

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.

NEWS

This Sunday, September 13th 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 HOSEA

Hosea, a prophet from the Northern Kingdom, preached in his homeland, which he addresses as Israel, Jacob or Ephraim. Hosea began his mission in a period of prosperity, the last years of Jeroboam II (783-743 B.C.). The message of Hosea was influenced by his personal marital experience. Gomer, his wife, who may have been a cultic prostitute, was unfaithful. She symbolized faithless Israel. Just as Hosea’s love was so profound that he could not abandon Gomer or cease loving her, so likewise God’s love for faithless Israel was so unfathomable that he would seek to bring her back.

Israel’s infidelity was evidenced in her participation in the fertility rites of foreign gods, to whom she attributed her prosperity. Her rejection of God was further seen in her disregard for the Law, her ruthless oppression of the poor, and her reliance upon military might. God would chastise her to bring her back.

The Book of Hosea may be divided as follows: the adulterous wife and faithful husband (Chs. 1 through 3); adulterous Israel and her faithful Lord (Chs. 4 through 14).

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 13, 2020 – The Solemnity of Brotherly Love

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Finance Secretary
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

Today's second reading, 1 John 4:17-21, states that God is love, and since love is essentially relationship, this verse is saying that God exists in relationship. No surprise to one familiar with the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, one God as three Persons, in relationship.

The remarkable thing about this verse is that it extends this relationship to us through love, love of God and one another, *whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him*. It is through love that we participate in Divinity.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

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

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