

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 SURVEY OF THE BIBLE – COLOSSIANS

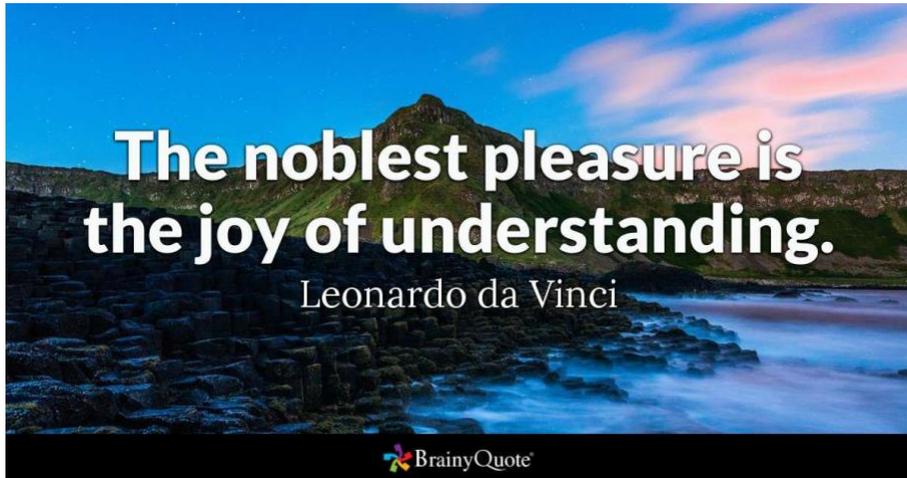
One of the four captivity epistles, the Book of Colossians focuses on the “Christ of the Church.” Paul stresses the preeminence of the person of Christ and the completeness of the salvation he provides in order to combat a growing heresy threatening the church at Colossae. The heresy sought to devalue Christ by elevating ritualism, mysticism, and asceticism. The two major topics of the book are: the supremacy of Christ (chs. 1 and 2); and submission to Christ (chs. 3 and 4).

NOTEABLE SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Saints Perpetua and Felicity Perpetua: young, beautiful, well-educated, a noblewoman of Carthage in North Africa, mother of an infant son and chronicler of the persecution of the Christians by Emperor Septimius Severus. Despite threats of persecution and death, Perpetua, Felicity—a slave woman and expectant mother—and three companions, Revocatus, Secundulus and Saturninus, refused to renounce their Christian faith. For their unwillingness, all were sent to the public games in the amphitheatre. There Perpetua and Felicity were beheaded, and the others killed by beasts. Felicity gave birth to a girl a few days before the games commenced. Saint Felicity is the Patron Saint of Widows and Mothers of Deceased Sons. March 7

Saint John of God (d. 1550) After an active military career John decided to give the rest of his life to God’s service. He established a house where he tended to the needs of the sick poor. Inspired by his example, others were attracted to help and twenty years after his death they formed the Brothers Hospitallers of Saint John of God, now a worldwide religious order. Patron Saint of Booksellers, Firefighters, Heart Patients, Hospitals, Nurses, Printers, the Sick. March 8

Saint Frances of Rome (d. 1440). A devoted and loving wife, she longed for a lifestyle of prayer and service, so she organized a group of women to minister to the needs of Rome’s poor. After losing a son to a plague that swept across Italy, and later a daughter, she requested and was given permission to found a society of women, the Congregation of Oblates under the Rule of St. Benedict. They simply offered themselves to God and to the service of the poor. Patron Saint of Motorists and Widows. March 9



St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



March 7, 2021 – Third Sunday of Lent

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS *Catholic Version*

1. I am the Lord thy God: Thou shall not have strange gods before me.
2. Thou shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
3. Keep holy the Sabbath.
4. Honor thy father and thy mother.
5. Thou shall not kill.
6. Thou shall not commit adultery.
7. Thou shall not steal.
8. Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
9. Thou shall not covet thy neighbor's wife.
10. Thou shall not covet thy neighbor's goods.

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE
CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Finance
Secretary
Barbara
Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

In today's second reading (1 Corinthians 1:22-25), St. Paul talks about the Christian faith being a stumbling block to those uninitiated in the faith. Unfortunately, it can be a stumbling block to those initiated in the faith as well. I came to understand in my faith journey that what I was stumbling over was not the truth of the faith, but rather my lack of understanding of that truth. It can be that way for many. If you identify with the struggle of my faith journey let's have a conversation.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

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

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford, CT 06615
(203) 377-9901 Church, (203) 923-2424 Rectory
www.saintjosephsofstratford.org / pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org