

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For **Bill Petrino**, that he may be brought to wholeness and peace. For **Jane Pelland**, for her continued recovery. For **Frank Bonitatebus**, that God's healing grace may be with him. For **Wendell Barry**, that he may be strengthened and encouraged. For **Irene Smith**, for healing and strength. For **Jean Fellmeth**, that she may know God's peace. For **Judy DiLorenzo & Robin Lupinski**, for health. For **Nancy Anzalone**, for comfort and strength.

*Mass Cards are located on the table at the entrance to the Church should you wish to request a Mass offered for a loved one, living or deceased.*

## NEWS

**The Gospel Challenge** – Beginning today and continuing each day during the Advent season read a chapter of Luke's Gospel. Note that a chapter is typically less than 2 pages. By Christmas Eve you will have read all of Luke's Gospel. To help guide you along the way a bulletin insert is provided each week with questions for reflection. Answers to the questions for each week will be provided the following week.

**Crying Room** - The Crying Room is now open for business! The speaker has been repaired. We encourage all those who may be experiencing cold or flu symptoms, and those with young children who are concerned about interrupting the Mass, to consider using the Crying Room.

**Collection for Local Children** - The Ladies Society is taking up a collection of socks, underwear, hats, scarves, and gloves sized for children served by the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. Please place the items you are donating in the box located in the hallway.

**Sterling House Food Baskets** - In lieu of food donations, the Ladies Society is seeking monetary donations to purchase four \$100 gift cards to Stop & Shop.

**Ladies Society Seeking New Members** - Any ladies interested in joining the Ladies Society please speak to Carol Murdzia or Yvonne Walsh. Your service is vital to our faith community.

*Bulletins courtesy of Ann Stockman, November - December 2019. If anyone wishes to contribute to the printing cost of the bulletin, please see Fr. Tom.*

## *The First Sunday of Advent fills us with Hope*



**Presider** Dear God, help us to remain hopeful and trust in you no matter what trials and troubles life brings. During this first week of Advent, help us remember that we are your people and you are our God. Help us put the most important things first – loving God and loving our neighbor.

*Participant lights the first candle, the candle of Hope.*

**Participant** Holy Spirit, may You burn in our hearts this week as this candle of hope burns, guiding the choices we make so that we choose to do what honors God and shows love to others.

**Presider** Father in heaven, we offer thanks for the many gifts and talents you have given to all people on the earth, to our family and friends, to the neighbors we know, and to the neighbors we have yet to befriend.

**Congregation** Come Lord Jesus. Come into our hearts, enkindle within us a hope that cannot be extinguished, a love for You and others that will not grow cold. Amen.

## PARISH CALENDAR

### December 1 –

- Annual Budget & Election Meeting after Mass.
- 2nd Annual Christmas Tree Trimming Breakfast. Proceeds benefit the Daughters of Charity in Bridgeport, the Lord's Kitchen, Sterling House Adopt a Family Christmas Toy Drive and more. Bring your Family & Friends!

**December 7 – Christmas Craft Fair**, 9am – 3pm. Come for a bite of Polish food, find that perfect gift for a loved one, and every child gets a gift from Santa!

**December 8 – Coffee & Catechism**. Come explore the meaning and rituals of the Advent season. Grab a coffee after Mass and join us in the classroom.

**December 14 –** Come join us for the 5pm Vigil Mass and then stay to help make prayer blankets for the residents of Lord Chamberlain and Atria care facilities. Meg Capen will be leading us in song as we sing our favorite Christmas carols while we work. There will be plenty of refreshments and holiday cheer for all!

**January 5 – Christmas Brunch** sponsored by the Ladies Society following Mass.

## BY THE WEEK

**Saturdays:** Stepping Class with Mercy Tabernacle  
10:00 am-12:00 pm

**Sundays:** Mercy Tabernacle Church  
12:30 - 2:30 pm  
Cub Scouts 5:45-7:30 pm

**Mondays:** Scouts 7:00-8:30 pm

**Tuesdays:** Mercy Tabernacle Church  
6:00 - 8:00 pm

**Wednesdays:** Mass for Healing, 9:00am  
AA Meeting 12:00 pm

**Thursdays:** AA Men's Meeting 7:30 pm

## Readers Roster

December 1: Joe Pelland, Missal page 112

December 8: Nancy Sirois, Missal page 116

December 15: Ray Morrison, Missal page 128

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# St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



**December 1, 2019**

## Parish Contacts

*ADMINISTRATOR*  
Fr. Tom Walsh

*CHAIRPERSON*  
Jeanine May

*VICE CHAIRPERSON*  
Dee Smith

*Finance Secretary*  
Barbara Chernesky

## Dear Parishioners,

Today is the first day of the liturgical year, the first day of Advent. The word Advent means *Coming* in Latin. So today we turn our attention inward as we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ into our hearts. A time for us to renew our commitment to participate with Divinity in building God's Kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

Grace & Peace,  
Fr. Tom

## Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm    Sunday 9:30am    Wednesday Healing Mass 9:00am

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford, CT 06615  
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