

St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



July 20, 2025 – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Parish Contacts

PASTOR

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE
CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Financial
Secretary
Barbara
Chernesky

Office
Administrator
Lisa Vasas

“Pay attention to the things you are naturally drawn to. They are often connected to your path, passion, and purpose in life. Have the courage to follow them.”

~ Ruben Chavez

“To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil Mass – Suspended

Sunday Mass – Noon

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, Richard David, 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.**

Weekly Mass

For the immediate future, Sunday Mass will be held at NOON, celebrated by Father Paul. You will be notified if this changes. Thank you, Father Paul, for being here for us!

Backpack items needed

Only **one more week** left to contribute toward the back-to-school items for the underprivileged children in the community! With the back-to-school sales in full swing, please consider picking up some of these items when next you go shopping. For a complete list of what is needed, please see the flyers on the foyer table and bulletin board. Thank you to those who have already contributed!



Monthly Fellowship Hour



Although the coffee fellowship hour for August will be superseded by the retirement reception for Father Tom and Yvonne, you can still plan ahead for the first Sunday of September. If anyone is interested in providing additional treats for that week, please contact Jeanine and let her know.

The next fleece prayer blankets to be completed will be available for the first Sunday of September. If you would like to make a donation towards the purchase of more fleece for this project, there is a collection box at the back of the church. Thank you for your generosity!

1700th anniversary of Nicene Creed

One of the founding pillars of our worship, the Nicene Creed, is celebrating its 1700th “birthday” this year. To mark the occasion, there will be a special Zoom conference/podcast on Wednesday, 23 July 2025, at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to participate in this event, please see the flyer on the bulletin board or contact the office for more information.

Cathedral of the Pines service recap



Although it was slightly overcast and pretty humid, the sun held out for the annual service at the Cathedral of the Pines. Overlooking the mountains, Mass was concelebrated by

Bishop Paul and those clergy of the Eastern Diocese able to attend. Dinner at the nearby Woodbound Inn



gave attendees a chance to make new friendships and/or renew old ones over a meal paid for by the diocese.

A copy of the Mass program is posted to the bulletin board for those interested in looking it over. The service was also videotaped, so look for the recording soon on the diocesan website.



READINGS FOR THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading

Gen 18: 1-10

A Reading from the book of Genesis:

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the terebinth of Mamre, as he sat in the entrance of his tent, while the day was growing hot. Looking up, Abraham saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them; and bowing to the ground, he said: "Sir, if I may ask you this favor, please do not go on past your servant. Let some water be brought, that you may bathe your feet, and then rest yourselves under the tree. Now that you have come this close to your servant, let me bring you a little food, that you may refresh yourselves; and afterward you may go on your way."

The men replied, "Very well, do as you have said."

Abraham hastened into the tent and told Sarah, "Quick, three measures of fine flour! Knead it and make rolls." He ran to the herd, picked out a tender, choice steer, and gave it to a servant, who quickly prepared it. Then Abraham got some curds and milk, as well as the steer that had been prepared, and set these before the three men; and he waited on them under the tree while they ate.

They asked Abraham, "Where is your wife Sarah?" He

replied, "There in the tent." One of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah will then have a son."

The Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 15: 2-3, 3-4, 5

R: He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

One who walks blamelessly and does justice;
who thinks the truth in his heart
and slanders not with his tongue.

R: He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Who harms not his fellow man,
nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor;
by whom the reprobate is despised,
while he honors those who fear the LORD.

R: He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Who lends not his money at usury
and accepts no bribe against the innocent.
One who does these things
shall never be disturbed.

R: He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Second Reading

Col 1: 24-28

A Reading from the letter to the Colossians:

Brothers and sisters:

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church, of which I am a minister in accordance with God's stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God, the mystery hidden from ages and from generations past.

But now it has been manifested to his holy ones, to whom God chose to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; it is Christ in you, the hope for glory. It is he whom we proclaim, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

The Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God.

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

R: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance.

R: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Lk 10: 38-42

C: The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

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

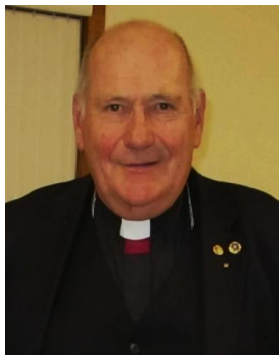
R: Glory be to You, O Lord.

Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me."

The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

The Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.



The Obituary of

Very Reverend Joseph R. Krusienski **June 30, 1949 — June 28, 2025**

Very Reverend Joseph R. Krusienski, 75, of the Plantsville section of Southington, entered into the eternal rest of the Lord, on Saturday, June 28, 2025, with his children and close friends at his side at the HOCC after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. He was the devoted husband of Lorraine Drazba, who predeceased

him just a few months ago in November 2024.

He was born on June 30, 1949, in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, to the late John and Anna (Sopp) Krusienski. From a young age, he felt a deep calling to serve God. After graduating high school, he followed this calling by attending the Savonarola Theological Seminary of the Polish National Catholic Church (PNCC) in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1970.

