

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Congratulations to **Lauren & Jason** on the birth of their beautiful son **Jaxon Charles Nado!** Mom and baby are doing well. The faith community of St. Joseph's welcomes Jaxon into the world and we pray for his health and happiness.

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 the safety and wellbeing of all those affected by the Coronavirus.

NEWS

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 JOEL

In two speeches that make up this book, Joel uses an agricultural crisis to measure his audience's knowledge of God, warn them of a worse disaster if they ignore his preaching, and express his conviction that all faithful Judahites would someday enjoy a secure future. Internal evidence suggests a postexilic date for its composition, probably 450-400B.C.

In the first speech, Joel describes a recent plague that has devastated the land. Locusts have stripped the vines and fruit trees and ruined the grain harvest. He exhorts the people to repent, do penance, to fast, and to pray (1:13-14). For Joel the plague has a deeper significance. It is a sign of what will happen to the nation unless the people repent, turn away from sin, and turn toward the Lord. The Lord hears their prayer and has mercy on his people (2:18). Their delivery from the locust plague is a sign and assurance of their future deliverance, if they remain faithful to the Lord.

The second speech expresses the prophet's hope that Judah's God will one day destroy its enemies and make Jerusalem secure once and for all. This divine intervention will create a more inclusive community, cutting across boundaries of gender, class, and age. In the renewal of Judah's hillsides by the winter rains, the prophet sees the revitalization of the people because the Lord dwells with them.

St. Peter quotes from Joel when explaining the events of Pentecost by citing the prophecy, "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions." (Joel 2:28, Acts 2:17-21)

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.



**St. Joseph of Stratford
 National Catholic Church**



September 20, 2020 – Twenty Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
 Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
 Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
 Dee Smith

Finance Secretary
 Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

In the second reading for this Sunday, St. Paul speaks of Christ being magnified in his body, "whether by life or by death." That expression, to magnify the Lord, has always intrigued me. Mary says this to the angel Gabriel at the Annunciation in her prayer The Magnificat, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." (Luke 1:46-55).

What does it mean to magnify the Lord? What comes to mind is to make the Lord's presence broadly known to others. As St. Paul states in his Letter to the Romans, "God's eternal power and deity have been clearly perceived by all in creation" (Romans 1:20), it's just that at times people need a nudge to take notice.

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
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www.saintjosephsofstratford.org / pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org

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