

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for the family of Lynda DesRosiers who passed away this week. May Lynda 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 Esther tells the story of the deliverance of the Jewish people. We are shown a Persian emperor, Ahasuerus, who issues a royal decree promoted by his wicked minister Hamon ordering the destruction of the Jews. The threat is averted by two Jews, Esther and Mordecai. Their influence and intervention allow the Jews to turn the tables on their enemies. This deliverance is commemorated by the inauguration of the Jewish festival of Purim (9:20-32). Known as the "Jewish Mardi Gras" celebrated late winter/early spring, Purim calls for drinking, dancing, and costumes. It's a time for charity, and gifts of food are given to friends and family. Chief among these are hamantaschen — buttery triangular cookies, filled with jam or poppy seeds, reminiscent of the three-cornered hat worn by Haman!



Chapters 1 through 4 describe the threat to the Jews, and chapters 5 through 10 describe the triumph of the Jews.

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

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**



May 3, 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Parish Contacts

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Finance Secretary
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

In today's passage from Luke's Gospel (10:1-10) Jesus speaks of being the shepherd leading the sheep, walking ahead of them. This passage is reminiscent of Psalm 23, the Lord is My Shepherd. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus knows that those who recognize his voice will follow him. They will not follow the voice of strangers who come as thieves and robbers.

This passage invites us to consider the voices we recognize. The voices we choose to follow. The world is clamoring for our attention. Media streams flood our senses. The question we need to ask is, will these distractions lead us to pasture?

Grace & Peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

Public celebration of Holy Mass is suspended until further notice.

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