

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Jen Fry, 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

Beginning this Sunday, August 16th, until further notice two Masses will be held. One indoor at 9am and another outdoor at 10:30am. Those wishing to attend the indoor Mass need to let Fr. Tom know as seating is limited. For the indoor Mass masks are required and social distancing will be maintained.

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 Lamentations** is a collection of five poems that serve as an anguished response to the destruction of Jerusalem in 587 B.C. after a long siege by the invading Babylonian army. The book gives expression to the harsh realities of a violent world. Although the poems are traditionally ascribed to the prophet Jeremiah, this is unlikely since it is difficult to square some of the content of the poetry with what one finds in the Book of Jeremiah.

The Book of Lamentations was used in the ritual of Tenebrae (shadows), which may have originated as early as the fifth century, including elements of a funeral service. During the singing of Lamentations, the funeral candles were extinguished one by one until only one remained. Sometimes loud noises accompanied the extinguishing of the candles, all meant to symbolize the extinguishing of Christ's life in the crucifixion.

The book may be divided as follows. Chapter 1, the desolation of Jerusalem. Chapter 2, the Lord's wrath and Zion's ruin. Chapter 3, the voice of a suffering individual. Chapter 4, miseries of the besieged city. Chapter 5, the communities lament to the Lord.

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 16, 2020 – 20th Sunday Ordinary Time

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Finance Secretary
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” Thus says the Lord as recorded in today’s first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Does this mean that the Lord does not discriminate? According to the definition of discriminate found in the Meriam-Webster dictionary it does not. The definition states that to discriminate is to mark or perceive distinguishing or peculiar features.

The Lord most certainly discriminates in favor of those who, *“join themselves to the LORD, ministering to him, loving the name of the LORD, and becoming his servants— all who keep the sabbath free from profanation and hold to my covenant.”* Fortunately, this discrimination is easily overcome. *“Observe what is right, do what is just, for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed.”* As Catholics, this needs to be our distinguishing feature.

Grace and peace.

Mass Times

Mass is celebrated every Sunday, indoors at 9am & outdoors 10:30am.

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