

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

**Wendell Barry, Helen Reynolds, Linda Chehy, Felicia Watson and Simon Edgett**, 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, Florence Rasmussen 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 22-24.

**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 Fourth Sunday of Advent We Renew our Faith!*



**Presider** In a world where churches lie empty, doors are shut, and people seem to have no room for religion anymore, God, we call upon you to come.

*Participant lights the candles of Hope, Love and Joy*

**Participant** In this season of Advent, we wait for Your Presence to be felt in our lives again. We await the birth of Jesus, the Savior of All, who comes into our lives in a new way.

*Participant lights the fourth candle, the candle of Faith*

**Participant** Come, Messiah, Come, and Save Us!

**Presider** Let us pray.

**All** Dear God, we pray that our faith may be renewed once more, and that we may relive the wonder of your love in our lives. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

## PARISH CALENDAR

**Christmas Eve & Day Mass Times** – Mass will be celebrated on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24 at 5pm & 10pm. On Christmas Day at 9:30am.

### January 5

- Christmas Brunch sponsored by the Ladies Society following Mass. A mini raffle of gift cards will be held to benefit the Food Pantry. Please sign up on the sheet posted in the hallway if you plan to attend.
- The Annual Parish Meeting will be held following the Christmas Brunch. Much to discuss, please plan to attend.

**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 22: Nancy Anzalone, Missal page 132

December 29: Dee Smith, Missal page 151

*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 22, 2019**

### Parish Contacts

*ADMINISTRATOR*  
Fr. Tom Walsh

*CHAIRPERSON*  
Jeanine May

*VICE CHAIRPERSON*  
Dee Smith

*Finance Secretary*  
Barbara Chernesky

### Dear Parishioners,

*Do not be afraid.* These are the words spoken by the angel Gabriel to both Mary and Joseph announcing the birth of Jesus. Fear is not an emotion we associate with the Christmas season. In this case fear of the unknown. By consenting to God's will for their lives they abandoned hopes for a safe, predictable and secure future. But in return they allowed for salvation to enter into the world. We are called to do no less when we pray, *Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, 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  
Christmas Eve 5:00pm & 10:00pm Christmas Day 9:30am

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford, CT 06615  
(203) 377-9901 Church, (860) 417-9888 Mobile  
[www.saintjosephsofstratford.org](http://www.saintjosephsofstratford.org) / [pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org](mailto:pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org)