

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Edmond Bresh, Walter Isaacs, Tom Milos, Annette Krietler, Wendell Barry, Helen Reynolds, Helen Popp, Irene Smith, Florence Rasmussen, and Judy DiLorenzo.

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

NEWS

A gentle reminder that Parishioner Dues are now due. The dues are \$108 for an individual, \$216 for a family. Thank you.

A meeting of the Parish Committee is being held next Sunday, February 28th, following Mass. Committee members who are unable to attend can join the meeting via Zoom.

A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE – EPHESIANS

Ephesians is one of the captivity epistles along with Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. The author of all four indicates that he is writing from prison. The letter is among the most doctrinal of all the Pauline letters. It is a synthesis and development of theological concepts found in earlier epistles ascribed to Paul.

In the earlier epistles, the emphasis was on the justification and salvation of the individual. However, Ephesians emphasizes the union and reconciliation in Christ of two groups, the Jews and the Gentiles.

Scholars disagree as to the authorship of the letter. If Paul was the author, then it is probable that Paul wrote the letter during his first Roman imprisonment in A.D. 60-62. Scholars who argue against direct Pauline authorship are not in agreement on the date of its writing, though some argue that it must have been written in the last quarter of the first century.

The epistle may be divided as follows: the position of the Christian (1:1 through 3:21); and the practice of the Christian (4:1 through 6:20).

NOTEABLE SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Saint Peter Damian, held special concern for the poor. February 21.

Saint Polycarp, Patron Saint of earaches, February 23.

Blessed Luke Belludi, furthered the completion of the great basilica in honor of St. Anthony of Padua, his teacher. He founded many convents of the Franciscan Order and had, as Anthony, the gift of miracles, February 24.

Blessed Sebastian of Aparicio, Patron Saint of Travelers, February 25.

Saint Maria Bertilla Boscardin, a help to all those who are suffering from any form of spiritual, mental, or physical abuse, February 26.

Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows, Patron Saint of Clergy, Students, Young People. February 27.




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



February 21, 2021 –First Sunday of Lent

**Forgiveness is the fragrance that
the violet sheds on the heel that
has crushed it.**

Mark Twain

 BrainyQuote

Parish Contacts

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Dear Parishioners,

In today's second reading (1 Peter 3:18-22), St. Peter states that Christ suffered for sins once. What this means is that salvation gained through Christ's death and resurrection is meant for everyone who has ever lived, past, present and future. This is personal. When we pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, we need to be mindful that our sins contributed to Christ's suffering.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

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

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