

# **St. Joseph's of Stratford National Catholic Church**

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

*www.saintjosephsofstratford.org / sjosparishpncc@outlook.com*



**Second Sunday of Easter,  
April 12, 2026 Year A**

**Sunday Mass at NOON**

**Parish Contacts:**

ADMINISTRATOR *Fr. Paul Dudek*

CHAIRPERSON *Jeanine May*

VICE CHAIR *Jeff Smith*

FINANCIAL SECRETARY *Barbara Chernesky*

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR *Lisa Vasas*

## ***From Doubt to Faith***

When Jesus appeared to the disciples after His crucifixion, He found them hidden in fear behind locked doors. Thomas, absent at first, struggled to believe. Yet when he finally saw Jesus and His wounds, he proclaimed, “My Lord and my God!”

This raises an important question: What makes us believe? Much of what we accept in daily life cannot be proven by us directly. We trust what we learn about science, history, and the world because we trust the source, the messenger. Faith works in a similar way.

So, why do we believe what we believe? Whose voices shape our heart and mind? In a world full of opinions, some voices lead us toward love, peace, and truth, while others stir fear and division.

Thomas came to faith through encounter. We also come to faith through the witness of others and our own experience with God. And like Thomas, we are called to be trustworthy witnesses, leading others toward Christ.

~ 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, Richard David, Bishop John Mack, Stella Shandrowski, Jane Pelland, Joe Pelland, Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Fr. Henry Smolinski & Margo, Ann Marie Egelski, Rich Lasecki, Edmond Bresh, Helen Reynolds, Helen Popp, Florence Rasmussen, Robin Lupinski, Ray Morrison, Meghan Castelot, Henry Costigan, Mateo Cirioli, Renata Wos, Janice Daviault

## For those new to our church (and even those who aren't!)



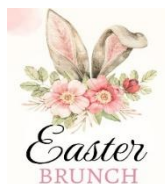
To follow along with the Mass, begin on **page 63** in the Mass booklet. Father will announce which page to turn to for the Canon at the appropriate time and where to pick up the service following the Canon. Rules on the reception of the Holy Eucharist are on the back page of this bulletin.

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

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

## Today – Easter Brunch!

Join us today after Mass for our monthly Fellowship Hour, which will also be our Easter Brunch. The next fleece blankets are also ready for completion. Come, spend time catching up with your friends, family, and church family while you enjoy some amazing food!



## Next outreach collections

So you can begin planning ahead for our next three months of outreach, here is what we will be collecting each month.



**April** – Toilet paper and soap. Two of the other most requested items at food pantries.

**May** – Pasta and sauce. Help those in need make the simplest of dinners.



**June** – Kid-friendly foods. As schools shut down for the summer, many children lose their only source of nourishment. Sterling House provides backpacks of food to these children weekly for the entire summer as an alternative until classes resume in the Fall.

## Coming **next week** – Saturday Mass

**4pm  
Saturday  
Mass**

Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> is the **third** Saturday of the month. We will hold Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. **INSTEAD** of the Sunday Mass. This will allow Father to attend the monthly parish meeting at Holy Saviour in its entirety and give those who prefer Saturday services the opportunity to attend one.

## Almsgiving Update

Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$333.00 for Blessed Sacrament's Food Pantry.



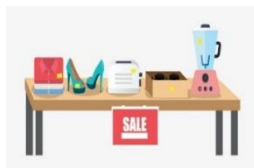
## Items for the bulletin

Deadline for submitting items for the bulletin is Thursday. Items turned in after Thursday are not guaranteed inclusion in the following Sunday's bulletin.

## Spring Tag Sale AND Estate Sale

We have a new date for this event, **June 6th!**

The parish will be holding an indoor/outdoor estate and tag sale from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the church and any goods not sold on that date will go to a collection center like Goodwill or Savers. Anyone wishing to bring in donations can leave them in the classroom.



Help support our parish while you re-home your no-longer-needed items!



### “LIVING IN FAITH EVERY DAY”

25<sup>th</sup> National Mission & Evangelism Workshop

Polish National Catholic Church

Friday, May 29 - Sunday, May 31, 2026

Dear Most Reverend Prime Bishop, Rt. Rev. Bishops, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Deacons, and Faithful of the Polish National Catholic Church,

Greetings from the Mission and Evangelism Commission of the Polish National Catholic Church.

We invite you to the 25<sup>th</sup> Mission & Evangelism Workshop, which will be held on **Friday, May 29, through Sunday, May 31, 2026**, at **St. Joseph’s Parish of the PNCC in Westfield, MA**. We hope to see you there. Our goal for each Mission Workshop is that the faithful come away with a burning desire to bring the faith-driven work of the Workshop back to their parishes. Please consider participating in this event. Our hotel accommodation is at the **Hampton Inn Westfield**, 39 Southampton Rd, Westfield, MA 01085.

The registration fee is waived in order to support your cost of travel expenses. The deadline for registration is **Wednesday, April 29, 2026**.

