

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

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.

Until further notice **this Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>**, and the following Sundays Mass will be celebrated outdoors in the parking lot, same time as usual, 10:30am. Hope to see you then!

**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 First Maccabees**, which was written about 100 B.C. The name Maccabee, probably meaning "hammer," is

actually applied in the Books of Maccabees to only one man, Judas, third son of the priest Mattathias and first leader of the revolt against the Seleucid kings who persecuted the Jews. The purpose of the book is to record the deliverance of Israel that God worked through the family of Mattathias. The writer compares their virtues and exploits with those of Israel's ancient heroes.

The doctrine expressed in the book is that the people of Israel have been specially chosen by the one true God as covenant-partner, and they alone are privileged to know and worship God. The people in turn must worship the Lord alone and observe exactly the precepts of the law given to them.

## 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 – 16<sup>th</sup> 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,**

They were sleeping. The enemy took advantage of their vulnerability and planted weeds in their wheat field. There are two things that we can take away from this. The first is that there is an enemy who will exploit any advantage given. The second is that the enemy is destructive.

Is our message here not to sleep? Not in the usual sense. What we are called to do is not put our relationship with God to sleep. We need to tend to that relationship daily through prayer and maintaining an awareness of God's presence in our lives.

Grace and peace,  
Fr. Tom

**Mass Times**

Mass is celebrated every Sunday outdoors in the parking lot, 10:30am.

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford, CT 06615  
(203) 377-9901 Church, (860) 417-9888 Mobile  
[www.saintjosephsofstratford.org](http://www.saintjosephsofstratford.org) / [pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org](mailto:pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org)