

St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



August 6, 2023 – Solemnity of the Transfiguration

Dear Parishioners,

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE
CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Financial
Secretary
Barbara
Chernesky

Office
Administrator
Lisa Vasas

In today's Gospel passage (Matthew 17:1-9) we find Jesus transfigured before the Apostles Peter, James, and John. Here Jesus' prophecy given in the verse just prior to today's passage is fulfilled, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." (Matthew 16:28) This was indeed true for Peter, James, and John. They had a foretaste of the kingdom, our eternal destiny.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

Vigil Mass – Suspended for July and August, to resume in September Sunday morning Mass – 9:30am.

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford, CT 06615 / (203) 377-9901
www.saintjosephsofstratford.org / 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).

Please silence your cell phones before Mass.

Donor Leaf Information

For those interested in adding a leaf to the tree in the foyer in memory of a loved one or commemoration of an event, please contact the office.



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.

School supplies for children

As Fall approaches, the Eastern Diocese Mission and Evangelism Commission is sponsoring an outreach. For the remainder of August, each parish is encouraged to collect school supplies to be distributed to less fortunate children in their community.



A flyer is on the bulletin board and on the table in the foyer of various needed items. Please consider participating in this drive – especially now when many of the stores are having back-to-school sales!

A box labeled with the above icon is in the foyer for the collection of these items as you bring them in. Many thanks to those who have already contributed!



Ladies' Society Fall Outing

The Ladies Society is putting together a Sunday matinee outing this October to the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam for a musical that picks up where "Jesus Christ Superstar" left off.

"The 12" – A New Musical

**(Book & Lyrics by Rober Schenkkan; Music & Lyrics by Neil Berg;
Music Direction by Adam Souza; Music Supervision by Greg Jarrett;
Direction and Musical Staging by John Doyle)**

Jerusalem. The disciples are in disarray. Torn apart by the unthinkable death of their leader, see how twelve ordinary individuals come together to create one of the most powerful movements ever known. Filled with power and Passion, "The 12" is a universal story of love and how each of us must eventually navigate the loss of whatever we hold most dear.

Please sign up for the Goodspeed Opera Outing so we know how to plan for tickets and transportation! You don't have to be a member of the Ladies' Society to attend – all are welcome!

August Prayer Calendar released

The Eastern Diocese Mission and Evangelism Commission has released the daily prayer calendar for the month of August. It poses questions and challenges for your contemplation. Copies of it are on the table in the foyer. Please take one.

LifeLine Screening Event in ten days!



Did you know? "80% of strokes are preventable, according to the American Heart Association, and Life Line Screening provides valuable health screenings to detect the risk of stroke and cardiovascular disease". You can take advantage of these health screenings today by signing up for the complete stroke screening package which includes four screenings for vascular disease.

With the number of people already signed up for the event, appointment spaces are very limited so please don't miss your chance to confirm your appointment today before the event is full!

Pre-registration is required. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://llsa.social/HC>

Wednesday noon prayer for August

The Eastern Diocese Mission and Evangelism Commission has sent out the prayer topic for the month of August. On Wednesdays at noon, they request that all in the diocese join in praying the "Our Father" and the PNCC prayer for the youth:



Loving and kind Father, because You created us in your image and likeness and determined that one generation should follow another in order to continue live, keep in Your tender and steadfast care the youth of the Church. May they come to know and understand that true happiness can be attained when they live in harmony with your teaching. May they, like our Lord and Savior in His youth, grow "in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor." Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

~(A Book of Devotions and Prayers, Polish National Catholic Church)

As young people prepare to return to school, they especially need our prayers for their welfare and continued growth.

READINGS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

FIRST READING

Dn 7: 9-10, 13-14

A Reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

As I watched:

Thrones were set up and the Ancient One took his throne. His clothing was bright as snow, and the hair on his head as white as wool; his throne was flames of fire, with wheels of burning fire. A surging stream of fire flowed out from where he sat; Thousands upon thousands were ministering to him, and myriads upon myriads attended him. The court was convened and the books were opened.

As the visions during the night continued, I saw:

One like a Son of man coming, on the clouds of heaven; When he reached the Ancient One and was presented before him, The one like a Son of man received dominion, glory, and kingship; all peoples, nations, and languages serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, his kingship shall not be destroyed.

This is the Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 97: 1-2, 5-6, 9

R: The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice;
let the many islands be glad.
Clouds and darkness are round about him,
justice and judgment are the foundation of his throne.

R: The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the LORD of all the earth.
The heavens proclaim his justice,
and all peoples see his glory.

R: The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

Because you, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth,
exalted far above all gods.

R. The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

SECOND READING

2 Pt 1: 16-19

A Reading from the second letter of St. Peter

Beloved:

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that unique declaration came to him from the majestic glory, "This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven while we were with him on the holy mountain. Moreover, we possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable. You will do well to be attentive to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

C. Alleluia, alleluia

R: Alleluia, alleluia

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

R: Alleluia, alleluia

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 his brother, John, 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."

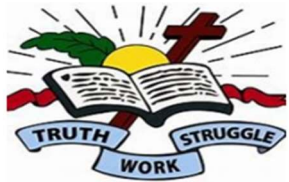
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Another article from The Messenger

Diocesan Council Meeting, June 3, 2023 (Zoom Meeting) [Part 2]

[Due to the length of this article, it is being reprinted in parts.]



(Continued from last week's bulletin)

Bishop's Report

Bishop Paul's written report was accepted on a motion by Father Senior Krusinski, seconded by Ray Pieczarka.

