

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, and Georgine Keeler.

NEWS

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 – JAMES

The Letter of James is considered one of the seven Catholic Letters. The Catholic Letters, unlike those written by Paul which were directed to a particular church, were apparently addressed more generally to the universal Church. Hence the term “catholic,” which means universal. The James of this letter most probably refers to the third New Testament James, a relative of Jesus. He was the leader of the Jewish Christian community in Jerusalem.

The Letter of James is concerned almost exclusively with ethical conduct. James represents a type of early Christianity that emphasized sound teaching and responsible moral behavior. Ethical norms are derived from a concept of salvation that involves conversion, baptism, forgiveness of sin, and expectation of judgement.

Found within James is the Scriptural foundation for the Catholic understanding of faith and works, “For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.” (2:26) Also found in the Letter of James is the Sacrament of Anointing for health and forgiveness of sins. (5:13-15).

The principal divisions of the Letter of James are as follows: address (1:1); the value of trials and temptations (1:2-18); exhortations and warnings (1:19-5:12); the power of prayer (5:13-20).

NOTEABLE SAINTS OF THE WEEK

St. John Nepomucene, Priest and Martyr (d. 1393). After he was ordained, he was sent to a parish in the city of Prague. He became a great preacher and many who heard him changed their way of life. He was invited to the court of King Wenceslaus IV and became the Queen’s confessor. When asked by the King to reveal the Queen’s confession he refused. Because of this he was tortured and thrown into a river where he drowned. He is known as the “Martyr of the Confessional.” May 16

St. Paschal Baylon, Religious (d. 1592). Born at Torre Hermosa in the Kingdom of Aragon in the year 1540. In 1564 he entered among the Reformed Franciscans and insisted upon simply becoming a lay brother. The Saint was characterized by intense devotion to the Lord in the Holy Eucharist. He also had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin. May 17

St. Yves, Priest and Lawyer (d. 1303). Born around 1253 at Kermartin in Brittany. After receiving higher education, St. Yves was appointed a diocesan judge. He became known as the “poor man’s advocate,” often paying the legal expenses for the poor and visiting them in prison. In 1284, Yves became a priest and devoted himself to parish work. He is the Patron Saint of Lawyers. May 19

St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest (d. 1444). As a member of the Confraternity of Our Lady, he served the sick in the hospital, continuing this service though a great pestilence that broke out in 1400. Four years later he entered among the Fathers of the Strick Observance of the Order of St. Francis. On becoming a priest, he devoted himself to the office of preaching. May 20

St. Rita of Cascia, Widow (d. 1457). After her husband and two sons died, prayer, fasting, penances of many kinds, and good works filled her days. She was admitted to the convent of the Augustinian nuns at Cascia in Umbria and began a life of perfect obedience and great charity. St. Rita had a great devotion to the Passion of Christ, “Please let me suffer like You, Divine Savior,” she said one day and suddenly one of the thorns from the crucifix struck her on the forehead. It left a deep wound which did not heal and caused her much suffering for the rest of her life. Patroness of Impossible Causes. May 22

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



May 16, 2021 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

*The beginning of love is to let
those we love be perfectly
themselves, and not to twist
them to fit our own image.
Otherwise we love only the
reflection of ourselves we find
in them.*

~ Thomas Merton

Dear Parishioners,

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

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CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Finance
Secretary
Barbara
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In today's gospel passage (John 17:11-19), known as Christ's Priestly Prayer, Jesus prays to the Father for his disciples saying that they do not belong to the world. That they are in the world, not of the world. What would Jesus say about us? Where do we belong? To answer this, we need to consider whose image we have chosen to conform ourselves to, because that image is the reflection of who we are and where we belong.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

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

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