

## St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



February 25-26, 2023 – First Sunday of Lent



TODAY'S READINGS: SEE CENTER INSERT

### PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Jane Pelland, Joe Pelland, Nancy Anzalone, Jean Macionus, Fr. Henry Smolinski & Margo, Rich Lasecki, Joyce Bresh, Edmond Bresh, Helen Reynolds, Helen Popp, Florence Rasmussen, Robin Lupinski, Judy DiLorenzo, Frank Bonitatebus, Carol Murdzia, Martha Lesnick, Bill Homa, Christopher Davis (Sirois)

### For those new to our church (and even those who aren't!)



To follow along with the Mass, begin on **page 63** in the Mass booklet. Father will announce which page to turn to for the Canon at the appropriate time and where to pick up the service following the Canon.

**And please remember** – there is no eating or drinking inside the church proper (small bottles of water excepted).

### Changes to the Mass during Lent

Several changes are made to the Mass during the season of Lent furthering those that started during pre-Lent. These reflect an additional emphasis on penitence and preparation for the events of Holy Week and Easter. In addition to no "Gloria" said, the Gospel Acclamation not done to an "Alleluia", and the "Our Father" being spoken instead of sung, beginning this week we will use the **first** form of Confession (the longer one on **page 66**) and the **second** Communion prayer (**page 98**).

#### Parish Contacts

*PASTOR*  
Fr. Tom Walsh

*CHAIRPERSON*  
Jeanine May

*VICE*  
*CHAIRPERSON*  
Dee Smith

*Financial*  
*Secretary*  
Barbara  
Chernesky

*Office*  
*Administrator*  
Lisa Vasas

#### Dear Parishioners,

*"The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."*

This verse from today's Gospel passage (Matthew 4:1-11) ideally captures the spirit of the penitential season of Lent. Lent is the time during the Liturgical year when we turn our attention from ourselves to the Lord. We cease to focus solely on our needs as we strive to serve the Lord. And we serve the Lord by serving others.

Grace and peace,  
Fr. Tom

#### Mass Times

Vigil Mass – Saturday 4:00pm      Sunday morning Mass – 9:30am.

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford, CT 06615 / (203) 377-9901  
[www.saintjosephsofstratford.org](http://www.saintjosephsofstratford.org) / sjosparishpncc@outlook.com

## Important Communion Update

As a further step forward in the way we receive Communion, Father will no longer clean his hands between each Communicant – **UNLESS YOU REQUEST IT.** *After the choir has received Communion*, we ask that all those who wish to have Father purify his hands before administering the sacrament come forward first **with your hands crossed over your chest** as if requesting a blessing. This will let Father and the altar servers know to prepare a towelette for cleaning his hands. After all those who request hand-cleaning have received Communion, the remainder of the congregation can come forward to receive.



Thank you for helping this process go faster while maintaining extra cleanliness for those who need it.

## New baby news!



She's arrived! Aubrey Grace Walsh was born on Friday 17 February 2023, weighing in at 8 pounds 4 ounces and 20.25 inches in length. She is welcomed by her loving parents Gregory and Kristina Walsh, big sister Riley, and doting grandparents Father Tom and Yvonne.

Congratulations on the new addition to the Walsh family!

## Food for kids in need – THIS WEEK

The monthly collection of easy-open, single-serving foods suitable for children to prepare is **TODAY**. A container is in the foyer marked for these donations. Thank you for helping children have nutritious meals when their school is not in session!



No Child Should Be Hungry

## Items for the bulletin

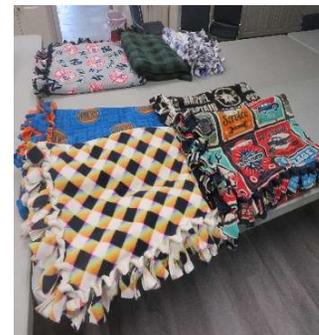
Deadline for submitting items for the bulletin is Thursday. Items turned in after Thursday are not guaranteed inclusion in that Sunday's bulletin.



