

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



Thirteenth Sunday Ordinary Time, Year C

June 30th, 2019

**PARISH
CONTACTS**

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

To some Jesus says, "follow me." Others pledge to Jesus that they will follow him. Following seems to be the watchword for today's Gospel passage, which leads us to question what it means to follow someone.

To follow someone means either to follow where they are going, or to follow their lead, to adopt their ways. In either case, to follow means to leave something behind. A hoped-for destination that we will never reach. A way of life that we are accustomed to.

But we gain something when we follow. A new direction leading to a better destination than we could have found ourselves. A different way of living that is life giving. All this is possible if we choose wisely who to follow. The choice is ours

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

Mass SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY: **1 Kings 19:16,19-21** is a poignant story about the calling of the prophet Elisha. It is a classic OT story of God's calling persons to discipleship. June, in our PNC Church, is dedicated to special prayer for modern-day disciples, particularly those called to be deacons & priests. **2nd Reading: Galatians 5:1,13-8** continues Paul's teaching on the centrality of faith in Jesus, who set us free from slavery to sin, so that we might serve others unselfishly by the power of his Spirit of love. This last part of his letter contrasts "works of the flesh" [evils we easily slip into, when we act by our selfish desires] with "fruits of God's Spirit." **Gospel: Luke 9:51-62** seems to have 2 "ties" to today's OT passage: A) Elijah was a prophet who asked God to send fire on 50 soldiers of Israel's king Ahaziah, as they came to take him (**2 Kings 1:10,12**); but Jesus rebukes James & John for suggesting a similar response to unfriendly Samaritans. B) Elijah agreed to the request of his would-be disciple Elisha (to go back to care for his family, before following Elijah as his disciple); whereas Jesus rebukes his would-be disciple, who asks to go home & bury his father. Frankly it's hard for us to understand such a seemingly "uncompassionate" response on Jesus' part. Don't YOU think so?

1st Week's Feasts: Fri. 6/28 (Irenaeus of Lyons); Sat. 6/29 (Peter & Paul, Apostles); JULY 1st (Shenute); 2nd (Mary's Visitation). **St. Irenaeus** (c.110-c.202) died as bishop of Lugdunum in the Roman province of Gaul [today: Lyons, France]. He was an early Church Father & apologist, and his writings were formative in the early development of Christian theology. Residing in Smyrna [in today's sw. Turkey] he had listened to the preaching of St. Polycarp, who is traditionally considered a disciple of John the Evangelist. **Solemnity of Peter & Paul** is an ancient feast in honor of the martyrdom in Rome of the 2 apostles. The date is an anniversary either of their death or of the translation of their relics **St. Shenute** (348-466) was a holy abbot in Upper Egypt, chosen by St. Cyril, Patriarch of Egypt, to accompany him in representing the Church of Alexandria at the Ecumenical Council of Ephesus in 431. There he provided the moral support that St. Cyril needed to defeat the heresy of Nestorius, Bp. of Constantinople **Visitation of the BVM** means the visit of Mary with Elizabeth as recorded in Luke's Gospel[**1:39-51**]. The feast is of medieval origin, was kept by the Order of Friars Minor before 1263 when St. Bonaventure recommended it and the Franciscan chapter adopted it, & the Franciscan Breviary spread it to many churches in Western Europe. Anglicans as well as the PNCC keep the "old date" of 7/2, while the RCC changed the date in 1969 to 5/31, between the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (25 March) and that of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (24 June), so that it would harmonize better with the Gospel story. The impetus to establish a feast day in the Orthodox Church calendar came from the work of Archimandrite Antonin Kapustin (1817-1894), head of the Russian Orthodox Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem. The Gorneye Convent in Jerusalem, which was built on the traditional site of the Meeting of Mary & Elizabeth, celebrates the Feast on 3/30. Pope Francis used 5/31 to visit Orthodox & Catholics of Romania.

PARISH CALENDAR

June 30 – July 7 Fr. Tom & Yvonne away.
July 10 – St. Joseph's serving at Lord's Kitchen.

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
Thursdays: Yoga with Carla Loxsom, 6:30-7:30pm in
the Classroom
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>June 23</u> Ray Morrison	<u>June 30</u> Nancy Anzalone	<u>July 7</u> Charles Vasas
--------------------------------	----------------------------------	--------------------------------

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.

I follow three rules: Do the right thing, do the best you can, and always show people you care.

Lou Holtz

BrainyQuote

PRAYER INTENTIONS

That our hearts may not be hardened to the needs of the poor.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Fr. Tom Away

Fr. Tom and Yvonne will be away leaving June 30, returning July 8. Fr. Henry Smolinski will be celebrating Mass for those Sundays while Fr. Tom is away. Please note that there is no Mass on Saturday evening July 6. For emergencies please contact Fr. Paul Dudek at (203) 729-4035.

Independence Day Fireworks on July 3rd

Please join your friends in the church parking lot to view the Independence Day fireworks on Wednesday, July 3rd. The password for admission to the parking lot is "Charlie."

Collection for Troops

Today is our last day of collecting for our troops. If you have not donated, and want to participate, please consider a monetary donation to be used for postage. Thanks to all that participated.

Prayer Groups forming at St. Joseph

Prayer Groups are forming at St. Joseph's. Joining a Prayer Group will help you to structure time in your busy day around prayer and being in God's presence. To learn more about Prayer Groups and to sign-up for a group please check out the information sheet located on the table at the entrance to the Church, or see Fr. Tom. You can join as few or as many Prayer Groups as you like. We invite you to enrich your life with daily prayer and join your prayer with the corporate prayer of the Church.

Seeking Volunteers

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.

We have an immediate need for Readers at Mass, training and on-going support is provided. We are in need of individuals to form a Welcoming Committee to greet and welcome visitors to our Church. Photographers are needed to attend Church events to take pictures to be published on our web page. Thank you for your consideration.

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

1 Kings 19:16, 19-21

A reading from the first Book of Kings

The LORD said to Elijah:

"You shall anoint Elisha, son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah, as prophet to succeed you."

Elijah set out and came upon Elisha, son of Shaphat, as he was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen; he was following the twelfth. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak over him. Elisha left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Please, let me kiss my father and mother goodbye, and I will follow you." Elijah answered, "Go back! Have I done anything to you?" Elisha left him, and taking the yoke of oxen, slaughtered them; he used the plowing equipment for fuel to boil their flesh, and gave it to his people to eat. Then Elisha left and followed Elijah as his attendant.

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

Responsorial Psalm

You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Second Reading

Galatians 5:1, 13-18

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians

Brothers and sisters:

For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.

For you were called for freedom, brothers and sisters. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. But if you go on biting and devouring one another, beware that you are not consumed by one another.

I say, then: live by the Spirit and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh. For the flesh has desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you may not do what you want. But if you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening; you have the words of everlasting life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 9:51-62

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the days for Jesus' being taken up were fulfilled, he resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem, and he sent messengers ahead of him. On the way they entered a Samaritan village to prepare for his reception there, but they would not welcome him because the destination of his journey was Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?" Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they journeyed to another village.

As they were proceeding on their journey someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head."

And to another he said, "Follow me."

But he replied, "Lord, let me go first and bury my father."

But he answered him, "Let the dead bury their dead."

But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

And another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my family at home."

To him Jesus said, "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

