

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.

NEWS

Have you ever had someone ask, "Which do you want to hear first, the good news or the bad?" The bad--and incredibly sad news--is that this past Thursday 447 people came to **the pantry at Blessed Sacrament Church** for food for their families. The good news is that there was enough on hand to give something to everyone. However, it left the bins nearly empty for this week and the weeks to come. The director has issued an urgent appeal for prayers and donations so that they can continue God's work feeding the hungry. If you are able to donate, **items that are especially needed are: peanut butter; tuna; cereal; pasta sauce; toilet paper; bar soap.** And please pray for the those in need and that the pantry will continue to have enough to give. Thank you and God bless.

Work has begun on the **Meditation Garden**. To fund this project, we are seeking donations. Any amount is helpful. A collection box is located on the table by the front doors of the Church. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this project.

A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE – SECOND THESSALONIANS

This epistle is the theological sequel to First Thessalonians, which developed the theme of the coming Day of the Lord. This letter was written to correct the false teaching that the Day of the Lord has already begun. The letter also encourages those believers whose faith is being tested by the difficulties presented by persecution, and reproves those who have decided to cease working because they believe the coming of Christ is near. Scholars are divided on the question of whether Paul wrote this letter or an anonymous later author. If written by Paul, the letter dates from 51-52 A.D. If an anonymous author than sometime later, around 80-100 A.D.

The letter may be divided as follows: the author's encouragement in persecution (ch. 1); his explanation of the Day of the Lord (ch. 2); and his exhortation to the church (ch. 3).

NOTEABLE SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo (d. 1606) Together with St. Rose of Lima, St. Turibius is the first known saint of the New World, serving the Lord in Peru, South America, for 26 years. Born in Spain and educated for the law, he became so brilliant a scholar that he was made professor of law at the University of Salamanca. St. Turibius was ordained priest and bishop and sent to Peru. He began the long and arduous visitation of an immense archdiocese, studying the language, staying two or three days in each place, often with neither bed nor food. St. Turibius was the shepherd of the poor and oppressed people he served. March 23

Saint Catherine of Genoa (d. 1510) Catherine's parents were members of the nobility in Genoa. One day in confession she had a new sense of her own sins and how much God loved her. She reformed her life. Catherine decided to live in the Pammatone, a large hospital in Genoa, and to dedicate herself to works of charity there. In 1497 Catherine took over management of the hospital. She wrote about purgatory which, she said, "begins on earth for souls open to God." March 26

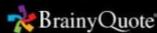
St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



March 21, 2021 – Passion Sunday

**We are trying to construct a more
inclusive society. We are going to make
a country in which no one is left out.**

Franklin D. Roosevelt



Parish Contacts

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Dear Parishioners,

In today's first reading (Jeremiah 31:31-34), the Lord speaks of making a new covenant with the Israelites, "I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people." A new covenant was needed because the Israelites had broken the old covenant. This cycle of covenants broken and covenants made anew is one way of characterizing the narrative arc of Scripture. A series of ever-expanding covenants leading to the new covenant, or New Testament, since the word covenant and testament can be used interchangeably. This new covenant is inclusive of all, both Jews and Gentiles alike.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

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

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