

St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



August 3, 2025 – Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Parish Contacts

PASTOR

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

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Dee Smith

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*“Greatness is not found in
possessions, power, position, or
prestige. It is discovered in goodness,
humility, service, and character.”*

~ William Arthur Ward

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.**

September Monthly Fellowship Hour



Although today's coffee fellowship hour for August is superseded by the retirement reception for Father Tom and Yvonne, you can still plan ahead for the first Sunday of September.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!

READINGS FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading

Eccl 1:2, 2: 21-23

A Reading from the book of Ecclesiastes:

Vanity of vanities, says Qoheleth, vanity of vanities! All things are vanity!

Here is one who has labored with wisdom and knowledge and skill, and yet to another who has not labored over it, he must leave property. This also is vanity and a great misfortune. For what profit comes to man from all the toil and anxiety of heart with which he has labored under the sun? All his days sorrow and grief are his occupation; even at night his mind is not at rest. This also is vanity.

The Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 90: 3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17

R: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

You turn man back to dust,
saying, "Return, O children of men."
For a thousand years in your sight

are as yesterday, now that it is past,
or as a watch of the night.

R: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

You make an end of them in their sleep;
the next morning they are like the changing grass,
Which at dawn springs up anew,
but by evening wilts and fades.

R: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Return, O LORD! How long?
Have pity on your servants!

R: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness,
that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.
And may the gracious care of the LORD our God be ours;
prosper the work of our hands for us!
Prosper the work of our hands!

R: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading

Col 3: 1-5, 9-11

A Reading from the letter to the Colossians:

Brothers and sisters:

If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of
what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have
died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry. Stop lying to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all and in all.

The Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God.

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

R: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

R: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Lk 12: 13-21

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.

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me.” He replied to him, “Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?” Then he said to the crowd, “Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions.”

Then he told them a parable. “There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, ‘What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?’ And he said, ‘This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, “Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!”’

But God said to him, ‘You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?’ Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CHURCH

Sunday, 3 August 2025 – Mass at **NOON** with Father Paul

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

Friday, 15 August 2025 – Solemnity of the Dormition of Mary

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

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

Christmas Fair update



Mark your calendars! 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!

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.



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.

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>