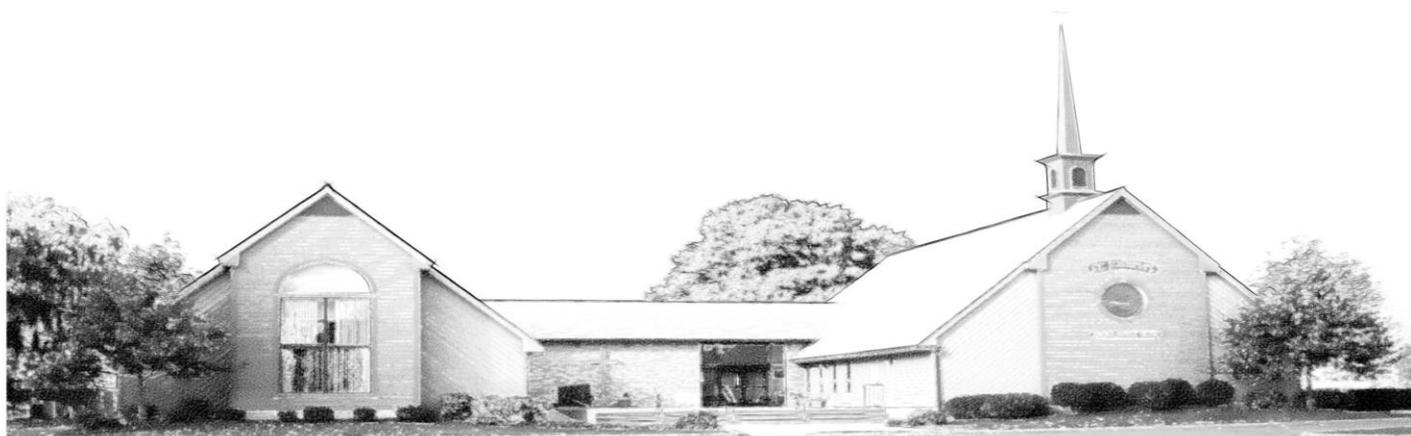


# St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



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

**January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

## PARISH CONTACTS

ADMINISTRATOR  
Fr. Tom Walsh

PARISH CHAIRPERSON  
Jeanine May

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Dee Smith

FINANCE SECRETARY  
Valerie Chernesky

Dear Parishioners,

*"The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ."* The people were anxious. These were difficult times and it was their hope that the Messiah had finally come to free them from Roman oppression and restore their independence. They were looking for a worldly king, so in time they failed to see the heavenly King.

How often do we fail to see God's presence in our lives? Do we fail to see him because we are looking for a god created in our image, conforming to our expectations, answering our prayers, fulfilling our dreams? Such a god does not exist. To find the true God we need to know what we are looking for or how would we know when we have found Him. I invite you to reflect on the image of God that you hold and consider if that image reconciles with the God of our faith.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Tom

## MASS SCHEDULE

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

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## ***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 20<sup>th</sup>** Martin Luther King Celebration held at the First Baptist Church in Stratford at 4pm.

**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.

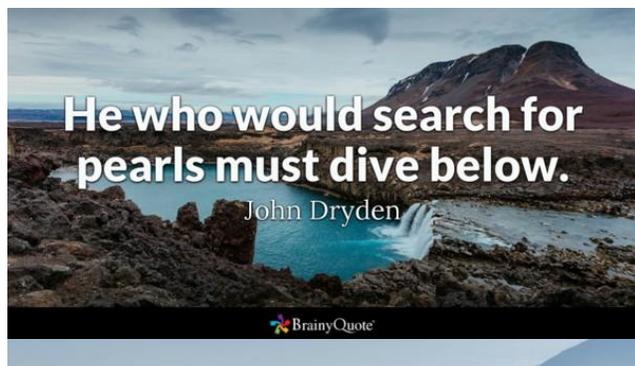
### BY THE WEEK

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

<u>January 13</u>	<u>January 20</u>	<u>January 27</u>
Joe Pelland	Jean Macionus	Charles Vasas



## 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

### St. Mark School Open House

St. Mark School in Stratford is hosting an Open House on Sunday, January 27th from 10:00am to 1:00pm for grades Prek3 through 8th. They are located at 500 Wigwam Lane. All families are invited to tour St. Mark school, meet with faculty and students, and enjoy some refreshments while learning more about the St. Mark difference. For more information please call 203-375-4291 or visit their website at [www.stmarkschool.org](http://www.stmarkschool.org).

### Action item for implementation from Holy Synod for Increased Spirituality

A 10 to 15 minute "business free zone" prior to the celebration of Holy Mass for priest and faithful. Use at least page 8 of the Mass booklets for spiritual preparation as well as other introductory pages. Let us prepare properly for the wonderful gifts of Christ in the Eucharist and hearing of God's Word during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

*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 42:1-4, 6-7

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

Thus says the LORD:

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. a bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

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

#### Responsorial Psalm.

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

### Second Reading

Acts 10:34-38

#### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

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

### Alleluia, Alleluia

The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, listen to him.

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

### Gospel

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

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

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."

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

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

