

St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



Seventh Sunday Ordinary Time, Year C

February 24th, 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 teaches us about radical love. That it is an easy thing to love those who love us. To do good to those who do good to us. To lend to those who we can expect repayment. But to love our enemies, to do good to those who harm us, to give to anyone who asks without expecting anything in return is another matter.

What Jesus is doing in this passage is teaching us about family etiquette. To participate in divinity as sons and daughters of God our old ways of behaving will no longer do. Society may have taught us to do to others as they do to us, but Jesus teaches that we are to do to others as we would have them do to us. A subtle difference in wording but profound in outcome.

To love this way is to love as Christ loved us. Remember, Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Tom

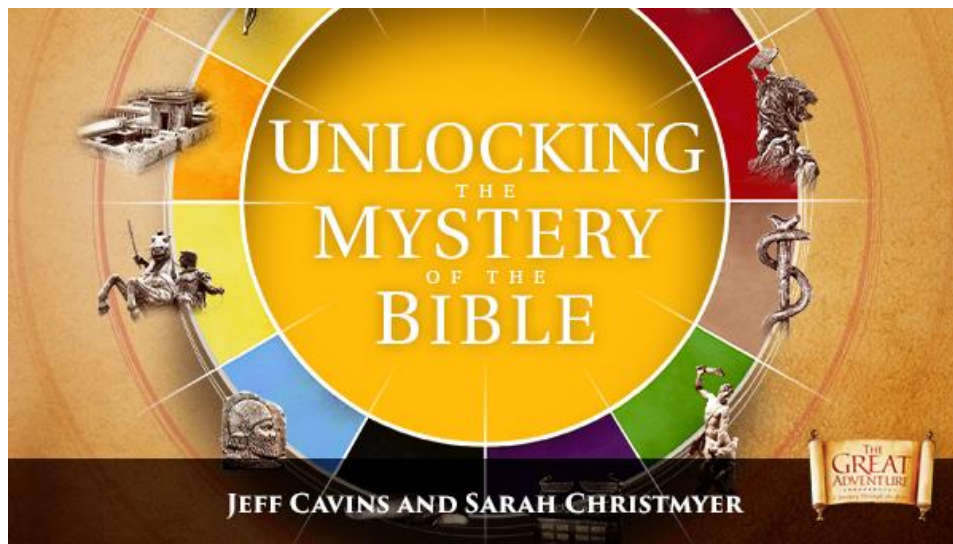
MASS SCHEDULE

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

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www.saintjosephsofstratford.org



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

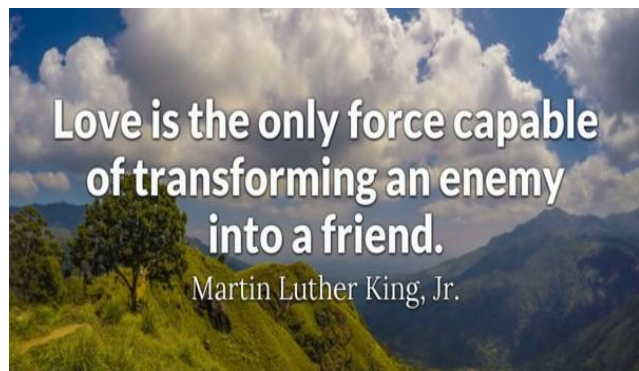
Sundays: Mercy Tabernacle Church
12:30 - 2:30 pm
Tuesdays: Mercy Tabernacle Church
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Wednesdays: AA meeting 12:00 pm
Irish Dance, 5:30 – 7:00pm
Thursdays: AA men's meeting 7:30 pm

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

READERS ROSTER

<u>February 24</u>	<u>March 3</u>	<u>March 10</u>
Dee Smith	Joe Pelland	Jean Macionus

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* dialogue box.



MASS INTENTIONS

The Saturday Vigil Mass is offered for the repose of the souls of Rachel Laufer and Richard Lill Sr.

Sunday Morning Mass is offered for the repose of the soul of Steve Chalfa.

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

Register with St. Joseph's

Please visit the new web site for the Church at stjosephsofstratford.org. Scroll to the bottom of the Home page and click on the link *Tell Us About Yourself* in the *Register With Us* dialogue box. In addition to your name, address, and contact information space is provided for you to share your thoughts about how St. Joseph's can serve your needs.

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.

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 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

A reading from the First Book of the Samuel

In those days, Saul went down to the desert of Ziph with three thousand picked men of Israel, to search for David in the desert of Ziph. So David and Abishai went among Saul's soldiers by night and found Saul lying asleep within the barricade, with his spear thrust into the ground at his head and Abner and his men sleeping around him.

Abishai whispered to David: "God has delivered your enemy into your grasp this day. Let me nail him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I will not need a second thrust!" But David said to Abishai, "Do not harm him, for who can lay hands on the LORD's anointed and remain unpunished?" So David took the spear and the water jug from their place at Saul's head, and they got away without anyone's seeing or knowing or awakening. All remained asleep, because the LORD had put them into a deep slumber.

Going across to an opposite slope, David stood on a remote hilltop at a great distance from Abner, son of Ner, and the troops. He said: "Here is the king's spear. Let an attendant come over to get it. The LORD will reward each man for his justice and faithfulness. Today, though the LORD delivered you into my grasp, I would not harm the LORD's anointed."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:
It is written, *The first man, Adam, became a living being*, the last Adam a life-giving spirit.
But the spiritual was not first; rather the natural and then the spiritual.

The first man was from the earth, earthly; the second man, from heaven. As was the earthly one, so also are the earthly, and as is the heavenly one, so also are the heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, Alleluia

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord: love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: "To you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father merciful.

"Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

