

## 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

Until further notice **this Sunday, August 9<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!

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 **Book of Jeremiah** was written for people in the throes of suffering. A historical tragedy underlies the book. In the sixth century B.C. Babylon invaded the nation of Judah and its capital city Jerusalem. The political structure of the country collapsed and, after resistance broke out, the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem. The book is a response to the collapse of the nation during and after the invasion. It seeks to help the community survive that tragedy by imagining a world beyond it.

The primary theological concern is to defend God from accusations of injustice. The book tries to show that God was not unjust in punishing Israel for its sins. The collapse of the nation and destruction of Jerusalem happened because the people of Israel turned away and sought other gods. But the story does not end there, there will be a future.

The book may be divided into two major sections. Section 1, Chs. 1-25, deal with how the nation fell. Section 2, Chs. 26-52, address how the nation will survive.

## 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 9, 2020 – 19th Sunday Ordinary Time**

**Parish Contacts**

*PASTOR*  
Fr. Tom Walsh

*CHAIRPERSON*  
Jeanine May

*VICE CHAIRPERSON*  
Dee Smith

*Finance Secretary*  
Barbara Chernesky

**Dear Parishioners,**

In today's Old Testament reading from the Book of First Kings, we find the prophet Elijah taking shelter in a cave on Mt Horeb, also known as Mt. Sinai. Elijah got himself in trouble with Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab (of Moby Dick fame) and so was fleeing for his life, but that's a story for another time.

The point is that Elijah was fleeing. Away from death at the hands of Jezebel, and towards protection on the mountain of God. Notice where God was to be found on this mountain. God was not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire, but in the stillness of a tiny whispering sound. There comes a time in everyone's life when we must stop fleeing, settle the din, and allow God to apprehend us. Most often in unexpected places, and at times not of our choosing.

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  
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