

St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



The Solemnity of Christ the King, Year C

November 24, 2019

PARISH CONTACTS

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Fr. Tom Walsh

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Jeanine May

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Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

The shortest sentence in the Bible is, "Jesus wept," from the passage where Jesus learns of the death of his friend Lazarus. God is accustomed to weeping. I imagine that God weeps whenever anyone separates themselves from Him. In today's Gospel passage we meet two individuals who separated themselves from God. The repentant and unrepentant criminals crucified with Christ. Tradition tells us their names; the repentant criminal is Dismas, the unrepentant criminal is Gestas. These individuals separated themselves from God by engaging in criminal behavior. But the similarity ends there. While Gestas remains unrepentant, Dismas acknowledges his sinful behavior, "we have been condemned justly," accepts the consequences of his sin, "for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes," and then seeks reconciliation with the Lord, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." We know how to make God weep, Dismas challenges us to bring God joy by returning to Him.

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 24: Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions, Priest and Martyrs

Andrew was one of 117 people martyred in Vietnam between 1820 and 1862. Christianity came to Vietnam (then three separate kingdoms) through the Portuguese. Jesuits opened the first permanent mission at Da Nang in 1615. They ministered to Japanese Catholics who had been driven from Japan. The king of one of the kingdoms banned all foreign missionaries and tried to make all Vietnamese deny their faith by trampling on a crucifix. Like the priest-holes in Ireland during English persecution, many hiding places were offered in homes of the faithful. Severe persecutions were again launched three times in the nineteenth century. During the six decades after 1820, between 100,000 and 300,000 Catholics were killed or subjected to great hardship. Persecution broke out again in 1847 when the emperor suspected foreign missionaries and Vietnamese Christians of sympathizing with a rebellion led by one of his sons. The last of the martyrs were seventeen laypersons, one of them a nine-year-old, executed in 1862. That year a treaty with France guaranteed religious freedom to Catholics, but it did not stop all persecution. By 1954 there were over a million and a half Catholics—about 7 percent of the population—in the north. During the Vietnam Conflict, Catholics again suffered in the north and again moved to the south in great numbers.

November 25: Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr (died c. 310)

According to the Legend of St. Catherine, this young woman converted to Christianity after receiving a vision. At the age of eighteen, she debated fifty pagan philosophers. Amazed at her wisdom and debating skills, they became Christians—as did about two hundred soldiers and members of the emperor's family. All of them were martyred. Sentenced to be executed on a spiked wheel, Catherine touched the wheel and it shattered. She was beheaded. Centuries later, angels are said to have carried the body of St. Catherine to a monastery at the foot of Mt. Sinai. Devotion to St. Catherine spread as a result of the Crusades. She was invoked as the patron of students, teachers, librarians, and lawyers.

November 30: Andrew, Apostle

Andrew was St. Peter's brother and was called with him. "As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is now called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, 'Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed him" (Matthew 4:18–20). Legend has it that Andrew preached the Good News in what is now modern Greece and Turkey and was crucified at Patras.

PARISH CALENDAR

November 24 – Sam & Dalia to speak about the plight of Christians in the Holy Land after Mass. Following Mass, they will be selling gift items perfect for the holiday season.

December 1 –

- Annual Budget & Election Meeting being held after Mass.
- 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. Bring your Family & Friends!

January 5 – Christmas Brunch sponsored by the Ladies Society following Mass.

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 Scouts 7:00-8:30 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



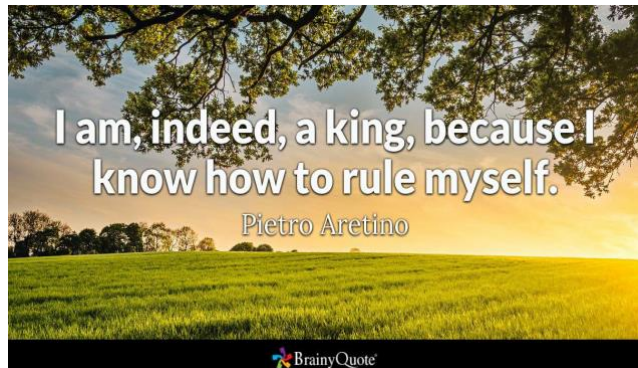
Flag donated by Martin Vasas in memory of Dolores Vasas

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

READERS ROSTER

November 10 November 17 November 24
Nancy Anzalone Dee Smith Julia Vasas

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 celebrated for the repose of the soul of Lenore Niedzielski at the request of her husband Art Niedzielski. May she rest in peace.

For Bill Petrino, that he may be brought to wholeness and peace. For Jane Pelland, for her continued recovery. For Frank Bonitatebus, that God's healing grace may be with him. For Wendell Barry, that he may be strengthened and encouraged. For Irene Smith, for healing and strength. For Jean Fellmeth, that she may know God's peace. For Judy DiLorenzo & Robin Lupinski, for health. For Nancy Anzalone, for comfort and strength.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Crying Room

The Crying Room is now open for business! The speaker has been repaired. We encourage all those who may be experiencing cold or flu symptoms, and those with young children who are concerned about interrupting the Mass, to consider using the Crying Room.

Collection for Local Children

The Ladies Society is taking up a collection of socks, underwear, hats, scarves, and gloves sized for children served by the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. Please place the items you are donating in the box located in the hallway.

Sterling House Food Baskets

In lieu of food donations, the Ladies Society is seeking monetary donations to purchase four \$100 gift cards to Stop & Shop.

Ladies Society Seeking New Members

Any ladies interested in joining the Ladies Society please speak to Carol Murdzia or Yvonne Walsh. Your service is vital to our faith community.

Thank You!

Many thanks to the Young Men's Society of the Resurrection and all those who helped to make the Polish Dinner a great success. 140 meals were served, a record for our Church!

The Weekly Bulletin

Beginning the first Sunday of Advent, December 1, a new format bulletin will be introduced. The new format will save the costs associated with printing about 4,000 pages each year. To accommodate the new format bulletin a Sunday Missal will be available in the Church for the Scripture readings.

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

2 Samuel 5:1-3

A reading from the second Book of Samuel

In those days, all the tribes of Israel came to David in Hebron and said:

"Here we are, your bone and your flesh. In days past, when Saul was our king, it was you who led the Israelites out and brought them back. And the LORD said to you, 'You shall shepherd my people Israel and shall be commander of Israel.'"

When all the elders of Israel came to David in Hebron, King David made an agreement with them there before the LORD, and they anointed him king of Israel.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second Reading

Colossians 1:12-20

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

Let us give thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light. He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross through him, whether those on earth or those in heaven.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!

Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel

Luke 23:35-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The rulers sneered at Jesus and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews."

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying,

"Are you not the Christ?

Save yourself and us."

The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply,

"Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal."

Then he said,

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

He replied to him,

"Amen, I say to you,

today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

