

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers **Wendell Barry, Helen Reynolds, Nancy Sirois, Robin Lupinski, Linda Chehy, Felicia Watson, Desiree Anzalone, Nancy Anzalone, 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

A **coin collection box** courtesy of our youth is in place on the shelf located in the entrance foyer of the Church. Please consider offering some of the loose change in your pocket or purse to help fund various projects in our Church.

**Collection for repair of altar crucifix and statues** continues. So far, we have raised \$736. We're more than half-way to our goal of \$1200. Thank you to everyone who has contributed!

**First Congregational Church of Stratford**, 2301 Main Street, is hosting Lenten fish dinners on Friday nights from 4:30 to 7:00pm. The last fish dinner will be on April 3. Dinners include baked or fried fish, fried clams, including baked potato or French fries, cole slaw, dessert and beverage. Seniors: \$10.00; Adults: \$11-\$18.00; Kids under age 10 eat from the children's menu. Specials are also served. All are welcome! Call 203-378-2644 for more info.

**Lordship Community Church**, 179 Prospect Drive, Stratford, holds its all-you-can-eat St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner on Saturday, March 14, 2020, at 6 p.m. The cost is \$15 per adult, \$12 per senior (62 and over), and free for children (12 and under). Contact 203-377-6568 or [office@thelordshipchurch.org](mailto:office@thelordshipchurch.org) for information and to reserve before March 13.

**St. Mark Little Lions Preschool Open House** Wednesday, 3/18 4:00 – 6:00pm, 500 Wigwam Lane, Stratford. If you're looking for a full day preschool where your 3 or 4-year-old child will love to learn, come visit Little Lions Preschool. We offer two, three, or five day options from M-F 7:45 am to 2:10 pm and After School Care is available from 2:10 -

6:00 pm. We are expanding enrollment for the 2020-21 year. Visit our Open House and see why our program is in such high demand. Limited openings available. For more information, contact us at 203.375.4291 or [contactus@stmarkschool.org](mailto:contactus@stmarkschool.org).

**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

**Second Samuel** treats the highlights of David's reign, first over Judah and then over Israel as a whole. It traces David's ascension to the throne, the days of his prosperity and faithfulness, and the period of David's sins and repentance. A central concern of the book is the affirmation of the dynasty of David as God's chosen people. The book can be surveyed in three divisions: The triumphs of David (Chs. 1-10), the transgressions of David (Ch. 11), and the troubles of David (Chs. 12-24).

## PARISH CALENDAR

**Sunday, March 8** – Ladies Society Meeting after Mass.

**Friday, March 13** – 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.

**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

# **St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church**

## **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:**

March 1: Rob Mongillo, Missal page 207  
March 8: Nancy Sirios, Readings on Handout  
March 15: Ray Morrison, Missal page 219

We celebrate the Contemporary Rite of the Mass, which begins on page 63 of the pew missal.

### **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.*



## **March 8, 2020 – Institution of the PNCC, Year A**

### **Parish Contacts**

*ADMINISTRATOR*  
Fr. Tom Walsh

*CHAIRPERSON*  
Jeanine May

*VICE CHAIRPERSON*  
Dee Smith

*Finance Secretary*  
Barbara Chernesky

### **Dear Parishioners,**

Today's Gospel passage makes use of a gardening metaphor, which is apt considering that spring is just a few weeks away. Begins on March 19<sup>th</sup> for the curious! In this metaphor Jesus is likening himself to a vine, his Father to the vine grower, and we are the branches. The point Jesus is making is that we are called to bear fruit, to bring forth life in Christ in those around us. To do this we must ourselves be sustained by Christ dwelling within us.

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)