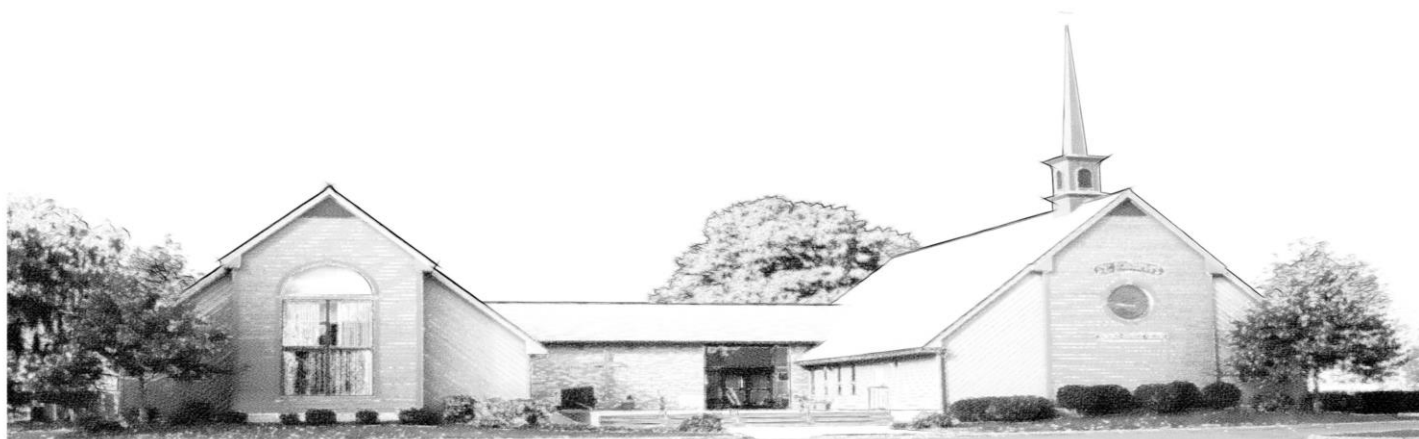


# St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



**Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C**

**December 23<sup>rd</sup>,**

## **PARISH CONTACTS**

*ADMINISTRATOR*  
Fr. Tom Walsh

*PARISH CHAIRPERSON*  
Nancy Sirois

*VICE CHAIRPERSON*  
Dee Smith

*FINANCE SECRETARY*  
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

Upon arriving at Zechariah's house what must Mary have been thinking? A young woman, limited means, betrothed to Joseph, and now a pregnancy she could not understand or explain but had given her consent to. Just a short while ago she was looking forward to a life with Joseph, a good man, and now she is facing an uncertain future. A future not without peril because the penalty for her being with child that was not Joseph's was stoning. Because Mary had the courage to say yes to God's plan salvation entered the world. Imagine how different the world would be if each one of us had the courage to said yes to God's plan for us.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Tom

## **MASS SCHEDULE**

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

**Christmas Eve:** 5:00 pm & 10:00 pm **Christmas Day:** 9:30am

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford CT 06615-7639

Tel: 203 377-9901 (office), 203 923-2424 (rectory), Fax: 203 375-6439

[www.stjosephsofstratford.org](http://www.stjosephsofstratford.org)

