

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Dave Sauter, Jay Geffert, Annette Krietler, Nancy Sirois, Wendell Barry, Helen Reynolds, Linda Chehy, Donald Squezello, 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, August 2nd**, 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

Next we move on to the **Book of Isaiah**. A summary to the book's 66 chapters appears in its title, "Isaiah," which means "God will give salvation." The Book of Isaiah is often called the Fifth Gospel. It's not hard to understand why. In 7:14 we are told of the coming of the Savior. In 53:3-8 we meet the Suffering Servant who has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. With his wounds we are healed.

Scholars judge the Book of Isaiah to be a composition of three works written over centuries. There is First Isaiah who exercised his ministry from 740-701 B.C. He preached to Judah and Jerusalem during a politically turbulent era when four Assyrian kings were attempting to overrun the western sector of the Fertile Crescent. Isaiah summoned his people to faith in the Lord as the only hope during this turbulent time but it was too late. The Northern Kingdom collapsed under the might of Assyria.

Second or "Deutero" Isaiah preached divine forgiveness and deliverance to his fellow Jewish exiles about two hundred years later, on the eve of the fall of Babylon to Cyrus of Persia. It was Cyrus who allowed the Jews to return from exile.

Third or "Trito" Isaiah speaks to the Jewish community in the generations following the return of the exiles to the land of their forefathers. These oracles speak to the sobering realities of life in the restored community and the universal establishment of God's justice and the conversion of all people of faith in him.

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**



August 2, 2020 – 18th Sunday Ordinary Time

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Finance Secretary
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

Give them some food yourselves. Jesus' response to the disciples when told to dismiss the crowds so they can go to the villages and buy some food for themselves. The disciples were daunted by the task that lay before them. Crowds of hungry people needing to be fed and all they had were five loaves and two fish among them.

How often when confronted with overwhelming need do we pull back, not sure how to help? Jesus' answer to the disciples and to us is to feed them. They were not asked to perform a miracle; Jesus took care of that. They were asked to do what they could. That much we can do.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

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

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