

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Today's Mass is celebrated for the repose of the soul of William Petrino, requested by Mary Jean. May he rest in peace.

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

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!

The food pantries need our help! We all know about the empty grocery shelves, but most of us are fortunate and have been able to "eat our freezer" or to buy food as we need it. Unfortunately, there are many people who don't have the money for daily food. Because more people than ever depend on food pantries for assistance, they need your donation.

The pantry at Blessed Sacrament has no reserve, and is now distributing food on a week-to-week basis.

Especially needed are cereal, pasta sauce, tuna, peanut butter, and mac 'n cheese. One of the Blessed Sacrament volunteers is willing to shop, so if you can send a check to the church with Food Pantry in the memo line, it would be great. The address is Fr. Skip, Blessed Sacrament Church, 275 Union Ave. Bridgeport, CT 06607.

Thank you and God bless.

A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE

The Book of Ezra continues the story exactly where Second Chronicles ends and shows how God's promise to bring his people back to their land is fulfilled. God is with his people, and although their days of glory seem over, their spiritual heritage still remains, and God's promises will be fulfilled. Ezra relates the story of the first two returns from Babylon. The first led by Zerubbabel, a "prince" of Judah and a direct descendant of King David, and the second led decades later by Ezra.

Ezra is an expert in the Law and is known in the Talmud (Jewish commentary on Scripture) as a second Moses because of his devotion to the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament, given to Moses on Mt. Sinai. Ezra is responsible for the religious renewal of the people in Jerusalem.

The two divisions of the Book of Ezra are the restoration of the Temple, (chapters 1 through 6), and the reformation of the people (chapters 7 through 10.). These divisions are separated by a 58-year period during which the story of Esther takes place. If you are familiar with the Jewish festival of Purim than you know something about the Book of Esther.

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 through April. Revised schedules will be published when we resume public celebrations of Mass.

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.

St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



April 19, 2020 – Second Sunday of Easter, Year A

Parish Contacts

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Finance Secretary
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

In today's Gospel passage Jesus "comes" to the disciples who are locked away in the Upper Room. Understandable the disciples are frightened. The doors are locked and yet a stranger appears before them. Not until they see his wounds do they recognize Jesus and rejoice.

I have often wondered why Jesus' resurrected body is wounded. It would seem that at the Resurrection the wounds would have been healed. The problem is that we continue to sin. Each sin inflicting a wound on the Body of Christ, we his people here on earth. These are the wounds that Christ still bears for us. Need we continue to inflict wounds on our Savior?

Grace & Peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

Public celebration of Holy Mass is suspended until further notice.

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