

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.

Mass is offered for the repose of the Soul of William Petrino. May he rest in peace.

NEWS

We are planning to add a **meditation space** in the cemetery located on the raised area by the flagpole. The meditation space will be a place where loved ones visiting the cemetery can spend time in prayer and reflection. A place for our parishioners to find some restful moments, and an area for outdoor services during the warmer months. The meditation space will be developed in stages as funds permit. For the initial phase, landscaping needs to be done to make room for benches and plantings. Later stages may include a statue of St. Joseph, our Patron Saint, and other improvements. To fund this project, we are seeking donations. Any amount is helpful. A collection box will be placed on the table by the front doors of the Church. Thank you for considering this project.

A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE – FIRST THESSALONIANS

In this epistle Paul commends the Thessalonians for remaining steadfast under afflictions, exhorts them to excel still more in their Christian walk, and consoles them for their loved ones who have died in Christ. The theme of the coming of the Lord recurs throughout this epistle. Scholars today, almost without exception, accept Paul as the author of this epistle and some regard it as the oldest New Testament writing.

The two major sections of First Thessalonians are: Paul's personal reflections on the Thessalonians (chs. 1 through 3), and Paul's instructions for the Thessalonians (chs. 4 and 5).

NOTEABLE SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Saint Patrick (d. 461?) St. Patrick was born in Great Britain about the year 385. At 16 he was captured by Irish raiders and sold as a slave in Ireland. Forced to work as a shepherd, he suffered greatly from hunger and cold. After six years Patrick escaped, probably to France, and later returned to Britain at the age of 22. His captivity had meant spiritual conversion and was consecrated bishop at the age of 43. His great desire was to proclaim the good news to the Irish and he made numerous converts. In a relatively short time, the island had experienced deeply the Christian spirit, and was prepared to send out missionaries whose efforts were greatly responsible for Christianizing Europe. Patron Saint of Engineers, Ireland, and Nigeria. March 17

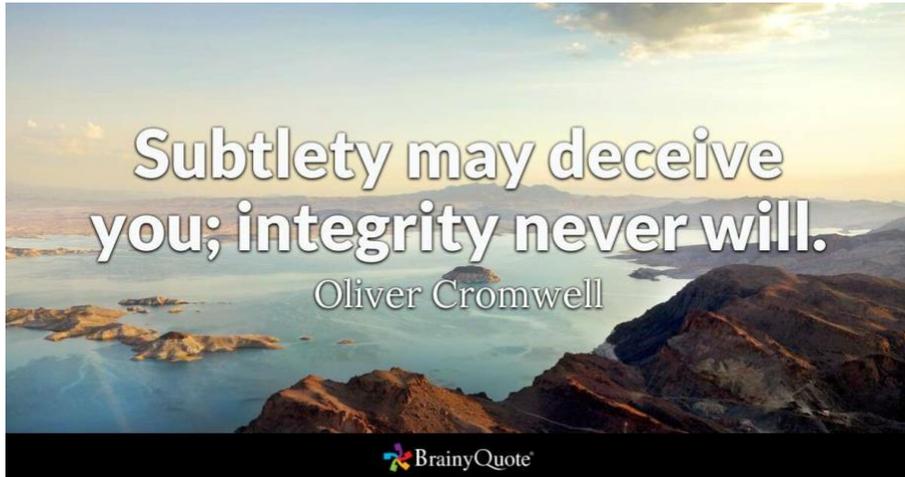
Saint Cyril of Jerusalem (d. 386) Raised in Jerusalem and well-educated, especially in the Scriptures, he was ordained a priest by the bishop of Jerusalem. He was involved in the dispute over the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ and almost overcame Christianity in the fourth century, and was more than once punished with exile. His *Catecheses* remain valuable as examples of the ritual and theology of the Church in the mid-fourth century. March 18

Saint Joseph, Husband of Mary St. Joseph was simply, joyfully, wholeheartedly obedient to God—in marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, in the undetermined number of years of quiet faith and courage. Patron Saint of Belgium, Canada, Carpenters, China, Fathers, Happy death, Peru, Russia, Social Justice, Travelers, Universal Church, Vietnam, Workers. March 19

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



March 14, 2021 –Solemnity of the Institution of the PNCC



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Dear Parishioners,

In today's second reading (1 Timothy 4:1-5), St. Paul warns Timothy against doctrinal deviations from the true Christian message. He advises Timothy not to pay attention to, "*deceitful spirits and demonic instructions through the hypocrisy of liars.*"

There will always be some who seek to co-opt the Christian message to serve their own ends. We must guard against this by staying true to the faith.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

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

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