

St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



Twenty-Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time, Year C

September 22nd, 2019

PARISH CONTACTS

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Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

In today's Gospel passage Jesus states, "You cannot serve both God and mammon." The word *mammon* comes from the Greek word *mammonas*, which translates to money, wealth, and material possessions. In biblical culture the word *mammon* often carried a negative connotation. It was sometimes used to describe all lusts and excesses: gluttony, greed, and dishonest worldly gain. Ultimately, *mammon* described an idol of materialism, which many trusted as a foundation for their world and philosophy.

Here Jesus is challenging us. Will we build our house upon the rock of God or the sand of mammon. One carries with it eternal dividends, the other somewhat less, depending on market value.

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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Saint of the Day

September 23, Pio of Pietrelcina, Priest (1887-1968)

According to one estimate, over 325 people since the time of Francis of Assisi have received the stigmata, that is, all or some of the wounds of Christ's passion. Few of those stigmatics have had a more difficult life than Padre Pio. Francesco Forgione joined the Capuchin Franciscans at age fifteen, taking the name Pio. Ordained in 1910, he served for a short time in the Italian army during World War I. In 1917 he was assigned to the friary in San Giovanni Rotondo, seventy-five miles from Bari on Italy's Adriatic coast. A year later, while making his thanksgiving after Mass, he had a vision of Jesus, and when it was over Padre Pio had the stigmata on his hands, feet, and side. After undergoing various medical and Church investigations, for a short time he was not permitted to celebrate Mass publicly or hear confessions. In time, busloads of men and women came to his 5:00 A.M. Mass and to his confessional, which he occupied up to ten hours a day. During his mid-morning break, he blessed the sick. Faith must lead to action, to works of compassion. In 1946, ground was broken on nearby Mount Gargano for the "House for the Alleviation of Suffering," a 350-bed facility financed by Padre Pio's benefactors.

September 26, Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs (d. 303?)

Nothing is known of their lives except that they suffered martyrdom in Syria during the persecution of Emperor Diocletian. A church erected on the site of their burial place was enlarged by Emperor Justinian. Devotion to the two saints spread rapidly in both East and West. A famous basilica was erected in their honor in Constantinople. Legend says that they were twin brothers born in Arabia, who became skilled doctors. They were among those who are venerated in the East as the "moneyless ones" because they did not charge a fee for their services. It was impossible that such prominent persons would escape unnoticed in time of persecution: They were arrested and beheaded. Nine centuries later, Francis of Assisi rebuilt the dilapidated San Damiano chapel outside Assisi.

September 27, Vincent de Paul, Priest (1580?-1660)

The deathbed confession of a servant opened Vincent's eyes to the crying spiritual needs of the peasantry of France. This seems to have been a crucial moment in the life of the man from a small farm in Gascony, France, who had become a priest with little more ambition than to have a comfortable life. It was the Countess de Gondi (whose servant he had helped) who persuaded her husband to endow and support a group of able and zealous missionaries who would work among poor tenant farmers and country people in general. Vincent was too humble to accept leadership at first, but after working for some time in Paris among imprisoned galley slaves, he returned to lead what is now known as the Congregation of the Mission, or the Vincentians. These priests, with vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, and stability, were to devote themselves entirely to the people in smaller towns and villages. Later Vincent established confraternities of charity for the spiritual and physical relief of the poor and sick of each parish. From these, with the help of St. Louise de Marillac, came the Daughters of Charity, "whose convent is the sickroom, whose chapel is the parish church, whose cloister is the streets of the city." He organized the rich women of Paris to collect funds for his missionary projects, founded several hospitals, collected relief funds for the victims of war, and ransomed over twelve hundred galley slaves from North Africa. He was zealous in conducting retreats for clergy at a time when there was great laxity, abuse, and ignorance among them. He was a pioneer in clerical training and was instrumental in establishing seminaries.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, the 22nd

- Rabbi Ron to talk about the Jewish High Holidays, after Mass in the classroom.
- Julian Falcone Baptism, 3:30pm.