For 55 years, he faithfully served the PNCC, dedicating his life to his faith, his church, and his parishioners, most notably St. Casimir's Parish in Wallingford and his beloved home parish, Holy Trinity in Plantsville. In 1985, he was elevated to Administrative Senior Priest and served as Senior of the Southwest Seniorate of the Eastern Diocese of the PNCC. His service extended beyond the pulpit, as he served as the chairman of the Eastern Diocese Clergy Conference and Chaplain at Kurs Youth Camp at Spójnia Farm and contributed to the Eastern Diocese Youth Commission, Liturgical Commission, United Choirs, and the Supreme Council of the PNCC. Affectionately known as Father Joe, his life was a reflection of unwavering devotion—to God, to the Church, and to every parishioner he served.

Father Joe's service to others also shined through his dedication to Freemasonry. He was affiliated with Compass Lodge No. 9 for over 51 years and was also an active member of Ashlar Lodge No. 332, both in Wallingford, CT. He served with distinction in numerous roles, including Worshipful Master, Chaplain and Grand Chaplain. In 1974, He was knighted in the York Rite of Freemasonry through St. Elmo Commandery No. 9 of Waterbury, CT and served as Eminent Commander. He served as Eminent Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of CT and was currently serving as Associate Grande Prelate. He was also affiliated with the Connecticut College No. 17 York Rite Sovereign College, the Keystone No. 27 chapter of the Royal Arch Masons, the Hamilton No. 9 chapter of the Royal and Select Masters and The Sphinx Shriners. In 2017, he was honored with the 33rd degree of the Scottish

Rite, the highest recognition in Freemasonry, for his distinguished service and lifelong dedication. This was truly an honor that he held deep within his heart.

As a dutiful member of his local community, Joseph also served as a volunteer firefighter for Engine Company 2 in Plantsville, CT where he was known as "Rev Joe." He joined the force in 1977 and served as Second Lieutenant in 1984, First Lieutenant in 1986 and Captain from 1988-1990. He was made a lifetime member in 2009. He was still serving as Chaplain for the Southington and Naugatuck fire departments.

Anyone that met Father Joe saw his zest for life, his optimistic outlook and his ability to not sweat the small stuff. Despite having many distinguished roles, he was down to earth and understood people. While he did not have much time for pure leisure, he enjoyed fishing, talking cars, watching the Steelers, eating whole belly clams and grilling a good steak. He loved the lottery, and although he never won the jackpot, he surely won at living a full and complete life.

While Joseph had many titles in his life, the most important ones were dad and grandpa. He is survived by his son, Jacob Krusinski and his wife Melissa of Halfmoon, NY, and his daughter, Lisa Berliner and her husband Nicholas of Southington, CT. He leaves behind four beloved grandchildren: Kyrrah, Brynleigh, Luke, and Zachary. He is also survived by his sister Janis Cutright and her husband Travis of Canonsburg, PA, his niece Tracie, and his two treasured cats, Tiger and Abby.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Holy Trinity and Saint Casimir's Parish, 200 Summer St., Plantsville, CT.

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/@holytrinitypnccssouthington156>

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CHURCH

Sunday, 20 July 2025 – Mass at **NOON** with Father Paul

Wednesday, 23 July 2025 – Zoom conference/podcast on the Nicene Creed at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, 3 August 2025 – Farewell luncheon for Walsh family after Mass.

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

Wednesday, 17 September 2025 – Lord's Kitchen service date

Lord's Kitchen service dates

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

Retirement reception in two weeks



The parish board is planning a farewell luncheon reception for Father Tom and Yvonne to wish them well in their retirement. The date is Sunday, 3 August, time to be dependent upon when Mass is held that day. This luncheon is a chance for our parish family to say their private goodbyes

to the Walsh family. ***This is not an event open to the public.***

A signup sheet is on the table in the foyer, or you can contact Meg Krasko to make a reservation. Please do this soon so there is an accurate count of people for food planning purposes.

Also, if anyone is interested in making or bringing a dessert for the reception, there is a separate signup sheet in the foyer. Any questions, please contact Meg at .

Items for the bulletin

Please submit any items for the bulletins for the next two weeks as soon as possible. The office will be on vacation at the end of the month and the bulletins will need to be prepared ahead of time. Thank you for your cooperation!

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.



Christmas Fair update



Talk about Christmas in July! Work is already underway for the 2025 Christmas Crafts Fair, to be held on Saturday, 6 December, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If you know of a potential vendor, give their information to the office. Or pick up one of the **applications that are 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.

Anyone interested in helping with this event in any capacity, please contact Lisa. Already people have stepped up to volunteer help with the raffle tickets, the kitchen, the bake table, and food sales. Thank you! Many hands make the burden light!

Keep those bottles and cans coming!

All those bottles and cans you've brought in so far have netted over \$150 to offset the costs of our parish's day-to-day operations. **Thank you!** Help is needed, though. *Anyone interested in helping return the bottles and cans, please contact either Meg or the office.*