

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

Mass is celebrated on Sunday, December 15, for the repose of the soul of **Wanda Groc** at the request of her children Anna, Junior, Kamila and family. May she rest in peace.

**Wendall Barry, Helen Reynolds, Linda Chehy and Felicia Watson**, that God's healing mercy and grace may be with them. **Desiree Anzalone**, that she may be brought to wholeness and health. **Nancy Anzalone**, that she may be comforted and encouraged. **Jane Pelland**, for her continued recovery. **Bill Petrino, Irene Smith, and Jean Fellmeth**, that they may know God's peace. **Judy DiLorenzo & Robin Lupinski**, for health.

*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** – continues! Just click the button labeled “The Gospel Challenge” on the church web site for each week's questions and answers. This week we read Luke chapters 15 – 21.

**Book Discussion Group** – A book discussion group is forming at St. Joseph's for the New Year. We will be meeting on the first Sunday of each month after Mas beginning February 2. The first book we will read is, “Story of a Soul,” the autobiography of St. Therese of Lisieux, often called The Little Flower. Please see Fr. Tom about purchasing the book. *Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love. St. Therese*

**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.

## *The Third Sunday of Advent we Rejoice!*



**Presider** Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Love. We light it and the Candle of Hope again as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

*Participant lights the Candles of Hope and Love*

**Presider** Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope when they believed in him. From hope and love grows joy. We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth.

*Participant lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Joy*

**Participant** Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

**Leader:** Let us pray:

**All:** Thank you God for the joy You give us. We ask that as we wait for all Your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that You would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship You, to hear Your Word, and to do Your Will by sharing Your joy with each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

## PARISH CALENDAR

**December 15** – 2nd Annual Christmas Tree Trimming Breakfast. Join in the Christmas festivities...Bring friends and family!

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

**Summer 2020** – All youth interested in playing basketball on the beach this summer with our friends from Our Lady of Peace please see Fr. Tom. It's not too early to sign up!

## 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

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

## St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



**December 15, 2019**

### Parish Contacts

*ADMINISTRATOR*  
Fr. Tom Walsh

*CHAIRPERSON*  
Jeanine May

*VICE CHAIRPERSON*  
Dee Smith

*Finance Secretary*  
Barbara Chernesky

### Dear Parishioners,

You can tell a tree by the fruit it produces. In today's Gospel passage Jesus names the fruit of his ministry, the blind regain sight, the lame walk, the deaf hear. These are all fruits of healing and restoration. Being recreated into the person God created us to be. This Advent Season our challenge is to acknowledge our brokenness so that healing and restoration can take place. That we may regain the image of God.

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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