

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



Twentieth Sunday Ordinary Time, Year C

August 18th, 2019

**PARISH
CONTACTS**

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

Strong words from Jesus in this week's Gospel passage. He states that he has come not to establish peace on earth but division. This from the Prince of Peace? Not only that but he has come to set the earth on fire, set it ablaze! How are we to understand these words?

The key to understanding this is to recognize that Jesus is the catalyst for change. He has come to make all things new; the old order is passing away. Jesus, knowing full well human nature, knows that some will resist this change while others will embrace it, thus the cause for division. The question we must ask ourselves is on which side of the divide do we fall? Do we cling to old ways of being or do we accept the new life that Christ offers?

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

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford CT 06615-7639
Tel: 203 377-9901 (office), 203 923-2424 (rectory), Fax: 203 375-6439
www.saintjosephsofstratford.org

Saints of the Day

August 19. John Eudes, Priest (1601-1680)

Born on a farm in northern France, John died at seventy-nine in the next “county” or department. In that time he was a religious, a parish missionary, a founder of two religious communities, and a great promoter of the devotion to the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Holiness is the wholehearted openness to the love of God. It is visibly expressed in many ways, but the variety of expression has one common quality: concern for the needs of others. In John’s case, those who were in need were plague-stricken people, ordinary parishioners, those preparing for the priesthood, prostitutes, and all Christians called to imitate the love of Jesus and his mother.

August 20. Bernard of Clairvaux, Abbot and Doctor (1090-1153)

Adviser of popes, preacher of the Second Crusade, defender of the faith, healer of a schism, reformer of a monastic order, Scripture scholar, theologian, and eloquent preacher. His life was characterized by a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother. His sermons and books about Mary are still the standard of Marian theology.

August 21. Pius X, Pope (1835-1914)

Pope Pius X is perhaps best remembered for his encouragement of the frequent reception of Holy Communion, especially by children. Ever mindful of his humble origin, he stated, “I was born poor, I lived poor, I will die poor.” He was embarrassed by some of the pomp of the papal court. He denounced the ill treatment of indigenous peoples on the plantations of Peru, sent a relief commission to Messina after an earthquake, and sheltered refugees at his own expense. On the eleventh anniversary of his election as pope, Europe was plunged into World War I. Pius had foreseen it, but it killed him. “This is the last affliction the Lord will visit on me. I would gladly give my life to save my poor children from this ghastly scourge.” He died a few weeks after the war began and was canonized in 1954.

August 23. Rose of Lima, Virgin (1586-1617)

The first canonized saint of the New World, she was born to parents of Spanish descent in Lima, Peru, at a time when South America was in its first century of evangelization. During the last few years of her life, Rose set up a room in the house where she cared for homeless children, the elderly, and the sick. This was a beginning of social services in Peru.

August 25. Bartholomew, Apostle

In the New Testament, Bartholomew is mentioned only in the lists of the apostles. Some scholars identify him with Nathanael, a man of Cana in Galilee who was summoned to Jesus by Philip. Jesus paid him a great compliment: “Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him” (John 1:47). He was one of those to whom Jesus appeared on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias after his resurrection (see John 21:1–14). Like Christ himself, the apostles were unceasingly bent upon bearing witness to the truth of God. They showed special courage in speaking ‘the word of God with boldness’ (Acts 4:31) before the people and their rulers.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, the 18th Colossal Kielbasa Food Stand, 12noon to 5:30pm

Saturday, the 31st Stop & Shop Food Drive, 9am – 3pm.

BY THE WEEK

Saturdays: Stepping Class with Mercy Tabernacle
10:00 am-12:00 pm
Sundays: Mercy Tabernacle Church
12:30 - 2:30 pm
Tuesdays: Mercy Tabernacle Church
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Wednesdays: Mass for Healing, 9:00am
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

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.

The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled.

Plutarch

BrainyQuote

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Prayers for Jane Pelland as she continues to recover at Bridgeport Hospital.

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.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Wednesday Morning Healing Mass

Mass for Healing is celebrated every Wednesday morning at 9am. We look forward to your being with us.

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

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

A reading from the Book of the prophet Jeremiah

In those days, the princes said to the king: "Jeremiah ought to be put to death; he is demoralizing the soldiers who are left in this city, and all the people, by speaking such things to them; he is not interested in the welfare of our people, but in their ruin." King Zedekiah answered: "He is in your power"; for the king could do nothing with them. And so they took Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern of Prince Malchiah, which was in the quarters of the guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the cistern, only mud, and Jeremiah sank into the mud.

Ebed-melech, a court official, went there from the palace and said to him: "My lord king, these men have been at fault in all they have done to the prophet Jeremiah, casting him into the cistern. He will die of famine on the spot, for there is no more food in the city." Then the king ordered Ebed-melech the Cushite to take three men along with him, and draw the prophet Jeremiah out of the cistern before he should die.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, come to my aid!

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:1-4

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:
Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God. Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood.

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 12:49-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples:

"I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

