

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



Seventeenth Sunday Ordinary Time, Year C

July 28th, 2019

**PARISH
CONTACTS**

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." These were Jesus' words to his disciples after teaching them to pray. What is evident from these words is that prayer is active, not passive. We may at times think of prayer as a repetition of familiar words, but in truth prayer is a call to action. We do not pray to turn God towards us, God has never turned away. We pray to turn our hearts towards God. And once turned we then begin to ask, seek, and knock.

Grace and Peace,
Fr. Tom

MASS SCHEDULE

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

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Saints of the Day

July 28. Sts. Nazarius and Celsus

ST. NAZARIUS' father was a heathen, and held a considerable post in the Roman army. His mother, Perpetua, was a zealous Christian, and was instructed by St. Peter, or his disciples, in the most perfect maxims of our holy Faith. Nazarius embraced it with so much ardor that he copied in his life all the great virtues he saw in his teachers; and out of zeal for the salvation of others, he left Rome, his native city, and preached the Faith in many places with a fervor and disinterestedness becoming a disciple of the Apostles. Arriving at Milan, he was there beheaded for the Faith, together with Celsus, a youth whom he carried with him to assist him in his travels. Reflection—The martyrs died as the outcasts of the world, but are crowned by God with immortal honor. The glory of the world

July 29. Saint Martha, Holy Woman

Martha's great glory is her simple and strong statement of faith in Jesus after her brother's death. "Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world'" (John 11: 25–27).

July 30. Blessed Solanus Casey, Priest, Religious (1870-1957)

Fr. Solanus served at parishes in Manhattan and Harlem before returning to Detroit, where he was porter and sacristan for twenty years at St. Bonaventure Monastery. Every Wednesday afternoon he conducted well-attended services for the sick. A coworker estimates that on the average day, 150 to 200 people came to see Fr. Solanus in the front office. Most of them came to receive his blessing; forty to fifty came for consultations. Many people considered him instrumental in cures and other blessings they received. Fr. Solanus's sense of God's providence inspired many of his visitors. "Blessed be God in all his designs" was one of his favorite expressions. The many friends of Fr. Solanus helped the Capuchins begin a soup kitchen during the Depression. Capuchins and volunteers still feed the hungry there today.

July 31. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest (1491-1556)

In 1534, at the age of forty-three, he and six others (one of whom was St. Francis Xavier, December 3) vowed to live in poverty and chastity and to go to the Holy Land. If this became impossible, they vowed to offer themselves to the apostolic service of the pope. The latter became the only choice. Four years later, Ignatius made the association permanent. The new Society of Jesus was approved by Paul III, and Ignatius was elected to serve as the first general.

August 1. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor (1696-1787)

St. Alphonsus was known above all as a practical man who dealt in the concrete rather than the abstract. His life is indeed a practical model for the everyday Christian who has difficulty recognizing the dignity of Christian life amid the swirl of problems, pain, misunderstanding, and failure. Alphonsus suffered all these things. He is a saint because he was able to maintain an intimate sense of the presence of the suffering Christ through it all.

August 2. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop (283?-371)

He was sent by Pope Liberius to persuade the emperor to call a council to settle Catholic-Arian troubles. When it was called at Milan, Eusebius went reluctantly, sensing that the Arian block would have its way, although the Catholics were more numerous. He refused to go along with the condemnation of Athanasius (May 2); instead, he laid the Nicene Creed on the table and insisted that all sign it before taking up any other matter. The emperor put pressure on him, but Eusebius insisted on Athanasius's innocence and reminded the emperor that secular force should not be used to influence Church decisions.

PARISH CALENDAR

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

PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

We offer healing prays for Wendell Barry. That he may be strengthened and encouraged.

That we may pray without ceasing.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Alert!

When accessing the Saint Joseph's web page please be certain to use the new web address 'SaintJosephsofStratford.org' NOT the old web address 'StJosephsofStratford.org'. If you use the old web address you will be directed to a foreign gambling web site. Keeping in mind cyber security concerns I advise you not to do this.

Thank you for your Donations to Greg's Unit!

Many thanks for your generosity to supply Greg's unit with goodies during their deployment. Greg reported that the troops were thrilled with all they received, and grateful for your well wishes. Yvonne and I thank you for taking such good care of our son and those he serves with.

READERS ROSTER

<u>July 14</u> Dee Smith	<u>July 21</u> Reader	<u>July 28</u> Joe Pelland
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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.

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. A sign-up sheet will soon be posted listing the various volunteer opportunities that are in need of support. This is not a permanent commitment. The length of service will be limited to three months or a time of your choosing. Thank you for your support.

**Prayer does not change God,
but it changes him who prays.**

Soren Kierkegaard

 BrainyQuote

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

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Genesis 18:20-32

A reading from the Book of Genesis

In those days, the LORD said: "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great, and their sin so grave, that I must go down and see whether or not their actions fully correspond to the cry against them that comes to me. I mean to find out."

While Abraham's visitors walked on farther toward Sodom, the LORD remained standing before Abraham. Then Abraham drew nearer and said:

"Will you sweep away the innocent with the guilty? Suppose there were fifty innocent people in the city; would you wipe out the place, rather than spare it for the sake of the fifty innocent people within it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to make the innocent die with the guilty so that the innocent and the guilty would be treated alike! Should not the judge of all the world act with justice?" The LORD replied, "If I find fifty innocent people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake." Abraham spoke up again: "See how I am presuming to speak to my Lord, though I am but dust and ashes! What if there are five less than fifty innocent people? Will you destroy the whole city because of those five?" He answered, "I will not destroy it, if I find forty-five there."

But Abraham persisted, saying "What if only forty are found there?" He replied, "I will forbear doing it for the sake of the forty." Then Abraham said, "Let not my Lord grow impatient if I go on. What if only thirty are found there?" He replied, "I will forbear doing it if I can find but thirty there." Still Abraham went on,

"Since I have thus dared to speak to my Lord, what if there are no more than twenty?" The LORD answered, "I will not destroy it, for the sake of the twenty." But he still persisted: "Please, let not my Lord grow angry if I speak up this last time. What if there are at least ten there?" He replied, "For the sake of those ten, I will not destroy it."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

Second Reading

Colossians 2:12-14

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:
You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And even when you were dead in transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he brought you to life along with him, having

forgiven us all our transgressions; obliterating the bond against us, with its legal claims, which was opposed to us, he also removed it from our midst, nailing it to the cross.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia.

You have received a Spirit of adoption, through which we cry, Abba, Father.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 11:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread
and forgive us our sins

for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us,
and do not subject us to the final test."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,' and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.' I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence.

"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

