

St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



July 27, 2025 – Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Parish Contacts

PASTOR

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE
CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Financial
Secretary
Barbara
Chernesky

Office
Administrator
Lisa Vasas

“God is not accustomed to refusing a good gift to those who ask for one.”

~ St. Ambrose, bishop

“My friends, anyone who worships should remember the way in which the tax-collector prayed in the temple alongside the Pharisee.”

~ St. Cyprian, bishop and martyr

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

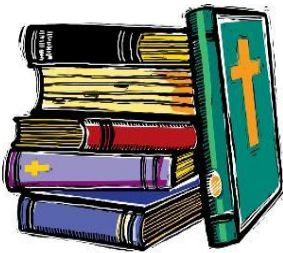
For the immediate future, Sunday Mass will be held at **NOON**, celebrated by Father Paul. You will be notified if this changes. Thank you, Father Paul, for being here for us!

Backpack items

This is the **final day** to contribute toward the back-to-school items for the underprivileged children in the community! 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. They will be picking up these supplies this week. Thank you to those who have already contributed!



Missing Bible Study?



Bible Study

Never fear! Bishop Paul hosts a hybrid (in-person and virtual via Zoom) Bible study session at least once a month. Studies generally last one hour to one and one half hours. If you want to join on Zoom you'll need to ask Bishop Paul for the Zoom link or request it from the office. Study sheets will be sent to all the HTC (Holy Trinity Cathedral) internet family prior to the study.

Diocesan website overhauled

If it's been a while, you might want to give the diocesan website (<https://www.easterndiocesepncc.org/>) a look-see. Webmaster Charles Vasas has worked to upgrade the site, including a number of podcasts, new videos and back issues of the newsletter "The Messenger". Check it out!



Next “Know & Grow” session

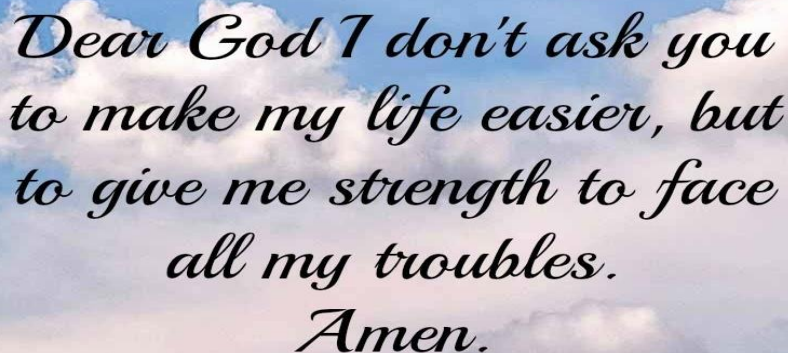


The eighth offering in this year's series, the next “Know & Grow” virtual session will be held on Thursday, 14 August 2025, at 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be Father Robert Koerber from our Holy Name of Jesus parish in South Deerfield, MA, speaking on the topic of ***Jesus and the Law.***

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

~ Eastern Diocese Mission and Evangelism Commission



*Dear God I don't ask you
to make my life easier, but
to give me strength to face
all my troubles.
Amen.*

Eastern Diocese Prayer materials

The August Prayer Calendar and Wednesday prayer intention are posted on the church web site, the bulletin board in the hall, and are available on the foyer table. Please take one (or more to pass on to your friends!) and join with your diocesan brothers and sisters in communal prayer! This month we focus on Mary with the Solemnity of her Assumption into Heaven falling on 15 August.



READINGS FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading

Gen 18: 20-32

A Reading from the book of Genesis:

In those days, the LORD said: "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great, and their sin so grave, that I must go down and see whether or not their actions fully correspond to the cry against them that comes to me. I mean to find out."

While Abraham's visitors walked on farther toward Sodom, the LORD remained standing before Abraham. Then Abraham drew nearer and said: "Will you sweep away the innocent with the guilty? Suppose there were fifty innocent people in the city; would you wipe out the place, rather than spare it for the sake of the fifty innocent people within it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to make the innocent die with the guilty so that the innocent and the guilty would be treated alike! Should not the judge of all the world act with justice?"

The LORD replied, "If I find fifty innocent people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake." Abraham spoke up again: "See how I am presuming to speak to my Lord, though I am but dust and ashes! What if there are five less than fifty innocent people? Will you destroy the whole city because of those five?" He answered, "I will not destroy it, if I find forty-five there." But Abraham persisted, saying "What if only forty are found there?" He replied, "I will forbear doing it for the sake of the forty." Then Abraham said, "Let not my Lord grow impatient if I go on. What if only thirty are found there?" He replied, "I will forbear doing it if I can find but thirty there."

Still Abraham went on, "Since I have thus dared to speak to my Lord, what if there are no more than twenty?" The LORD answered, "I will not destroy it, for the sake of the twenty." But he still persisted: "Please, let not my Lord grow angry if I speak up this last time. What if there are at least ten there?" He replied, "For the sake of those ten, I will not destroy it."

The Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 138: 1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8

R: Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart,
for you have heard the words of my mouth;
in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;
I will worship at your holy temple
and give thanks to your name.

R: Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

Because of your kindness and your truth;
for you have made great above all things
your name and your promise.

When I called you answered me;
you built up strength within me.

R: Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

The LORD is exalted, yet the lowly he sees,
and the proud he knows from afar.

Though I walk amid distress, you preserve me;
against the anger of my enemies you raise your hand.

R: Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

Your right hand saves me.

The LORD will complete what he has done for me;
your kindness, O LORD, endures forever;
forsake not the work of your hands.

R: Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

Second Reading

Col 2: 12-14

A Reading from the letter to the Colossians:

Brothers and sisters:

You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And even when you were dead in transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he brought you to life along with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions; obliterating the bond against us, with its legal claims, which was opposed to us, he also removed it from our midst, nailing it to the cross.

The Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God.

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

R: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: You have received a Spirit of adoption,
through which we cry, Abba, Father.

R: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Lk 11: 1-13

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 was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,' and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.' I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence.

"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Christmas Fair update

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. Applications from vendors looking to exhibit with us are beginning to come in, but we could always use more and varied crafts, so **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.



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. 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!

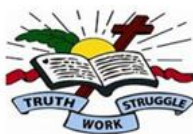
Monthly Fellowship Hour



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!

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 they will be given to someone who needs them.



Food collections

Thanks to all of you who contributed kid-friendly foods during the month of June! Sterling House was very appreciative of your generosity! Below is just what was donated during the last week of the campaign. Multiply that by the five Sundays in June to get an idea of how much food you brought in for the children during the month. **Thank You!**



Our regular weekly collections of non-perishable food for Blessed Sacrament's food pantry continue. The collection bin is in the foyer.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CHURCH

Sunday, 27 July 2025 – Mass at **NOON** with Father Paul

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 that day, please contact Joe Shandrowski.

Retirement reception next week



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 .

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!

Can you help return bottles & cans? Contact Meg or the office.

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.



Flowers for the altars

Flowers are a great way to commemorate an event or remember a loved one and a beautiful addition to the altars. Vases are available for floral arrangements, if needed. Please see Dee to make provisions for your special week.

Prayer means that when your heart bursts with pain, pour it out to Him. When it yearns, speak to Him about that which you yearn. When your heart is broken, ask Him to mend it. When your heart feels empty, ask Him to fill it. Wherever your heart is at, whatever it is being, connect that to His being. Make your heart His sanctuary, the place where you find Him.