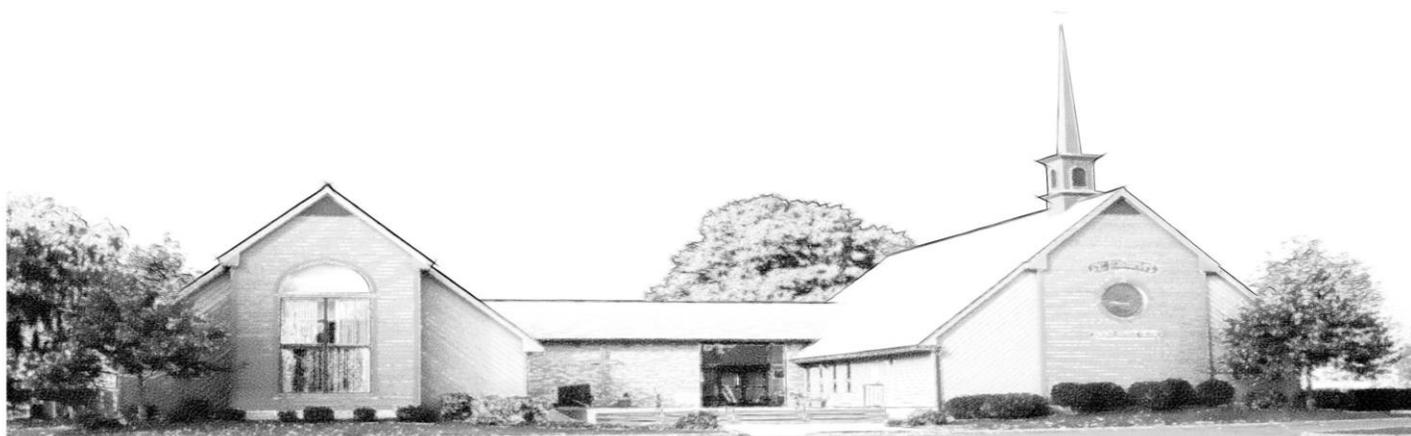


# St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



First Sunday of Advent, Year C

December 2<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## PARISH CONTACTS

*ADMINISTRATOR*  
Fr. Tom Walsh

*PARISH CHAIRPERSON*  
Nancy Sirois

*VICE CHAIRPERSON*  
Dee Smith

*FINANCE SECRETARY*  
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

“Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life.” What does this verse from today’s Gospel passage suggest to us? I find it odd that the author of the Gospel is lumping anxiety with carousing and drunkenness. Somehow these preoccupations don’t seem to go together. But when considered in the context of the passage they do because each one is a distraction. A distraction from seeing the Son of Man. Yes, there will be a second coming when the Son of Man comes with power and great glory, and we certainly do not want to be distracted from that, but we can also be distracted from seeing the Son of Man in the ordinariness of everyday life. And that is what the Season of Advent is about, recognizing that the Lord has come into our midst. And that is what gives us hope.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Tom

## MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday:** 5:00 pm - Sunday Vigil **Sunday:** 9:30 am

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*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 to 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

**Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup>** There will be a meeting of the Ladies Society after Mass.

**Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup>** 1st annual Christmas Tree Trimming Buffet Breakfast - Invite Friends

### BY THE WEEK

Sundays: Mercy Tabernacle Church  
12:30 - 2:30 pm  
Tuesdays: Mercy Tabernacle Church  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Wednesdays: AA meeting 12:00 pm  
Irish Dance, 5:30 – 7:00pm  
Thursdays: AA men's meeting 7:30 pm

*For news input in the weekly bulletin, please contact Father Tom by Wednesday:  
frtpwalsh@gmail.com*

### READERS ROSTER

November 25   December 2   December 9

Ray Morrison   Nancy Anzalone Ed Slonina

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

Danika for **her dance teacher as she makes a healthy recovery.**

Nancy Anzalone for **Desiree Anzalone and Lynn Schack.**

For **Andrew Chernesky's health.**

For those intentions that we hold in our hearts known to God alone.

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Parish Officers

The faith community of St. Joseph's is calling forward two individuals, one to serve as the Parish Council President and another as Treasurer. If you would like to serve in one of these capacities, please see a member of the Parish Council or speak to Fr. Tom. Thank you for your consideration.

### Winter is Coming!

The cold weather is coming and there are many people who need warm clothing. If you have winter items you won't be using, please bring them here to St. Joseph's. Your extra clothing, boots, blankets, etc., will be brought to Blessed Sacrament Church and will help the less fortunate stay warm. Thank you for your generosity.

### Christmas Baskets

The Ladies Society is collecting donations of non-perishable food items for the Christmas Baskets. Please bring your donations to the classroom. Thank you for your generosity!



**Prayer does not change God,  
but it changes him who prays.**

Soren Kierkegaard

BrainyQuote

*Bulletins courtesy of Ann Stockman, November - December, 2018. If anyone wishes to contribute to the printing cost of the bulletin, please see Fr. Tom.*

## Sunday Readings

### First Reading

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

#### A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land. In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: "The LORD our justice."

**The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

### Second Reading

**1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2**

#### A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

Brothers and sisters:  
May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen.

Finally, brothers and sisters, we earnestly ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that, as you received from us how you should conduct yourselves to please God and as you are conducting yourselves you do so even more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

**The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.**

### Alleluia, Alleluia

Show us, Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

### Gospel

**Luke 21:25-28, 34-36**

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples:

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."

**The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

