

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Edmond Bresh, Helen Reynolds, Helen Popp, Irene Smith, Florence Rasmussen, Robin Lupinski, Judy DiLorenzo, Yvonne Walsh, Tom Milos, and Georgine Keeler.

Mass is celebrated for the repose of the soul of Michael Raslavsky. May he rest in peace.

NEWS

Regarding our policy for mask wearing in church, if you are not fully vaccinated then you must wear a mask while inside the building. If you are fully vaccinated, we encourage you to continue wearing a mask while inside the building. It is important to be mindful of safe social distancing. If you are coming forward to receive Communion, please allow time for the person ahead of you to step away after receiving before coming forward.

The annual gathering at the Cathedral of the Pines is scheduled for Sunday, July 11, 2021, at 3:30pm. Please let me know if you are planning to attend by Sunday, July 5. Also, please indicate if you will be attending the meal after the service. The diocese is picking up the tab for the meal if enough individuals signs up. Thank you.

A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE – SECOND LETTER OF JOHN

The Second Letter of John is addressed to “the chosen Lady” and “to her children.” This brief letter is a reply to problems within the church. The theme of love and truth are used to support practical advice on Christian living. The Presbyter encourages community members to show their Christianity by adhering to the great commandment of mutual love and to the historical truth about Jesus. For their protection the Presbyter forbids hospitality toward unknown or “progressive” Christians to prevent their infiltration of the community. The letter preserves concern of doctrinal purity and active love in the form of pastoral advice to a threatened community.

NOTEABLE SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor. (d. 1231). St. Anthony was born in Lisbon, Portugal near the end of the twelfth century. He joined the Canons Regular of St. Augustine, but shortly after ordination to the priesthood transferred to the Friars Minor to devote himself to spreading the Faith among African peoples. He had his greatest success however, preaching in France and Italy and converting heretics. He was the first member of the Order to teach theology to his brethren. His sermons are notable for their learning and gentleness. June 13

Romuald, Abbot (d. ~1027). St. Romuald was born in Ravenna in the middle of the tenth century. He embraced the hermit's life and for many years traveled through various lands seeking solitude and establishing small monasteries while directing himself to a life of perfection by the practice of virtues. He fought strenuously against the depraved habits of the monks of his day. June 19

From the Liturgy of the Hours, Volume III, Proper of Saints.

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



June 13, 2021 – Eleventh Sunday Ordinary Time

Every happening, great and small, is a parable whereby God speaks to us, and the art of life is to get the message.

~ Malcolm Muggeridge

Dear Parishioners,

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

*VICE
CHAIRPERSON*
Dee Smith

*Finance
Secretary*
Barbara
Chernesky

In today's gospel passage (Mark 4:26-34) Jesus is teaching in parables. The passage states, "*with many such parables he spoke to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them.*" Why should this be? In Matthew's gospel the disciples approach Jesus asking this question. (Matthew 13:10). Jesus responds by quoting Isaiah, "*For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.*" Parables are God's movement towards us. They demand active engagement, not passive listening. Let us then engage, turn, and be healed.

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 / pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org