Wednesday, the 25th St. Joseph's to serve at the Lord's Kitchen

Friday, the 27th First Responders Breakfast, 6-10am, in the Parish Hall.

Sunday, the 29th Colossal Kielbasa, 12noon to 5pm. Frank Porto band to play 3-5pm.

BY THE WEEK

Saturdays:	Stepping Class with Mercy Tabernacle 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Sundays:	Mercy Tabernacle Church 12:30 - 2:30 pm Cub Scouts 5:45-7:30 pm
Mondays:	Scouts 7:00-8:30 pm
Tuesdays:	Mercy Tabernacle Church 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Wednesdays:	Mass for Healing, 9:00am AA Meeting 12:00 pm
Thursdays:	AA Men's Meeting 7:30 pm

FLAG DONATION



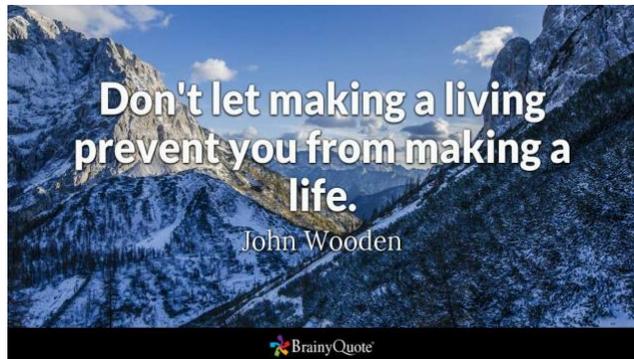
Flag donated by Martin Vasas in memory of Dolores Vasas

For news input in the weekly bulletin, please contact Father Tom by Wednesday: trpwalsh@gmail.com

READERS ROSTER

September 8 September 15 September 22
Joe Pelland Nancy Sirois Ray Morrison

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

We pray for Bill Petrino. That he may be brought to wholeness and know God's peace.

Prayers for Jane Pelland as she continues her recover.

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

Seeking Volunteers for the Christmas Bazaar

All those interested in helping to make this year's Christmas Bazaar being held on Saturday, December 7th, a success please see Yvonne. She can be reached at 860-417-9748 or send an email to ywalsh070@gmail.com.

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 26^h 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.

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

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Amos 8:4-7

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Amos

Hear this, you who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor of the land!
"When will the new moon be over," you ask,
"that we may sell our grain,
and the sabbath, that we may display the wheat?
We will diminish the ephah, add to the shekel,
and fix our scales for cheating! We will buy the lowly for silver, and the poor for a pair of sandals;
even the refuse of the wheat we will sell!"
The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Never will I forget a thing they have done!

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

Responsorial Psalm

Praise the Lord, who lifts up the poor.

Second Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-8

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved:
First of all, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity. This is good and pleasing to God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. For there is one God.

There is also one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as ransom for all. This was the testimony at the proper time. For this I was appointed preacher and apostle — I am speaking the truth, I am not lying —, teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

It is my wish, then, that in every place the men should pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger or argument.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia

Though our Lord Jesus Christ was rich, he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel

Luke 16:1-13

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples,
"A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property. He summoned him and said, 'What is this I hear about you? Prepare a full account of your stewardship, because you can no longer be my steward.'

The steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me? I am not strong enough to dig and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I shall do so that, when I am removed from he stewardship, they may welcome me into their homes.' He called in his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, 'How much do you owe my master?' He replied, 'One hundred measures of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Here is your promissory note. Sit down and quickly write one for fifty.'

Then to another the steward said, 'And you, how much do you owe?'

He replied, 'One hundred kors of wheat.' The steward said to him, 'Here is your promissory note; write one for eighty.'

And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently.

"For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. I tell you, make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours? No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

