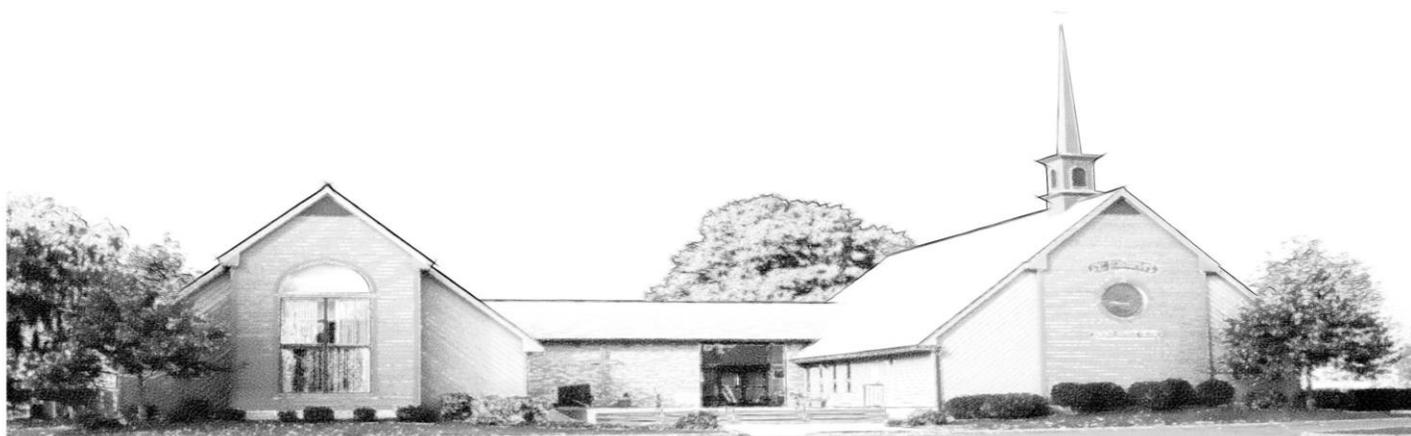


St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



Third Sunday of Advent, Year C

December 16th,

PARISH CONTACTS

ADMINISTRATOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON
Nancy Sirois

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

"What should we do?" the crowds asked John the Baptist as he warned them of the coming wrath. They were looking for direction. John's answer to them was simple, *"Produce good fruits as evidence of your repentance."* John goes on to explain what this means. *"Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none."* Essentially, John was telling them to love one another, especially those most in need, those marginalized in society.

And what should you do? That depends. It depends on how you discern God's will for your life. How you are called to love and serve others. That is what the season of Advent is about, to gain an awareness of God coming into your life, calling you on The Way.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Tom

MASS SCHEDULE

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

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford CT 06615-7639

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www.stjosephsofstratford.org

The Third Sunday of Advent we Rejoice!



Presider Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Love. We light it and the Candle of Hope again as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

Participant lights the Candles of Hope and Love

Presider Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope when they believed in him. From hope and love grows joy. We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth.

Participant lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Joy

Participant Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Thank you God for the joy You give us. We ask that as we wait for all Your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that You would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship You, to hear Your Word, and to do Your Will by sharing Your joy with each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

PARISH CALENDAR

December

Friday the 21st Wake for Steve Chalfa at McDonald Funeral Home, 2591 Main Street, Stratford. Calling hours 4-7pm.

Saturday the 22nd Funeral Mass for Steve Chalfa, 11am.

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

Christmas Day Mass at 9:30am

Sunday the 30th Christmas/New Year's Bunch 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

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**.

Prayers for **Steven Chalfa** who passed away this past Wednesday December 12th, and his family. May he rest in peace.

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

NEWS AND EVENTS

Winter is Here!

The cold weather is upon us 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

Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has removed the judgment against you he has turned away your enemies; the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:
Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel

Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

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

