

St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



Sixth Sunday Ordinary Time, Year C

February 17th, 2019

PARISH CONTACTS

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

In today's Gospel passage Jesus speaks of the beatitudes, or blessings upon his disciples. Reading through this passage we may wonder what blessings he is talking about. Why is it blessed to be poor, hungry, weeping, hated? The answer lies in the reason for their misfortune. If they suffer now on account of the Son of Man, then they will rejoice later because their reward will be great in heaven. If they stand firm in their faith they will not be abandoned.

The composer Dan Schutte in his song, "Holy Darkness," speaks of the blessed night that we experience at times when God's answer is hidden from our sight. That in the barren soil of the night God will plant his seed. Like the disciples of the early Church we are called to embrace the holy night knowing that God is operative in our lives. We are called to have faith in a seed.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Tom

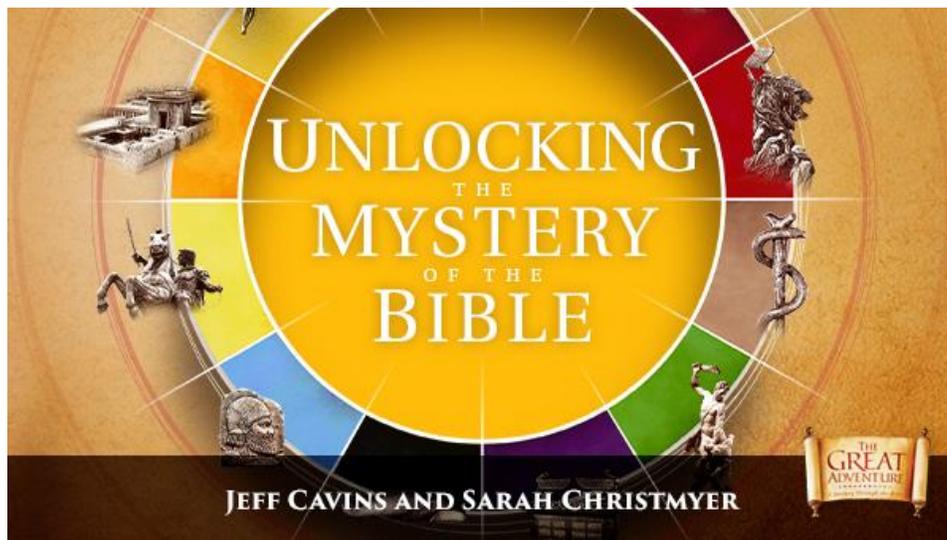
MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 pm - Sunday Vigil **Sunday:** 9:30 am

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If you would like to have a deeper relationship with God and a better understanding of your faith, then join us for *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible*. You will not only benefit personally from being part of this study; you will also help to bring about a profound renewal in our parish as we grow closer to Christ. For more information or to sign up, contact Fr. Tom at 203-377-9901 or email at trpwalsh@gmail.com. A daytime and evening session will be offered beginning in early March, exact dates and times to be determined.

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible helps you uncover the story woven through Scripture with its clever narrative approach and ingenious color-coded *Bible Timeline*. It is a great way to get the “big picture” of the Bible and see how our Catholic Faith is rooted in Scripture. You’ll see how the Bible reveals God’s loving plan for your life, and you will learn helpful ways to put your faith into practice. Each study includes a series of eight half-hour videos presented by Jeff Cavins. Each video will be followed by a group discussion. You will receive a color-coded *Bible Timeline Chart*, a Bible study workbook, and the ability to stream the study online at your convenience.

PARISH CALENDAR

February

Blessing of Homes Please see Fr. Tom to schedule a time for your home to be blessed. Typically, this blessing is done during the first few weeks of January around the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6th.

BY THE WEEK

Sundays: Mercy Tabernacle Church
12:30 - 2:30 pm
Tuesdays: Mercy Tabernacle Church
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Wednesdays: AA meeting 12:00 pm
Irish Dance, 5:30 – 7:00pm
Thursdays: AA men's meeting 7:30 pm

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

READERS ROSTER

| <u>February 3</u> | <u>February 10</u> | <u>February 17</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ray Morrison | Nancy Anzalone | Nancy Sirois |

What I am looking for is a blessing not in disguise.

Jerome K. Jerome

 BrainyQuote

PRAYER INTENTIONS

The faith community of St. Joseph's of Stratford offers healing prayers for **Ed Slonina and Ray Morrison**.

For those intentions that we hold in our hearts known to God alone.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Food Pantry and "Clothes Closet" Items

Please remember that items for the food pantry and clean, usable clothing can be brought in at any time during the month for delivery to Blessed Sacrament and the South End Community Center.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. . . Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:35-36, 40)

Nineteenth Annual Mission & Evangelism Workshop

The theme for this workshop is Identity: Who We Are in Christ. It is being held at Holy Trinity Parish in Plantsville, CT on Friday, March 29th through Sunday, March 31st. The Registration Fee is \$75.00 per person if paid before March 15. For registrations post-marked after March 15 the registration fee is \$95.00. Please see Fr. Tom for details if you are interested in attending.

Community Volunteer Opportunities

The Connecticut Hospice and the Baldwin Center are seeking volunteers. Details concerning these opportunities are posted on the bulletin board in the hall. Contact information for both organizations is listed on the posted material.

Election of Delegates for Spojnia Credit Union

St. Joseph's was asked to elect two delegates to attend the 33rd Convention of the Spojnia Credit Union to be held on a cruise. The delegates must be members of the credit union. Details to follow. If interested, please speak to Fr. Tom.

Bulletins courtesy of John Misurale, January - February 2019. If anyone wishes to contribute to the printing cost of the bulletin, please see Fr. Tom.

Sunday Readings

First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-8

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

Thus says the LORD:

Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings, who seeks his strength in flesh, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He is like a barren bush in the desert that enjoys no change of season, but stands in a lava waste, a salt and empty earth.

Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose hope is the LORD. He is like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream: it fears not the heat when it comes; its leaves stay green; in the year of drought it shows no distress, but still bears fruit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20**

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

If Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some among you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins.

Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all. But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, Alleluia

Rejoice and be glad; your reward will be great in heaven.

Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel

Luke 6:17, 20-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stood on a stretch of level ground with a great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon. And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for the kingdom of God is yours.

Blessed are you who are now hungry,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who are now weeping,
for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you,
and when they exclude and insult you,
and denounce your name as evil
on account of the Son of Man.

Rejoice and leap for joy on that day!

Behold, your reward will be great in heaven.

For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way.

But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

Woe to you who are filled now,
for you will be hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will grieve and weep.

Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for their ancestors treated the false
prophets in this way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

