

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, 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 JONAH

The Book of Jonah describes the adventures of a defiant prophet. When told to go to preach to the Ninevites, Israel’s traditional enemy, Jonah sought escape. He boarded a ship, was tossed overboard, swallowed and rescued by a large fish, and sent to Nineveh. There he preached God’s message. It was received. The people repented, and God spared them His threatened punishment. Jonah was bitter because he wanted Nineveh destroyed. He wanted to limit God’s mercy and salvation exclusively to the chosen people. The Book of Jonah reveals the universality of God’s offer of mercy and salvation.

The author of Jonah is unknown. He lived in the postexilic era, probably in the fifth or fourth century B.C. The word *Jonah* means “dove.”

The Book of Jonah may be divided as follows: the first mission (1:1 through 2:10) where Jonah, seeking to escape the Lord, flees to Spain and boards a ship bound for Tarshish soon to be swallowed by the great fish. The second mission (3:1 through 4:11) Jonah, receiving a second commission from the Lord, sets out for Nineveh to preach a message of repentance, which is accepted.

In Matthew 12:40 Jesus references the prophet Jonah’s ordeals in the belly of the large fish when he states that after three days he will rise.

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

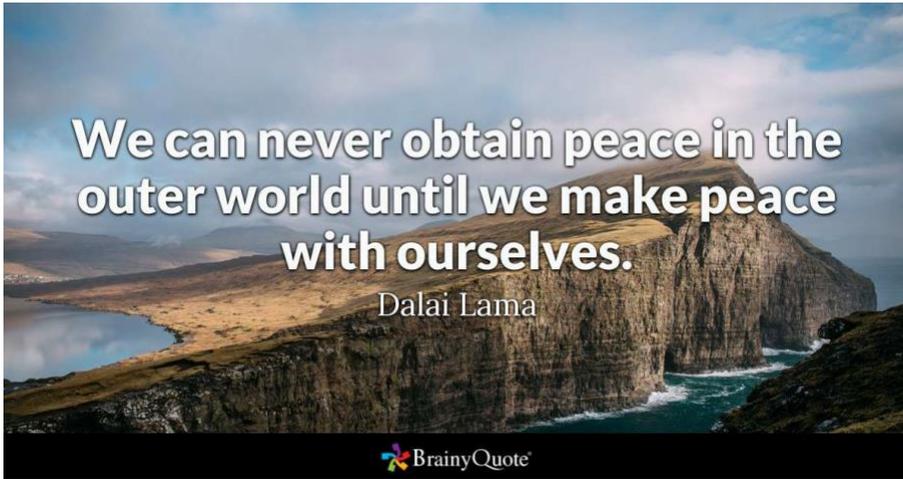
Wednesdays: Mass for Healing, 9:00am
AA Meeting 12:00 pm

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



October 11, 2020 – Solemnity of the Christian Family

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

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Finance Secretary
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

“And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful.” These words from today's second reading, Colossians 3:12-21, are given by St. Paul to the congregation at Colossae, but they could equally apply to us today. Given the stress that we are coping with due to the pandemic, social strife, and uncertainty about the future peace seems hard to find, yet it is essential for our well-being.

There are other notable instances in Scripture where distressed individuals are urged to peace. Consider Mary at the Annunciation where the Angel Gabriel encourages Mary, “Do not be afraid.” Consider Matthew's account of Jesus' Resurrection where the angel says to the women present, “Do not be afraid.” There are many more, but the point is clear. During times of uncertainty and distress when peace is hard to find in the world around us, we must turn to the world within us where the peace of Christ abounds. For this we should be thankful.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

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

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