

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, 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 28th, 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

Before moving on to the prophetic books we consider the Books of Tobit, Judith, First and Second Maccabees. These biblical novellas are considered to be part of the deuterocanonical books of the Catholic bible. These books and others are not found in Protestant bibles.

At the time of the Reformation these books were considered to be apocryphal by Protestants, meaning of doubtful authenticity, and not included in their version of the bible. This is an unfortunate choice of terms considering that these books are found in the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, an early version of the Old Testament, that existed before the time of Christ and were quoted extensively by the Apostolic and Early Church Fathers. When purchasing a bible be sure it is a Catholic bible to ensure that it contains all of these sacred books.

Next week we turn our attention to the Book of Tobit. Here we meet the angel Raphael!

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 28, 2020 – 13th 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,

Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. What does it mean to take up our cross? One way to think about this is to imagine the cross as the symbol of the intersection of humanity and divinity. The vertical post points upwards to heaven, divinity. The horizontal member points outward, to others, humanity. At the intersection of these members is Christ.

That is where we are called to be, and that is our challenge. Do we choose to take up our cross and occupy that space where humanity and divinity intersect? Like Christ, do we choose to be expressions of God's presence in the world?

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

Public celebration of Holy Mass is suspended until further notice.

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