

Welcome to
SAINT JAMES
Parish



See a face, learn a name, share a story. Love one another!

2110 Main Street, Stratford, CT 06615

Office 203-375-5887

Fax 203-378-1562

www.stjamesstratford.com

Office & Chapel Hours

The office is open by Appointment only.

The Chapel is closed.

Pastor: Rev. Peter J. Adamski

pastor@stjct.org

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Philip Lanh Phan

frphan@diobpt.org

Deacon: Joe Koletar

jkoletar.stjamesparish@gmail.com

Sunday, December 20, 2020

The Fourth Sunday in Advent.



TRANSFORMED BY GOD'S LOVE

Full of grace! This is how God saw Mary from the first moment of his loving design. He saw her as beautiful, **full of grace**. Our Mother is beautiful! Mary sustains our journey toward Christmas, for she teaches us how to live this Advent Season in expectation of the Lord. For this time of Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord, who will visit us all on the feast, but also, **each one, in our own hearts**. And Our Lady never distanced herself from that **LOVE**: throughout her life her whole being is a “yes” to that **LOVE**, it is the “yes” to God. But that didn’t make life easy for her! The mystery of this girl from Nazareth, who is in the heart of God, is not estranged from us. She is not there and we over here. No, we are connected. His gaze of **LOVE** is on every one of us. Let us also recognize our truest destiny, our deepest vocation: to be **LOVED**, to be **TRANSFORMED BY LOVE**, to be transformed by the beauty of God.!

I pray that you all will continue to have a blessed Advent Season this year and a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Your humble servant in Christ, Fr. Peter



Monday, December 21, 2020

5:30 p.m. +Juan Vazquez

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

8:00 a.m. +Valentin Llorens, Jr.

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

8:00 a.m. +Jay Sullivan

Thursday, December 24, 2020

3:00 p.m. St. James Parishioners

5:00 p.m. St. James Parishioners

10:00 p.m. St. James Parishioners

Friday, December 25, 2020

7:30 a.m. St. James Parishioners

9:30 a.m. St. James Parishioners

Saturday, December 26, 2020

8:00 a.m. +Elsie Van Amburgh

4:30 p.m. +Emelia Ramos

Sunday, December 27, 2020

8:30 a.m. +Annie Vasquez

11:30 a.m. +Grazian Esa Solenne

6:00 p.m. +John and +Anne Lacko

PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SEVEN DAY VIGIL CANDLES: 12/20/20-12/26/20

Church: The Poor

Chapel: For Peace

CHAPEL INTERCESSORY CANDLES:

Candles will burn for the following intentions:

Candle # 1 Empathy

Candle # 2: For the prayer intentions submitted through on-line giving

Weekly Offertory (for week of 12/06/2020)

	<u>12/06/2020</u>	<u>12/08/2019</u>
In Church Collections.....	\$ 4,236.25	\$ 6,755.74
EFT.....	\$ 2,083.94	\$ 1,735.49
Online Giving.....	\$ 3,766.00	\$ 2,210.99
	=====	=====
Weekly Total.....	\$ 10,086.19	\$ 10,702.22

Virtual Advent Ignatian Retreat

Visit <https://www.jesuits.org/spirituality/25-days-of-spiritual-gifts/> for daily reflections with Fr. Jim Martin and fellow Jesuits.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church, please contact Betsy Redgate at 203-375-5887, ext. 102 or visit bredgate.stjamesparish@gmail.com for information.

Centering Prayer

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining us to pray together virtually, please contact Mary Merly at mary.merly@sjssct.org.

The Bridge Ministry

Due to COVID-19, our visits to John Street have been put on hold. Many of the people who come to The Bridge also go to The Merton House for a daily lunch. Last month we delivered bags of toiletries to Merton to be handed out with the bag lunches. We are going to put additional bags together for them and could especially use toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant. We can also use shampoo, soap and toilet tissue. Through your continued generosity we have been keeping The Bridge Ministry going for over eleven years. Thank you for being Christ to those less fortunate.

PARISH NURSE: If you would like to meet with a Parish Nurse, please call Margie Balint at 203-378-3081



Mike Perille, Thai Nguyen, David Lathlean, Andrew Donovan, Lucas McHale, Ann Mortin, Robert Ramos, James Almeida, Bryan Barry, Liam Wiederkher, Gayle Bonavita, Roger Raymonad, Joseph Senteio, Luz Rivera, Wanda Rivera, Mary Jane Connell, Bernadette Jennings, Joseph Lisboa & Mohini Monteiro, Antonio Ortiz

Faithfully Departed:



Beloved Sons—Jim Travers, Bob Carriero, Tom Gilbertie, Jeff Noccioli, Mike Curran

Unfortunately we will have to cancel the upcoming Saturday Dec. 19 Beloved Sons gathering due to the rise in concerns about Covid and safety in any gatherings. Hoping upon hope that things will improve and we get back on track with our January gathering...scheduled now for Saturday, January 16. We meet on the 3rd Saturday of every month, at 6:30 AM, inside at the parish center. In order to facilitate better social distancing we'll gather downstairs where there is plenty of room for coffee and to break open the gospel for that weekend. Any questions, call/text (203-526-4105) or e-mail (jfxtjr@sbcglobal.net) Jim Travers. And, as we look forward to seeing Jesus at Christmas during this Advent season, we look forward to seeing you outside, or inside, St. James Church.