# ***Christmas Flower Offerings***

Helen Popp in memory of Anna Sidoriok;  
Diane Kolesnikoff in memory of Paul Kolesnikoff and Edward & Gertrude Swiatek;  
Arthur Niedzielski in memory of Lee Niedzielski; Wojciech and Helen Niedzielski; Leo and Rose Stanulis;  
John Misurale in memory of Carol Misurale; Rose & Anthony Misurale; Helen & Frank Steele; Mary Luyek & Frank Luyek;  
Carla Misurale in memory of Carol Misurale; Helen & Frank Steele; Rose & Tony Misurale; Ms. Ann Marie Egelski in memory of William Egelski;  
Mrs. Margaret Krasko in memory of Helen & Edmund Krasko; Margaret & William Miller; Paul Lonzenski in memory of Marilyn Lonzenski;  
Mrs. Valerie Chernesky in memory of Mike Chernesky; Stanley & Mary Wilk; Mike & Mary Chernesky;  
Mrs. Darlene Kopka in honor of First Responders, Police, Firemen & Military and their Families;  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Graczyk in memory of Patsy, Lena & Salvatore Dibliani; Dolores & Chester Graczyk;  
Anthony & Justine Pirulli in memory of Carol Misurale;  
Bertha Grabowski in memory of Sophie & Joseph Patusky and their children;  
Irene Beauchemin in memory of Reggie Beauchemin; Mario Brandolini and Anna Smith; Mr. & Mrs. Brian Putorak;  
Mrs. Dolores Smith in memory of Gerald Smith; Mary Kafara and Joseph Kafara; Frank & Dolores Bonitatebus;  
Ann Stockman in memory of Bill Stockman; Edward Bednarski;  
Carol Murdzia in memory of Richard Murdzia & Family; Alice, John & Bill Geffert; Victoria Billick; Ronald & Val Beach; Marianne Charabowski;  
Raymond & Carol Morrison in memory of Joyce & Chuck Pike; John & Jean Macionus;  
Mrs. Nancy Sirois in memory of Robert Sirois and Roberta Sirois Discenza



## PARISH CALENDAR

### December

**Christmas Eve** Mass at 5:00pm and 10:00pm

**Christmas Day** Mass at 9:30am

**Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup>** Christmas/New Year's Brunch after Mass. Everyone is welcome, invite your friends!

### BY THE WEEK

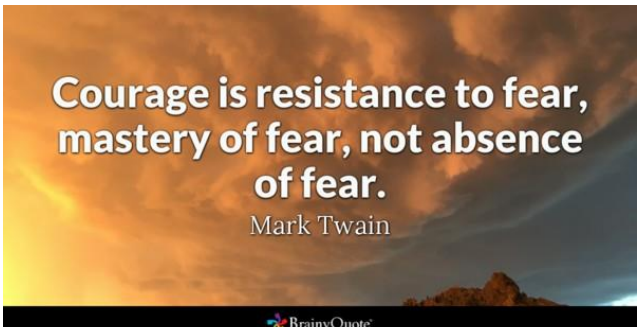
Sundays: Mercy Tabernacle Church  
12:30 - 2:30 pm  
Tuesdays: Mercy Tabernacle Church  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Wednesdays: AA meeting 12:00 pm  
Irish Dance, 5:30 – 7:00pm  
Thursdays: AA men's meeting 7:30 pm

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

### READERS ROSTER

December 16   December 23   December 30

Dee Smith   Jean Macionus   Joe Pelland



**Courage is resistance to fear,  
mastery of fear, not absence  
of fear.**

Mark Twain

 BrainyQuote

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

The faith community of St. Joseph's of Stratford offers healing prayers for **Ed Slonina and Ray Morrison**.

Prayers for **Andrew Chernesky and Jeanne Tripp**.

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

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Looking for Readers

If you would like to read at one of our Christmas Eve Masses, 5:00pm or 10:00pm, please let Fr. Tom know. We would be grateful for your service!

*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

Micah 5:1-4

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

Thus says the LORD:  
You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah  
too small to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel;  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient times.  
Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time  
when she who is to give birth has borne,  
and the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the children of Israel.  
He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock  
by the strength of the LORD,  
in the majestic name of the LORD, his God;  
and they shall remain, for now his greatness  
shall reach to the ends of the earth;  
he shall be peace.

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

### Responsorial Psalm

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we  
shall be saved

### Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

#### A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:  
When Christ came into the world, he said:  
"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body  
you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings  
you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in  
the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'"

First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings,  
holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor  
delighted in." These are offered according to the law.  
Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will."  
He takes away the first to establish the second.  
By this "will," we have been consecrated through the  
offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

### Alleluia, Alleluia

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.  
May it be done to me according to your word.  
**Alleluia, Alleluia**

### Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

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

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste  
to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of  
Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard  
Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and  
Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud  
voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and  
blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this  
happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to  
me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting  
reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.  
Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to  
you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

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

