

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



Fifteenth Sunday Ordinary Time, Year C

July 14th, 2019

**PARISH
CONTACTS**

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

"Was moved with compassion." That is how Luke describes the Samaritan traveler upon seeing the beaten half-dead man on the side of the road. A grim sight to be sure. We know this because the priest and the Levite chose to pass on the opposite side of the road rather than get too close.

There is an irony here that a first century Jew would have picked up on. Samaritan's were not liked by the Jews due to their complicated history. Samaritans were seen as abandoning their Jewish faith. Yet here we find a Samaritan living faithfully, caring for a wounded man, while the priest and the Levite, men of faith, pass him by.

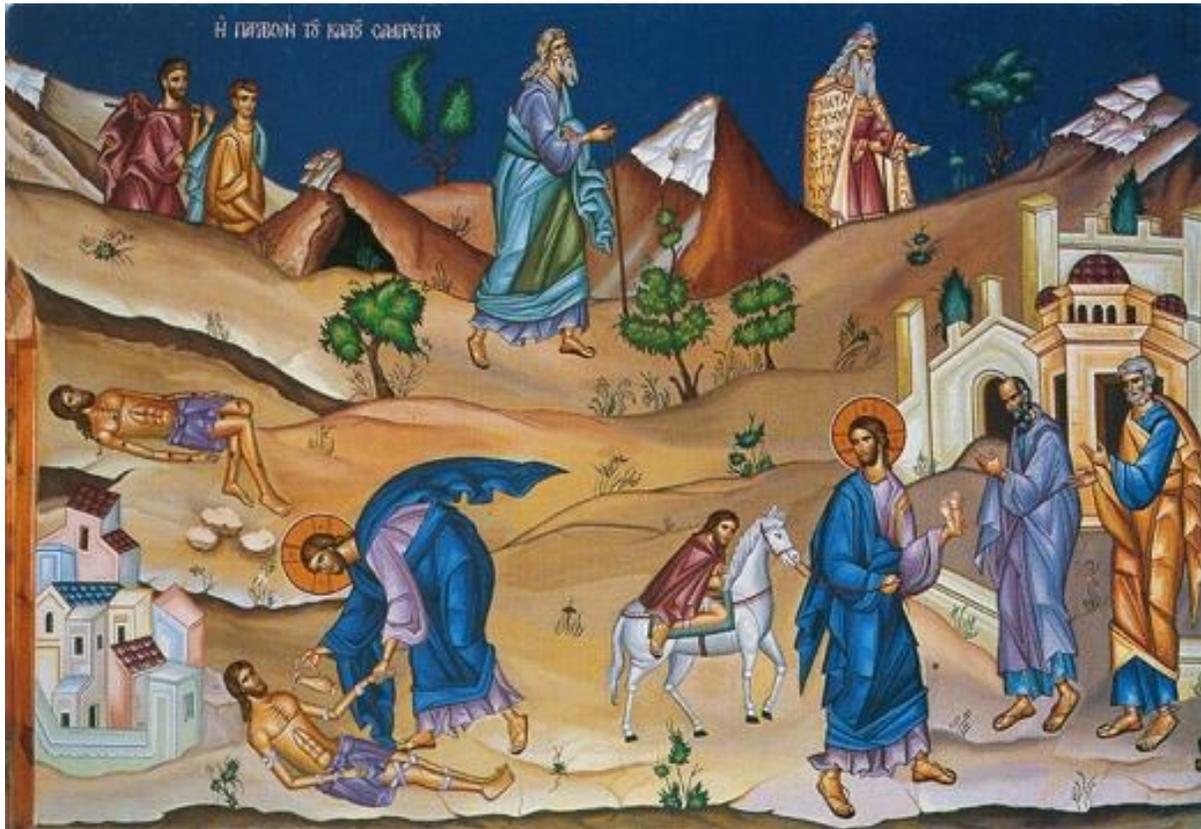
One could argue that the priest and the Levite steered clear of the beaten man who appeared dead because as religious leaders they did not want to defile themselves by touching the corpse a dead person (Numbers 19:11). But Jesus does not go there. He just stated that the greatest law is the law of love, and love invokes compassion, and out of compassion we are moved to help like the good Samaritan. As Christians that is what we are called to do. They will know we are Christians by our love.

