

St Joseph's of Stratford Parish
National Catholic Church
Since 1907
Weekly Bulletin



Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year C

March 31st, 2019

**PARISH
CONTACTS**

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

Today's Gospel passage tells the familiar parable of the prodigal son. The trouble with familiar passages is that we have a tendency to gloss over them because we think that we know them so well. When thinking this way, we fail to realize that though the words of scripture do not change from one reading to the next, we do. Our circumstances are ever changing. Our attitudes and beliefs are constantly evolving. We are facing new challenges in life. So, I invite you to read this parable of the prodigal son again, for the first time.

A close reading of this passage reveals a familiar marker often employed by the author of Luke's gospel to signal an important point, repeated phrases. The phrases repeated in this passage are, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son," and, "was dead and has come to life again, he was lost and has been found." Both phrases are repeated twice.

Upon examining these phrases, it becomes clear how they are coupled. To recognize one's sinfulness and the proper ordering of our lives with respect to God is to pass from death to new life, to be lost and then found. Lent is the time for rebirth, to allow ourselves to be apprehended by God.

Grace and Peace,
Fr. Tom

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 pm - Sunday Vigil **Sunday:** 9:30 am

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Schedule of Lent & Easter Services

Sunday, March 31st

9:00am, Bitter Lamentations followed by Mass

Friday, April 5th

11:00am, Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary

6:00pm, Stations of the Cross with Potluck Supper

Passion Sunday, April 7th

9:30am, Mass with reading of the Lord's Passion

4:00pm, Meal in the Upper Room

Friday, April 12th

11:00am, Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary

6:00pm, Stations of the Cross with Potluck Supper

Palm Sunday, April 14th

9:30am, Mass with blessing and distribution of palms

Holy Tuesday, April 16th

4:30pm, The blessing of Holy Oils at Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT

Maundy Thursday, April 18th

6:00pm, Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 19th

11:00am, Stations of the Cross

3:00pm, Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion & Death

6:00pm, Service of Tenebrae

Holy Saturday, April 20th

10:00am, Blessing of Easter Food

5:00pm, Easter Vigil Mass with blessing of New Fire, Water, and Paschal Candle

Easter Sunday, April 21st

9:30am, Easter Mass with Baptism

PARISH CALENDAR

Tuesday April 2 Adult study *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* to meet at 6:30pm in the classroom.

Thursday April 4 Adult study *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* to meet at 10:00am in the classroom.

Fridays of Lent Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary at 11:00am. Pot Luck Supper followed by Stations of the Cross, beginning at 6:00pm.

Sunday March 31 Service of Bitter Lamentations at 9:00am followed by Mass.

Sunday, March 31st CROP Hunger Walk Kickoff Rally at 2:00pm, Trumbull Congregational Church, 3115 Reservoir Avenue, Trumbull, CT.

BY THE WEEK

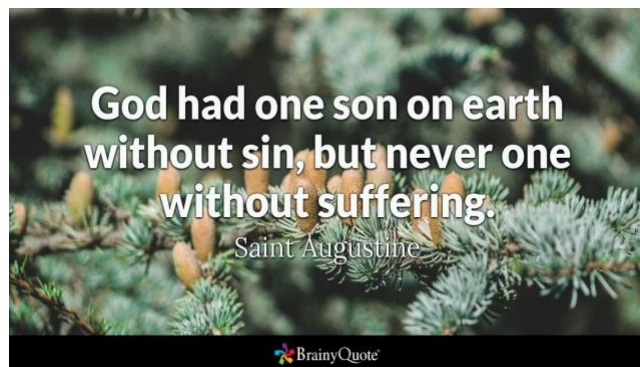
Sundays: Mercy Tabernacle Church
 1 2:30 - 2:30 pm
Tuesdays: Mercy Tabernacle Church
 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Wednesdays: AA meeting 12:00 pm
 Irish Dance, 5:30 – 7:00pm
Thursdays: AA men's meeting 7:30 pm

For news input in the weekly bulletin, please contact Father Tom by Wednesday: frtpwalsh@gmail.com

READERS ROSTER

March 17 March 24 March 31
Nancy Sirois Ray Morrison Nancy Anzalone

The roster for the entire year is posted on the Church web site. On the Home page click on the link *Schedule for Lectors* in the *Information* box.



PRAYER INTENTIONS

The faith community of St. Joseph's of Stratford offers healing prayers for **Ed Slonina and Ray Morrison**.

For those intentions that we hold in our hearts known to God alone.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Daytime & Evening Adult Study Sessions

The adult study, "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible," has begun. If you did not sign up for the study no problem, just come! The days and times are as follows:

Tuesdays at 6:30pm, March 12 – April 30
Thursdays at 10am, March 14 – May 9

Register with St. Joseph's

Please visit the new web site for the Church at saintjosephsofstratford.org. Links to the old web site will get you there. On the Home page click on the link *Please Tell Us About Yourself* in the *Register With Us* box. In addition to your name, address, and contact information space is provided for you to share your thoughts about how St. Joseph's can better serve your spiritual needs. All information you provide is confidential, not visible to the public.

Church Dues

Church dues for individuals is \$108 per year. \$216 per year for couples/family.

Bulletins courtesy of Joyce Bresh, March - April 2019. If anyone wishes to contribute to the printing cost of the bulletin, please see Fr. Tom.

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Joshua 5:9, 10-12

A reading from the Book of Joshua

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have removed the reproach of Egypt from you."

While the Israelites were encamped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they celebrated the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth of the month. On the day after the Passover, they ate of the produce of the land in the form of unleavened cakes and parched grain. On that same day after the Passover, on which they ate of the produce of the land, the manna ceased. No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory

I will get up and go to my Father and shall say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them Jesus addressed this parable: "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father give me the share of your estate that should come to me.'

So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."' So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.' He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

