

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Carlos Mendez, 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

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 Chronicles parallels the history of First and Second Kings, but virtually ignores the northern kingdom of Israel, apparently because of its abandonment of worship at the Jerusalem Temple. The Chronicler focuses on the kings of Judah who pattern their lives and rules after the model of David. The Temple and Temple worship are central throughout the book. The author is concerned to demonstrate that the fortunes of the people depend upon their faithful worship of God alone.

Chronicles repeatedly teaches that whenever God's people forsake him, he withdraws his blessings, but trust in and obedience to the Lord bring victory. Solomon's glory is seen in chapters 1 through 9, and Judah's decline and deportation in chapters 10 through 36.

Second Chronicles ends on a note of hope at the end of the captivity, when Cyrus issues the decree for the restoration of Judah, "Now, all of you who are God's people, go there, and may the Lord your God be with you." (36:23). The order of the books in the Hebrew Scriptures differs from our Old Testament, ending with the Book of Second Chronicles and this note of hope. Our Old Testament ends with the Book of Malachi, which offers another kind of hope, the messenger of the covenant, "The messenger of the covenant whom you desire – see, he is coming! Says the Lord of hosts." (3:1)

PARISH CALENDAR

By the Week: All activities suspended until further notice.

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:

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

St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



April 5, 2020 – Palm Sunday, 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,

This week's reading from Matthew's Gospel depicts Jesus' passion and death. This is the pivotal point in the story of our salvation, a story that begins in the Garden of Eden and traces through the entire narrative arc of Scripture concluding with the Resurrection on Easter Sunday morning.

The driving force behind this narrative is betrayal. The serpent betrays Adam and Eve in the Garden, promising they will be like God if they eat the forbidden fruit. Death results. Judas betrays Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Death results. Both Judas and Jesus die. But from these betrayals God brings forth a Resurrection, for Jesus and for us. The question that remains for us, what are our 30 pieces of silver? What will we betray the Lord for?

Grace & Peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

Public celebration of Holy Mass is suspended until further notice.

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