

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



Passion Sunday, Year C

April 7th, 2019

**PARISH
CONTACTS**

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

The scribes and Pharisees had Jesus in their sights, or so they thought. Their plan was to test Jesus on the Law and then have him arrested for failing their test. Their scheme does not work. What they were doing was asking Jesus to comment on the Law of Moses concerning the stoning of a woman caught in adultery. They know what the Law commands, that the woman be stoned, but they wanted to draw Jesus out by asking him what he thought about this. Jesus does not allow himself to be trapped in this way.

Jesus does not dispute the Law but rather places conditions on the execution of it by stating that the one among them without sin be the first to cast a stone at the woman. What could they do? Cast a stone at her implying that they are without sin? Their only recourse was to walk away.

Ultimately, this passage is about judgement and condemnation. Who among them, among us, is worthy to judge another? Actually, Jesus is. The passage makes this clear by having Jesus writing on the ground with his finger, just as God wrote the Commandments with his finger on the Tablets given to Moses on Mt. Sinai. Jesus is the Son of God with authority to judge and condemn, but he does not. The sin is condemned, "Go, and from now on do not sin any more," but not the sinner. Salvation is always possible.

Grace and Peace,
Fr. Tom

MASS SCHEDULE

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

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford CT 06615-7639
Tel: 203 377-9901 (office), 203 923-2424 (rectory), Fax: 203 375-6439
www.saintjosephsofstratford.org

Schedule of Lent & Easter Services

Passion Sunday, April 7th

9:30am, The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

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

Sunday, April 7

- Meeting of the Ladies Society after Mass.
- Parish Committee Meeting after Mass.

Tuesday, April 9 Adult study *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* to meet at 6:30pm in the classroom.

Thursday, April 11 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.

BY THE WEEK

Sundays:	Mercy Tabernacle Church 12:30 - 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

<u>April 7</u> Reader	<u>April 14</u> Dee Smith	<u>April 21</u> Reader
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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 prays for the eternal repose of the soul of Ed Slonina. May he rest in peace.

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:

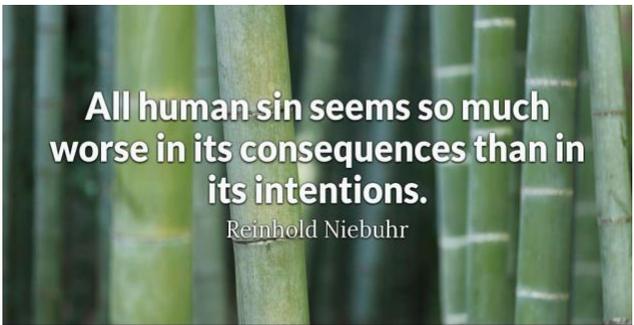
Tuesdays at 6:30pm, March 12 – April 30
Thursdays at 10am, March 14 – May 9

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.



All human sin seems so much worse in its consequences than in its intentions.

Reinhold Niebuhr

BrainyQuote

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

Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the LORD, who opens a way in the sea and a path in the mighty waters, who leads out chariots and horsemen, a powerful army, till they lie prostrate together, never to rise, snuffed out and quenched like a wick. Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the desert I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers. Wild beasts honor me, jackals and ostriches, for I put water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland for my chosen people to drink, the people whom I formed for myself, that they might announce my praise.

**The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading

Philippians 3:8-14

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:
I consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having any righteousness of my own based on the law but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God, depending on faith to know him and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

It is not that I have already taken hold of it or have already attained perfect maturity, but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it, since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ Jesus. Brothers and sisters, I for my part do not consider myself to have taken possession. Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus.

**The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

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

Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart; for I am gracious and merciful.

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

Gospel

John 8:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more."

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

