

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers **Wendell Barry, Helen Reynolds, Linda Chehy, Felicia Watson, Desiree Anzalone, Nancy Anzalone, Nancy Sirois, Jane Pelland, Bill Petrino, Irene Smith, Florence Rasmussen** and **Jean Fellmeth**.

*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.*

## NEWS

**Enders Island Retreat** – We are considering an overnight retreat at the Enders Island Retreat Center located in Mystic, CT. Available weekend dates are July 3-5, July 31-August 2, August 28-30, September 12-13. Weekday dates are August 3-6, August 30-September 4, September 21-23. The cost is \$135 for a single room, \$105 for double occupancy. If interested, please see Fr. Tom. Literature is available for review.

Father Tom is available for **house blessings** – Please see him to arrange a time for a visit.

A **Suggestion Jar** is now in place on the table at the entrance of the Church. Please share your thoughts about how we can strengthen our faith community.

**Can You Recognize Me Fundraiser** – St. Joseph's is holding a baby picture contest. We will be collecting pictures from church members from their younger years. Participants will be invited to match pictures hanging in the Parish Hall to names. If you correctly identify the most pictures you win! Please see the flyer posted on the bulletin board for more details.

**Collection for repair of altar crucifix and statues** continues. So far, we have raised \$311. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.

**Please remember** that clothing and linens for the "clothes closet" at Blessed Sacrament, as well as items for the food pantry, can be brought in at any time during the month. Especially needed are pasta sauce, canned fruit, canned meats, and Chef Boyardee, as well as bath tissue and bar soap.

## A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE

**Judges** The Book of Judges refers not to specialized judicial officers or magistrates, but to leaders in general. These judges led Israel from the end of the conquest of Canaan until the establishment of the monarchy. The period of Judges therefore extends from the death of Joshua until the installation of Saul as Israel's first king by the prophet Samael, who was also the last judge.

The main part of the book consists of a series of stories about thirteen leaders, or judges, Samson being the most well known. The narrative describes a repeating pattern of events; (1) Israel forgets God and sins; (2) God responds in anger and allows a foreign power to oppress Israel; (3) Israel repents of its sin and pleads for God's help; and (4) God raises up a judge to deliver his people and restore faithfulness in Israel.

The book reaffirms that the future of Israel depends upon the people's obedience or disobedience to God's law and their fidelity to the worship of God alone.

## PARISH CALENDAR

**Saturday, February 22** – Pre-Synod Meeting at St. John the Baptist Church in Manchester, beginning at 11:00am.

### 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

## Schedule of Lent & Easter Services:

Wednesday, February 26 – **Ash Wednesday Services**, 9:00am & 6:30pm

Each Friday of Lent – **Stations of the Cross & Supper**, 6:00pm

Sunday, March 1, 15 & 22 – **Bitter Lamentations**, 9:00am prior to Mass

Thursday, March 12 – **Penance Service with Our Lady of Peace**, 6:00pm

Sunday, March 29 – **Meal in the Upper Room**, 4:00pm

Sunday, April 5 – **Palm Sunday Service & Distribution of Palms**, 9:30am

Holy Thursday, April 9 – **Mass of the Lord's Supper**, 6:30pm

Good Friday, April 10

- **Stations of the Cross**, 10:00am
- **Liturgy of the Lord's Passion**, 3:00pm
- **Service of Tenebrae**, 7:00pm

Holy Saturday, April 11

- **Blessing of Food**, 10:00am – 12:00pm
- **Mass with Blessing of Fire & Water**, 5:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 12 – **Mass**, 9:30am

## Readers Roster:

February 9: Julia Vazas, Missal page 196 (Feb 16)

February 16: Dee Smith, Missal page 201 (Feb 23)

February 23: Joe Pelland, Readings on Handout

### Friends of St. Joe's

We are pleased to recommend the following businesses that have provided dependable service to our Church:

- Neil Mulligan with Armor Shield Roof, (203) 768-8787
- James Plumbing, (203) 381-9587
- Kinsella Electric, (203) 209-3898

*Bulletins courtesy of Patricia Morrissey, January - May 2020. If anyone wishes to contribute to the printing cost of the bulletin, please see Fr. Tom. The suggested donation amount is \$8.00 per week. Thank you.*

## St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



### February 16, 2020 – Sexagesima Sunday, Year A

#### Parish Contacts

*ADMINISTRATOR*  
Fr. Tom Walsh

*CHAIRPERSON*  
Jeanine May

*VICE CHAIRPERSON*  
Dee Smith

*Finance Secretary*  
Barbara Chernesky

#### Dear Parishioners,

In last week's Gospel passage we found Jesus expanding on Scripture. In this week's Gospel passage we find Jesus debunking popular wisdom. This week Jesus teaches us how to handle vengeance and aggression. Rather than an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, Jesus counsels us not to offer resistance to one who is evil. If someone strikes you, we are told to turn the other cheek. Jesus says we are to love our enemy, not hate them. Who can live this way? Considering the Lord's passion and crucifixion it is clear that Jesus did. Living this way is how we express our union with Divinity.

Grace & Peace,  
Fr. Tom

#### Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm    Sunday 9:30am    Wednesday Healing Mass 9:00am

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford, CT 06615  
(203) 377-9901 Church, (860) 417-9888 Mobile  
[www.saintjosephsofstratford.org](http://www.saintjosephsofstratford.org) / [pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org](mailto:pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org)