

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Today we remember our dear friend Art Niedzielski who passed away this week, and his daughters Sandra and Linda. We pray for the repose of his soul; may he rest in peace. And we pray for Sandra and Linda, that they may be comforted and encouraged during this difficult time.

We remember in our prayers Nancy Sirois, Wendell Barry, Helen Reynolds, Linda Chehy, Donald Squezzello, 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

Next Sunday, May 24th, we will be celebrating Mass outdoors. Per the social distancing requirements in force for the state of Connecticut the gathering must be limited to no more than 50 individuals. Fr. Tom will celebrate Mass on the patio by the front doors of the Church. Participants are asked to remain in their cars. Markers will be placed in the parking lot to guide you where to park. Communion will not be offered. All those who plan to attend please send an email to Fr. Tom at pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org to let him know that you are coming. Please include in the email your contact information and the names and contact information of those who will be with you in case we need to reach out to you. Further details will be provided in a parish email.

Repair and restoration of the altar crucifix and statues is underway. We are still seeking donations to cover the cost of this work. Thank you to all who have generously contributed to the upkeep of our beautiful Church.

Please help our hungry neighbors! The food pantries are seeing record numbers of people. Blessed Sacrament had 224 clients on

Thursday. Fortunately, as in the miracle of the loaves and fishes, there was enough food; but unlike the story in the Bible, there was nothing left over—nothing for next week and the weeks to follow.

Please add a non-perishable item or two to your shopping cart and bring it when you next come to St. Joseph's. Especially needed are cereal, pasta sauce, tuna fish, and Chef Boyardee.

Thank you and God bless.

A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE

The Book of Psalms is the prayer book of Israel mostly intended to be sung. The lyrics of these songs have been preserved; the music has been lost. The Book of Psalms contains different types of prayer, generally characterized as a movement from lament to praise, echoing Israel's exilic and post-exilic experiences.

The Book of Psalms is divided into five books like the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament. The divisions are as follows: Psalms 1-41, 42-72, 73-89, 90-106, 107-150. These divisions are evident because at the end of each book is a doxology, a short hymn of praise to God, including "Amen."

I invite you to read through the Book of Psalms. No doubt you will find favorites that speak to you. Psalm 23 is a popular favorite. Take a look at Psalms 22 and 91, both will be familiar to you. Psalm 51 is a beautiful prayer of repentance.

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.

**St. Joseph of Stratford
National Catholic Church**



May 17, 2020 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

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,

Reading today's Gospel passage, John 14:15-21, I was struck by the word 'orphan.' *I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.* The coronavirus pandemic has given new meaning to the word orphan for me. To be an orphan is to be one deprived of some protection or advantage, per Merriam-Webster.

Fortunately, the Gospel message is a message of hope. The passage does not leave us stranded as orphans. Jesus promises that he will come to us. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will be with us always. During these anxious and uncertain times let us take heart knowing that though medical science may at times fall short of our needs or expectations, our Lord does not.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

Public celebration of Holy Mass is suspended until further notice.

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