

St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



June 29, 2025 – Solemnity of the Word of God (Year C)

Parish Contacts

PASTOR

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE
CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Financial
Secretary
Barbara
Chernesky

Office
Administrator
Lisa Vasas

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.”*

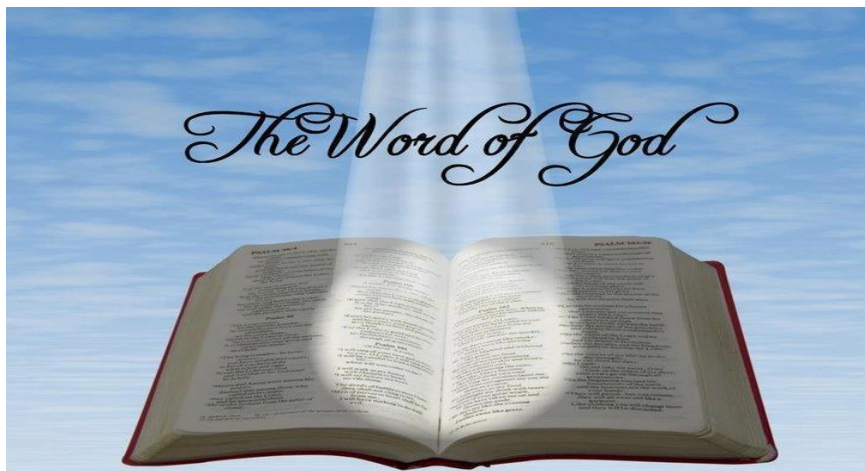
Psalms 119:105

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 Krusienski, 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.

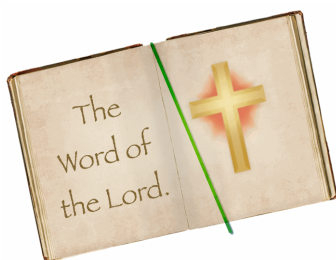
And please remember – no eating or drinking inside the church proper (small bottles of water excepted).

**Please silence your cell phones before
Mass.**

Thank you, Father Paul!

We want to thank Father Paul for coming down from Union City to celebrate the Mass this week with us. Please note that next week's Mass will also be at **NOON**, celebrated by Father Paul.

Word of God Sunday



Today's Solemnity is unique to the Polish National Catholic Church. Recognition of the Sacrament of the Preaching and Hearing of the Word of God was first announced during the 1909 Synod. The PNCC catechism denotes the seven sacraments as :

- Baptism & Confirmation
- The Word of God
- Penance/Reconciliation
- Holy Eucharist/Communion
- Holy Orders
- Matrimony
- Extreme Unction/Anointing of the Sick

combining Baptism and Confirmation into one sacrament, as one completes the other, and acknowledging the Word of God as its own sacrament. The Solemnity we celebrate today was instituted in 2023 to follow the Sunday in the Octave of Corpus Christi.

For more information on this Solemnity and its place in our church, please refer to the insert included in this bulletin, prepared by the office of the Prime Bishop for general distribution.

July materials available

The Eastern Diocese July prayer calendar and Wednesday prayer intention are available on the table in the foyer. Please take one and share in prayer with our diocesan brothers and sisters!



Cathedral of the Pines service in two weeks!

July 13th



Time to make your reservations for the annual Mass at the Cathedral of the Pines, 10 Hale Hill Road in Rindge, NH, commemorating all the deceased clergy of the

Eastern Diocese. The Mass on 13 July is followed by a dinner at a local restaurant for all attendees. The Mass starts at 3:30 p.m. and is usually held outside overlooking the beautiful mountains, but in case of inclement weather moves indoors.

Dinner is a buffet-style event held nearby, allowing everyone to mingle and start or renew friendships with others in the diocese. Admission is **free**, but for meal planning purposes, please reserve your place using the RSVP button on the event page on the diocesan website –

www.easterndiocesepncc.org/event/cathedral-of-the-pines

Deadline to register for the dinner is 8 July. Hope to see you there!



Food for kids – **JUNE** is over!

During the month of June, we have been 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. This week we will drop off all your donations.



We will continue our normal food collections throughout the summer for both Sterling House and Blessed Sacrament food pantry. Your contributions are needed more than ever and benefit more families than you realize.

Thank you to all those who have generously donated this month!

READINGS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Isaiah 55: 6-11

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their way, and sinners their thoughts; Let them turn to the Lord to find mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways – oracle of the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

Yet just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there 'til they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats. So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me empty, but shall do what pleases me, achieving the end for which I sent it.

Yes, in joy you shall go forth, in peace you shall be brought home. Mountains and hills shall break out in song before you, all trees of the field shall clap their hands.

The Word of the Lord
R: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 19: 7, 8, 9, 10

R: Lord, You have the words of everlasting life.

God's perfect love revives the soul;
God's stable rule guides the simple.

R: Lord, You have the words of everlasting life.

God's just demands delight the heart.
God's clear commands sharpen vision.

R: Lord, You have the words of everlasting life.

God's faultless decrees stand forever.
God's right judgments keep their truth.

