

St. Joseph's of Stratford National Catholic Church

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**Twenty-second Sunday in
Ordinary Time (Year C)
August 31, 2025**

Sunday Mass at NOON

Parish Contacts:

ADMINISTRATOR *Fr. Paul Dudek*

CHAIRPERSON *Jeanine May*

VICE CHAIRPERSON *Dee Smith*

FINANCIAL SECRETARY *Barbara Chernesky*

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR *Lisa Vasas*

Word for Sunday

*In today's Gospel we see Jesus, who was a dinner guest, in the home of a Pharisee. As he observes the other guests, he teaches us a simple but important lesson: "When you are invited, go and take the lowest place." – Living in a world that constantly encourages us to climb higher, be noticed, be important, be successful; it is important to remain humble. Jesus is not against achievement or excellence, but He invites us to approach life with **humility**, to remember that greatness in God's eyes is not about status, but about service.*

*And then Jesus gives us another lesson, challenging our **hospitality**: "When you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind." In other words, give without expecting anything in return. – It's easy to invite friends over, to give to those who might return the favor. But what about the lonely neighbor we avoid, or the coworker no one talks to? Jesus invites us today to expand our circle, to make room for the ones the world often overlooks. – I once knew a family who, instead of having a typical birthday party for their child, spent the day distributing food at a local shelter and brought cake to share with the guests there. The joy they experienced was deeper than any gift. – That's the kind of banquet Jesus is talking about.*

– Fr. Paul

We are a Catholic community called to serve God and neighbors through the

Eucharist, prayer, education, and daily living of the Gospel values.

Everyone is always welcome to worship with us in our beautiful church.

It is a house of prayer for all, who with sincere heart desire to praise God.

TODAY'S READINGS: SEE CENTER INSERT

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Fr. Bill, John (JR) Martikainen, Dee Smith, Nancy Sirois, 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, 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

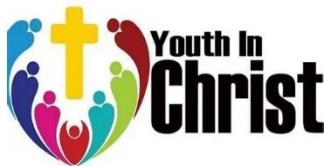
the Canon. Rules on the reception of the Holy Eucharist are on the back page of this bulletin.

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

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

Youth Sunday

This Sunday is dedicated each year to the youth of our church, in recognition of their contributions and their importance to the future of our church. A second collection is taken to support youth-based programs in the PNCC.



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.

Eastern Diocese Prayer materials

The September 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!



Only a few spaces left!



Want to visit the diocesan cathedral in Manchester? With a side trip to the JFK Presidential Library? Our sister parish, Holy Saviour in Union City has organized just such a trip, scheduled for **Sunday, 7 September**, and there are 3 seats available.

The excursion will leave from Holy Saviour at **5:30 a.m.** in a 12-passenger van. **THE DEPARTURE TIME IS FIRM.** It will arrive at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester, NH, at approximately 8:30-8:45 a.m., just in time to celebrate 9:00 a.m. Mass. After Mass, participants will attend the cathedral's coffee hour before heading on to the JFK Presidential Library & Museum in Boston, MA, where they will get to spend roughly two and a half hours exploring the museum (1:30ish – 4:00 p.m.). After a stop at the Panera Bread in Framingham, MA, for a dinner break, the group will return to Naugatuck, arriving around 8:00 p.m.



There is a \$50 cost for transportation. Tickets to the JFK Museum are \$20/adult, \$16/senior (62+). Dinner and any donation made to the cathedral offertory collection are not included in this cost. If you estimate \$15-20 for dinner, this is an entire day's excursion for about \$100 total – a real bargain these days!

If you are interested in going, please contact Ken Krasko (203-452-5326 or sandservices@yahoo.com) **as soon as possible**. Checks for transportation should be made out to Kenneth Krasko. In the event the trip is canceled, all monies will be refunded.

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 –

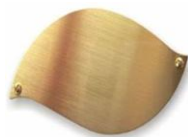
<https://www.youtube.com/@bishoppaulsobiechowski9743> or

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

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

Donor Leaf Information

For those interested in adding a leaf to the tree in the foyer in memory of a loved one or commemoration of an event, please see the bulletin board for details or contact the office. A great way to honor a mother or father!



Crafts group



Only a few weeks before summer is over. The crafts group will soon be meeting in the classrooms on Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m. to hand-make items for those in need of comfort. **All are welcome to join, including non-parishioners,** regardless of gender, age, or experience. We will train! If you are a crafter who does not wish to come to the group meetings, you can still work from home and drop your creations off to us.

The group is also accepting donations of the raw materials for these crafts (beads, beading string, small non-metallic crosses, yarn, etc.) so we can keep stitching and beading on. Let's fill the coffers so when we begin again in the Fall, we have material immediately available for converting into these items!



READINGS FOR THE TWENTY- SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading

Sir 3: 17-18, 20, 28-29

A Reading from the book of Sirach:

My child, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts. Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God.

What is too sublime for you, seek not, into things beyond your strength search not. The mind of a sage appreciates proverbs, and an attentive ear is the joy of the wise. Water quenches a flaming fire, and alms atone for sins.

The Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 68: 4-5, 6-7, 10-11

R: God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

The just rejoice and exult before God;
they are glad and rejoice.

