

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, July 5th, 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 Bible conveys the Word of God in many literary forms: historical narrative, poetry, prophetic, exhortation, wisdom sayings, and novellas, which are edifying stories. Attention must be paid to these literary forms because truth is differently presented and expressed in each of these forms.

The **Book of Tobit** is a Biblical novella written in the second century BC. It tells the story of Tobit, a devout and wealthy Israelite living among the captives deported to Nineveh from the Northern Kingdom of Israel around 722 BC. In the story Tobit suffers severe misfortunes and is finally blinded.

The author gives the people of his time an example to follow as they struggle with the tensions of living a faithful Jewish life in the midst of a non-Jewish civilization. Tobit perseveres in good works and prayer, as do the other characters in the story. God sends the angel Raphael who, while hidden from them, leads them to health and happiness. The conclusion demonstrates that God does answer prayer and that perseverance in good works does not go unrewarded.

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**



July 5, 2020 – 14th 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,

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. These comforting words of Christ come as a balm to people living in a society that teaches busy is better. What is this burden that Christ offers to take from us to give us rest? Grocery shopping? Mowing the lawn? Laundry? Not quite. Remember, we need to read Scripture in the context of the times in which it was written.

What Jesus is offering in this passage is a promise to ease the burdens of the Law, the Torah, as expounded by the religious leaders of that time. These works of the Law distracted the people from being in relationship with God, which is contrary to what a covenant is, a binding relationship. In today's Gospel passage Jesus calls us to be in a new covenant relationship with the Father through the Son. A relationship that is not burdensome but is life enhancing.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

Public celebration of Holy Mass is suspended until further notice.

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