

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Darlene Kopka, Joe & Jane Pelland, Edmond Bresh, Walter Isaacs, Tom Milos, Annette Krietler, Wendell Barry, Helen Reynolds, Helen Popp, Irene Smith, Florence Rasmussen, Judy DiLorenzo.

We pray for the safety and wellbeing of all those affected by the Coronavirus.

## A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE – THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

John's purpose for writing the Gospel is clear, to set forth a portrait of Jesus Christ in his divinity in order to spark his readers to, "believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life." (20:31). John's theology is what guides the selection and the arrangement of the material found in the Gospel. Jesus' discourses and miracles are carefully constructed by the evangelist to emphasize his divinity. As to authorship of the Gospel, it seems best to say that John, son of Zebedee, could have been responsible for some of the earliest tradition that went into the Gospel, but was reshaped and reinterpreted by a disciple of the evangelist. Modern scholarship suggests that the Gospel was probably written sometime between A.D. 95-100.

The content and style of John's Gospel is distinct. It contains material similar to that found in the other three Gospels yet is independent of those Gospels. It also contains material not found in those other Gospels. The Gospel of John can be outlined as follows: the prologue (1:1-18); the book of signs (1:19-12:50); the book of glory (13:1-20:31); and the epilogue (21:1-25).

The Bread of Life Discourse and The Words of Eternal Life found in John 6:22-71 form the basis of the Catholic teaching of the Real Presence of Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. John 17:26 is a beautiful expression of Jesus' desire for our participation in divinity.

## 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**



**January 3, 2021 – Solemnity of the Holy Family**

**Anyone who has never made  
a mistake has never tried  
anything new.**

Albert Einstein

 BrainyQuote

### **Parish Contacts**

*PASTOR*  
Fr. Tom Walsh

*CHAIRPERSON*  
Jeanine May

*VICE CHAIRPERSON*  
Dee Smith

*Finance Secretary*  
Barbara Chernesky

### **Dear Parishioners,**

During this time of year many are busy composing lists of New Year's resolutions. The significance of these lists is not that they detail the changes we plan to make in our lives, but that they signal our awareness that things need to change. This can be a difficult and humbling experience for some, but necessary for growth.

In today's second reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Colossians (3:12-21), St. Paul offers guidance for how we are to live. *To put on, as God's chosen ones, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. To offer forgiveness, as we have been forgiven, and above all to love.* One could think of these as New Year's resolutions, but it may be more fitting to call them resolutions for a New Life.

Grace and peace,  
Fr. Tom

### **Mass Times**

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

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