Advent Prayer

Week 3, Love

Father in Heaven, thank you for the gift of your son Jesus, who came because you love us so much and want to spend forever with us. Help us to believe that Jesus came to save us from sin and help us to show your love to one another. Amen.



Especially during this time of Corona Virus, our parish relies on support of everyone in our parish to help us further our mission. We are blessed that there is an easy way for all of us to recommit ourselves to supporting St. James through Online Giving. Enrolling in Online Giving will simplify your monthly budgeting while also providing St. James with consistent reliable support for our parish family. If you have not signed up yet, it's easy to get started. Just go to www.stjamesstratford.com and click the Online Giving icon on the home page.

Social Outreach

Toys & Games for Boys & Girls



No question, this has been a difficult year and as Christmas approaches we would like to collect toys and games for kids in need. Unfortunately, there are families in our parish or close by who will not be able to buy gifts for their children. Here is our chance to step up. If you would like to make someone's Christmas brighter this year please consider donating toys and games. You can drop off your donations in the big orange bin on the parish center porch.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Financial Peace University

Are you looking for that perfect Christmas gift? One that is unique, will be appreciated and will have a positive impact on the person receiving the gift?

If so, giving someone a gift of enrollment in Financial Peace University might be that gift. It is definite unique (how many other people will think of giving this kind of gift), it will be appreciated (because it will help the person financially) and it will have a positive impact (it will show the person how to get out of debt – completely!) Also, because of the COVID pandemic, the class will be a remote class conducted using Zoom, which makes it completely safe to attend.

If you agree that this might be the perfect gift for someone, sign them up for the next Financial Peace University (which starts on Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7:00 P.M.) by using the link below:

<https://www.fpu.com/1124748>



Do you want to become a member of St. James?

If you do, then please complete the following and deposit in the offertory basket

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Comments _____

We look forward to hearing from you!

Solar Energy Stewardship Program

Are you paying too much for your electricity? Do you want to save money on your electricity bills? We have solution for you - go solar with Trinity.

Make an appointment with Trinity Solar to get your questions answered and to determine if you qualify for solar program. Call **1-800-655-2500** or go to www.gotrinitysolar.com/sjrc

Please inform Trinity that you use Saint James Roman Catholic Church Solar Stewardship Program.

Trinity will pay Saint James Church **\$1,500** for each successful installation of solar system in this Solar Stewardship Program at no cost to you.

Why not **save money** for you and your family? At the same time, raise fund for your church without taking money out of your pocket. Best of all, you make a positive impact to our environment for years to come.



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share a story...
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EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Monday & Thursday: 5:30 p.m. (indoors and livestream)
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 8:00 a.m. (indoors and livestream)
Saturday: 8:00 a.m. (indoors and livestream)
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:30 p.m. (indoors)
Sunday Masses: 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. (outdoors) 6:00 p.m. (indoors)

Confession

- Saturdays (12:15-1:30) drive-thru

PARISH CENTER CHAPEL

- *The Chapel is currently closed*

PARISH CENTER HOURS

The Parish Center is currently closed. If you need assistance please call 203-375-5887

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please call the Parish Center

LEADERSHIP TEAM

- **Parish Pastoral Assistant:** Deacon Joe Koletar
- **Trustees:** Chad Betz, Luca Servino
- **Pastoral Council:** Ruwani Williams
- **Finance Council:** Chad Betz—chadcbetz@gmail.com
- **Safety Committee:** Jack Cratty

OUR MINISTRIES

Adult Pastoral Ministry

- **Ministry with Men:** Jim Travers, Bob Carriero, Tom Gilbertie, Jeff Noccioli and Mike Curran
- **Ministry with Women:** Angie deMello and Mary Tesla

Communal Prayer Worship

- **Music Ministry/Organist:** John J. Masi, Jr.
- **Liturgical Environment:** Michele Hoekenga

Pastoral Services

- **Lifelong Formation:** Betsy Redgate - bredgate.stjamesparish@gmail.com
- **Principal St. James School:** Jack Lynch
- **Ministry with Teens:** Bob Nagy and Karen Smith
- **Ministry with Sick & Shut-Ins:** Pat Stockdale
- **St. James Prison Ministry:** Denis Granado - denis.granado@gmail.com and Mary Tesla
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Mary Perille and Mercy Ingersoll
- **Gratitude Ministry:** Suzanne Smith, Ligia Masilamani and Jane Vigliotti
- **Respect Life:** Joe Sullivan
- **Digital Ministry:** Tonya Overby
- **Religious Education:** Maria Aguirre
- **Social Outreach:** Jim Hodska

Support Services

- **Stewardship:** David Zamachaj - David.Zamachaj@stjct.org
- **Business Manager:** Natalia Zamachaj—nszamachaj.stjamesparish@gmail.com
- **Business Office:** Dolores Lathlean



Sunday, December 20, 2020

1st Reading: 2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16
2nd Reading: ROM 16:25-27
Gospel: LK 1:26-38

Sunday, December 27, 2020

1st Reading: SIR 3:2-6, 12-14
2nd Reading: COL 3:12-21
Gospel: LK 2:22-40