

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 26th**, and the following Sundays, Mass will be celebrated outdoors in the parking lot, same time as usual, 10:30am. Hope to see you then!

Thank you all for your generous donations of money and food for the **Food Pantry at Blessed Sacrament**. Unfortunately, they need even more help as this Thursday they had to shut down at 10:30 rather than their usual 12 noon as they had run out of food to distribute. At that point 241 clients had come by and then they turned away 60--so 301 had come for food. That's 301 families--how many kids don't have enough to eat? And, of course, that means there is no food to hand out next Thursday and in the following weeks unless we all help! So please when you are shopping next, add what extra you can to your cart. Especially needed: cereal, tuna, pasta sauce, pasta, canned vegetables, beans (black, kidney etc.) mac n cheese, toilet paper, soap. Thank you again and may God bless you for your generosity.

A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE

The final biblical novella of the Catholic deuterocanonical books we consider is the **Book of Second Maccabees**. A date of composition in the late second century B.C. is likely. This book is not a sequel to 1 Maccabees. The purpose of the book is to give a theological interpretation to the history of the period. The major concern is the Jerusalem Temple, whose defender is the God of Israel, so there is less interest in the military exploits of Judas Maccabeus and more in God's interventions on behalf of the Jews and their Temple. These divine actions direct the course of events, both to punish the sacrilegious and blasphemous pagans and to purify and restore the Temple.

Of theological importance for Catholics are the author's teachings on the intercession of the saints in heaven for people living on earth (15:11-16), and the power of the living to offer prayers and sacrifices for the dead (12:39-46). Given these considerations one can see why the Protestant Reformers chose to remove this book along with the other deuterocanonical books from their version of the Bible. These were hot topics during the Reformation!

The beginning of 2 Maccabees consists of two letters sent by the Jews of Jerusalem to their counterparts in Egypt. They deal with the observance of the feast commemorating the central event of the book, the purification of the Temple (Hanukkah). What is interesting is that Hanukkah is only mentioned in Catholic and Orthodox Bibles since they include this book. The Tanakh, the Hebrew Bible sacred to Jews, does not make reference to this feast.

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.

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

**St. Joseph of Stratford
National Catholic Church**



July 26, 2020 – 17th Sunday Ordinary Time

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Finance Secretary
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

The kingdom of heaven is like... This phrase is repeated three times in today's Gospel passage. Repetition of a word or phrase is like a flag alerting us to pay attention to what is being said. That being the case, what is Jesus saying about the kingdom of heaven in this passage?

In the first parable the kingdom of heaven is compared to a buried treasure. In the second parable the kingdom of heaven is compared to a merchant searching for a treasure. In the final parable the kingdom of heaven is compared to a net thrown into the sea catching the wicked and the righteous. What do all of these have in common? Each is concerned with discerning true treasure when found. *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

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

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