

St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



May 21, 2023 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE
CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Financial
Secretary
Barbara
Chernesky

Office
Administrator
Lisa Vasas

Dear Parishioners,

*"Now this is eternal life,
that they should know you, the only true God,
and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ."*

Can attaining eternal life be as simple as this verse from today's Gospel passage (John 17:1-11) states, to know God and Jesus Christ. The operative word here is "know." The word know has different usages. We can know of something, or we can know about something. To know of something implies a passing familiarity. To know about something implies knowledge of the subject. How would you characterize your knowing the only true God and the one whom He sent, Jesus Christ? A passing familiarity or knowledgeable? That is the question.

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 / sjosparishncc@outlook.com



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), Ray Morrison

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 **Easter** season

Just as there were changes to the Mass during Lent, there are slight changes in the Mass during Easter season **which lasts through Pentecost**. During the Canon of the Mass, all those who are able should stand for the entirety of the Consecration. And at the final response (after the final blessing), a pair of "Alleluia"s are appended to the "Thanks be to God".

Congratulations Charles!



On Saturday, 29 April 2023, Charles Vasas graduated Norwich University (Northfield, VT) with a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies. We also celebrate that on this Sunday Charles will have served fifteen years at the altar of St Joseph's. The parish community wishes to congratulate him on both these milestones.

***May Your Future Be Filled with God's Love and Guidance
We Are Proud of You!
Your Parish Family***

Please join us after Sunday Mass for cake in the church hall!

Pentecost "Open House" – Bring a friend!

The Solemnity of Pentecost is NEXT WEEK celebrating the literal birth of the Catholic Church. We encourage you to wear **red** and to invite your friends and family to join you at church for Mass and coffee hour. Let's fill the church with people as the Spirit is renewed in all of us!

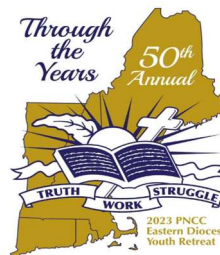
Were you at last week's Confirmation?

Did you take pictures? We're looking to collect as many of the photos of the service as we can so that the families and the parish have a full archive of the day. Please send them to the office email, or stop by during the week to transfer them to us. Thank you!

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.

50th Annual Diocesan Youth Retreat



The Eastern Diocese of the PNCC will be holding its 50th annual Youth Retreat from 21-24 August 2023 in a NEW location – Camp Berea in Hebron, NH. The theme of the retreat this year is ***"Through the Years"***. This year all our sessions will be small group based on age, hands on and interactive. They have planned an exciting time of worship, prayer, learning, recreational activities at the lake and camp, a camp fire, community service and more. The retreat is open to diocesan youth ages 8 – 17 and again this year they can bring a friend (*even if the friend is not a member of our PNCC*). The cost per participant is \$225.00. Scholarships are available for those who need.

Deadline for registration is 15 June, so get your paperwork in quickly. For more information, see the flyer posted on the bulletin board or contact the office.

"Honor Your Father" - Clergy Pension Fund

From the Clergy Pension Fund Committee: "We pray for all fathers, both lay and clergy, past and present, to express our gratitude, remembrance and love for all they have done for our families and for our Church.

For continued support of our Clergy Pension Fund and to acknowledge ALL FATHERS, we will publish in the June issue of God's Field- Rola Boža your name and the name of the father you wish to acknowledge or remember. For each acknowledgement or remembrance, we are requesting a minimum donation of \$25.00, payable to the Clergy Pension Fund P.N.C.C.

We feel that this will have a two-fold effect, by acknowledging or remembering OUR FATHERS, LAY OR CLERGY, for all they have done for us and to also bolster our Clergy Pension Fund in order to show our continued support for our Clergy/Church Fathers who make so many sacrifices each day in service to our church."

Further information on this can be found on the bulletin board and on the information table in the foyer.

READINGS FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST READING

Acts 1: 12-14

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

After Jesus had been taken up to heaven the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

This is the Word of the Lord
R: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS. 27: 1, 4, 7-8

R: I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?

The LORD is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?

R: I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

One thing I ask of the LORD; this I seek:
To dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD
and contemplate his temple.

R: I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call;
have pity on me, and answer me.
Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks.

R: I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

SECOND READING

1 Pt 4: 13-16

A Reading from the first letter of St. Peter

Beloved:

Rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly.

If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let no one among you be made to suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as an intriguer. But whoever is made to suffer as a Christian should not be ashamed but glorify God because of the name.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

C. Alleluia, alleluia

R: Alleluia, alleluia

C. I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord.

I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

R: Alleluia, alleluia

THE GOSPEL

Jn 17: 1-11

C: The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

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

R: Glory be to You, O Lord.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said,

“Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that your son may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should

know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began.

“I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer Blanket Project



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.

Thank you so much for your continued support of this worthwhile project! We will soon have more blankets prepared for you to complete during Sunday coffee hour.

Drivers needed for homebound



We are still in need of people to bring local homebound parishioners to church each week. If you are able to help, please contact the office.

