

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.

Easter Flowers

Carol Murdzia in memory of Richard Murdzia; Alice, John & William Geffert, Victoria Billick; The Murdzia Family; Kathleen Scinto.

Carla Misurale in memory of Carol Misurale; Helen & Frank Steele; Rose & Anthony Misurale; Paul Misurale Jr.

Mrs. Margaret Krasko in memory of Helen & Edmund Krasko; Margaret & William Miller.

Jeanine May in memory of Marilyn Lonzenski.

Paul Lonzenski in memory of Marilyn Lonzenski; Joseph Lonzenski; Frances Lonzenski.

Mrs. Valerie Chernesky in memory of Mike Chernesky; Stanley & Mary Wilk; Michael & Mary Chernesky; Gloria Wilk Kuehn.

Mrs. Darlene Kopka in memory of Edward Stempriak.

Bertha Grabowski in memory of Sophie & Joseph Zapatoczvy Patusky & their children Ed, Stan, Charlie, Walt, Peter, Fran, Helen, Estelle and Mary.

Ann Stockman in memory of Bill Stockman.

Mrs. Nancy Sirois in memory of Robert Sirois and Roberta Sirois Discenza.

Carol Petrino in memory of William Petrino; Joseph and Martha Swiatek; Joseph Swiatek Jr.; Beatrice Petrino; John Petrino.

Lee & Debra Steele in memory of Evelyn Yakushewid; Anna Dombiek; Helen Steele.

Nancy Anzalone in memory of Michael Raslavsky; Desiree Anzalone.

Dolores Smith in memory of Gerald Smith; Mary Kafara; Joseph Kafara.

Diane Kolesnikoff in memory of Paul Kolesnikoff, Edward & Gertrude Swiatek; Ivan & Julia Kolesnikoff.

Robin & Bogdan Lupinski in memory of Robert DeLorenzo and Edward Borucki.

Helen Popp to honor and remember Annee and Bernice.

Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.

~ Saint Augustine

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



April 11, 2021 – Second Sunday of Easter

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
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CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Finance
Secretary
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Dear Parishioners,

Consider Jesus' response to Thomas' lack of belief in today's Gospel passage, "*Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.*" The thrust of this passage, indeed all of Christianity, hinges on the word 'believe.' Many of us grew up believing in the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy, so are we being called to extend this tradition of belief to Jesus? The fact that the historical Jesus did exist is not disputed. There are references to him in the Roman records of the time. That's not the point. What Jesus is calling Thomas, and by extension us, to believe is that something is happening. A flame was lit over two millennia ago that fierce persecutions of the Church, schisms, and totalitarian regimes could not put out. But it only takes the lack of faith of a single generation to extinguish that flame. That is our challenge. Will we bear the torch of faith for the next generation?

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

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

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