

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



Second Sunday of Easter, Year C

April 28th, 2019

**PARISH
CONTACTS**

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

"Peace be with you." This phrase is repeated three times in John's account of the appearance of the resurrected Jesus to the apostles. Because the source of scripture was an oral tradition, where anything of importance had to be repeated to be emphasized, to be remembered, the repetition of this phrase alerts us to its importance. With this understanding in mind, let us take a closer look at today's Gospel passage.

The phrase, "peace be with you," occurs at each of Jesus' two appearances to the apostles, when he came and stood in their midst despite locked doors, and another time when the apostles were shown his wounds. Jesus' offer of peace is understandable. The apostles were anxious and unsettled, afraid for their lives. Christ was crucified, would they be next? They had barricaded themselves in a room behind locked doors, and now this, the crucified Christ in their midst. What next?

That seems to be how it works with the Lord. We long for the security of a settled life, we like being in control, and then the Lord appears, perhaps in subtle ways, challenging us to a new way of life, a movement away from the familiar and comfortable. It is then that we are faced with a choice. Do we embrace this opportunity for growth, or do we remain barricaded behind the locked doors of our old way of life?

Grace and Peace,

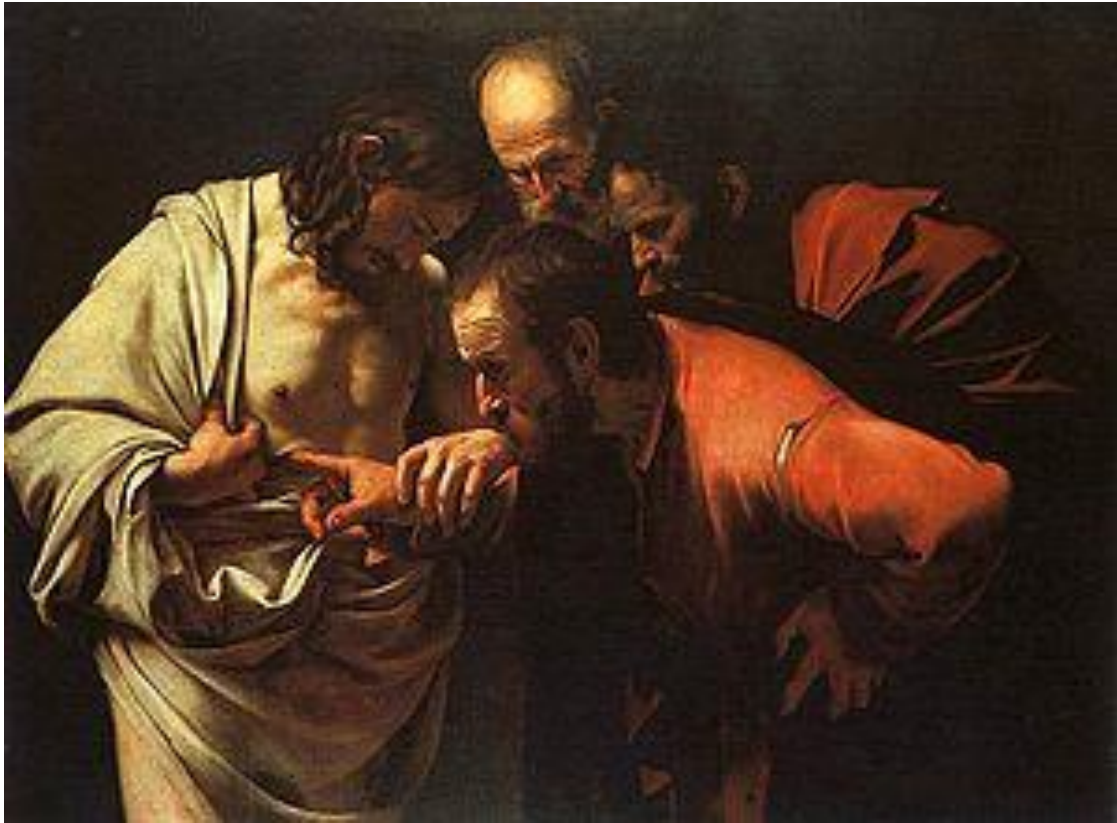
MASS SCHEDULE

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

*Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails,
and place my finger into the mark of the nails,
and place my hand into his side,
I will never believe.*

John 20:25, ESV



The Incredulity of Saint Thomas, Caravaggio, 1602

PARISH CALENDAR

April 28th

- The Ladies Society invite you to join them for an Easter Brunch to be held after Mass.
- Colossal Kielbasa Food Stand, 12pm – 5:30pm

May 2nd National Day of Prayer gathering at Paradise Green Gazebo, 7:00am, to Pray for America.

May 3-5 The 28th Annual National Convention of the United Women's Societies for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. To be held at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA.

May 5th Meeting of the Ladies Society after Mass.

May 18th 68th Annual Convention of the United Women's Societies for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. To be held at Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI. Mass begins at 10:00am.

May 19th Memorial Mass celebrated in honor of all past members of the Ladies Society now deceased. Mass begins at 9:30am.

BY THE WEEK

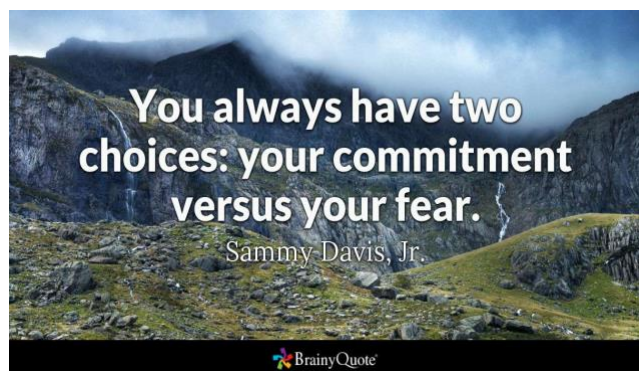
Sundays: Mercy Tabernacle Church
12:30 - 2:30 pm
Tuesdays: Mercy Tabernacle Church
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Wednesdays: AA meeting 12:00 pm
Irish Dance, 5:30 – 7:00pm
Thursdays: AA men's meeting 7:30 pm

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

READERS ROSTER

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>April 14</u> | <u>April 21</u> | <u>April 28</u> |
| Charles Vasas | Reader | Joe Pelland |

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

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

NEWS AND EVENTS

Colossal Kielbasa Food Stand

Outdoor grilling at its finest!

April 28th
12pm - 5:30pm

Flag Memorial

The American flag flying above the cemetery needs to be replaced. If anyone is interested in funding the cost of a replacement flag, please see Fr. Tom. The flag will be blessed and then dedicated in memory of a friend or loved one. The cost of the replacement flag is \$40.00.

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

Acts 5:12-16

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon's portico. None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them. Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them. Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them. A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Second Reading **Revelation 1:9-11, 12-13, 17-19**

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, your brother, who share with you the distress, the kingdom, and the endurance we have in Jesus, found myself on the island called Patmos because I proclaimed God's word and gave testimony to Jesus. I was caught up in spirit on the Lord's day and heard behind me a voice as loud as a trumpet, which said, "Write on a scroll what you see." Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and when I turned, I saw seven gold lampstands and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, wearing an ankle-length robe, with a gold sash around his chest.

When I caught sight of him, I fell down at his feet as though dead. He touched me with his right hand and said, "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, the one who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I hold the keys to death and the netherworld. Write down, therefore, what you have seen, and what is happening, and what will happen afterwards."

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

John 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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