## Prayer Blanket Project Update

### More blankets to be blessed Sunday!

The blankets you have completed this month will be blessed at the beginning of Mass Sunday morning. One of these is a blanket made with fabric purchased in memory of our departed friend Wendell Barry.



To date, two people have donated money for fabric requesting to have blankets made in memory of their loved ones. Some of that fabric has already been purchased and is being prepared for you to help finish. Stop by the tables in the hall after Mass today to work on this week's blankets! It doesn't take long and is easy to do.

Of course, **we are still collecting donations toward more fabric.**

The fabric costs approximately \$40 per blanket. There is a donation box at the back of the church, on the table near the bulletins. **If you would like to donate in memory of a loved one, please contact the office** so we can try to tailor the fabric purchased for that blanket to your loved one's interests (e.g. making a blanket with airplanes or clouds on it in memory of someone who adored flying or choosing fabric of a specific color for the loved one's favorite color).

Thank you so much for your continued support of this worthwhile project!

# READINGS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

## First Reading

Gn 2: 7-9. 3: 1-7

### A Reading from the book of Genesis

The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being.

Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and placed there the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made various trees grow that were delightful to look at and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals that the LORD God had made. The serpent asked the woman, "Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?" The woman answered the serpent: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman: "You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is evil."

The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

This is the Word of the Lord

**R: Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS. 51: 3-4, 5-6,12-3,14,17

**R: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;  
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.  
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt  
and of my sin cleanse me.

**R: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

For I acknowledge my offense,  
and my sin is before me always:  
"Against you only have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight."

**R: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

A clean heart create for me, O God,  
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.  
Cast me not out from your presence,  
and your Holy Spirit take not from me.

**R: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Give me back the joy of your salvation,  
and a willing spirit sustain in me.

O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**R: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

## Second Reading

Rom 5: 12-19

### A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death,

and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned — for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law. But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come.

But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one, the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many. And the gift is not like the result of the one who sinned. For after one sin there was the judgment that brought condemnation; but the gift, after many transgressions, brought acquittal. For if, by the transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so, through one righteous act, acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**R: Thanks be to God.**

C. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

**R: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.**

C. One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

**R: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.**

## THE GOSPEL

Mt 4: 1-11

C: The Lord be with you.

**R: And also with you.**

C: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**R: Glory be to You, O Lord.**

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: *One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*"

Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: *He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*" Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, *You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.*"

Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: *The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.*"

Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**R: Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Bible Study – next session announced



With the current Bible study session finished, we are excited to announce the next session. Entitled “**Traversing the Narrative Arc of Scripture**”, it will begin on 7 March 2023 and continue for six weeks. The group meets at 6:30 p.m. in the classrooms and begins with a potluck meal, so both mind and body are fortified. All are welcome to join!

## First prayer shawls to be blessed Sunday



Our little group has been busy at work! There are **three** shawls/blankets to be blessed at the beginning of Mass this Sunday. Want to join? The group meets weekly on **Thursday morning at 11:00 a.m.** for about an hour or two to work on simple prayer shawls and lap

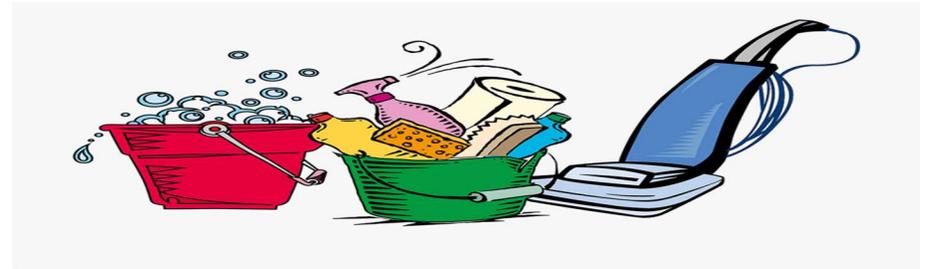
blankets for the hospital. Experience not necessary, enthusiasm is! We can teach those who wish to learn. Anyone can participate, men or women. If you are interested, please contact the office. If you need, crochet hooks and yarn will be provided.



