

## 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** 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

**Congratulations to Danika and Jess** on being accepted to St. Joseph High School in Trumbull. We are proud of you both and your accomplishments!

**Wine & Cheese Movie Night** - Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. Come for the 5pm Vigil Mass and stay for the movie. Wine, cheese & dessert will be served.

**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*

**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.

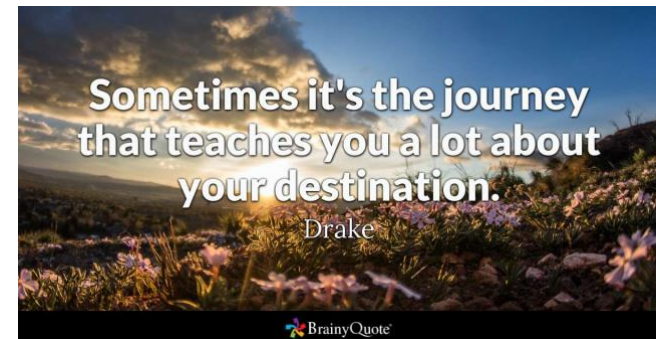
## *The Saints*

**December 29, Thomas Beckett, Bishop & Martyr** Born in London in 1118. A cleric of the diocese of Canterbury, he first became chancellor to the king and then in 1162 was chosen bishop. His tireless defense of the rights of the Church against Henry II prompted the king to exile Becket to France for six years. After returning to his homeland, he endured many trials and in 1170 was murdered by agents of the king.

**December 31, Sylvester I, Pope** Sylvester was ordained bishop of Rome in 314. He ruled the Church during the reign of Constantine the Great when the Arian heresy and the Donatist schism had provoked great discord. He died in 335 and is buried in the cemetery of Priscilla on the Salarian Way.

**January 2, Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors** Basil was born of a Christian family at Caesarea in Cappadocia in 330. Conspicuous for his learning and virtue, for a time he led the life of a hermit but in 370 was made bishop of Caesarea. He fought against the Arians and wrote many admirable works, especially his monastic rule which many Eastern monks still follow. Saint Basil died on January 1, 379.

Gregory Nazianzen was also born in 330. Traveling as a youth in the pursuit of learning, he first joined his friend Basil as a hermit and was later ordained priest and bishop. In the year 381 he was elected bishop of Constantinople; however, because of factions dividing the Church, he returned to Nazianzen where he died on January 25, 389 or 390. He was called *theologus* because of his outstanding teaching and eloquence.



## PARISH CALENDAR

**January 1** – 9:00am Healing Mass with anointing for the New Year.

### 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 29: Dee Smith

*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 29, 2019 – Solemnity of Humble Shepherds

### Parish Contacts

*ADMINISTRATOR*  
Fr. Tom Walsh

*CHAIRPERSON*  
Jeanine May

*VICE CHAIRPERSON*  
Dee Smith

*Finance Secretary*  
Barbara Chernesky

### Dear Parishioners,

*Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known. And so begins the shepherds' journey. They are told to look for the child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. What an odd and inconvenient place to find the Savior. But the shepherds went in haste! I image that if the angel appeared today the exchange would be much different, "In a cave lying in a manger?" Are you serious? I'm not going!" It is often the case that when searching for something we look in the convenient places. But usually what we are searching for is found in the hard to reach places. Sometimes we must be willing to go to those hard to reach places in our lives to find the Lord.*

Grace & Peace,  
Fr. Tom

### Mass Times

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

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)