

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Today's Mass is celebrated in remembrance of Michael Raslavsky on the first anniversary of his passing. May he rest in peace.

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.

NEWS

This Sunday, September 6th 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.

A special "thank you" to all of you who have so generously donated food, checks, and cash to the Food Pantry at Blessed Sacrament. The pantry is running on a week-to-week basis, with the food brought in over the weekend given out on Thursday with not a lot, if any, food left over for the following week. However, because of you and other good-hearted people like you in churches across Fairfield County, the pantry is able to serve the approximately 320 families that now come for food each week. Before the pandemic, that number was 120, so you can see how much your donation is needed. Fr. Skip and the volunteers keep you in prayer, thanking God for your generosity.

A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE – THE BOOK OF DANIEL

This work was composed during the bitter persecution carried on by Antiochus IV Epiphanes (167-164 B.C.) and was written to strengthen and comfort the Jewish people in their ordeal. Antiochus was persecuting the Jewish people in an effort to unite his kingdom in the face of the rising power of Rome. He sought to do this by continuing the Hellenization begun by Alexander the Great, forcing the Jews to adopt Greek ways including religious practices.

The Book of Daniel is an example of apocalyptic literature that began to develop in Judaism at the beginning of the second century B.C. The name is based on the Greek word *apokalypsis*, which means "revelation" or "unveiling." There are only two biblical apocalypses, the Book of Daniel and in the New Testament the Book of Revelation. In the apocalyptic worldview the battle between good and evil is cosmic and superhuman. All creation suffers along with humankind and everything will be destroyed in the conflict. But the primary message of apocalyptic literature is that God will defeat the powers of evil and rescue the faithful even from death.

Some phrases from the Book of Daniel have found their way into the English language. For example, feet of clay in 2:33, handwriting on the wall in 5:5, and the Lion's den in 6:17. Check it out!

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**



September 6, 2020 – 23rd Sunday Ordinary Time

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Finance Secretary
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
This verse taken from today’s second reading, Romans 13:8-10, seems straightforward enough but that can be misleading. For some, love of self is hard to come by for any number of reasons, past failures or mistakes, difficult experiences during formative years, to name a few. The point is we know what Jesus was intending, that we are to treat others with kindness, dignity, and respect. Therefore, it follows that we are to love ourselves no less, after all we are created in the image and likeness of God, called to be expressions of God’s presence in the world.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

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

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