

PRAYER INTENTIONS

This Sunday we offer Mass for the repose of the soul of Jean Fellmeth. May she rest in peace.

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, 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 12th, is the last Sunday we will celebrate Mass in the parking lot. Next Sunday, July 19th, we will celebrate Mass indoors. Seating will be limited, face masks must be worn, and social distancing will be maintained. Details regarding these protocols will be posted on the Church web site and signs will be posted inside the facility. You will need to email Fr. Tom at pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org if you plan to attend with the number of people in your group, so we don't have to turn people away at the door once the Church reaches maximum capacity. Please check the web site to see how many spaces are available for that Sunday. This number will be updated daily.

Per the CDC Guidelines, which are posted on the Church web site, people who are at risk from severe illness due to Covid-19, meaning those with pre-existing or underlying conditions and persons age 65 or older, are encouraged not to attend the indoor service. The Mass will be recorded, and the video will be available for viewing on the Church web site later that day.

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 next biblical novella of the Catholic deuterocanonical books we consider is the **Book of Judith**, which was written sometime at the end of the second century or the beginning of the first century BCE. The Book of Judith is a dramatic short story about how God intervened on behalf of his people through the heroism of a pious widow named Judith, whose Hebrew name means, "Jewish woman." The story tells about how Holofernes, the commander of the armies of Nebuchadnezzar, is defeated by Judith's faith and resourcefulness.

This story is inspired by the Exodus narrative and was written as a reflection on the meaning of Passover. It teaches how God is committed to the survival of Israel in the midst of the great adversarial powers of the day.

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 19, 2020 – 15th 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 has ears ought to hear, is how Jesus concludes today's Gospel passage. It's both a call and an admonition. A call to listen and an admonition to pay attention because let's face it we all have ears, so we ought to hear.

The hearing part is fine. Not much effort required on our part. It's the doing that often gets in the way. In this parable Jesus is telling us that we must prepare our hearts to receive the Word of God. Some cultivation will be required for a change of heart. Are we up to the task?

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

Public celebration of Holy Mass is suspended until further notice.

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