

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Fr. Henry Smolinski & Margo, Hilary Fuller, Michael Seifert, Nancy Sirois, Rich Lasecki, Edmond Bresh, Helen Reynolds, Helen Popp, Irene Smith, Florence Rasmussen, Robin Lupinski, Judy DiLorenzo, Yvonne Walsh, Tom Milos, Frank Bonitatebus, and Georgine Keeler.

NEWS

Please note that we are suspending the Saturday evening 4:00pm Vigil Mass during the month of August. We will resume the Saturday evening Vigil Mass beginning in September.

Regarding our policy for mask wearing inside the building, if you are not fully vaccinated you must wear a mask. If you are fully vaccinated, we strongly recommend that you wear a mask due to the rise of the COVID-19 Delta variant. 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.

NOTEABLE SAINTS OF THE WEEK

St. Rose of Lima (d. 1617) Born in Lima, Peru, this first saint of the American continent was a model of penitence, prayer, and simplicity. Having admired St. Catherine of Siena from her youth, she became a Dominican tertiary in her twentieth year. She was particularly devoted to the Virgin Mary and is the patroness of South America. August 23

St. Bartholomew, Apostle St. Bartholomew (Nathanael) was from Cana in Galilee. His friend, St. Philip brought him to Jesus, who made him one of the Twelve Apostles. According to tradition, St. Bartholomew preached the Gospel as far as India, where he was martyred. August 24

St. Louis (d. 1270) Due to his mother, St. Louis nourished a love for the Church from his youth. He was King of France and the father of eleven. Despite his royal state, he lived a life of penance and prayer. He cared for both the temporal and spiritual good of his people, and he was loved by them. He died near Tunis during his second crusade for the liberation of the Holy Places. August 25

St. Monica (d. 387) Born in Tagaste in Africa, for decades St. Monica prayed and suffered for her son, St. Augustine's conversion, never ceasing to believe in the power of grace to move. She is the patroness of married women and a model for Christian mothers. August 27

St. Augustine (d. 430) Born in Tagaste in Africa, St. Augustine was raised in the Church but fell into licentiousness and heresy. "My sins increase like a rolling snowball," he wrote in his *Confessions*. At thirty-three he was baptized by St. Ambrose of Milan, after which he returned to Africa and was later elected Bishop of Hippo. St. Augustine devoted himself to a regimen of preaching and writing in defense of the Faith. One of the most prolific writers ever, he is one of the greatest Doctors of the Church. August 28

From the Daily Roman Missal, Third Edition.

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



*I must be willing to give up
what I am in order to become
what I will be.*

~ Albert Einstein

August 22, 2021 – Twenty-First Sunday Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners,

Today's gospel passage (John 6:60-69) continues the Bread of Life discourse. Here we see the disciples struggling with Jesus saying that he is the Bread of Life, "*This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?*" Later in the passage we find the answer to this question, the apostles can listen to it. Consider how Peter answers the Lord when asked if the Twelve will go away like the disciples, "*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God.*" One stays, another goes. The difference being a matter of relationship. The apostles were in a close committed relationship with the Lord, so they stayed. The disciples were acquaintances of the Lord, so they left. That is the question we must decide for ourselves. Do we choose to be in close relationship with the Lord or will we settle on being mere acquaintances of the Lord?

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Parish Contacts

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Mass Times

Mass celebrations are Saturday Vigil at 4:00pm (suspended during the month of August) & Sunday Morning at 10:00am

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