

St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



March 4-5, 2023 – Second 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, 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,

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

This verse from today's Gospel passage (Matthew 17:1-9) is known as a theophany, an encounter with God. In this case God speaking to the Apostles from the cloud, reminiscent of Moses' encounter with God on Mt. Sinai. In Moses encounter with God, Moses received the Word of God written on a tablet. In the Apostles encounter with God, the Apostles received the Word of God in the Person of Jesus Christ. As the Apostles were commanded so are we, listen to him.

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 / 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.

OOPS!



There were a couple of typos in last week's baby announcement. Aubrey **Gloria** Walsh was born on Friday 17 February 2023, weighing in at 8 pounds **14** ounces and 20.25 inches in length. Many apologies for the errors!

Meal in the Upper Room

Another tradition we would like to resume from pre-pandemic is having the Meal in the Upper Room. To that end, we've scheduled a date of Sunday, 2 April 2023 at 4:00 p.m., provided a few good people step forward to host it (do the planning, prepare the food, etc.). If you are interested in helping out with this event, please contact Father Tom.



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 blessed last Sunday!

At the beginning of last week's Mass, seven blankets were blessed. One of these was a blanket made with fabric purchased in memory of our departed friend Wendell Barry. These blankets will be brought to Smilow Cancer Hospital and Yale's Children's Hospital and given to patients there.



After Mass, two more blankets were completed towards the next batch for blessing, so we're off to a great start!

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 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading

Gn 12: 1-4

A Reading from the book of Genesis

The LORD said to Abram: "Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you.

"I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you."

Abram went as the LORD directed him.

This is the Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS. 33: 4-5, 18-19, 20, 22

R: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Upright is the word of the LORD,
and all his works are trustworthy.
He loves justice and right;
of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full.

R: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him,
upon those who hope for his kindness,
To deliver them from death
and preserve them in spite of famine.

R: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Our soul waits for the LORD,
who is our help and our shield.
May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us
who have put our hope in you.

R: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Second Reading

2 Tm 1: 8-10

A Reading from the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy

Beloved:

Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.

He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began, but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

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. From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:

This is my beloved Son, hear him.

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

THE GOSPEL

Mt 17: 1-9

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.

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him.

Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Bible Study – Starts this week!



The next session of Bible study is entitled “**Traversing the Narrative Arc of Scripture**”. It will begin on 7 March 2023 (this Tuesday) and continue for six weeks. The study looks at the narrative of Scripture through the lens of the major events in the life of the Israelites, Creation, Exodus, Conquest, Kingdom, Exiles, Greeks and Romans.

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!

Help us make prayer shawls

Our little group has been busy at work! Three shawls/blankets were blessed at the beginning of Mass last Sunday and already another is done towards the next batch. 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. A couple of members work solely from home and send in their work when it's finished. 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. 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.

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. is now 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.

DISTRICT 3 POLISH NATIONAL UNION SPRING - EASTER RAFFLE



There is a Spring - Easter Raffle to benefit District 3 of the Polish National Union being held. The PNU has been supporting our Polish National Catholic Church since its organization in 1908 and with your support will continue to do so. Last year District 3 provided support to youth at the diocesan youth retreat, Altar Servers retreat and other fraternal activities.

The Easter Raffle will take place on Sunday, April 16, 2023 immediately following the 10:30 AM Holy Mass at Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls, RI. The first prize is \$50.00 cash and the second and third prizes are \$25.00 cash.

Tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, and 7 for \$10.00. Checks in payment for the Easter Raffle tickets should be made payable to “District 3 PNU”. Please see the office for tickets. Your generous support of this District's fund raiser is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your help in this fund raising effort for our District.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CHURCH

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

Friday, 10 March 2023 – Stations of the Cross. Potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. with Stations to follow

Sunday, 12 March 2023 – Feast of the Institution of the PNCC with dedication of altar candles donated by Walt Shaw

Sunday, 19 March 2023 – Bitter Lamentations Part II, 9:00 a.m.

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

Sunday, 2 April 2023 (tentative) – Meal in the Upper Room, 4:00 p.m. in the classrooms.

Altar Flowers – No more until **Easter**

Flowers will no longer adorn the altars during Lent, 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 (5-20 hours/week), virtual (work from home) position. There will be very limited travel throughout the Eastern Diocese when applicable and approved, expenses reimbursed). More information is posted on the bulletin board. Deadline for application is **1 April 2023**.

What are Bitter Lamentations?



One of the “extra” services held during Lent is Bitter Lamentations. This is one of the oldest devotions still in use today in close to its original form. It began back in the 1700s in Holy Cross Church in Poland and focuses on the Passion of Christ and how His suffering affected His mother Mary. The original title of this service was much

longer – “Snopek Myrry z Ogroda Gethsemańskiego albo żalose Gorzkiey Męki Syna Bożego [...] rozpamiętywanie” (A bunch of Myrrh from Garden of Gethsemane or sorrowful crying over Bitter Passion of Son of God) – but was soon shortened to Gorzkie Żale utilizing the first words of the opening hymn of the devotion - “Gorzkie żale przybywajcie” (Come to us, bitter lamentations).

Fashioned after the Divine Office services of Matins (Mornings) and Lauds (Praises), Bitter Lamentations consists of three Parts. Each Part is further subdivided into an intention, a meditation, and a dialogue with the Blessed Mother. These Parts can be broken out and celebrated on separate days (as we do) or sung altogether in one service. If separated, each service begins with the opening hymn (“Come O Bitter Lamentations”) and ends with “Lord for us Your wounds were suffered” sung three times – the pieces that open and close the combined service. In the combined service, a Passion sermon is preached between each Part. Some churches sing the Lamentations preceded or followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Come join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. to participate in this service!

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.

