

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Jen Fry, Dave Sauter, Jay Geffert, Annette Krietler, 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 Kay Grillotti, a former long time parishioner, who is in the process of selling her home.

We pray for the safety and wellbeing of all those affected by the Coronavirus.

NEWS

This Sunday, August 30th we continue to hold two Masses, an indoor celebration at 9am and another outside at 10:30am. Those wishing to attend the indoor Mass need to register on the Church website at www.saintjosephsofstratford.org 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 EZEKIEL

Before Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian ruler, besieges and then destroys Jerusalem in 587 B.C. Ezekiel is concerned to convince his audience that they are responsible for the punishment of exile and to justify the Lord's decision to destroy their city and Temple. Ezekiel is clear on one point, the Lord punishes and restores for one reason – for the sake of his name, in order to demonstrate once and for all that he is Lord.

In Ezekiel 9:4 we see the origin of the Catholic tradition of making the Sign of the Cross. The Lord says to Ezekiel to tell the people to mark an X, the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet tav, on the foreheads of the faithful. The tradition of blessing people by signing their foreheads with the cross is age-old. We begin prayer by signing ourselves with the cross.

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 30, 2020 – 22nd Sunday Ordinary Time

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Finance Secretary
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

“Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.” This verse from today’s second reading, Romans 12:1-2, speaks powerfully to our present situation. We live in an age of the pandemic, which some are using to marginalize the Church as being nonessential. We live in an age of political division, which some are using to fragment our great nation. We live in an age of hatred and violence, which some are using to fuel social unrest. In the midst of this fear, division, and hatred there is a still, small voice calling us to the will of God to do what is good and pleasing and perfect. How do we know what is good and pleasing and perfect? Jesus answers this for us in Matthew 19:16-19. It’s worth a look.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

Mass is celebrated every Sunday, Indoors at 9am & Outdoors at 10:30am.

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