Outreach to the community will be the support of the local charity, **the Open Pantry**. We will collect the monetary donations during the Workshop. We ask you to support that project.

**The deadline for registering for the Workshop is Wednesday, April 29, 2026**. Please make your reservations by that date so St. Joseph’s Parish can prepare the food for this event.

We hope you will consider joining us for the 25<sup>th</sup> National Mission & Evangelism Workshop of the PNCC. We look forward to your attendance.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Very Rev. Jaroslaw Nowak, Commission Chairman

Parish Phone: (313) 365-0218

email: [Fr.J.Nowak@gmail.com](mailto:Fr.J.Nowak@gmail.com)

# READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

## First Reading

Acts 10: 42-47

### **A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles:**

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need.

Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord

**R: Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS. 118: 2-4, 13-15, 22-24

**R: Give thanks to the LORD for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

Let the house of Israel say,  
“His mercy endures forever.”

Let the house of Aaron say,  
“His mercy endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,  
“His mercy endures forever.”

**R: Give thanks to the LORD for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

I was hard pressed and was falling,  
but the LORD helped me.  
My strength and my courage is the LORD,  
and he has been my savior.  
The joyful shout of victory  
in the tents of the just:

**R: Give thanks to the LORD for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.  
By the LORD has this been done;  
it is wonderful in our eyes.  
This is the day the LORD has made;  
let us be glad and rejoice in it.

**R: Give thanks to the LORD for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

## Second Reading

1 Pet 1: 3-9

**A Reading from the first letter of St. Peter:**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living

hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time. In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord

**R: Thanks be to God.**

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

C: You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; blessed are they who have not seen me, but still believe!

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

## **THE GOSPEL**

Jn 20: 19-31

C: The Lord be with you.

**R: And also with you.**

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

**R: Glory be to You, Lord.**

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my

God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

Now, Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R: Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Response to Intercessions:  
**Father of mercy, hear our prayer.**

**XXV Scholars' Conference**  
**The Polish National Catholic Church**  
**History and Archives Commission**  
**April 18, 2025**

9:30 AM EDT Welcome History and Archives Commission  
Greetings and Prayer – Most Reverend Anthony Mikovsky

9:45 AM EDT From Logging Camps to National Parishes:  
Polish Catholic Community Formation in Washington State –  
Robert Hicker

10:30 AM EDT Faith in the Numbers: Statistical Applications  
as a Tool for the PNCC – Deacon Mark Kosciński, D. Lit DMin

11:15 AM EDT Contesting Clerical Control: Holy Trinity and Rev.  
Wincenty Barzyński, C.R., in Chicago, 1874-1894. – Gavin  
Moulton

12:00 PM EDT “The Anatomy of Loneliness: Psychological and  
Spiritual Perspectives” – Rev. Dr. Adam Piekarczyński

12:45 PM EDT Reflections from the 2026 Union of Scranton  
Theological Conference, Mainz, Germany History of Liturgy in the  
PNCC – Most Reverend Mikovsky, PhD, Very Reverend Robert  
M. Nemkovich

1:30 PM EDT Visualizing a Diaspora Church: An Ethnographic  
and Sociocultural Analysis of Early 20th-Century PNCC Parish  
Photography – Reverend Jim Ploskonka, PhD

2:15 PM EDT The Kingdom of God: Is It a Physical Place or a  
Christian Journey, Is It Here Now or In the Future? – Reverend Dr.  
Donald L Seekins

3:00 PM EDT Panel Presentation Facilitated by Reverend Jim  
Konicki Old Catholicism – Reverend Mr. David Dudzinski, 12  
Steps + Early Church Fathers and the PNCC – Reverend Mr.  
Todd Goodwin, PhD

3:45 PM EDT Conclusion – Very Reverend Charles Zawistowski

**Contact the office for the Zoom link to attend this conference.**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CHURCH

**Saturday, 18 April 2026** – Vigil Mass 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, 19 April 2026** – **NO MASS**

‡**Sunday, 26 April 2026** – Mass in memory of †Bill Petrino on the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death, given by his wife, Carol

**Saturday, 6 June 2026** – Estate & Tag Sale, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Note new date!**

## LifeLine Screening Event



Did you know 80% of strokes are preventable according to the American Heart Association?

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. 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 Wednesday, May 12th to conduct these valuable screenings which take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-800-324-9458, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607, scan the QR code above, or online at <https://lisa.social/HABC>

For more information, see the flyer on the bulletin board or take one home from the foyer and read it at your leisure.

## 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.



JOIN US FOR OUR 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**Quarters for a Cause**

MAY 2, 2026  
6-9PM  
ST. JOSEPH'S OF STRATFORD  
CHURCH HALL  
1300 STRATFORD RD  
STRATFORD



**GET YOUR TICKET NOW!** TICKET PRICE: **\$15**

*all proceeds go to Smilow Cancer hospital -Closer to free ride*

**SEEKING DONATIONS FOR OUR AUCTION !!**  
Contact Beckie for more information and tickets!!  
Beckie.klein@gmail.com