

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



Seventh Sunday of Easter, Year C

June 2nd, 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 is taken from Christ's high priestly prayer, which comes at the climax of Jesus' last discourse before his arrest. This is an intimate prayer between the Father and the Son where Jesus is praying for the disciples, and those who will come to believe in Jesus through their word, us.

If you follow the wording closely it is apparent that Jesus is praying for unity. A unity among the disciples and future believers that reflects the unity of the Father and the Son. This unity that Jesus is praying for is not that we may share some common belief or outlook. Rather, this is an intimate unity perfected when we are one. How could it be otherwise? We are created in God's image and God exists in unity. The unity of the three Persons of the Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This message is counter-cultural. We are taught that we achieve perfection when we are winners, champions, the best. We are exalted when others are diminished. Here Jesus is redefining what perfection means. We are brought to perfection as one. When one is diminished, all are diminished.

Grace and Peace,
Fr. Tom

MASS SCHEDULE

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

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YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

According to the calendar Spring has officially arrived, with Summer soon to follow. Perhaps it hasn't felt like it with all the rain we've been having, but warm weather is coming--and our less fortunate neighbors need your help! If you have light weight items you won't be using, please bring them here to St. Joseph's to donate to the "clothes closet" at Blessed Sacrament Church. Your extra clothes, shoes, household linens (sheets, towels, etc.), will be given a new life and greatly appreciated by those in need.

And a reminder, while the first Sunday of the month was originally designated as "food pantry drop-off day", you can bring in your donations of non-perishable items any time during the month. We all think of "feeding the hungry" during the holidays, and as a result, food banks face periods of greatest need between January and August. Blessed Sacrament has said they are especially in need of cereal and peanut butter.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25:35-40 NABRE



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

PARISH CALENDAR

June 7-9 – YMS of R Bowling Tournament held at St. Joseph's.

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

FLAG DONATION



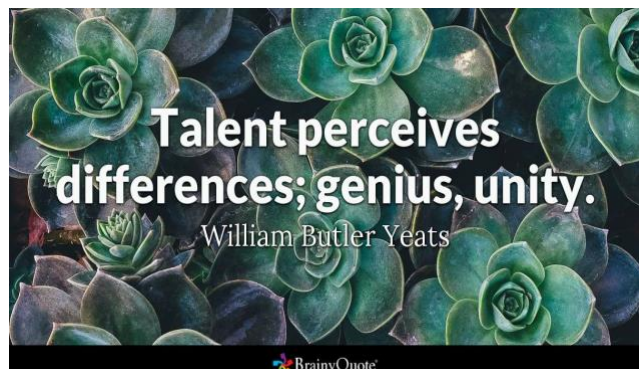
Flag donated by Martin Vasas in memory of Dolores Vasas

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

READERS ROSTER

<u>May 26</u>	<u>June 2</u>	<u>June 9</u>
Dee Smith	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

YMS of R Bowling Tournament

St. Joseph's to host the 74th Annual YMS of R / PNCC Bowling Tournament, June 7-9. The Tournament is open to all PNCC Parishioners, members of PNU/Spojnia, and non-PNCC individuals belonging to a PNCC-sponsored bowling league. There will be three bowling events (Singles, Doubles and Team) with prizes being awarded in four divisions (Open, Women's, Youth, and Spojnia). The Singles and Doubles events are on Friday, the 7th, and the Team event is on Saturday, the 8th. You can bowl in all three events, or just one or two.

A barbeque will be hosted at St. Joseph's on Friday evening, 5:00pm. On Saturday evening beginning at 6:00pm a cocktail hour followed by dinner, awards and dancing will be held at Riverview Bistro in Stratford. Those interested in participating in these events please see Rob Shandrowski. The schedule of events, rules & regulations, registration forms, and other information are posted on the St. Joseph's web site in the *Information* box.

Yoga Class Thursday Evenings

We will be hosting a Thursday evening yoga class with instructor Carla Loxsom. Classes begin June 6th. The class will meet in the Classroom from 6:30pm to 7:30pm and will run through the fall. The cost is \$14 per session for a single class and \$13 per session for an eight-week course. Please call 203-257-0556 with questions or to register.

Seeking Volunteers

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." *1 Corinthians 12:4-7*

If you would like to use your gifts for the common good of our Church, there are a number of ways that you can help. Please see Fr. Tom to discuss opportunities for service in our faith community.

Church Dues

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

Bulletins courtesy of Ann Stockman, May - June 2019. If anyone wishes to contribute to the printing cost of the bulletin, please see Fr. Tom.

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Acts 7:55-60

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and Stephen said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out in a loud voice, covered their ears, and rushed upon him together. They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses laid down their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul. As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them;" and when he said this, he fell asleep.

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

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

Second Reading **Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20**

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice saying to me: "Behold, I am coming soon. I bring with me the recompense I will give to each according to his deeds. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Blessed are they who wash their robes so as to have the right to the tree of life and enter the city through its gates.

"I, Jesus, sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let the hearer say, "Come." Let the one who thirsts come forward, and the one who wants it receive the gift of life-giving water.

The one who gives this testimony says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord.
I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

John 17:20-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed saying:
"Holy Father, I pray not only for them,
but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
so that they may all be one,
as you, Father, are in me and I in you,
that they also may be in us,
that the world may believe that you sent me.
And I have given them the glory you gave me,
so that they may be one, as we are one,
I in them and you in me,
that they may be brought to perfection as one,
that the world may know that you sent me,
and that you loved them even as you loved me.
Father, they are your gift to me.
I wish that where I am they also may be with me,
that they may see my glory that you gave me,
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
Righteous Father, the world also does not know you,
but I know you, and they know that you sent me.
I made known to them your name and I will make it known,
that the love with which you loved me
may be in them and I in them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

