

PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

We pray for the safety and wellbeing of all those affected by the Coronavirus.

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

Out of an abundance of caution **all church services and activities have been suspended** beginning Friday, March 13. Currently, we are planning the suspension for just this weekend. Next week we will evaluate circumstances and decide then if we will continue the suspension. All outside group activities have been suspended until March 26. We are looking into making available on the Church web site a link to a video recording of the Sunday Mass if this suspension continues beyond this weekend. We urge everyone to pray for the safety and wellbeing of all those affected by the Coronavirus.

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 \$790. We're more than half-way to our goal of \$1200. Thank you to everyone who has contributed!

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.

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

The Book of First Kings traces the life of Solomon, son of King David, from his ascent to the throne, during his powerful reign and the building of the Temple, until the division of the kingdom among his successors. First and Second Kings are not a modern-style history book, but rather a religious history; theological purpose determined the selection of material and the interpretation of events. Kings are measured upon faithfulness to the covenant, and the nation's success depends upon the people's loyalty to the Lord.

The book divides clearly into two sections: the united kingdom (Chs. 1 through 11) and the divided kingdom (Chs. 12 through 22.)

PARISH CALENDAR

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, 22 & 29 – **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.

St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



March 15, 2020 – Third Sunday of Lent, Year A

Parish Contacts

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Finance Secretary
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

"If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." It seems so simple because it is. Christ is offering to all those who recognize him as Savior a gift. We cannot earn this gift. Our good deeds do not entitle us to this gift. We simply have to graciously accept this gift. And once accepted we must cherish it because it can be lost. We cherish it by how we live our lives, how we love God and others.

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 / pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org