

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Walter Isaacs, Tom Milos, 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

St. Mary School Christmas Tree Sale

A Milford Christmas tradition carries on! With social distancing, masks and procedures to keep everyone comfortable and safe, come get into the Christmas spirit and pick out your special tree. There will still be lots of cheer starting November 27th, when freshly cut premium balsam & fraser fir Christmas trees, wreaths and cemetery pieces arrive from Canada. Get in the Christmas spirit and support St. Mary School! The stand will be open weekdays 5:00pm–9:00pm and weekends 9:00am–9:00pm. We sell out quickly, so don't wait too long! St. Mary School is located at 72 Gulf Street in Milford www.saintmaryschoolmilford.org.

A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE – THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Last week we concluded the survey of the Old Testament books. This week we begin the survey of the New Testament books beginning with Matthew. The Gospel of Matthew was written several decades after Jesus' Resurrection, around 80-90 A.D. for a church which consisted of both Jews and Gentiles. Matthew was responding to several crisis in his church. Christianity started out as a Jewish phenomenon. Over the years more and more Gentiles were entering the church. This shift, plus the delay of the Second Coming and the separation of the church from the synagogue necessitated a reinterpretation of the traditions handed on to the church and a new look at the Old Testament.

Matthew makes clear in the first verse of the Gospel who Jesus is, the Son of God, the New Israel. "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham." (1:1 NABRE). This Gospel describes the person and work of Israel's messianic King.

Matthew can be outlined as follows: the prologue, the birth of the Messiah (1:1-2:23); Book One: the proclamation of the Kingdom of God (3:1-7:29); Book Two: the ministry in Galilee (8:1-11:1); Book Three: controversy and parables (11:2-13:52); Book Four: the formation of the disciples (13:53 – 18:35); Book Five: the ministry in Jerusalem (19:1-25:46), the passion narrative (26:1-27:66), the resurrection narrative (28:1-20). Notice how the New Testament begins with the five books of Matthew's Gospel and the Old Testament begins with the five books of the Torah. This is no coincidence!

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.

The Third Sunday of Advent ~ We Rejoice



Presider Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Love. We light it and the Candle of Hope again as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

Participant 1 lights the Candles of Hope and Love

Participant 1 Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope when they believed in him. From hope and love grows joy. We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth.

Participant 2 lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Joy

Participant 2 Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Thank you God for the joy You give us. We ask that as we wait for all Your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that You would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship You, to hear Your Word, and to do Your Will by sharing Your joy with each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



December 13, 2020 – Gaudete Sunday, Year B

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Finance Secretary
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

In today's second reading, the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, St. Paul exhorts the Church there to, "Pray without ceasing." Great idea in theory, but is it practical? Life does seem to get in the way.

Actually, that is the point. St. Paul is not telling us to spend the day kneeling in prayer. The very living of our lives is to be an expression of prayer. When we pray for peace, we then live our lives to bring about peace. When we pray for the needy, we then live our lives to meet their needs. That is how we participate in Divinity. But please, do spend some time in prayer!

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

Mass celebrations are Saturday Vigil at 4:00pm & Sunday Morning at 10:00am

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