

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Today Mass is offered for the repose of the soul of Louise Stankiewicz, may she rest in peace in God's eternal embrace.

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

This Sunday, May 24th, we will be celebrating Mass outdoors in the parking lot at 1:30pm. All social distancing protocols will be observed so parishioners need to remain in their vehicles during the service. The Mass will be live broadcast on the radio, so you just need to tune in to listen. A sign will be posted indicating the radio station. Communion will not be offered.

For the Mass, the altar will be set up on the side of the parking lot closest to the cemetery, facing the Civil Air Patrol property. Cars will park in the usual designated parking spaces facing the cemetery where the altar will be located. To maintain the minimum of 6 feet between vehicles, folks will need to park in every other space, leaving an empty parking space between vehicles. If you are parking in the second row of a section do not park directly behind a vehicle as this will restrict your ability to view the Mass and violate the minimum spacing requirements. Please park in the space diagonally behind the parked vehicle. A folding chair will be placed in the parking spaces that are to remain empty.

Thank you **Joyce and Ed Bresh** for placing flags on the graves of our Veterans, honoring their service to our country on Memorial Day. Your dedication to our church and hard work is much appreciated!

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 Proverbs is the most practical book of the Old Testament because it uses simple illustrations that expose fundamental realities of life. It includes instruction on wisdom and folly, the righteous and the ungodly, pride and humility, justice and vengeance, the family, laziness and work, poverty and wealth, friends and neighbors, love and lust, anger and strife, life and death. Proverbs touches upon every facet of human relationships.

The Book of Proverbs may be divided into six segments: the purpose of Proverbs (1:1-7), the proverbs to the youth (1:8 through 9:18), the proverbs of Solomon (10:1 through 24:34), the proverbs of Solomon copied by Hezekiah's men (25:1 through 29:27), the words of Agur (30:1-33), and the words of King Lemuel (31:1-31). Agur and King Lemuel are otherwise unknown sages.

I encourage you to read through the Book of Proverbs noting those that you find most inspiring. I am often drawn to Proverbs 3:5-7.

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 24, 2020 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Parish Contacts

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Finance Secretary
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

Today's Gospel passage, John 17:1-11, forms part of the Supper Discourses Jesus held in the Upper Room with his disciples. Following this passage Jesus and the disciples go out to the garden where he is arrested. What marks this passage is the mutual love and unity that exists between Jesus and his disciples, reflecting the love and unity that exists between the Father and the Son.

Jesus speaks of glorifying the Father on earth by accomplishing the work that he was given to do. If our love for Christ is to reflect the love Christ has for the Father than we need to ask ourselves the question, what work am I to accomplish on earth to glorify Christ, the Son? That is our challenge and our duty as Christians.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

Public celebration of Holy Mass is suspended until further notice.

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