

## 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 answer the appeal from the Director of the Food Pantry at Blessed Sacrament and donate food, checks, and cash. 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 to all those who have contributed!

## A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE – SECOND TIMOTHY

Second Timothy is an admonition from Paul to his pupil Timothy to stand firm and fight heresy in his difficult ministry in Ephesus. Paul begins by assuring Timothy of his continuing love and prayers and reminds him of his spiritual heritage and responsibilities. Paul warns Timothy that his teaching will come under attack as men desert the truth. Timothy has Paul’s example to guide him and God’s word to fortify him as he faces growing opposition and opportunities.

The letter may be divided as follows: Paul’s focus on the need to persevere in present testing (chs. 1 and 2), and to endure in future testing (chs. 3 and 4).

## NOTEABLE SAINTS OF THE WEEK

**Anselm, Bishop and Doctor (d. 1109)**, Indifferent toward religion as a young man, Anselm became one of the Church’s greatest theologians and leaders. Considered an original and independent thinker, Anselm was admired for his patience, gentleness, and teaching skill. He received the title “Father of Scholasticism” for his attempt to analyze and illumine the truths of faith through the aid of reason. His care and concern extended to the very poorest people. Opposing the slave trade, Anselm obtained from the national council at Westminster in England the passage of a resolution prohibiting the sale of human beings. April 21.

**George, Martyr (d. 303)**, Saint George is the object of a vast amount of imagination. There is every reason to believe that he was a real martyr who suffered at Lydda in Palestine, probably before the time of Constantine. The Church adheres to his memory, but not to the legends surrounding his life. That he was willing to pay the supreme price to follow Christ is what the Church believes. He is a patron saint of England, Portugal, Germany, Aragon, Catalonia, Genoa, Milan and Bologna. April 23.

**Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr (d. 1622)**, If a poor man needed some clothing, Fidelis would often give the man the clothes right off his back. Complete generosity to others characterized this saint’s life. Born in 1577, Mark Rey became a lawyer who constantly upheld the causes of the poor and oppressed people. Nicknamed “the poor man’s lawyer,” Rey soon grew disgusted with the corruption and injustice he saw among his colleagues. He left his law career to become a priest, joining his brother George as a member of the Capuchin Order. Fidelis was his religious name. His wealth was divided between needy seminarians and the poor.

As a follower of Saint Francis of Assisi, Fidelis continued his devotion to the weak and needy. During a severe epidemic in a city where he was guardian of a friary, Fidelis cared for and cured many sick soldiers. He was appointed head of a group of Capuchins sent to preach against the Protestant Calvinists and Zwinglians in Switzerland. Almost certain violence threatened. Those who observed the mission felt that success was more attributable to the prayer of Fidelis during the night than to his sermons and instructions. He was accused of opposing the peasants’ national aspirations for independence from Austria. While he was preaching at Seewis, to which he had gone against the advice of his friends, a gun was fired at him, but he escaped unharmed. A Protestant offered to shelter Fidelis, but he declined, saying his life was in God’s hands. On the road back, he was set upon by a group of armed men and killed. Fidelis was canonized in 1746. Fifteen years later he was recognized as a martyr. April 24.

*I'm not afraid of storms, for I'm  
learning how to sail my ship.*

*~Louisa May Alcott*

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



**April 18, 2021 – Third Sunday of Easter**

**Parish Contacts**

*PASTOR*  
Fr. Tom Walsh

*CHAIRPERSON*  
Jeanine May

*VICE  
CHAIRPERSON*  
Dee Smith

*Finance  
Secretary*  
Barbara  
Chernesky

**Dear Parishioners,**

In today's reading from Luke's gospel, we again find Jesus bidding peace to the apostles. In last week's reading from John's gospel Jesus repeats to the apostles three times, "Peace be with you." This wasn't just a casual greeting. The apostles were terrified at seeing the risen Lord in their midst and Jesus was attempting to calm their rattled nerves.

Confronting the unknown can do that to us. It can be unsettling when challenged this way. When confronted with the unknown we get a sense that things are about to change, and change is not always welcomed, but often is necessary if we are to grow.

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](http://www.saintjosephsofstratford.org) / [pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org](mailto:pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org)