Seniorate reports

Reports of the Senior priests followed with Father Senior Krusinski asking his priests to be more cooperative. Reports were accepted on a motion by Cindy Hebert, seconded by Father Wos.

Diaconate Program Status Report

Justin Daviault is our sub-deacon who needs to finish his studies on PNCC history before being elevated to deacon. Bishop mentioned Justin is always willing to do what is requested of him. Because of the situation in the diocese regarding a shortage of clergy, Sub-deacon Justin has been given a license to preach and distribute communion.

Diocesan Clergy Circle

A very successful Clergy Circle conference was held in Manchester, CT on January 17, 2023. A fall retreat is planned, probably at Mercy Center. Some clergy have suggested a two, rather than one, day retreat.

Cathedral of the Pines

A service at Cathedral of the Pines has been scheduled for July 9, 2023, with a repast to follow at Woodbound Inn, Rindge, NH. It was suggested that a Mass be concelebrated in memory of Bishop Joseph Soltysiak (50th Anniversary) and Father Senior Fryderyk Banas (1st Anniversary). The plan was revised to include all deceased bishops of the Eastern Diocese as well as all deceased senior priests. A motion to celebrate this Mass at the Cathedral of the Pines in honor of deceased bishops and senior priests of the Eastern diocese was made by Father Senior Krusinski, seconded by Father Wos. The Liturgical commission will

(Continues on next page)

meet to arrange the Mass. Program books will be researched to make a list of all seniors and Karen Sobiechowski will design a flyer. Bishop Paul encouraged all to promote this service within their parishes.

Supreme Council Report

The Supreme Council report could not be given until the minutes are published in Rola Boża. Topics discussed at the Supreme Council were restructuring the church and The Polish National Union (PNU) merging with The Polish National Alliance (PNA). Motion to accept the abridged report was made by Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd, seconded by Mary Tudryn.

Strategic Planning Subcommittee Report

The Strategic Planning report given by Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd indicated there were five applicants for the Digital program manager. One person has been interviewed by Larry Gagnon and Shirley and that name has been forwarded to Bishop. The other four withdrew for various reasons. Other items discussed at the EDSPC included a report that the Clergy of the Eastern Diocese were surveyed and it was concluded that a single data storage area is needed for consistency and security purposes and clergy should have standard email addresses to keep church emails separate from personal emails. Motion to accept the report was made by Ray Pieczarka, seconded by Father Tenu.

Spojnia District 3 Report

Once the merger of PNU with PNA occurs, all directors will be voluntary. They will no longer be paid. All those who sell insurance for PNA must be licensed. For those who belong to PNU, there will be more benefits and all plans will be honored. This merger preserves the legacy of fraternalism.

Sub-central Organization reports

The ANS report dealt with the recent National Convention held in the Eastern Diocese, hosted by sisters at Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT. Participants were pleased with the entire program and enjoyed the fellowship of the Eastern Diocese. The YMS of R report was given by Father Walsh. The parish in Norwich has the only active YMS of R with seven members who are active in the parish. They will host the National Convention in Norwich October 13-15, 2023. Karen Sobiechowski reported that United Choirs in the Eastern Diocese has had no formal meetings. Father Pawel Lukaszewicz is the chaplain and will update the member list for pastors. The Music Workshop will be held in Dupont, PA and members are urged to attend. The motion to accept reports of the sub-central organizations was made by Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd, and seconded by Father Wos.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CHURCH

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

Wednesday, 16 Aug 2023 – Lord's Kitchen

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

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

Wednesday, 23 Aug 2023 – Lord's Kitchen (volunteers needed!)

✠**Sunday, 3 Sep 2023** – Mass in memory of ✠Michael Raslavsky and ✠Desiree Anzalone commemorating the anniversaries of their deaths, given by Nancy Anzalone

Prayer Blanket Project

Yes, this is still an active project! The Ladies' Society is learning how to prepare the fabric for you to complete on a Sunday after Mass. Meanwhile, we are still collecting towards the purchase of fabric for the future. 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.



Please remember that we are currently the sole supplier to Yale-New Haven hospital of these much needed items of comfort.

Bishop Rufalko's funeral service

If anyone is interested in viewing the video of Bishop Jerry Rufalko's funeral, it is available online at:

<https://www.memorialslive.com/services.php?id=rafalko>

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 ✠. If you do not see it listed there, please contact the office.

Important announcement concerning St. Joseph's Cemetery



Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph's Church and non-members, the Parish Board is going to begin cleaning up grave plots that have overgrown trees, shrubs or anything surrounding a grave stone that is not in compliance per the Rules and Regulations of the cemetery. Please see below:

PLANTINGS:

1. **Planting of trees or shrubs is not permitted as they are detrimental to adjoining plots.**
2. **Flowers and potted plants are permitted in front of the monuments and may not exceed the width of the monument.**
3. **Artificial flowers, evergreens in boxes and Christmas wreaths are permitted in front of the monument and must be removed when unsightly.**
4. **Grave blankets and sprays are not permitted.**
5. **Funeral flowers are removed from grave sites in one week to not damage the sod.**
6. **Crushed stones, wood chips, shells and bricks are not permitted and will be removed.**
7. **Fencing, edging and border of any material are not permitted.**
8. **The Cemetery Committee reserves the right to remove and dispose of all floral pieces after the interment, inurnment, or when they become unsightly.**

Effective August 1, 2023, any grave plots that have not been cleaned up and adjusted to align with the rules and regulations will be handled by the Church committee and Cemetery Landscaper. Anyone needing guidance or extra time to attend to this, please contact Fr. Tom to make arrangements. We respect everyone's sacred family plots. This is not meant to be punitive in nature, but there are many plots that have been neglected for years that must be attended to.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.