

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Mass this Sunday is offered for the repose of the soul of James Budnick. May he rest in peace.

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, Jean Fellmeth and Donald Squezello.**

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. A sign-up sheet is posted in the entrance hall of the Church.

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 \$406. 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

Ruth The Book of Ruth, set in the days of the judges, is named for the Moabite woman who commits herself to the Israelite people by an oath of loyalty to her mother-in-law Naomi after the death of her husband. God rewards Ruth's loyalty by giving her a new husband, Boaz, and a privileged position in the family line of David and Christ. She is one of the few women listed in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1:5.

The aim of the book is to demonstrate God's care for those who are faithful to family and to the Lord, regardless of nationality, and to accent the special favor of the house of David in God's plan for the people of Israel.

PARISH CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 25 – Fat Tuesday Potluck Supper, 6pm. A sign-up sheet is posted in the entrance hall of the Church.

Ash Wednesday, February 26 – Mass with distribution of ashes, 9:00am & 6:30pm.

Friday, February 28 – Stations of the Cross & Potluck Supper. We gather to eat at 6:00pm, Stations begin at 6:30pm. A sign-up sheet is posted in the entrance hall of the Church for those who would like to host a supper.

March 3-4 – Father Tom away in Scranton for the Doctrine Commission Meeting.

Sunday, March 8 – Ladies Society Meeting after Mass.

Sunday, March 15 – The Choir from Blessed Sacrament Church in Bridgeport will be singing at the 9:30am Mass. Please plan to join us and welcome our musical guests.

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 & Potluck 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 23, 2020 – Quinquagesima Sunday, Year A

Parish Contacts

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Finance Secretary
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your lifespan? Clearly, we cannot. But medical science does report that excessive worry can bring on stress related illness and disease possibly shortening our lifespan. But that's not the point of today's Gospel passage. It is not Jesus' intent to offer sound medical advice on living a healthy lifestyle. Rather, Jesus is advising us on how to live our lives abundantly. Keeping our focus on the things that really matter, that have eternal value, the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Grace & Peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

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

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford, CT 06615
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