



Weekly Announcements

July 01, 2020

A Word from Fr. Tim

Dear friends,

My latest Netflix binge-watching has been the series *Shtisel*, a drama depicting life for a haredi, or Ultra-Orthodox, Jewish family in the Geula neighborhood of Jerusalem. Without giving too much away, in case you want to watch the series (which I highly recommend), the shows follow the lives of Rabbi Shulem Shtisel, the patriarch and widower of the large family, and his children and grandchildren as each of them try to follow the customs of the community, while struggling with individual desires and being the person they believe God wants them to be. One family member becomes engrossed in soap operas and television, another wants to be a stage singer, and yet another dreams of being a painter - all things discouraged in that community.



In watching the series I was taken back in time, some 10 years ago, when I booked a week's vacation to tour a haredi community in Brooklyn, New York. At the time, I was serving as a priest in Baton Rouge, and the fun irony was that my tour guide had lived in Baton Rouge some years before when he and his wife were students at LSU. In case you are wondering, his family was not haredi, so he was permitted to give goyim like me private tours of yeshivas, kosher restaurants, and even centers where scribes would carefully write new Torah scrolls.

I vividly recall the late Friday afternoon when stores began to close and my new friend and guide had to dash off and be at home for the start of Shabbat. I had an eerie feeling as people disappeared from the sidewalks, and it felt like time had slowed to a crawl. Yet, it felt wonderful. Instead of trying to manage or manipulate time, there I was in the moment.

Shabbat is the Hebrew word for rest, though it's not the kind of rest we tend to think about. When we say to someone "get some rest" we may have in mind sleeping in, taking a nap, or putting our feet up while reading a book. Those are all wonderful things and rightfully needed from time to time.

Shabbat, or Sabbath as we might say in Louisiana, is a verb and it means to enter a rest in which you spend time in prayer - for yourself and your family - by disconnecting from the electronic world. You spend time with family and friends - without checking social media or constantly staring at your cell phone. You read scripture. You spend uninterrupted time in giving thanks to God, the King and Creator of the universe, from whom all we have.

I am going to take a Sabbath rest for the next couple of weeks. I need a rest of the body and soul - one in which I pray more than I have been lately. I need a rest with God.

I will be out of the office on vacation from July 3rd to the 18th, and plan to spend this time disconnected from email and social media, as well as spending time in prayer, reading, exercise, and thankfulness for all the blessings of this life.

Mtr. Liz Ratcliff, Deacon Michael Parham, and Fr. George Genusso are available for any pastoral needs in this time. Contact the church office @ 445.9845 if you need to reach one of them.

Please update your contact lists with our new office email addresses and check out our new website. This will be a bit of a transition, so we ask for your patience and understanding as we migrate to a new look and contact information.

Website

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Remembering Al Struck

We are saddened to inform you that Al Struck, a former St. James parishioner, died peacefully on June 19th at his home in Baton Rouge. Al and his wife, Nancy, had celebrated 61 years of marriage before her death in December of 2017. Al had a deep passion for cooking and food. In the late 1970's, he opened the Triad restaurant, which became a local favorite for its Italian and French inspired cuisine. The restaurant's kitchen, led by Al, was lauded in a review by the Underground Gourmet as being "imaginative and distinguished," and named "one of the most enjoyable restaurants they found on their travels through Louisiana."



He is survived by his daughters, Kathy Tittle, Mary Kaye May (Dan), Cheryl Myers, and Laura Struck (Kelly); his grandchildren, Stephen DeSelle, and Benjamin Myers, and a host of nieces and nephews. A family service will be held at St. Peter's Cemetery in Reedsburg at a later date.

May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

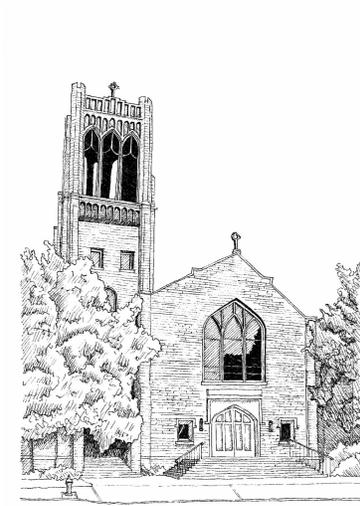
Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

James Jay Watts, Janet Ahrens, Beth Virden, Benny Leggett, Glenn Guillory, Bill Hess, Karen Donahue, Charlotte Thrift, Margaret Broussard, Jim and Kathy Clement, Allie Bunyog, Karen Holt, The Ford Family, Dean M. Tyree, Linda & John Bazer, Chad Dupree, Carl Ahrens, Raina, Ron Kingston, Cecile Brunson, Felicia, Linda Green, Bill Clancey, Barry Mercer, Annie, Jimmy Hurt, Jackie Jeanne, Michael Gray, Carol Rowe, Jaclyn Cutrone, Dietrich DeBoer, Beverly Butler, Bruce Gremillion, Murel Trimble, Bernard Parker, Ellen Inman, Charlie, Emily, Gerard, Betty Anne Close, Mark Goldich, Jim Brackett, Janet Fuqua, Bill Leibke, Deborah Taylor, Jeremy and Becky Corbett, Sarah, Jackie Moody, Grace Heeralall, Don Parker, Micah Johnson, Henry Wells, Wayne Moorehead, Sarah, Doug Brackett, Ann, Pat Carter, Amy Banks, Ann Anderson, Katrina Hall, Dr. Jack Jackson, Elizabeth Thompson Sawyer, Diane and Mike Walding, Brenda, Julie Stewart, Richard Norem, Robert Broadwell, Brenda, Cyndi, Kevin Hooter, Jeannie Basco, Warren Paul, James Parham, Timothy Futrell, Cindy Smith, David Warren, Jane Tyson, Laura Waring, Carrigan, Allison, Anna, Dennis Hart, Gerard, Hannah Pierce, John McLure, Rachel Gardner, Cathy Deshotel Guillory, Lou Stafford, Wes Fidler, Allie Thompson, Marjorie Deshotel, Tanya and John Self, Peggy Brian, Heather Craig, C. J. Guillory, and Mehre Hajighassem.

For those in the military:

Steven Brevelle, Franklin Watson, Kyle Jordan, Gill Tatman-Tyree, Garon Taylor-Tyree, Quincy Carrington, William Henry, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Kenneth O. Musselwhite, Erskine Cook, Jr., Steven P. Lemoine, Jeffery Michael Musselwhite, Captain Patrick Downs, Chris Babcock, and Sequoia Green.



Visit our Website

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