

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Edmond Bresh, Walter Isaacs, Tom Milos, Annette Krietler, Wendell Barry, Helen Reynolds, Helen Popp, Irene Smith, Florence Rasmussen, and Judy DiLorenzo.

We pray for the safety and wellbeing of all those affected by the Coronavirus.

## NEWS

A gentle reminder that Parishioner Dues are now due. The dues are \$108 for an individual, \$216 for a family. Thank you.

A meeting of the Parish Committee is being held Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, following Mass. Committee members who are unable to attend can join the meeting via Zoom.

## A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE – PHILIPPIANS

The epistle to the Philippians is one of the four captivity epistles written from prison. The evidence of Pauline authorship is very strong with little doubt among scholars that anyone but Paul wrote it.

Philippians is the epistle of joy and encouragement in the midst of adverse circumstances. Paul expresses his affection for the Philippians, appreciates their consistent testimony and support, and lovingly urges them to center their actions and thoughts on the pursuit of the person and power of Christ.

Philippians focuses on: Paul's account of his present circumstances (ch.1); Paul's appeal to have the mind of Christ (ch. 2); Paul's appeal to have the knowledge of Christ (ch. 3); Paul's appeal to have the peace of Christ (ch. 4).

## NOTEABLE SAINTS OF THE WEEK

**Blessed Daniel Brottier (d. 1936)**, a zeal for the gospel led to a lifetime of service from missionary work in West Africa to serving as a chaplain in the trenches of WWI. February 28.

**Saint David of Wales (d. 589)**, Perhaps the most famous of the British saints, the Patron Saint of Wales. March 1.

**Saint Agnes of Bohemia (d. 1282)**, born into nobility she is known for prayer, obedience, and strict observance of poverty. She built a hospital for the poor, a residence for the friars, and financed the construction of a Poor Clare monastery in Prague. March 2.

**Saint Katharine Drexel (d. 1955)**, born into a rich family Mother Katherine devoted her life to serving others through her aid to Native American missions and the establishment of Catholic schools for African Americans. Her crowning achievement was the founding of Xavier University in New Orleans, the first Catholic university in the United States for African Americans. March 3.

**Saint Casimir (d. 1483)**, Patron Saint of Poland, Lithuania, and Russia. St. Casimir, born of kings and in line to be a king himself, was filled with exceptional values and learning. After leading the army of Hungary, St. Casimir returned to a life of prayer and study. He briefly reigned as king of Poland during his father's absence. March 4.

**Saint John Joseph of the Cross (d. 1734)**, John Joseph was very ascetic even as a young man. At 16, he joined the Franciscans in Naples; he was the first Italian to follow the reform movement of Saint Peter Alcantara. John Joseph's reputation for holiness prompted his superiors to put him in charge of establishing a new friary even before he was ordained. March 5.

**Saint Mary Ann of Jesus of Paredes (d. 1645)**, The youngest of eight, Mary Ann was born in Quito, Ecuador, which had been brought under Spanish control in 1534. She joined the Secular Franciscans and led a life of prayer and penance at home, leaving her parents' house only to go to church and to perform some work of charity. She established in Quito a clinic and a school for Africans and indigenous Americans. When a plague broke out, she nursed the sick and died shortly thereafter. March 6.

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



**February 28, 2021 – Second Sunday of Lent**



**Parish Contacts**

*PASTOR*  
Fr. Tom Walsh

*CHAIRPERSON*  
Jeanine May

*VICE  
CHAIRPERSON*  
Dee Smith

*Finance  
Secretary*  
Barbara  
Chernesky

**Dear Parishioners,**

In today's second reading (Romans 8:31-34), St. Paul writes to the faith community in Rome, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Sadly, many. Being faithful today does not endear you to many people, especially those who live a compromised faith in an attempt to reconcile their faith to their modern minded sensibilities. To them, the faithful represent an "inconvenient truth." That we have been called to a higher standard.

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](http://www.saintjosephsofstratford.org) / [pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org](mailto:pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org)