

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, Judy DiLorenzo and Yvonne Walsh.

NEWS

A special **“thank you”** to all of you who so generously answered the appeal from the Director of the Food Pantry at Blessed Sacrament and donated extra food, checks, and cash this past week. Because of you and other good-hearted people like you in churches across Fairfield County, the pantry was able to serve the 384 hungry families who came on Thursday asking for assistance. That number was 110-120 before the pandemic, so you can see how much your donations are needed. While the official “pantry distribution day” is Thursday, anyone who comes asking for food another day is not turned away. Fr. Skip; Ann, the Director; and the volunteers keep you in prayer, thanking God for your generosity.

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 – FIRST TIMOTHY

The letters to Timothy and Titus are known as the Pastoral Epistles since they focus on oversight of the Church. Specifically combating heresy, organization of the church, and the pastoral care of particular classes. Paul is writing to the young pastor Timothy who is facing the heavy burden of responsibility of the Church in Ephesus.

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 63-67 A.D. If an anonymous author than sometime during the first decade of the second letter or a much later date in the second century.

The letter may be divided as follows: charge concerning doctrine (ch. 1); charge concerning public worship (chs. 2 and 3); charge

concerning false teachers (ch. 4); charge concerning church discipline (ch. 5); and charge concerning pastoral motives (ch. 6).

SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, March 28

Saturday Vigil Mass with blessing and distribution of palms in the Church, 4:00pm

Sunday Morning Mass with blessing and distribution of palms in the Parish Hall, 10:00am

Beginning with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday **all services will be held in the Church**. Mass will no longer be celebrated in the Parish Hall.

Holy (Maundy) Thursday, April 1

Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 6:30pm

Good Friday, April 2

Stations of the Cross, 11:00am

Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord’s Passion & Death, 3:00pm

Holy Saturday, April 3

Blessing of Easter Food, 10:00am

Easter Vigil Mass with blessing of New Fire, Water, and Paschal Candle, 4:00pm

Easter Vigil Mass, 7:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 4

The Mass of Easter Day, 10:00am



St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



March 28, 2021 – Palm Sunday

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

*VICE
CHAIRPERSON*
Dee Smith

*Finance
Secretary*
Barbara
Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

The response for today's Responsorial Psalm, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" is found in Psalm 22 and echoed by Christ on the cross. So poignant was this cry that the Gospels of Matthew and Mark record it in the original Aramaic, Jesus' native language, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani." Regardless of the language the sentiments are the same, anguish and despair. Sentiments familiar to most. But the story does not end there. Luke records in his Gospel that before his last breath Jesus cries out, "Father, into thy hands I commit my Spirit!" The perfect expression of the virtues of faith, hope, and love. May these virtues accompany us on our journey as well.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

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

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