Sing to God, chant praise to his name;
whose name is the LORD.

R: God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

The father of orphans and the defender of widows
is God in his holy dwelling.

God gives a home to the forsaken;
he leads forth prisoners to prosperity.

R: God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

A bountiful rain you showered down, O God, upon your inheritance;

you restored the land when it languished;

your flock settled in it;

in your goodness, O God, you provided it for the needy.

R: God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

Second Reading

Heb 12: 18-19, 22-24

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews:

Brothers and sisters:

You have not approached that which could be touched
and a blazing fire and gloomy darkness and storm and a
trumpet blast and a voice speaking words such that

those who heard begged that no message be further addressed to them.

No, you have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and countless angels in festal gathering, and the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven, and God the judge of all, and the spirits of the just made perfect, and Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and the sprinkled blood that speaks more eloquently than that of Abel.

The Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God.

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

R: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord,
and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.

R: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Lk 14: 1, 7-14

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.

On a sabbath Jesus went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees, and the people there were

observing him carefully.

He told a parable to those who had been invited, noticing how they were choosing the places of honor at the table. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline at table in the place of honor. A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him, and the host who invited both of you may approach you and say, 'Give your place to this man,' and then you would proceed with embarrassment to take the lowest place. Rather, when you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.' Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table. For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Then he said to the host who invited him, "When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Next “Know & Grow” session



The eighth offering in this year's series, the next “Know & Grow” virtual session will be held on Thursday, 11 September 2025, at 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be Father Dr. Henryk Wos from Our Saviour parish in Woonsocket, RI, speaking on the topic of ***Jesus’ Ministry***.

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

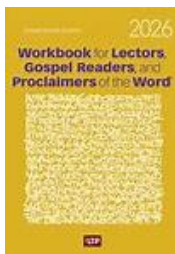
~ Eastern Diocese Mission and Evangelism Commission

Toiletries for Veterans

In honor of our veterans, ***for the month of September*** we will be collecting toiletries for the local VA facilities to distribute to those veterans in need. A list of useful items is on the bulletin board and the table in the foyer. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Lectors needed



Anyone interested in being a Sunday lector, please contact Dee Smith or the office. You will receive a lector workbook from which you can prepare your reading and a new one when the liturgical year changes in November. The latest lector schedule has been posted to the bulletin board.

September coffee hour next week!

Our next monthly fellowship hour is next Sunday after Mass. Mark your calendar now and stay a little after Mass for light refreshments and the chance to catch up with those in our parish community. The next prayer blankets will also be available to complete at that time.

Bottle and can collection going strong!



Keep those returnables coming! The bottles and cans collected so far have already been returned and the bin is ready for more. **Thank you** to those who have dropped off these recyclables! Over \$150 has been raised to-date to offset parish operating expenses.

Anyone interested in helping Meg return these, please contact either Meg or the office.

Ideas always welcome

If you have an idea for the parish to consider, please let the parish committee know. This could be anything from recommending a civic/community group to possibly rent our facilities to a new outreach program or easy fundraiser. What would you like to see in our church?



And if you are interested in joining the parish committee, there are openings for new members. Please see Jeanine to express your interest.

Want to request a Mass?



If you would like to have a Mass said for the repose of a loved one or to commemorate a special event, you can contact the office via phone or email. Or, as an added convenience, there are slips on the foyer table for you to fill out and place in the basket. We will try to accommodate your first choice of date and let you know when it has been added to the calendar.

Picture order

A group picture taken at the farewell reception for Fr. Tom and Yvonne on 3 August is on display on the table under the St. Joseph's window in the foyer. If you are interested in obtaining a 4x6 copy of this photo, please sign the sheet on the table.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CHURCH

Sunday, 7 September 2025 – Coffee Hour after Mass

Sunday, 7 September 2025 – Excursion to Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester and JFK Presidential Library & Museum in Boston. Leaves Holy Saviour at **5:30 a.m.**

Thursday, 11 September 2025 – “Know & Grow” Zoom session, 7:00 p.m. See article for details

Yoga to return in September

Laurie Trupp, certified Kripalu Yoga instructor, is pleased to offer another six week session of Yoga on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the church hall, starting **16 September**. Further information on how to register for this session is posted on the bulletin board. Register early – the parking lot is always full for this class!

Welcome back, Laurie!

Christmas Fair – need business donors

Next week the committee will be sending out request letters for donations from local (and not-so-local) businesses for use in the raffle this year. **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.



As always, we are looking for a few more vendors to exhibit their wares at the Fair. Applications are on the table in the foyer or available through the office.

Start thinking about our basket raffle and bake sale tables and what you might be able to contribute. **Basket items will be collected in November and baked goods the day before the Fair.** And **TALK IT UP!** You are the best advertising we have. Flyers will be available soon for posting locally.

Anyone interested in helping with this event in any capacity, please contact Lisa. Many hands make the burden light!

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.

Mission Fund collection

On the first Sunday of every month, a separate collection is taken to support the PNCC Mission Fund.



The money is forwarded to the diocesan and national levels for use in evangelical and mission outreaches, to draw more people into the PNCC. *In the recent past, such outreach and evangelism has brought some new young men into both our church and our seminary.* Please consider donating to this worthwhile endeavor!

