

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Edmond Bresh, Wendell Barry, Helen Reynolds, Helen Popp, Irene Smith, Florence Rasmussen, Judy DiLorenzo, Yvonne Walsh, Tom Milos, Annette Krietler, Ed Coehlo and Georgine Keeler.

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 – TITUS

Paul’s letter to Titus is the third of the Pastoral Epistles. Paul advises Titus, who is overseeing the church in Crete, to appoint elders, men of proven spiritual character in their homes and businesses, to oversee the work of the church. But elders are not the only individuals in the church who are required to excel spiritually. Men and women, young and old, all have a vital function to fulfill in the church if they are to be living examples of the doctrine they profess. Throughout the letter Paul stresses that good works are desirable and profitable for all believers.

The epistle may be divided as follows: appointment of elders (chs. 1); put things in order (chs. 2 and 3).

NOTEABLE SAINTS OF THE WEEK

St. Mark (d. 68), Most of what we know about Mark comes directly from the New Testament. The oldest and the shortest of the four Gospels, the Gospel of Mark emphasizes Jesus’s rejection by humanity while being God’s triumphant envoy. Probably written for gentile converts in Rome after the death of Peter and Paul sometime between A.D. 60 and 70. Like another Gospel writer Luke, Mark was not one of the 12 apostles. We cannot be certain whether he knew Jesus personally. A winged lion is Mark’s symbol. The lion derives from Mark’s description of John the Baptist as a “voice of one crying out in the desert” (Mark 1:3), which artists compared to a roaring lion. The wings come from the application of Ezekiel’s vision of four winged creatures to the evangelists. Saint Mark is the Patron Saint of notaries. April 25.

St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montford, Priest (d. 1716), Louis’s life is inseparable from his efforts to promote genuine devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus and mother of the Church. After being educated by the Jesuits and the Sulpicians, he was ordained a diocesan priest in 1700. Soon he began preaching parish missions throughout western France. In his preaching, Father Louis recommended frequent, even daily, Holy Communion, and imitation of the Virgin Mary’s ongoing acceptance of God’s will for her life. Louis founded the Missionaries of the Company of Mary, for priests and brothers, and the Daughters of Wisdom, who cared especially for the sick. His book *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin* has become a classic explanation of Marian devotion. April 28.

St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor (d. 1380), The value Catherine makes central in her short life is complete surrender to Christ. She entered the Dominican Third Order at 18 and spent the next three years in seclusion, prayer, and austerity. Gradually, a group of followers gathered around her—men and women, priests and religious. Catherine ranks high among the mystics and spiritual writers of the Church. Her spiritual testament is found in *The Dialogue*. St. Catherine of Siena is the Patron Saint of Europe, Fire Protection, and Italy. April 29.

St. Joseph the Worker, This feast extends the long relationship between Joseph and the cause of workers in both Catholic faith and devotion. Beginning in the Book of Genesis, the dignity of human work has long been celebrated as a participation in the creative work of God. By work, humankind both fulfills the command found in Genesis to care for the earth (Gn 2:15) and to be productive in their labors. Saint Joseph, the carpenter and foster father of Jesus, is but one example of the holiness of human labor. May 1.

I am not afraid of an army of lions led by a sheep; I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion.

~Alexander the Great

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



April 25, 2021 –Fourth Sunday of Easter

Parish Contacts

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Dear Parishioners,

In today's reading from John's gospel (John 10:11-18), Jesus speaks about the traits of a good shepherd. Unlike the hired man who is not a shepherd, the good shepherd cares for his sheep, will lay down his life for his sheep to lead them to pasture.

This is only part of the story. Shepherds do not exist in isolation. They exist as part of a dynamic with sheep. This week we will reflect on that dynamic and our role within that dynamic as faithful sheep.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

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

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