

# St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

## National Catholic Church

Since 1907

### Weekly Bulletin



**The Epiphany of the Lord, Year C**

**January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

#### **PARISH CONTACTS**

*ADMINISTRATOR*  
Fr. Tom Walsh

*PARISH CHAIRPERSON*  
Nancy Sirois

*VICE CHAIRPERSON*  
Dee Smith

*FINANCE SECRETARY*  
Barbara Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

In today's Gospel passage from Matthew we learn of the magi from the east traveling some distance to Jerusalem to pay homage to Jesus, the newborn king of the Jews. This raises the question, if Jesus is the king of the Jews where were the Jews? The Jewish religious leaders of the time, the chief priests and scribes, knew where the Christ was to be born. It was foretold by the prophet Micah, in Bethlehem the land of Judea. They informed King Herod of this. And that was the end of it. Why?

Perhaps they, like us, grew indifferent to the familiar. As Jesus said in a later passage, "*A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.*" Mt 13:57. Jesus was one of them and yet they could not accept who he was, the Christ. How are we to guard against this indifference to the familiar in our lives? What will we do to prepare ourselves to see Christ's presence in those we live with and work with? How will we honor the prophets in our hometown?

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

## ***Food Pantry and “Clothes Closet” Items***

Please remember that items for the food pantry and clean, usable clothing can be brought in at any time during the month for delivery to Blessed Sacrament and the South End Community Center.

*“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. . . Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:35-36, 40)*

## PARISH CALENDAR

### January

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

**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 6<sup>th</sup>.

### 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)*

## 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

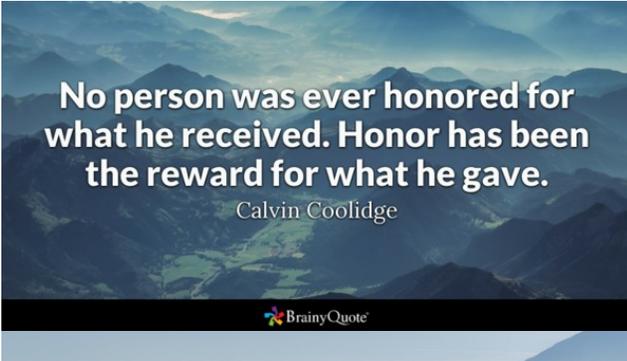
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The letters also abbreviate the Latin words, "Christus mansionem benedicat," which translates to "May Christ bless the house."

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.

## READERS ROSTER

<u>January 6</u>	<u>January 13</u>	<u>January 20</u>
Nancy Sirois	Jean Macionus	Charles Vasas



**No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.**

Calvin Coolidge

BrainyQuote

*Bulletins courtesy of John Misurale, January - February 2019. If anyone wishes to contribute to the printing cost of the bulletin, please see Fr. Tom.*

## Sunday Readings

### First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

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

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

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

#### Responsorial Psalm.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

### Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

#### A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:  
You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

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

### Alleluia, Alleluia

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

### Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

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

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

*And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
since from you shall come a ruler,  
who is to shepherd my people Israel."*

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

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

