

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



**Third Sunday of Lent, Year C**

**March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**PARISH  
CONTACTS**

*ADMINISTRATOR*  
Fr. Tom Walsh

*PARISH CHAIRPERSON*  
Jeanine May

*VICE CHAIRPERSON*  
Dee Smith

*FINANCE SECRETARY*  
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach the season of planting and gardening the parable Jesus relates in today's Gospel passage takes on greater significance for us. In this parable we find a land owner not happy about a barren fig tree. So much so that he gives instructions to the gardener to cut it down. There is a certain logic to his reasoning. The fig tree is exhausting the soil without giving anything back.

If we consider the meaning of this parable within the context of the passage, we understand that the fig tree represents the unrepentant sinner. Looking at it this way we see the communal nature of sin. The barren fig tree is depleting the soil, which in turn affects the other trees in the orchard. So it is when we sin. We damage our relationship with God, and in doing so damage our relationship with others, since sin is rarely isolated to an individual.

Fortunately, God has sent his Son, the gardener, who is carefully cultivating each one of us so that we may bear fruit in the future. Perhaps our time has come.

Grace and Peace,  
Fr. Tom

**MASS SCHEDULE**

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

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford CT 06615-7639  
Tel: 203 377-9901 (office), 203 923-2424 (rectory), Fax: 203 375-6439  
[www.saintjosephsofstratford.org](http://www.saintjosephsofstratford.org)



St Joseph Of Stratford Church will once again sell Palm Crosses for \$12.00. This year's crosses will be made by a local distributor and will be available the first week of April. Please support this fund raising effort by placing an order with Nancy Anzalone, Meg Krasko, or Jane/Joe Pelland. Make checks payable to St Joseph Church. Crosses are suitable as a door decoration or placement at a cemetery plot.

## PARISH CALENDAR

**Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup>** Adult study *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* to meet at 6:30pm in the classroom.

**Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup>** Adult study *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* to meet at 10:00am in the classroom.

**Fridays of Lent** Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary at 11:00am. Pot Luck Supper followed by Stations of the Cross, beginning at 6:00pm. A sign-up sheet is available if you chose to host a meal for a particular Friday.

**Sunday March 24 & 31** Service of Bitter Lamentations at 9:00am followed by Mass.

**Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup>** St. Joseph's will be serving at the Lord's Kitchen.

**Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>** CROP Hunger Walk Kickoff Rally at 2:00pm, Trumbull Congregational Church, 3115 Reservoir Avenue, Trumbull, CT.

**Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>** Meal in the Upper Room, 4:00pm.

### BY THE WEEK

Sundays:	Mercy Tabernacle Church 2:30 - 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](mailto:frtpwalsh@gmail.com)*

## READERS ROSTER

<u>March 17</u>	<u>March 24</u>	<u>March 31</u>
Nancy Sirois	Ray Morrison	Nancy Anzalone

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.



**He who has courage and faith  
will never perish in misery!**

Anne Frank

## 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

### Daytime & Evening Adult Study Sessions

The adult study, "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible," has begun. If you did not sign up for the study no problem, just come! The days and times are as follows:

Tuesdays at 6:30pm, March 12 – April 30  
Thursdays at 10am, March 14 – May 9

### Register with St. Joseph's

Please visit the new web site for the Church at [saintjosephsofstratford.org](http://saintjosephsofstratford.org). Links to the old web site will get you there. On the Home page click on the link *Please Tell Us About Yourself* in the *Register With Us* 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 better serve your spiritual needs. All information you provide is confidential, not visible to the public.

### Church Dues

Church dues for individuals is \$108 per year. \$216 per year for couples/family.

*Bulletins courtesy of Joyce Bresh, March - April 2019. If anyone wishes to contribute to the printing cost of the bulletin, please see Fr. Tom.*

## Sunday Readings

### First Reading

**Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15**

#### A reading from the Book of Exodus

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock across the desert, he came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There an angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in fire flaming out of a bush. As he looked on, he was surprised to see that the bush, though on fire, was not consumed. So Moses decided, "I must go over to look at this remarkable sight, and see why the bush is not burned."

When the LORD saw him coming over to look at it more closely, God called out to him from the bush, "Moses! Moses!" He answered, "Here I am." God said, "Come no nearer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your fathers," he continued, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. But the LORD said, "I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering. Therefore I have come down to rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians and lead them out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey."

Moses said to God, "But when I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' if they ask me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?" God replied, "I am who am." Then he added, "This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you." God spoke further to Moses, "Thus shall you say to the Israelites: The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. "This is my name forever; thus am I to be remembered through all generations."

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

### Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is kind and merciful.

### Second Reading

**1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12**

#### A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, and all of them were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was the Christ. Yet God was not pleased with most of them, for they were struck down in the desert.

These things happened as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil things, as they did. Do not grumble as some of them did, and suffered death by the destroyer. These things happened to them as an example, and they have been written down as a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall.

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

#### Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory

Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

#### Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory

### Gospel

**Luke 13:1-9**

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus said to them in reply, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did! Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them— do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!"

And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?' He said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.'"

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

