

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



Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

November 3, 2019

**PARISH
CONTACTS**

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

He was short in stature, so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. I can identify with Zacchaeus. Yes, we're both vertically challenged, but I identify with Zacchaeus the sinner, not the short man. I've tried to fool myself into thinking that I'm holy. I'm not. Zacchaeus held no such false notions about himself. He acknowledged his sinfulness and then resolved to do something about it. He ran ahead, not walked, to climb a sycamore tree to get above the crowd in order to see Jesus. Zacchaeus was not going to allow anything to get between him and the Lord. When Jesus came to the tree, he caught sight of Zacchaeus and called him by name. Zacchaeus responded without hesitation. He knew that he was lost and sought to be found. The message is clear. Run, don't walk to the Lord. Allow nothing to get in your way. The Lord will find you.

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

November 3: Martin de Porres, Religious (1579-1639)

Saint Martin de Porres was born at Lima in Peru of a Spanish father and a Negro mother in 1579. As a boy he studied medicine which later, as a member of the Dominican Order, he put to good use in helping the poor. He led a humble and disciplined life. He was instrumental in founding an orphanage, took care of slaves brought from Africa, and managed the daily alms of his priory with practicality as well as generosity. Martin's life reflected God's extraordinary gifts: ecstasies that lifted him into the air, light filling the room where he prayed, bilocation, miraculous knowledge, instantaneous cures, and a remarkable rapport with animals. His charity extended to beasts of the field and even to the vermin of the kitchen. He would excuse the raids of mice and rats on the grounds that they were underfed; he kept stray cats and dogs at his sister's house. He became a formidable fundraiser, obtaining thousands of dollars for dowries for poor girls so that they could marry or enter a convent. Many of his fellow religious took him as their spiritual director, but he continued to call himself a "poor slave." He was a good friend of another Dominican saint of Peru, Rose of Lima (August 23).

November 4: Charles Borromeo, Bishop (1538-1584)

Saint Charles Borromeo was born at Arona in Lombardy in the year 1538. After having taken honors in both civil and canon law, he was made cardinal and bishop of Milan by his uncle, Pope Pius IV. As a true pastor of his flock he tirelessly promoted Christian life by the reform of his diocese, the revision of the breviary and the Missal, authoring instructions on the Church's architecture, and the renewal of seminaries. He allotted most of his income to charity, forbade himself all luxury, and imposed severe penances upon himself. He sacrificed wealth, high honors, esteem, and influence to become poor. During the plague and famine of 1576, he tried to feed sixty to seventy thousand people daily. To do this he borrowed large sums of money that required years to repay. Whereas the civil authorities fled at the height of the plague, he stayed in the city, where he ministered to the sick and the dying, helping those in want. Work and the heavy burdens of his high office began to affect his health. He died at the age of forty-six.

PARISH CALENDAR

November 9 – Holy Spirits Wine and Cheese Night. Come for Mass, stay for a Movie. We'll be viewing the movie "Lilies of the Field." A classic from the 60's!

November 16

- Meg Capen, Board Certified Music Therapist, to provide music at the Saturday Vigil Mass. Come join us to pray and sing, then stay for dinner!
- Polish Dinner. Take out: 5-6pm. Seated: 6-8pm. Reservation only. Call 203-377-9901 by 11/12/19.

November 17 – Lector's Meeting after Mass in the Classroom

December 1 - 2nd Annual Christmas Tree Trimming Breakfast. Proceeds benefit the Daughters of Charity in Bridgeport, the Lord's Kitchen, Sterling House Adopt a Family Christmas Toy Drive and more...

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



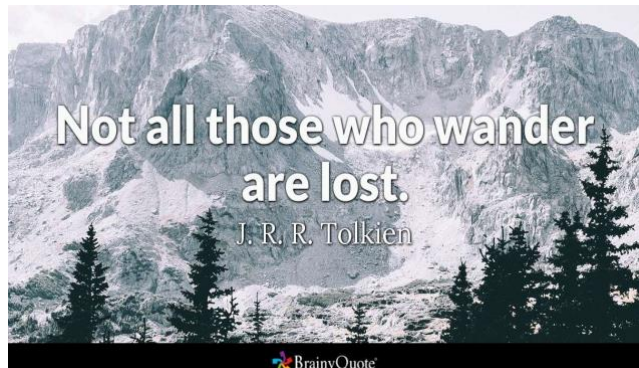
Flag donated by Martin Vasas in memory of Dolores Vasas

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

READERS ROSTER

<u>October 20</u> Joe Pelland	<u>October 27</u> Nancy Sirois	<u>November 3</u> Ray Morrison
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The roster for the entire year is posted on the Church web site. On the Home page click on the box **SCHEDULES** and then the link *Schedule for Readers*



PRAYER INTENTIONS

Mass Cards are located on the table at the entrance to the Church should you wish to request a Mass offered for a loved one, living or deceased.

Sunday Mass is offered for the repose of the souls of Charles & Susan Zapotoczny, at the request of the children, grandchildren & great grandchildren. May they rest in peace.

We pray for Bill Petrino. May he be brought to wholeness and peace.

Prayers for Jane Pelland for her continued recovery.

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

Healing prays for Wendell Barry. That he may be strengthened and encouraged.

For Irene Smith. That she may be comforted and encouraged.

For Jean Fellmeth, that she may know God's peace.

For Judy DiLorenzo & Robin Lupinski, for health.

NEWS AND EVENTS

All Souls Day Remembrances

Karen & Richard Lasecki for the Lasecki deceased, the Zapotoczny deceased.

Yvonne & Fr. Tom for Tom & Gloria Walsh.

Dee Smith for Gerald Smith, Mary & Joseph Kafara.

Valerie Chernesky for Mike Chernesky, Stanley & Mary Wilk, Michael & Mary Chernesky.

Bertha Grabowski for Sophia & Joseph Zapotoczny and children and Edward Slonina.

St. Mark School Pre-K and Kindergarten Open House

Sunday 11/10, 10:00a-1:00p. 500 Wigwam Lane, Stratford – If you're looking for a full day Preschool or Kindergarten where your child will love to learn, come visit St. Mark School in Stratford. Meet our school community and see firsthand all that we have to offer. Teachers, parents and students will be happy to give you a tour and share their experiences. For more information, please call (203) 375-4291 or visit us at www.stmarkschool.org.

Thanksgiving Raffle

A Thanksgiving Raffle is being held to benefit District 3 of the Polish National Union. One \$50.00 and two \$25.00 cash prizes are being awarded. If you would like to purchase a raffle ticket, please see Fr. Tom

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

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Wisdom 11:22-12:2

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

Before the LORD the whole universe is as a grain from a balance or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth. But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things; and you overlook people's sins that they may repent. For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made; for what you hated, you would not have fashioned. And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you? But you spare all things, because they are yours, O LORD and lover of souls, for your imperishable spirit is in all things! Therefore you rebuke offenders little by little, warn them and remind them of the sins they are committing, that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in you, O LORD!

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

Responsorial Psalm

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

Second Reading

2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Thessalonians

Brothers and sisters:
We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose and every effort of faith, that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, in accord with the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ.

We ask you, brothers and sisters, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling with him, not to be shaken out of your minds suddenly, or to be alarmed either by a "spirit," or by an oral statement, or by a letter allegedly from us to the effect that the day of the Lord is at hand.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.

Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel

Luke 19:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time, Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

