

PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

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 4. 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 sign up. Thank you.

A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE – THE REVELATION TO JOHN (APOCALYPSE)

The Apocalypse, literally meaning “revelation” is an exhortation and admonition to Christians of the first century to stand firm in the faith and to avoid compromise with paganism, despite the threat of adversity and martyrdom. As resistance literature written in response to the ruthless persecution of the early Church by the Roman authorities, the message is that no matter what adversity or sacrifice Christians may endure, they will in the end triumph over Satan and his forces because of their fidelity to Christ the Victor.

Typical of apocalyptic literature that was popular in both Jewish and Christian circles from around 200 BC to 200 AD whose chief characteristic is symbolic language, the book contains an account of visions in symbolic and allegorical language borrowed extensively from the Old Testament. The symbolic descriptions are not to be

taken as literal descriptions, nor is the symbolism meant to be pictured realistically.

Looking beyond the literal meaning it is seen that these images are meant to convey a sense of God’s wrath at sin and to trust in God’s providential care over the Church.

The principle divisions of the Book of Revelation are as follows: Prologue (1:1-3); Letters to the Churches of Asia (1:4-3:22); God and the Lamb in Heaven (4:1-5:14); The Seven Seals, Trumpets, and Plagues, with Interludes (6:1-16:21); The Punishment of Babylon and the Destruction of Pagan Nations (17:1-20:15); The New Creation (21:1-22:5); Epilogue (22:6-21).

NOTEABLE SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Elizabeth of Portugal (d. 1336) St. Elizabeth was born of the Aragonese royal family in 1271. As a young maiden she was given in marriage to the king of Portugal and bore him two children. She bravely endured afflictions and troubles through prayer and works of charity. When her husband died she distributed her property to the poor and received the habit of the Third Order of St. Francis. After ending a serious dispute between her son and son-in-law, she died in 1336. July 4

Anthony Zaccaria, Priest (d. 1539) St. Anthony was born in Cremona in Lombardy in 1502. He studied medicine at Padua. After his ordination to the priesthood, he founded the Society of Clerics of St. Paul, also known as the Barnabites. The Society did much to reform the morals of the faithful. July 5

Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr (d. 1902) St. Maria was born of a poor family at Corinaldi, Italy in 1890. Bear Nettuno she spent a difficult childhood assisting her mother in domestic duties. She was of a pious nature and often at prayer. Through an act of violence she was killed in 1902. July 6

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

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



July 4, 2021 – Fourteenth Sunday Ordinary Time

*When you blame others, you
give up your power to change.*

~ Peter Drucker

Parish Contacts

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Dear Parishioners,

Today's gospel passage (Mark 6:1-6) states that Jesus was not able to perform any mighty deeds in his native land, apart from curing a few sick people, because of their lack of faith. Are we to understand that our lack of faith is to Jesus as kryptonite is to superman? That somehow Jesus' power is diminished because people lack faith?

No. Jesus is divine, fully God and fully human. Jesus does not lack power because of our lack of faith. Rather, because of our lack of faith Jesus' divine power has nowhere to flow. Like the story of Jesus healing the woman with a hemorrhage, power flowed from Jesus to that woman who had faith yet did not flow to those in the crowd who merely bumped up against him, those who did not reach out to him in faith.

It is this relationship that we are being called to. To participate in divinity where divine power flows freely.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

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

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