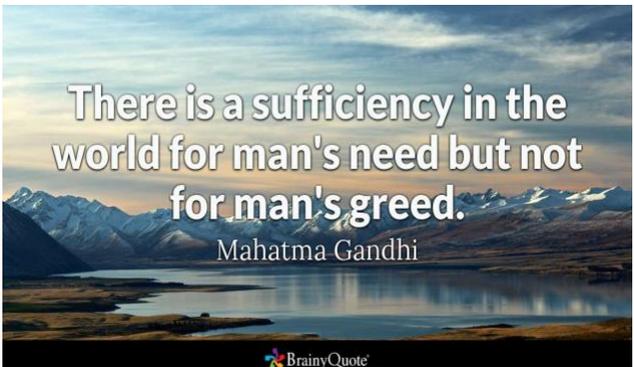
Flag donated by Martin Vasas in memory of Dolores Vasas

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

READERS ROSTER

<u>August 4th</u>	<u>August 11</u>	<u>August 18</u>
Nancy Sirois	Ray Morrison	Nancy Anzalone

The roster for the entire year is posted on the Church web site. On the Home page click on the link *Schedule for Lectors* in the *Information* box.



There is a sufficiency in the world for man's need but not for man's greed.

Mahatma Gandhi

BrainyQuote

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Continued prayers for Frank Bonitatebus. That God's healing grace may be with him.

We offer healing prays for Wendell Barry. That he may be strengthened and encouraged.

That we may pray without ceasing.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Alert!

When accessing the Saint Joseph's web page please be certain to use the new web address 'SaintJosephsofStratford.org' NOT the old web address 'StJosephsofStratford.org'. If you use the old web address you will be directed to a foreign gambling web site. Keeping in mind cyber security concerns I advise you not to do this.

THANKS!!

A big "Thank You" to those who gave up their Saturday and worked so hard to make the Food Drive at Stop and Shop such a success. The generosity of the shoppers was overwhelming, not only in their donations of food and cash but in their thanks to us for being there. Yes, we were thanking them—and they were thanking us! The food collected was very welcomed by the directors of the pantries at the South End Community Center and Blessed Sacrament Church. The donated cash will be used to buy grocery gift cards for the items needed which we could not collect—meat, produce, baby food, etc.

If for whatever reason you could not be there Saturday, we will be holding another Food Drive at Stop & Shop on August 31. Of course, help will also be needed to sort, box, and deliver the collected items to the two pantries.

Joe and Jane Pelland

Back to School Drive

Between now and August 23rd we are accepting donations of school supplies such as crayons, pencils, pens, notebooks, folders, markers, and backpacks. A box will be placed in the Church foyer where you can place the items you are donating. All items collected will go to the Stratford community. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Yvonne at (860) 417-9748. Many thanks!

Bulletins courtesy of Ann Stockman, July - August 2019. If anyone wishes to contribute to the printing cost of the bulletin, please see Fr. Tom.

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

Vanity of vanities, says Qoheleth,
vanity of vanities! All things are vanity!

Here is one who has labored with wisdom and knowledge and skill, and yet to another who has not labored over it, he must leave property. This also is vanity and a great misfortune. For what profit comes to man from all the toil and anxiety of heart with which he has labored under the sun? All his days sorrow and grief are his occupation; even at night his mind is not at rest. This also is vanity.

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

Responsorial Psalm

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:
If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry. Stop lying to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all and in all.

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus,
"Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me."
He replied to him,
"Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?"
Then he said to the crowd,
"Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."

Then he told them a parable.
"There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, 'What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?' And he said, 'This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, "Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!"'
But God said to him,
'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?'
Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God."

**The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

