

## St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



June 25, 2023 – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Parish Contacts

PASTOR  
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON  
Jeanine May

VICE  
CHAIRPERSON  
Dee Smith

Financial  
Secretary  
Barbara  
Chernesky

Office  
Administrator  
Lisa Vasas

### Dear Parishioners,

*“Even all the hairs of your head are counted.”*

You might imagine that this verse from today’s Gospel passage, Matthew 10:26-33, is surely an exaggeration. How could God keep track of such minutia? But that is the point Jesus is making. We are not minor details to God who is concerned with grander things. We are the grand things God concerns himself with. Why God gave his only Son.

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](mailto:sjosparishpncc@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, Ray Morrison, Meghan Castelot.

### 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).

### Vigil Mass to be suspended for summer

As has been our practice in the past, the Saturday Vigil Mass will not be celebrated for the months of July and August. It will resume again in September. Please note this on your calendar and make plans to attend the Sunday service for those two months!

### Fireworks tailgating

For those parishioners and their friends who wish to tailgate this Friday’s Stratford Fireworks display from the parking lot, the gates will be open at 6:00 p.m. Password is : **“Mercy Tabernacle”**. Fireworks start around 9:00 p.m. Remember your bug spray!

### 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](mailto: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 †. If you do not see it listed there, please contact the office.

## READINGS FOR THE TWELVTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### FIRST READING

Jer 20: 10-13

#### A Reading from the book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah said:

"I hear the whisperings of many: 'Terror on every side! Denounce! let us denounce him!' All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine. 'Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can prevail, and take our vengeance on him.' But the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion: my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph. In their failure they will be put to utter shame, to lasting, unforgettable confusion.

O LORD of hosts, you who test the just, who probe mind and heart, let me witness the vengeance you take on them, for to you I have entrusted my cause. Sing to the LORD, praise the LORD, for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!"

This is the Word of the Lord

**R: Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 69: 8-10, 14, 17, 33-35

**R: Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

For your sake I bear insult, and shame covers my face.  
I have become an outcast to my brothers,  
a stranger to my mother's children,  
Because zeal for your house consumes me,  
and the insults of those who blaspheme you fall upon me.

**R: Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

I pray to you, O LORD, for the time of your favor, O God!  
In your great kindness answer me with your constant help.  
Answer me, O LORD, for bounteous is your kindness;  
in your great mercy turn toward me.

**R: Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

"See, you lowly ones, and be glad;  
you who seek God, may your hearts revive!  
For the LORD hears the poor,  
and his own who are in bonds he spurns not.  
Let the heavens and the earth praise him,  
the seas and whatever moves in them!"

**R: Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

### SECOND READING

Rom 5: 12-15

#### 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**R: Thanks be to God.**

C. Alleluia, alleluia

**R: Alleluia, alleluia**

C. The Spirit of truth will testify to me, says the Lord; and you also will testify.

**R: Alleluia, alleluia**

## THE GOSPEL

Mt 10:26-33

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 said to the Twelve:

"Fear no one. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CHURCH

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

**Thursday, 29 June 2023** – Craft group in the classrooms, 11:00 a.m.

**Friday, 30 June 2023** – Fireworks at Short Beach. Rain date: 5 July.

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

**Monday - Thursday, 21-24 Aug 2023** – 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat, Camp Berea, Hebron, NH.

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

### Missed the LifeLine Screening Event?

If you missed the LifeLine Screening event, fear not – we are hosting another event on Thursday, 17 August 2023 in the church hall. The event is open for registration of appointments. Call soon, as spots fill up quickly!

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 and don't require any removal of clothing.

Further information can be found on the bulletin board or contact the office. Flyers are also available on the table for you to take.



**4 Vital Screenings for \$149**

- Carotid Artery Ultrasound
- Peripheral Arterial Disease
- Atrial Fibrillation
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

To register for your appointment and receive the special discount, please call

**866-964-1386**

LIFE LINE SCREENING  
The Power of Prevention

### 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.

## Flowers help beautify our altars

Flowers are a wonderful way to remember a special person or occasion as well as beautify the church. The flowers do not have to be a formal arrangement – they can be chosen from the bounty in your home garden. 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.



## 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! The Ladies' Society is working on learning how to prepare the fabric for the blankets, so they will soon have more blankets ready for you to complete during upcoming Sunday coffee hours.

## Feed the children – Summer is here!

Summer recess has started for children in the community – 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.



## July & August group meetings

With summer here, the following groups will not meet for July and August, but will resume weekly meetings in September:

Tuesday morning yoga  
Tuesday evening Bible study  
Thursday morning crafts/prayer shawl