

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Nancy Anzalone, 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 and Frank Bonitatebus.

NEWS

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.

Because the Town of Stratford is in the Red Level we will delay starting the programs that have been announced until it is safe to gather together again.

NOTEABLE SAINTS OF THE WEEK

St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctors (d. 407) St. John Chrysostom was born at Antioch about the year 349. After an extensive education he embraced a life of asceticism. He was ordained a priest and distinguished himself by his preaching which achieved great spiritual results among his hearers. He was elected bishop of Constantinople in 397 and proved himself a capable pastor, committed to reforming the life of the clergy and the faithful. Twice he was forced in exile by the hatred of the imperial court and the envy of his enemies. After he completed his difficult labors, he died at Comana in Pontus on September 14, 407. His preaching and writing explained Catholic doctrine and presented the ideal Christian life. For this reason he is called Chrysostom, or Golden Mouth. September 13

St. Cornelius, Pope and Martyr & Cyprian, Bishop and Martyr St. Cornelius was ordained bishop of the Church of Rome in 251. He fought against the Novatian schismatics and with the help of Cyprian was able to enforce his authority. Driven into exile by the Emperor Gallus, he died in 253 at Civitavecchia. His body was brought to Rome where he was buried in the cemetery of St. Callistus.

St. Cyprian was born of pagan parents in Carthage around the year 210. He was converted, ordained, and subsequently made bishop of that city in the year 249. By his writings and his actions Cyprian guided the Church through difficult times. In the persecution of Valerian he was exiled, then martyred on the fourteenth of September, 258. September 16

St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctors (d. 1621) St. Robert Bellarmine was born in 1521 in the town of Monte Pulciano in Tuscany. He entered the Society of Jesus and after ordination to the priesthood distinguished himself by brilliant disputations in defense of the Catholic faith. He also taught theology in the Roman College. Elected to the College of Cardinals and named bishop of Capua, he solved many pressing questions in the various Roman Congregations. September 17

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

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



September 12, 2021 – The Solemnity of Brotherly Love

Spiritual identity means we are not what we do or what people say about us. And we are not what we have. We are the beloved daughters and sons of God.

~ Henri Nouwen

Dear Parishioners,

Parish Contacts

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In today's gospel passage (Mark 8:27-35) we find Jesus questioning his disciples asking them, "But who do you say that I am?" The but in this question is significant. Linguistically it is used to introduce a phrase or clause contrasting with what has already been said. In this case the disciples report that the people say Jesus is John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the prophets. Essentially an extension of the Old Testament narrative, the only context they know. Here Jesus is asking the disciples to contrast their understanding of who he is with who the people say that he is. He is asking them to make a leap of faith from the Old Testament to the New. Peter takes that leap when he responds that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

This passage challenges us to consider the context of our understanding of Jesus. Is our relationship with Jesus based on an authentic understanding of the Jesus we meet in Scripture, or is it guided by some long ago acquired misunderstanding of him? Are we ready to take that leap?

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

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

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