

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



Nineteenth Sunday Ordinary Time, Year C

August 11th, 2019

**PARISH
CONTACTS**

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

"You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." These words of Jesus may seem ominous to some, joyful to others. Joyful for those who are prepared. The question then becomes, how are we to prepare? To answer this question, we need to do some unpacking of the Gospel passage.

In this passage Jesus is telling the disciples that they must be vigilant in carrying out their responsibilities. But what are their responsibilities? The answer to this question becomes apparent when we consider the Lord's Prayer. The prayer begins, "Our Father." Jesus is telling us that as adopted children of God we have responsibilities to our family.

Do we cherish our faith community? Do we honor our Father in heaven? Do we love our brothers and sisters as we love ourselves? We do these things not with grand gestures but in the simple things we do every day. Our thoughts. Our actions. What we do or fail to do. Let us not be caught off guard at an hour we do not expect.

Grace and Peace,
Fr. Tom

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 pm - Sunday Vigil. **Sunday:** 9:30 am. **Wednesday:** 9:00am - Mass for Healing with Anointing

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Saints of the Day

August 11. Clare, Virgin (1194-1253)

The forty-one years of Clare's religious life are a scenario of sanctity: an indomitable resolve to lead the simple, literal Gospel life as Francis taught her; courageous resistance to the ever-present pressure to dilute the ideal; a passion for poverty and humility; an ardent life of prayer; and a generous concern for her sisters. On her deathbed, Clare was heard to say to herself: "Go forth in peace, for you have followed the good road. Go forth without fear, for he who created you has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Blessed be you, my God, for having created me."

August 12. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious (1562-1641)

St. Vincent de Paul (September 27) said of Jane Frances: "She was full of faith, yet all her life had been tormented by thoughts against it. While apparently enjoying the peace and easiness of mind of souls who have reached a high state of virtue, she suffered such interior trials that she often told me her mind was so filled with all sorts of temptations and abominations that she had to strive not to look within herself. But for all that suffering her face never lost its serenity, nor did she once relax in the fidelity God asked of her.

August 14. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest and Martyr (1894-1941)

In 1939 Nazi panzers overran Poland with deadly speed. Niepokalanow was severely bombed. Kolbe and his friars were arrested then released in less than three months on the feast of the Immaculate Conception. In 1941 he was arrested again. The Nazis' purpose was to liquidate the select ones, the leaders. The end came quickly, in Auschwitz three months later, after terrible beatings and humiliations. A prisoner had escaped. The commandant announced that ten men would die. As they were being marched away to the starvation bunkers, Number 16670 dared to step from the line. "I would like to take that man's place. He has a wife and children." "Who are you?" "A priest." No name, no mention of fame. Silence. The commandant ordered Fr. Kolbe to go with the nine. In the "block of death," their slow starvation began in darkness. But there was no screaming—the prisoners sang. By the eve of the Assumption, four were left alive. The jailer came to finish Kolbe off as he sat in a corner praying. He was beatified in 1971 and canonized eleven years later.

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

READERS ROSTER

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <u>August 4th</u> | <u>August 11</u> | <u>August 18</u> |
| Nancy Sirois | Ray Morrison | Nancy Anzalone |

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.

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

Nancy Anzalone prays for Desiree Anzalone and Judy DeLorenzo.

Dani and Jess pray for "Robbie" aka Dad for a safe year.

Jess prays for the people in Purgatory.

For the 9 victims of the shooting in Dayton, Ohio on August 4th.
For the 22 victims of the shooting in El Paso, Texas on August 3rd.
For their family, friends, and the first responders. That God's grace and peace may be with them.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Wednesday Morning Healing Mass

Starting this Wednesday, August 14th, and continuing every Wednesday, a healing Mass and anointing will be celebrated at St. Joseph's at 9:00am. We hope that you can join us as often as you can.

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass will be celebrated this Thursday, August 15th, at 9:00am in honor of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Stratford Police to Educate on Fraud & Scam Protection

Detectives from the Stratford Police Department will be at St. Joseph's this coming Wednesday, the 14th, at 4:00pm to talk about ways to guard against various forms of fraud and scams. Please plan to join us for this important session.

Quarter Night

St. Joseph's annual quarter night is scheduled for Saturday evening October 26h with doors opening as 6:00PM. We hope you can join us for an evening of fun and prizes! It's recommended that tables be reserved to assure your participation. Prize donations are being accepted and may be turned over to any member of the ladies' society. A prize value minimum is suggested at \$5.00. Additional information to follow.

Back to School Drive

Between now and August 23rd we are accepting donations of school supplies such as crayons, pencils, pens, notebooks, folders, markers, and backpacks. A basket will be placed in the Church foyer where you can place the items you are donating. All items collected will go to the Stratford community. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Yvonne at (860) 417-9748. Many thanks!

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

Wisdom 18:6-9

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The night of the passover was known beforehand to our fathers, that, with sure knowledge of the oaths in which they put their faith, they might have courage. Your people awaited the salvation of the just and the destruction of their foes. For when you punished our adversaries, in this you glorified us whom you had summoned. For in secret the holy children of the good were offering sacrifice and putting into effect with one accord the divine institution.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-12

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:
Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. Because of it the ancients were well attested.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he sojourned in the promised land as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs of the same promise; for he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and maker is God. By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age —and Sarah herself was sterile— for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore.

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

Stay awake and be ready!

For you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 12:35-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have the servants recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