## SPECIAL MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to sponsor a Mass to memorialize a loved one or celebrate a special occasion, please contact the office at 203-377-9901 or email [sjosparishpncc@outlook.com](mailto:sjosparishpncc@outlook.com). Intentions will be listed in the “What’s Happening” section of the bulletin, marked with a ✠. If you do not see it listed there, please contact the office.

## Spring Cleaning planned



Anyone available on a weekday morning to help with Spring Cleaning in the basement? No heavy lifting or hauling involved! If you have a couple hours you can donate to the cause, contact Yvonne to schedule when to come in. With a few extra hands, the work will go faster and the basement will sparkle!

## Can you make a Raffle basket?

At the Polish dinner on 4 March, there will also be a raffle. To that end, we are looking for items to make up baskets for the raffle or donations of completed baskets. Items can be dropped off in the classroom at the designated area. Please log your contribution on the paper so we know the item(s)/basket(s) are meant for the raffle. If you drop off a complete basket, please include a card listing the contents so those buying tickets know what’s inside



## Can't crochet? Would you rather string rosaries?



If knitting and crocheting isn't your thing, you can learn to make rosaries for those in the hospital instead. Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m. can become craft time in the classrooms as we come together to chat, create, and pray for those for whom we're making rosaries/shawls/lap blankets. Please contact the office if you're interested so we can have the kits prepared in advance of the class.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CHURCH

**Friday, 3 March 2023** – Stations of the Cross. Potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. with Stations to follow

**Saturday, 4 March 2023** – Polish Dinner. 6:00 p.m. eat-in, 5:00 p.m. takeout

**Sunday, 5 March 2023** – Bitter Lamentations Part II, 9:00 a.m.

**Sunday, 12 March 2023** – Feast of the Institution of the PNCC

**†Sunday, 19 March 2023** – Memorial Mass for †William Petrino, given by wife Carol

### Altar Flowers – No more until **Easter**

Now that Lent has begun flowers will no longer adorn the altars, but you can start thinking ahead to Easter and beyond. They are wonderful way to remember a special person or occasion as well as beautify the church. Contact Fr. Tom or Dee Smith if you wish to donate flowers for a particular week. Please let them know if the flowers will be in memory or celebration of someone so the donation can be acknowledged. There are vases in the cabinets in the right side altar room if you want to donate flowers for the side altars.



### Computer literate and social media savvy?

This part-time position may be for you. The Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Commission (EDSPC) is seeking a Digital Program Manager to assist, contribute and help guide all its parishes in the management and development of their respective online digital presence (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, websites, etc.).

This is a part-time (able to allocate 5-not to exceed-20 hours per week), virtual (work from home) position. There will be very limited travel throughout the Eastern Diocese when applicable and approved. (Expenses will be reimbursed). More information – responsibilities, salary, how and where to apply for the position – is posted on the bulletin board. Deadline for application is **1 April 2023**.

## Polish Dinner – reservations now closed

This coming Saturday, 4 March 2023, the church will be holding a Polish Dinner in the hall after Mass. Food will be available for those who've made reservations to eat in or take out. The event is **not** a BYOB event.



**Help is needed for both the day before and the day of the dinner. If you can assist, please contact the office.**



The menu will consist of stuffed cabbage, pierogi, kielbasa, green beans, and a dessert. Take out orders will be ready to pick up between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. Sit down meals will be available at 6:00 p.m. Doors will open at 5:45 p.m. Payments for all food ordered will be taken at the door.



**And we're going to have Polish dancers perform!** A

local group will put on a short program for those eating in, showcasing the culture of the founders of our church. The performance starts at 6:00 p.m. – get your seats early so you don't miss out!

### Information table in foyer



As you've noticed, there is an information table in the foyer with all kinds of great things for you. Stop by and check out the latest additions to the table. There are still plenty of 2023 calendars – take as many as you'd like. Various brochures or flyers are put there as they become available.