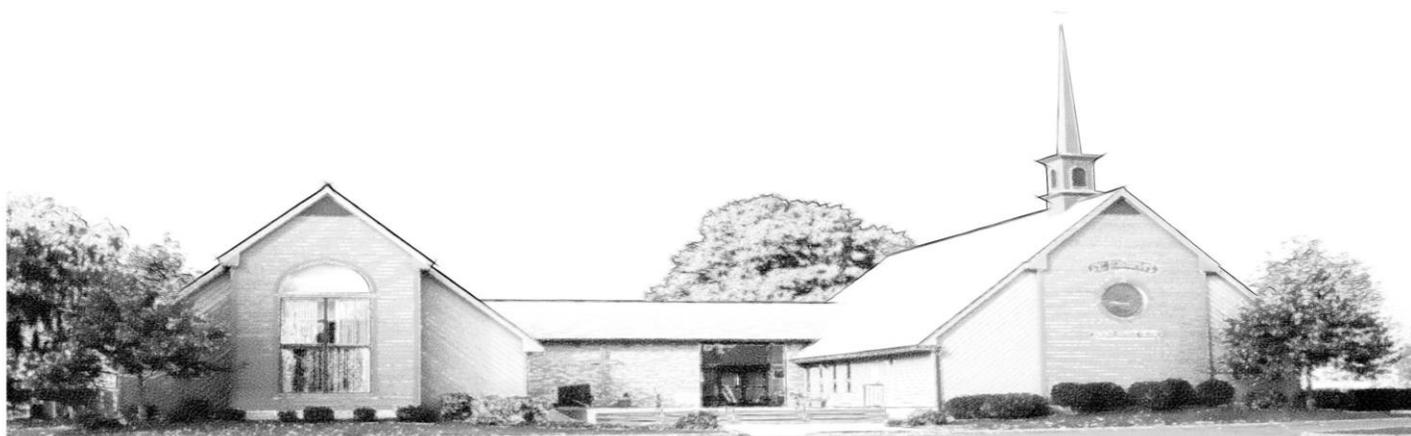


# St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



**Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds, Year C**

**December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

## PARISH CONTACTS

ADMINISTRATOR  
Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON  
Nancy Sirois

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY  
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

*"Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart."* Mary knew that her son was special, and that her time with him was precious. They were far from home, lodged in a barn, her newborn son lying in a manger, the trough where animals eat, and despite her physical surroundings Mary saw the beautiful things that can be in humble places. As we embark on the New Year, let our hearts be open to the gifts and graces that God places before us in our humble places.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Tom

## MASS SCHEDULE

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

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

# *A Prayer for Peace in the New Year*

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

*Amen.*

*Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi*

## PARISH CALENDAR

### December

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

### January

**New Year's Day** Mass celebrated at 9:30am.

**Blessing of Homes** Please see Fr. Tom to schedule a time for your home to be blessed. Typically, this blessing is done during the first few weeks of January around the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6th.

**Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup>** Swearing in of new Church Officers.

### 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](mailto:frtpwalsh@gmail.com)*

## READERS ROSTER

December 16   December 23   December 30

Dee Smith   Jean Macionus   Joe Pelland

Blessed are they who see  
beautiful things in humble places  
where other people see nothing.

Camille Pissarro

 BrainyQuote

## 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

### Blessing of Homes

We continue the traditional Blessing of Homes around the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6<sup>th</sup>, continuing into mid-January. For this blessing the sign of the cross, the year, and the initials of the traditional names of the three magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar are written above the door with blessed chalk, as shown

+20 C M B 18+

The letters also abbreviate the Latin words, "Christus mansionem benedicat," which translates to "May Christ bless the house."

If you would like Fr. Tom to bless your home, please see him after Mass or call the Church at 203-377-9901 to schedule a time for him to visit.

*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 31:10-14**

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

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, proclaim it on distant coasts, and say: He who scattered Israel, now gathers them together, He guards them as a shepherd his flock. The Lord shall ransom Jacob, He shall redeem him from the hand of his conqueror. Shouting, they shall mount the heights of Zion, they shall come streaming to the Lord's blessings: The grain, the wine, and the oil, the sheep and the oxen; They themselves shall be like watered gardens, never again shall they languish. Then the virgins shall make merry and dance, and young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will console and gladden them after their sorrows. I will lavish choice portions upon the priests, and My people shall be filled with My blessings, says the Lord.

**This is the Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.**

#### Responsorial Psalm

A light will shine on us this day: The Lord is born for us.

### Second Reading

**Titus 3:4-7**

#### A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of any righteous deeds we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the baptism of new birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit He lavished on us through Jesus Christ our Savior, that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs, in hope of eternal life.

**This is the Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.**

### Alleluia, Alleluia

The Lord is King, in splendor robed: robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

### Gospel

**Luke 2:15-20**

#### A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another: "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us." They went in haste and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the manger; once they saw, they understood what had been told them concerning the Child. All who heard of it were astonished at the report given them by the shepherds.

Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, in accord with what had been told them.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

