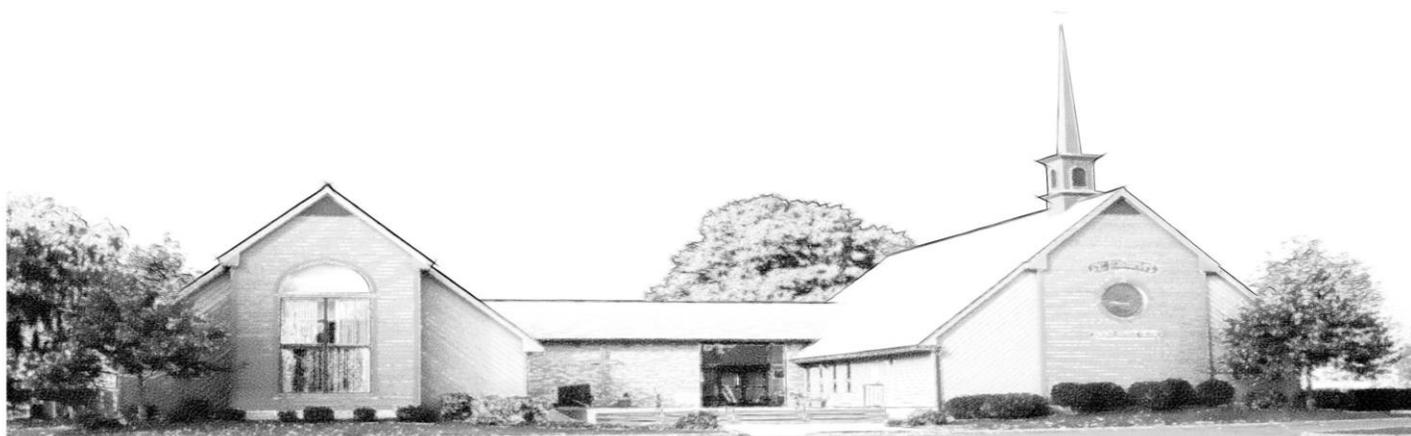


St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



Second Sunday of Advent, Year C

December 9th,

PARISH CONTACTS

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Nancy Sirois

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his path," so the prophet Isaiah foretells in the Old Testament. And in today's Gospel passage that is what we find, John the Baptist proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. But how do we prepare the Lord's way? How do we make straight his paths? To answer this, we need to consider what paths the Lord follows.

In Luke's Gospel Jesus speaks about the coming of the Kingdom of God and how it cannot be observed because the Kingdom of God is within you, meaning within your heart. Therefore, the way of the Lord is to your heart and that is the path that must be prepared and made straight. So, this Advent season you are invited to do some interior landscaping to welcome the Lord into your heart where his Kingdom resides.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Tom

MASS SCHEDULE

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

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford CT 06615-7639

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

www.stjosephsofstratford.org

The second Sunday of Advent we light the candle of Love



Presider Today is the second Sunday of Advent and we light the candle of Love. Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope. We light the candle of Hope again as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope and our peace.

(The Participant lights the candle of Hope.)

Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Love. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show God's love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

(The Participant lights the second candle, the candle of Love.)

Participant Love is like a candle shining in the darkness. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

All Lord God, Your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love that we would be witnesses to him and spread the Good News of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome him. Amen.

PARISH CALENDAR

December

Sunday the 9th

-1st annual Christmas Tree Trimming Buffet Breakfast, invite your friends!

-Meeting after Mass to discuss Elections & Finance

Sunday the 30th Christmas/New Year's Lunch. Everyone is welcome, invite your friends!

BY THE WEEK

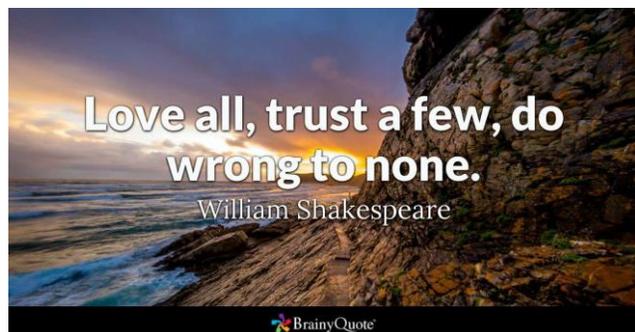
Sundays: Mercy Tabernacle Church
12:30 - 2:30 pm
Tuesdays: Mercy Tabernacle Church
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Wednesdays: AA meeting 12:00 pm
Irish Dance, 5:30 – 7:00pm
Thursdays: AA men's meeting 7:30 pm

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

READERS ROSTER

November 25 December 2 December 9

Ray Morrison Nancy Anzalone Ed Slonina



PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

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.

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

Baruch 5:1-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Baruch

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship.

Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God. Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones. For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company.

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

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:
I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.

God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

*.A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.
Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

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

