

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Nancy Sirois, Wendell Barry, Helen Reynolds, Felicia Watson, Linda Chehy, Donald Squezello, Desiree Anzalone, Nancy Anzalone, the Petrino Family, Jane Pelland, 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** at least until March 31st. All outside group activities have been suspended. We are looking into making available on the Church web site a link to a video recording of the Sunday Mass. A home service for the Sunday Mass will be sent to all those parishioners who have registered their email address with Meg Krasko. If you have not already done so, please email your contact information to Fr. Tom at pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org.

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!

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 Second Kings continues without interruption the narrative of First Kings. The twin kingdoms of Israel to the north and Judah to the south head towards captivity as the once united kingdom becomes increasingly diminished. Division has led to decline and now ends in double deportation, with Israel captured by Assyria and Judah by Babylon. The prophetic movement develops during this time in both the north and south, as time and again the kings are warned and invited to repentance by God's messengers.

The book traces the history of the divided kingdom in chapters 1 through 17, and the history of the surviving kingdom in chapters 18 through 25.

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

St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church

Schedule of Lent & Easter Services:

All services are suspended until at least March 31st, at which time a revised schedule will be published.



March 22, 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A

Readers Roster:

The roster will be updated when services resume.

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.

Parish Contacts

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Finance Secretary
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

The underlying theme of today's Gospel passage, John 9:1-41, is Grace. Specifically, Actual Grace and Sanctifying Grace. Actual Grace is given to us when God acts in our lives. Sanctifying Grace is our response to Actual Grace. God calls, we respond. The Actual Grace in this passage is Jesus smearing clay on the blind man's eyes. The Sanctifying Grace is the blind man heeding Jesus direction to wash in the Pool of Siloam. Through Grace the blind man is healed. Our challenge, do we remain open to the experience of Actual Grace in our lives? Will we respond and be healed?

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