Grace and Peace,
Fr. Tom

MASS SCHEDULE

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

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Visio divina, or divine vision, is the practice of attentively and receptively gazing upon an image so that the experience leads us to meditation and prayer. Icons do not take the place of Scripture, rather they are expressions and interpretations of the sacred text. The icon shown above depicts today's Gospel passage of the Good Samaritan.

As you gaze upon this icon consider the following characteristics that give icons their unique and sacred quality. What thoughts and feelings arise within you as you encounter this symbolic image?

Light and color. Unlike western art in which the light within a scene comes from a particular source and direction, the light of an icon has no single source. The images within an icon are completely surrounded and infused with light. This suggests that the luminance of an icon comes from uncreated light, the light of God's kingdom, which not only permeates the scene but also illumines the viewer.

Faces and gestures. The face is the focal point in icons. The face is designed to express the spiritual qualities that come from within the person. The direction of the subject's gaze draws the attention of the viewer.

Inverse perspective. The purpose of the icon is to establish an encounter between the viewer and the image. This effect is created by reversing the perspective from that of a naturalistic scene. In icons the perspective is reversed so that the lines converge in front of the image at the spectator. This method creates the illusion that the subject of the icon comes to meet the spectator in front of the icon, which intensifies the relationship between the subject of the icon and the one gazing at the image.

Symbolism When iconographers wish to express something that cannot be directly conveyed in images, they turn to symbolism. For example, the Word of God is expressed with a book or scrolls in the hands of the subjects. A halo radiating from a subject's head symbolizes the person's sanctity and relationship with God.

Stillness and silence. The mouths of characters within icons are never open, and there are no images within the scene that indicate sound. This silence within the icon creates stillness within the viewer naturally drawing the viewer to prayer and contemplation.

(Taken from the text "Transformed by God's Word. Discovering the Power of Lectio and Visio Divina," by Stephen Binz)

PARISH CALENDAR

July 10 – St. Joseph’s serving at Lord’s Kitchen.

July 21 – Colossal Kielbasa Food Stand, opens at 12 noon.

July 27 – Food Drive at Stop & Shop to benefit the South End Community Center and Blessed Sacrament Church.

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>July 14</u>	<u>July 21</u>	<u>July 28</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

Continued prayers for Frank Bonitatebus. That God’s healing grace may be with him.

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

NEWS AND EVENTS

Danika excels in Dance Competition!

Danika finished with 5 stars and was placed in the top 10 in the nation for her Jazz solo at the National Talent Competition. We’re proud of your accomplishments Danika!

Hunger Doesn’t Take a Vacation

Because most people think of donating food for the hungry only at Thanksgiving and Christmas, food pantries struggle to keep their shelves stocked during the summer. To help the less fortunate, on **Saturday, July 27** the St. Joseph’s community will once again be holding a Food Drive at Stop & Shop for the South End Community Center and Blessed Sacrament Church. Those of you who have participated in past drives know what a rewarding experience it is. We need help in collecting the donated food and thanking our generous supporters. The sign-up board is in the foyer and you need to commit to only one hour of your time. If you know of someone who has a truck to transport the collected food here for sorting, please let Joe Pelland know. Thank you for all you do to help those in need. May God bless you and those you care for.

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.

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

Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive.

Dalai Lama

BrainyQuote

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:10-14

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people:

"If only you would heed the voice of the LORD, your God, and keep his commandments and statutes that are written in this book of the law, when you return to the LORD, your God, with all your heart and all your soul.

"For this command that I enjoin on you today is not too mysterious and remote for you. It is not up in the sky, that you should say, 'Who will go up in the sky to get it for us and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?' Nor is it across the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross the sea to get it for us and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?' No, it is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts; you have only to carry it out."

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

Responsorial Psalm

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

Second Reading

Colossians 1:15-20

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross through him, whether those on earth or those in heaven.

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 10:25-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test Jesus and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He said in reply, "*You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.*" He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live."

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn, and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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