R: Lord, You have the words of everlasting life.

Their worth is more than gold, the purest gold.
Their taste richer than honey, sweet from the comb.

R: Lord, You have the words of everlasting life.

Second Reading

1 Thes. 2: 10-13

**A Reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the
Thessalonians:**

You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers. As you know, we treated each one of you as a father treats his children, exhorting and encouraging you and insisting that you conduct yourselves as worthy of the God who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

And for this reason we too give thanks to God unceasingly, that, in receiving the word of God from hearing us, you received not a human word but, as it truly is, the word of God, which is now at work in you who believe.

The Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God.

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

R: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening:

You have the words of eternal life.

R: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Lk 8: 4-15

C: The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

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

R: Glory be to You, O Lord.

When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to him, he spoke in a parable. "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of

moisture. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold.” After saying this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear.”

Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be. He answered, “Knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of God has been granted to you; but to the rest, they are made known through parables so that ‘they may look but not see, and hear, but not understand.’

“This is the meaning of the parable. The seed is the word of God. Those on the path are the ones who have heard, but the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of trial. As for the seed that fell among thorns, they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit. But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Parable of the Sower

Faith Types



Faith Blinders

Value of God's Message not understood, and is disregarded.

Faith Rocky

Contentment in surface faith in God, skips dedication to depth needed to stand firm.

Faith Rebel

Destructively allows worldly priorities to compete with faith in God as primary.

Remaining Faith

Enduring faith in Jesus, fruitfully understands and practices God's Word.

What's the condition of your soil?

Backpack items needed

The Town of Stratford holds an annual Back-to-School Fair where they pass out backpacks filled with school supplies to the children who cannot afford to purchase these supplies on their own. To that end, for the month of July we will be collecting items and backpacks. For a complete list of what is needed, please see the flyers on the foyer table and bulletin board.



Next "Know & Grow" session



The seventh offering in this year's series, the next "Know & Grow" virtual session will be held **Thursday, 10 July 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** The speaker this month has yet to be announced, but the topic should be the **Characteristics of Jesus**.

Each unit will have biblical texts as a starting point, with lecture, meditation, discussion, and practical life applications.

To join via Zoom, please contact revpauls@yahoo.com or ksobiechowski@yahoo.com

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.

Check them out –

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

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

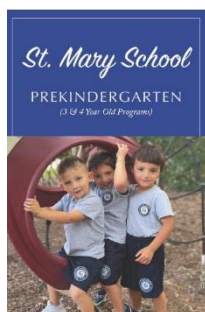
<https://www.youtube.com/@holyltrinitypnccsouthington156>

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.



St. Mary's School PreK – 3 openings



*Growing in
Faith & Knowledge*

*Your premier Prekindergarten
that sets the foundation for your
child's life long learning.*

Exciting news for families with young learners! St. Mary School still has a few spots available in its beloved Pre-K 3 program! Don't miss this special opportunity to join a nurturing, faith-filled environment where children grow socially, emotionally, and academically in a warm, loving, and safe environment. You can apply now here: www.saintmaryschoolmilford.org - or email admissions@smsmilford.com with any questions. They look forward to welcoming you into the SMS family!

Flyers are available on the table in the foyer for anyone interested.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CHURCH

Sunday, 6 July 2025 – Mass at **NOON** with Father Paul

Sunday, 13 July 2025 – Annual memorial Mass at the Cathedral of the Pines, 10 Hale Hill Road, Rindge, NH. 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 16 July 2025 – Lord's Kitchen service date

Monday – Thursday, 18-21 August 2025 – 52nd Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat, Camp Berea, Hebron, NH

Lord's Kitchen dates announced

The next service dates for our parish at the Lord's Kitchen are Wednesday, 16 July, and Wednesday, 17 September. Anyone interested in helping on those dates, please contact Joe Shandrowski.

Christmas is just around the corner

Planning has begun for the 2025 Christmas Crafts Fair, to be held on Saturday, 6 December. Invitations to local vendors to exhibit with us will be sent out shortly, so **if you know of a potential vendor**, give their information to the office. Or pick up one of the applications that will soon be available on the table in the foyer and give it to them. **If you know of a local business who might be willing to donate a raffle prize**, let us know and they will be added to the list to be contacted in September.



Later this fall, we'll be soliciting donations for basket items and baked goods. It's not too early to think about, though. Keep an eye on the bulletin for more information as it becomes available.

Anyone interested in helping with this event in any capacity, please contact Lisa.

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.



Fireworks tailgating



The Town of Stratford will be holding their annual fireworks display **THIS** Wednesday, 2 July. Our parking lot will be open for the annual tailgating “party” for parishioners and their friends/families and closed to the general public during this time.

Due to the closure of the Burma Road (in front of the airport), traffic will be extremely heavy this year, so come early – gates open at 6:30 p.m. – and bring a picnic dinner to enjoy. Plenty of room for kids to play. Fireworks start at 8:45 p.m. if it’s dark enough. View them from the lot or take the short walk down to the athletic fields at the beach and watch up close. Enjoy some down time afterwards while the traffic clears.

