

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Edmond Bresh, Wendell Barry, Helen Reynolds, Helen Popp, Irene Smith, Florence Rasmussen, Judy DiLorenzo, Yvonne Walsh, Tom Milos, Annette Krietler, Ed Coehlo and Georgine Keeler.

NEWS

In honor of Conner Owen's First Communion Mass, Darlene Kopka has donated the flower arrangements on the altar. Thank you Darlene for helping to make this day special.

Work has begun on the **Meditation Garden**. To fund this project, we are seeking donations. Any amount is helpful. A collection box is located on the table by the front doors of the Church. Thank you to all those who have contributed!

A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE – PHILEMON

The Letter to Philemon is the briefest of Paul's epistles, only 334 words in the Greek text. The letter is addressed to three specific individuals, one of them Philemon, who Paul addresses as "our beloved." From the letter it appears that a slave named Onesimus had robbed or in some other way wronged his master Philemon and had escaped. Paul writes to Philemon petitioning that he welcome Onesimus back, not as a slave but as a brother in Christ.

The epistle may be divided as follows: prayer of thanksgiving for Philemon (verses 1-7); petitioning for Onesimus (verses 8-16); promise to Philemon (verses 17-25).

NOTEABLE SAINTS OF THE WEEK

St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor (d. 373), Born of a Christian family in Alexandria, Egypt, and given a classical education, Athanasius became secretary to Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, entered the priesthood and was eventually named bishop himself. Athanasius led a tumultuous but dedicated life of service to the Church. He accompanied Bishop Alexander to the Council of Nicaea. He was the great champion of the faith against the widespread heresy of Arianism, the teaching by Arius that Jesus was not truly divine. For this he suffered many hardships and was exiled several times. The vigor of his writings earned him the title of doctor of the Church. May 2.

Sts. Philip and James, Apostles (James d. 62), Philip was born at Bethsaida. At first a disciple of John the Baptist, he became a follower of Christ. James, son of Alphaeus, a relative of Jesus was the leader of the Church in Jerusalem. He led an austere life and suffered martyrdom in the year 62. Saints Philip and James are the Patron Saints of Uruguay. May 3.

*You've got to go out on a limb
sometimes because that's where
the fruit is.*

~ Will Rogers

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



May 2, 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Dear Parishioners,

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

*VICE
CHAIRPERSON*
Dee Smith

*Finance
Secretary*
Barbara
Chernesky

*“I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear
much fruit.”* This verse from today's gospel
passage (John 15:1-8) lends itself well to
visual imagery. Christ the vine, the Father the
vine grower, and we the branches pruned to
bear much fruit. Jesus speaks in other
passages about how good fruit is produced
from good trees and bad fruit is produced from
bad trees. The same is true for us. If we are
to produce good fruit in our lives we must be
nourished from the divine source, Christ.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

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

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