

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



Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

August 25th, 2019

**PARISH
CONTACTS**

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

One key to surfacing the message in a passage from Scripture is to look for repeated words or phrases. Remember the context in which Scripture was preached. First century Palestine was an oral culture. Most were illiterate with little education. If you wanted to make an impact you had to repeat the important points. Sort of like oral highlighting!

In this week's Gospel passage Jesus repeats the words, "I do not know where you are from." How can this be from the Person of the Trinity from whom all things were made? The fault lies with us not Jesus. When we ceased bearing the image of God we were created in, allowing the world to tarnish that image beyond recognition, we separated ourselves from God. Fortunately, through Christ we are able to regain that image if we choose. The choose is ours.

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 25. Joseph Calasanz, Priest (1556-1648)

From Aragon, where he was born in 1556, to Rome, where he died ninety-two years later, fortune alternately smiled and frowned on the work of Joseph Calasanz. A priest with university training in canon law and theology, respected for his wisdom and administrative expertise, he put aside his career because he was deeply concerned with the need for education of poor children. When he was unable to get other institutes to undertake this apostolate at Rome, he and several companions personally provided a free school for deprived children. So overwhelming was the response that there was a constant need for larger facilities to house their effort. Soon Pope Clement VIII gave support to the school, and this aid continued under Pope Paul V. Other schools were opened; other men were attracted to the work, and in 1621 the community (for so the teachers lived) was recognized as a religious community, the Clerks Regular of Religious Schools (Piarists or Scolopi).

August 27. Monica, Wife and Mother (330-387)

Monica had at least three children who survived infancy. The oldest, Augustine (August 28), is the most famous. At the time of his father's death, Augustine was seventeen and a rhetoric student in Carthage. Monica was distressed to learn that her son had accepted the Manichean heresy (all flesh is evil) and was living an immoral life. For a while, she refused to let him eat or sleep in her house. Then one night she had a vision that assured her Augustine would return to the faith. From that time on, she stayed close to her son, praying and fasting for him. When he was twenty-nine, Augustine decided to go to Rome to teach rhetoric. Monica was determined to go along. One night he told his mother that he was going to the dock to say good-bye to a friend. Instead, he set sail for Rome. Monica was heartbroken when she learned of Augustine's trick, but she still followed him. She arrived in Rome only to find that he had left for Milan. Although travel was difficult, Monica pursued him to Milan. In Milan, Augustine came under the influence of the bishop, St. Ambrose (December 7), who also became Monica's spiritual director. Monica became a leader of the devout women in Milan as she had been in Tagaste. She continued her prayers for Augustine during his years of instruction. At Easter, 387, St. Ambrose baptized Augustine and several of his friends. Soon after, his party left for Africa. Although no one else was aware of it, Monica knew her life was near the end. She told Augustine, "Son, nothing in this world now affords me delight. I do not know what there is now left for me to do or why I am still here, all my hopes in this world being now fulfilled." She became ill shortly after and suffered severely for nine days before her death. Almost all we know about St. Monica is in the writings of St. Augustine, especially his Confessions. St. Augustine is widely regarded as the greatest theologian in Western Christianity.

August 28. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor (354-430)

A Christian at thirty-three, a priest at thirty-six, a bishop at forty-one: Many people are familiar with the biographical sketch of Augustine of Hippo, sinner turned saint. But really to get to know the man is a rewarding experience. There quickly surfaces the intensity with which he lived his life, whether his path led away from or toward God. The tears of his mother, Monica (August 27), the instructions of Ambrose (December 7), and, most of all, God himself speaking to him in the Scriptures redirected Augustine's love of life to a life of love.

August 30. Jeanne Jugan, Virgin (1792-1879)

Born in northern France during the French Revolution—a time when congregations of women and men religious were being suppressed by the national government, Jeanne would eventually be highly praised in the French Academy for her community's compassionate care of elderly poor people. When Jeanne was three and a half years old, her father, a fisherman, was lost at sea. Her widowed mother was hard-pressed to raise her eight children (four died young) alone. At the age of fifteen or sixteen, Jeanne became a kitchen maid for a generous family that not only cared for its own members, but also served poor, elderly people nearby. Ten years later, Jeanne became a nurse at the hospital in Le Rosais. Soon thereafter she joined a third order group founded by St. John Eudes (August 19). After six years she became a servant and friend of a woman she met through the third order. They prayed, visited the poor, and taught catechism to children. After her friend's death, Jeanne and two other women continued a similar life in the city of Saint-Sevrans. In 1839 they brought in their first permanent guest. They began an association, received more members and more guests. Mother Marie of the Cross, as Jeanne was now known, founded six more houses for the elderly by the end of 1849, all staffed by members of her association—the Little Sisters of the Poor. By 1853 the association numbered five hundred and had houses as far away as England.

PARISH CALENDAR

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

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

Sunday, September 1st The Woman's Society is having a meeting after coffee.

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 25th</u>	<u>September 1</u>	<u>September 8</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

Prayers for Jane Pelland as she continues her recovery.

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 with anointing is celebrated every Wednesday morning at 9am. We look forward to your being with us as we pray for physical as well as spiritual healing.

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

Thank you to all who supported the Back to School Drive. The items were donated to Sterling House and South End Community Center. A quote commonly attributed to St. Francis of Assisi goes, "Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words." Through your generosity the Gospel message has been preached.

St. James 24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration

St. James Church will be holding a Eucharistic Adoration and prayers for reparation from Friday, September 6th after 8am Mass through 8am Saturday, September 7th. The Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Morning Prayer and Vespers will be prayed at various times. Please see the notice on the bulletin board for details.

Lordship Community Church Apple Festival/Vendor Fair

Lordship Community Church, 179 Prospect Drive, Stratford, hosts an outdoor Apple Festival / Vendor Fair on Saturday, September 21, 2019, 9 AM to 3 PM, (rain date is 9/22/19, 11 AM to 3 PM). Craft, tag sale, flea market, and direct sales vendors, food, bake sale, apple pie baking contest, popcorn, and pre-event pie fundraiser with Oronoque Farms. For information and vendor & contest inquiries, please contact 203-377-6568 or lordshipchurch@sbcglobal.net.

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

Isaiah 66:18-21

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the LORD:

I know their works and their thoughts, and I come to gather nations of every language; they shall come and see my glory. I will set a sign among them; from them I will send fugitives to the nations: to Tarshish, Put and Lud, Mosoch, Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands that have never heard of my fame, or seen my glory; and they shall proclaim my glory among the nations. They shall bring all your brothers and sisters from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots, in carts, upon mules and dromedaries, to Jerusalem, my holy mountain, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their offering to the house of the LORD in clean vessels. Some of these I will take as priests and Levites, says the LORD.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters,
You have forgotten the exhortation addressed to you as children:
"My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges."
Endure your trials as "discipline"; God treats you as sons. For what "son" is there whom his father does not discipline? At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it.

So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees. Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 13:22-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus passed through towns and villages, teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him,

"Lord, will only a few people be saved?"

He answered them,

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough. After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door for us.'

He will say to you in reply,

'I do not know where you are from.

And you will say,

'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.'

Then he will say to you,

'I do not know where you are from.

Depart from me, all you evildoers!'

And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out. And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

