

# St. Joseph's of Stratford National Catholic Church

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford, CT 06615 / ☎ (203) 377-9901

[www.saintjosephsofstratford.org](http://www.saintjosephsofstratford.org) / [sjosparishpncc@outlook.com](mailto:sjosparishpncc@outlook.com)



**Twenty-third Sunday in  
Ordinary Time (Year C)  
September 7, 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*

## ***Cost of Being a Disciple of Jesus***

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks to the crowds with striking words: "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." At first glance, these words may sound harsh. But Jesus is not commanding hatred in the literal sense. He uses strong Semitic language to make a point: following Him requires absolute priority. **Love for Christ must come before all other loves**, even the good and holy loves we have for family, possessions, and even our own plans.

Being a disciple of Jesus is beautiful, but also demanding. **Jesus is not trying to push His followers**, but He wants **to be followed with freedom** and clarity. Discipleship is not a part-time commitment or a convenient hobby. It's a daily decision to carry the cross, to put the Gospel first, and to live no longer for ourselves, but for Him. Just as a builder doesn't begin construction without calculating the cost, Jesus asks us to consider seriously what it means to follow Him.

In a world that values comfort, success, and self-fulfillment, Jesus offers us something deeper: the path of self-giving love that leads to true life. Today, as we approach the altar, we might ask: What am I clinging to that keeps me from fully following Christ? What attachments, comforts, or fears prevent me from carrying my cross? May the Eucharist strengthen us to surrender more completely, and to follow the Lord — not just with our words, but with our lives.

- 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

**SUNDAY MASS INTENTION:** For the repose of the soul of  
†Robert C Sirois given by his wife, Nancy, and son, Chris

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS:** Are given in memory of Robert C. Sirois by his family

### **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.**

### **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.

## 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.* There is a container on the back table in the church for any contributions. Please consider donating to this worthwhile endeavor!

## Coffee hour today

Remember to stay after Mass today for a coffee/fellowship hour in the hall. There will be light refreshments and the chance to catch up with those in our parish community. The next prayer blankets are also available to complete.



Going forward, due to the lateness of the hour after Mass, it has been suggested to make the monthly coffee gathering more of a potluck fellowship luncheon than just donuts/pastries. Your thoughts?

## 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. A big **Thank You** to those who have already donated to the cause!

## 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 –

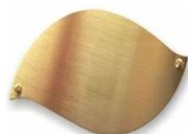
<https://www.youtube.com/@bishoppaulsobiechowski9743> or

<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 start meeting in the classrooms 18 September 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- THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## First Reading

Wis 9: 13-18

### **A Reading from the book of Wisdom:**

Who can know God's counsel, or who can conceive what the LORD intends? For the deliberations of mortals are timid, and unsure are our plans. For the corruptible body burdens the soul and the earthen shelter weighs down the mind that has many concerns.

And scarce do we guess the things on earth, and what is within our grasp we find with difficulty; but when things are in heaven, who can search them out? Or who ever knew your counsel, except you had given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high?

And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight.

The Word of the Lord

**R: Thanks be to God.**

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

**R: In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.**

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: In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.**

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: In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.**

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: In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.**

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: In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.**

## Second Reading

Philemon 9-10, 12-17

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

I, Paul, an old man, and now also a prisoner for Christ Jesus, urge you on behalf of my child Onesimus, whose

father I have become in my imprisonment; I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I should have liked to retain him for myself, so that he might serve me on your behalf in my imprisonment for the gospel, but I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that the good you do might not be forced but voluntary.

Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a brother, beloved especially to me, but even more so to you, as a man and in the Lord. So if you regard me as a partner, welcome him as you would me.

The Word of the Lord

**R: Thanks be to God.**

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**R: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

C: Let your face shine upon your servant;  
and teach me your laws.

**R: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## THE GOSPEL

Lk 14: 25-33

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.**

Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, “If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, ‘This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.’ Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops? But if not, while he is still far away, he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms.

In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.”

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](mailto:revpauls@yahoo.com) or [ksobiechowski@yahoo.com](mailto:ksobiechowski@yahoo.com)

~ Eastern Diocese Mission and Evangelism Commission

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-OR-1 Sign and receive 1 FREE Pie

**PLUS- Raffle Prizes**

**FOOD DRIVE**  
for Stratford's Sterling C.C. pantry

**AND ~ FOOD & SUPPLY DRIVE**  
for local animal rescue

**RAIN DATE:**  
Sunday  
9/21/25  
11 am - 4pm

**Saturday  
9/20/25  
9 am to 3 pm**

**2025 Apple Festival-  
Vendor Fair**

**LCC Pie Fundraiser with Oronoque Farms (Aug-mid Sept) PRE-ORDER**

**Lordship Community Church**  
179 Prospect Drive  
Stratford, CT 06615  
(outdoor event)

**203-377-6568**  
[www.thelordshipchurch.org](http://www.thelordshipchurch.org)

[office@thelordshipchurch.org](mailto:office@thelordshipchurch.org)  
[facebook.com/lordshipchurch](https://facebook.com/lordshipchurch)

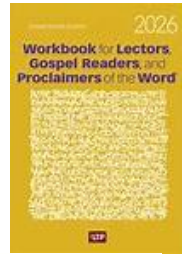
**LCC 1922**

## Yoga to return next week!

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!

## 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.



## LifeLine Screening Event

There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions. These painless screenings go beyond your regular checkup to identify dangerous plaque buildup or blockage, a major risk factor for stroke and heart disease. The screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor.

We are pleased to host Life Line Screening, who will be on site on Tuesday, 11 November 2025 to conduct these valuable screenings which take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-888-814-0466, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607, scan the QR code below, or online at <https://lisa.social/HC>



## Ideas always welcome



If you have an idea for the parish to consider, please let the parish committee know. 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.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CHURCH

‡**Sunday, 7 September 2025** – Mass in memory of ‡Robert C. Sirois, given by wife, Nancy, and son, Chris

**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

‡**Sunday, 14 September 2025** – Mass in memory of ‡Joyce Bresh on the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of her death, given by her daughters

**Tuesday, 16 September 2025** – Yoga class in hall, 10:00 a.m.

**Thursday, 18 September 2025** – Crafts group meets 11:00 a.m. in the classroom



## Christmas Fair – need corporate donors

This week the committee sent 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 we will send them out a letter.



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.

### 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.

