

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for our fathers, grandfathers, and all those who have been a fatherly presence in our lives. May God's grace and peace be with them.

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, and Robin Lupinski.

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

Anyone looking to **adopt a cat** please contact with Fr. Tom. The cat would do best in a home with adults only.

This Sunday, June 21st, and all following Sundays until we move indoors, we will be celebrating Mass in the parking lot at 10:30am. 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 Wisdom of Ben Sira derives its title from the author, "Yeshua (Jesus), son of Eleazar, son of Sira." The title "Sirach" comes from the Greek form of the author's name Sira. The title "Church Book" appended to some Greek and Latin manuscripts is due to the extensive use the church made of this book in presenting moral teaching to catechumens and to the faithful.

The book contains many well-crafted maxims dealing with a variety of subjects such as the gift of wisdom, the value of fear of the Lord, relationship with others, attitude toward work, wealth and death, God revealed in the natural world, praise of ancestors. The contents of the book are not easily divided into separate parts. Chapters 1-43 deal largely with moral instructions. Chapters 44:1-50:24 contain a eulogy of the heroes of Israel. There are two appendixes in which the author expresses his gratitude to God (51:1-12), and invites the unschooled to acquire true wisdom (51:13-30).

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**



June 21, 2020 – 12th Sunday Ordinary Time

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

Parish Contacts

PASTOR

Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON

Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON

Dee Smith

Finance Secretary

Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

Fear no one. It seems to always come down to fear. Put in context of the surrounding gospel passages it becomes clear who Jesus is telling the apostles not to fear, those around them. The people in the towns and villages where Jesus is sending them to preach the gospel of the kingdom. Their neighbors, friends, and relatives, as well as the stranger. It's clear that their message will not always be well received. It may at times be met with resistance and hostility. But they are to stand firm.

And that is our challenge. Can we stand firm in our faith while those around us lose their way accommodating whatever is believed to be true or right at the time? How we choose reveals where our allegiance lies. With those who can *kill the body but cannot kill the soul, or the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.* Choose wisely.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

Public celebration of Holy Mass is suspended until further notice.

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