

St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



May 25, 2025 – Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

**VICE
CHAIRPERSON**
Dee Smith

**Financial
Secretary**
Barbara
Chernesky

**Office
Administrator**
Lisa Vasas

*“We are not at peace with others
because we are not at peace with
ourselves, and we are not at peace
with ourselves because we are not
at peace with God.”*

~Thomas Merton

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil Mass – Suspended

Sunday 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 Fr. Bill, John (JR) Martikainen, Dee Smith, Nancy Sirois, Adam Macionus, Julie Frissora, Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak, Bishop John Mack, Jane Pelland, Joe Pelland, Fr. Henry Smolinski & Margo, Rich Lasecki, Edmond Bresh, Helen Reynolds, Helen Popp, Florence Rasmussen, Robin Lupinski, Martha Lesnick, Mary DiMenna, Ray Morrison, Meghan Castelot, Mateo Cirioli, Renata Wos, Janice Daviault

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. Rules on the reception of the Holy Eucharist are on the back page of this bulletin.

Changes in the Mass for Easter season – Please remain standing for the Canon. Extra Alleluias are added to responses.

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

Please silence your cell phones before Mass.

May daily gift card raffle latest winners



As promised, here are the winners from this past week's raffle drawings (Friday – Thursday). All winners have been called, although some still need to contact the office to arrange to pick up their prize. Congratulations to the winners!

- 16 May – Jane P. (#) – Marshalls
- 17 May – Olivia A. (#) – Home Goods
- 18 May – Curt (#340) – Amazon
- 18 May – Anthony K. (#259) – Target
- 19 May – Greg W. (#423) – Starbucks
- 20 May – Dee A. (#407) – Trader Joe's
- 21 May – Len D. (#372) – Target
- 22 May – Walter S. (#322) – Shell Gas

Ascension Thursday **this week**

Mass commemorating the Ascension of Our Lord into heaven will be held this Thursday, 29 May, at 6:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars and come join in worship on that special evening.



Father to be away

Father Tom will be away from Monday, 2 June, through Friday, 6 June. There will be NO disruption of the weekend Mass schedule, as he will be back for Sunday Mass. Any spiritual emergencies during the time Father is away should be directed to Fr. Paul Dudek in Union City (203) 729-4035.

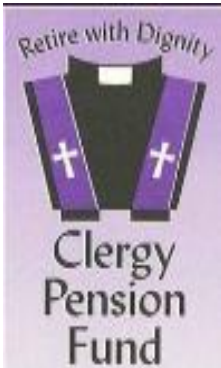


May Devotions

May is the month set aside for honoring our Blessed Mother, Mary. At the conclusion of each Mass, Father will offer prayers to Our Lady before the final hymn.

Honor Your Father on Father's Day

(a message 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 Boza 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 also to bolster our Clergy Pension Fund in order to show our continued support for our Clergy, our Church Fathers, who make so many sacrifices each day in service to our Church.

All donations received go toward the Clergy Pension Fund of the Polish National Catholic Church.

[Forms are available on the table in the foyer. They have the same icon as above on them for identification.]

Please cut out and complete the form and submit it prior to **June 1, 2025**, along with your minimum donation of \$25.00 per name, to:

**Clergy Pension Fund
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505**

Please make checks payable to the **"Clergy Pension Fund P.N.C.C."**

Thank you for your support.

P.N.C.C. Clergy Pension Fund Committee

READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading

Acts 15: 1-2, 22-29

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Some who had come down from Judea were instructing the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the Mosaic practice, you cannot be saved.” Because there arose no little dissension and debate by Paul and Barnabas with them, it was decided that Paul, Barnabas, and some of the others should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders about this question.

The apostles and elders, in agreement with the whole church, decided to choose representatives and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. The ones chosen were Judas, who was called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers. This is the letter delivered by them:

“The apostles and the elders, your brothers, to the brothers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia of Gentile origin: greetings. Since we have heard that some of our number who went out without any mandate from us have upset you with their teachings and disturbed your peace of mind, we have with one accord decided to choose representatives and to send them to you along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, who have dedicated their

lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. So we are sending Judas and Silas who will also convey this same message by word of mouth: 'It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities, namely, to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols, from blood, from meats of strangled animals, and from unlawful marriage. If you keep free of these, you will be doing what is right. Farewell.'"

The Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 67: 2-3, 5, 6, 8

R: O God, let all the nations praise you!

May God have pity on us and bless us;
may he let his face shine upon us.

So may your way be known upon earth;
among all nations, your salvation.

R: O God, let all the nations praise you!

May the nations be glad and exult
because you rule the peoples in equity;
the nations on the earth you guide.

R: O God, let all the nations praise you!

May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you!

May God bless us,
and may all the ends of the earth fear him!

R: O God, let all the nations praise you!

A Reading from the Book of Revelation:

The angel took me in spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It gleamed with the splendor of God. Its radiance was like that of a precious stone, like jasper, clear as crystal. It had a massive, high wall, with twelve gates where twelve angels were stationed and on which names were inscribed, the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites. There were three gates facing east, three north, three south, and three west. The wall of the city had twelve courses of stones as its foundation, on which were inscribed the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw no temple in the city for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb. The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb.

The Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God.

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

R: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.

R: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Jn 14: 23-29

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 said to his disciples: "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.

"I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me tell you, 'I am going away and I will come back to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe."

The Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Two Youth Programs upcoming

2025 EASTERN DIOCESE ALTAR SERVER RETREAT
WEDNESDAY – JUNE 25, 2025
BLESSED TRINITY PARISH – FALL RIVER, MA
"SERVING JESUS – LIVING GOD'S WORD"
BEING AT 9:30 A.M. WITH HOLY MASS AND DINE AT THE BEACH
SESSIONS ON GOD'S WORD AND SERVING DURING THE LITURGIES OF THE CHURCH



*Time in prayer, learning, fellowship and fun with your fellow
 Altar Servers - Plus a trip swimming at a local beach or bowling (depends on the weather!)
 Open to Altar Servers of our Eastern Diocese.*



*To register or for additional information contact:
 Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich
 RobNem2@aol.com*

Two of our diocese's annual get-togethers for our young people are fast approaching! Flyers are posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

First, the Eastern Diocese Acolyte Retreat for altar servers will be held on Wednesday, 25 June 2025, at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River. The topic this year is "Serving Jesus – Living God's Word." The day starts with Holy Mass at 9:00 a.m., continues with sessions pertinent to serving on the altar, and ends with a fun afternoon of bowling or the beach, depending on the weather.

There is no charge for this event, however, altar servers **DO** need to register for it and fill out the health form if they will not have a parent or guardian present with them. Contact the office for a form.

The second event is the 52nd Youth Retreat, taking place at Camp Berea in Hebron, New Hampshire, from Monday - Thursday, 18 – 21 August 2025.

This year's theme is "**What can God do with You...**". All sessions will be small group (based on age), hands-on and interactive. It is an exciting time of worship, prayer, learning, recreational activities at the lake and camp, a campfire, 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. Financial aid is available for those who need it. See the office for registration and health forms. **Deadline for registering is 25 June 2025.**

2025 YOUTH RETREAT
EASTERN DIOCESE PNCC
"WHAT CAN GOD
DO WITH YOU..."



WOULD GOD USE
SOMEONE LIKE
ME?



*Come and Worship, Learn and have great lake fun!
 @ Camp Berea in Hebron, NH - August 18-21, 2025*



*Registration and Health Forms are available from your pastor
 or email: RobNem2@aol.com
 Registration Deadline: June 25, 2025
 The cost is \$225 per person
 Follow us on Facebook: Eastern Diocese Youth*

Can't get to Mass?



The National Cathedral in Scranton, the Eastern Diocesan cathedral, and Holy Trinity parish in Southington (seat of the Southwestern Seniorate) have YouTube channels to which you can subscribe. All three channels archive the weekly Mass for later viewing. So, if you're away from home, or shut-in, you can still see a Mass from our church, although not of our parish.

Check them out –

<https://www.youtube.com/@bishoppaulsobiechowski9743> or

<https://www.youtube.com/@ststanislauscathedral> or

<https://www.youtube.com/@holytrinitypnccsouthington156>

Blessed Items recycling

Blessed items should not be thrown out. As many of us downsize or clear out the homes of loved ones, we are faced with the problem of what to do with these items. If you have blessed items in need of a new home, bring them in and place them in the receptacle in the foyer and Father will give them to someone who needs them.



If you get a new phone, email address, or physical address, please remember to update your information with the office. This allows us to keep you informed of any last-minute changes in the Mass schedule or any parish emergencies that might arise.

Slips are available on the table in the foyer for this information. Simply fill it out and drop it off in the office. Thank you!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CHURCH

Thursday, 29 May 2025 – Craft group meets in the classroom, 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, 29 May 2025 – Ascension Thursday Mass, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, 8 June 2025 – Pentecost Sunday. Wear **red**. Invite your friends.

Only **two** weeks away

Pentecost is only two weeks away – 8 June 2025. It has long been a tradition in our parish to invite friends and family to join us for worship and for all to wear **red**. ***Mark the date on your calendars and get the red out!***

Also, in your offering envelopes was one specifically for Pentecost flowers. If you are moved to contribute, simply leave your envelope in the basket with your weekly offering. If you cannot find this envelope, but would still like to donate, you can use a plain envelope with your name and the names, if any, of those you wish to remember on it. All envelopes received on or before 1 June will be acknowledged in a special insert to the Pentecost bulletin.



Next coffee hour



Next Sunday is the first Sunday of June, bringing with it our next Coffee Fellowship Hour. If you are interested in providing any refreshments for this date, please contact the office. Blankets will be available to

complete on a side table.

Items for the bulletin

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

Reception of the Holy Eucharist

Baptized Christians who believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist and are in a state of grace, free from mortal sin, are invited to partake of this Holy Sacrament. It is the practice of the PNCC to distribute the Holy Eucharist through the method of intinction. The Body of Christ is dipped into the Precious Blood and is placed on the tongue and not in the hand of the communicant. *If you are unable to receive the Precious Blood, please alert Father before Mass so that he is aware of the situation. If you would like to receive a blessing from Father instead of Communion, come to the altar rail with your arms crossed, palms on shoulders.* Come and let us be one with our Lord.



Food collections



During the month of June, we will be collecting kid-friendly non-perishable food to be given to Sterling House for their Food-4-Kids program which provides sustenance to children in Stratford. For these children, often their only meals are provided by their schools. With the current school session ending in June, they will have no source of food for the duration of the summer break. Sterling House provides them a backpack's worth of food on a weekly basis for the summer to offset what they would normally get through their school. *Please plan to join with us in helping supply Sterling House with food for these children.*

