

## 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

Starting next Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, we resume the 4:00pm Saturday evening Vigil Mass.

The Town of Stratford is now in the Red Level for COVID response; therefore, masks are required to be worn while inside the St. Joseph facility regardless of vaccination status.

## NOTEABLE SAINTS OF THE WEEK

**St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor (d. 604)** St. Gregory abandoned his position in the Roman government to become a monk and used his wealth to found six monasteries, meanwhile serving as a papal legate to Constantinople. When elected Pope, he instituted liturgical reforms and organized missions; due to him, missionaries were first sent to England.  
September 3

*From the Daily Roman Missal, Third Edition.*

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



**August 29, 2021 – Twenty-Second Sunday Ordinary Time**

*At his best, man is the noblest  
of all animals; separated from  
law and justice he is the worst.*

*~ Aristotle*

**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 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23) we find the Pharisees and some scribes confronting Jesus over purity concerns. They observed some of Jesus' disciples eating their meals with unclean, unwashed hands. They want to know why they are not keeping the tradition of the elders.

Jesus does not directly engage them on this issue. Rather, he quotes from the prophet Isaiah accusing them of teaching as doctrines human precepts. Jesus' response forms the basis of our challenge this week. What 'human precepts' do we hold that are not doctrine? Do we live our lives according to the gospel values and the teachings of the Church, or do we hold to some other man made laws expedient for the times?

Grace and peace,  
Fr. Tom

**Mass Times**

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

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford, CT 06615  
(203) 377-9901 Church, (203) 923-2424 Rectory  
[www.saintjosephsofstratford.org](http://www.saintjosephsofstratford.org) / [pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org](mailto:pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org)