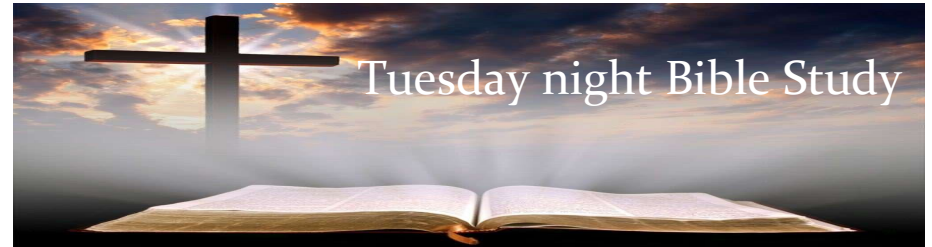
Main Street Festival next week

Rain or shine, the annual Stratford Main Street Festival, presented by the Stratford Rotary Club, is set to take place June 3rd from 10am to 4pm, on Main Street from Stratford Center to Stratford Avenue.

The Main Street Festival promotes Stratford's energy and community by bringing together over 140 local vendors, including bands and entertainment, food trucks, booths and artists. The event also provides an opportunity for Stratford's diverse organizations to educate the public about their functions and support fundraising efforts. Vendor booths and trucks will line Main Street, allowing residents to stroll through Stratford Center, embracing the beauty of the town's Main Street. Various bands and entertainers will be performing throughout the day on the West Broad Street Green.

Yoga and Tai Chi Update

In mid-June, the Tuesday Yoga class will start its summer hiatus. The Friday Tai Chi class will continue to meet during the summer.



Interested in learning what the Bible has to say? Check out our own study group and what they're discussing. This session of Bible study is entitled "**Traversing the Narrative Arc of Scripture**". The multi-week 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 on Tuesdays 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!

Flowers help beautify our altars



Now that Easter has passed, flowers are again allowed on the altars. They are a 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.

Feed the children – summer is coming quickly

The time to plan ahead for the local children whose only source of daily food is their school is now. Summer recess is just six weeks away – two months in which these children will not have access to a nourishing meal each day. The collection basket for non-perishable, kid-friendly food is in the foyer. Please consider picking up an extra item when you go shopping to help feed the children.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CHURCH

Tuesday, 23 May 2023 – Bible study in the classrooms, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, 25 May 2023 – Craft group in the classrooms, 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, 28 May 2023 – Pentecost Sunday. Open House. Invite friends and family to church and wear **red**!

Tuesday, 27 June 2023 – Eastern Diocese Acolyte Retreat, Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday - Friday, 9-11 Aug 2023 – 28th NUC Music Workshop & Conference, Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA

Monday - Thursday, 21-24 Aug 2023 – 50th Annual Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat, Camp Berea, Hebron, NH. **Registration deadline: 15 June**

Thursday, 17 Aug 2023 – LifeLine Screening event in church hall

Missed the LifeLine Screening Event?

If you missed the LifeLine Screening event held last Wednesday in the church hall, fear not – we are hosting another event on Thursday, 17 August 2023 in the church hall.



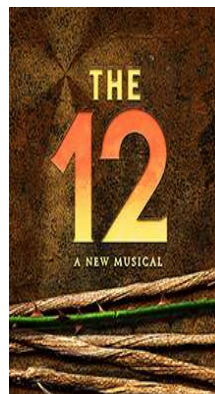
Don't let heart disease and stroke get in the way of the life you love. The 4 vital screenings offered take 60-90 minutes to complete. Circle the date on your calendar and register for an appointment as soon as the information on doing so is given to us.

Annual Acolyte Retreat



The Eastern Diocese holds an annual one-day retreat for its Altar Servers. This year the retreat will be held on Tuesday, 27 June 2023 at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA. The topic is "Serving Jesus and Being Jesus to Others". It starts off with Mass at 9:30 a.m. and ends that afternoon with an outing to the beach for participants. See the bulletin board for more information about this event.

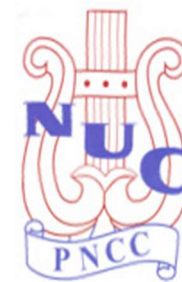
Have you made your reservation?



In the Fall, Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, CT, will be presenting a new musical – "The 12" – about what the disciples do in the wake of Jesus' death. The Ladies' Society is planning to take a group to see this musical, rated 15+. The date has not been set yet, but it will be a 2:00 p.m. Sunday matinee performance sometime between 8 September and 29 October. A signup sheet is posted in the foyer for those interested in attending. A deposit of \$10/person will be required to hold the ticket. Reserve your spot for what promises to be a unique experience!

National United Choirs Workshop

The 28th Music Workshop of the NUC will be held Wednesday – Friday, August 9 – 11, 2023 at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA. It is an opportunity to expand our music education, lift our voices in praise to God, and enjoy the fellowship of other Music Ministers. Further information (registration, schedule, hotel accommodations) is posted on the bulletin board for those who might be interested in attending.



Coffee Hour signup sheet

There is a signup sheet in the hall for those who would like to host one of the weekly coffee hours for the rest of the year. It doesn't have to be solely an individual host each week – people can sign up to share the hosting duties for a week, if that works better for them.

Looking to have a Mass for a loved one?

To reserve a date for a memorial/commemorative Mass, contact the office at 203-377-9901, email sjosparishpncc@outlook.com or use the Mass intention cards on the table in the foyer. Intentions will be listed in the "What's Happening" section of the bulletin, marked with a $\frac{1}{11}$. If you do not see it listed there, please contact the office.