

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

This Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, we will be celebrating Mass again outdoors in the parking lot at 2:00pm. Please note the change in time from last week when we gathered at 1:30pm. All social distancing protocols will be observed so parishioners need to remain in their vehicles the entire time. 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. Individuals will be in the parking lot to direct where you are to park. Thank you for your cooperation.

**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.

**A special thank you** to those who generously donated food, checks, and cash to the Food Pantry at Blessed Sacrament on Sunday. The food bin and a basket for monetary donations will again be available for "curbside drop off" this Sunday at our outdoor Mass. The number of needy people coming to the Pantry has doubled since the pandemic began in March while the amount of donations has decreased dramatically as area churches have been closed. We at St. Joseph's have continued to support the Pantry and it is very much appreciated by Fr. Skip and the clients. Clothes and linens are not presently being accepted and probably will not be for a while. Thank you and God bless.

## A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE

**The Book of Ecclesiastes** contains the reflections of a philosopher rather than a testimony of belief. The title "Ecclesiastes" is an attempted Greek translation of the authors name, Qoheleth, the Hebrew root qahal meaning one who conducts an assembly. The author seeks to understand by the use of reason the meaning of human existence and the good which man can find in life. The book concludes that the "good life" is only attained by revering God. The work is without formal structure.

The author is described as a sage, a teacher, and a skilled writer. Because the book echoes Greek philosophy it is most probably dated to around the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C, several decades after the death of Alexander the Great, when Greek culture took hold in the region. This dating makes it unlikely that Solomon, traditionally assumed to be the author, is the author of this work.

I encourage you to read 3:1-11. It will "sound" familiar to you.

## 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 31, 2020 – Pentecost Sunday**

**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**

*PASTOR*  
Fr. Tom Walsh

*CHAIRPERSON*  
Jeanine May

*VICE CHAIRPERSON*  
Dee Smith

*Finance Secretary*  
Barbara Chernesky

**Dear Parishioners,**

*"He showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord." John 20:20. Why the wounds? Why was it necessary for the apostles, here John identifies them as disciples, to see Jesus' wounds before they recognized him?*

I've often wondered why Jesus retained the wounds in his resurrected body. The resurrected body is glorified, no longer subject to illness and death, and yet here we find that Jesus' resurrected body is wounded. Why?

I believe it is because the wounds are an expression of Jesus' humanity. Jesus is fully divine, as attested to by his resurrection, but he is at the same time fully human, as attested to by his wounds. Jesus' wounds are a deep expression of the solidarity we share with Christ.

Grace and peace,  
Fr. Tom

**Mass Times**

Public celebration of Holy Mass is suspended until further notice.

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