

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Darlene Kopka, Edmond Bresh, Walter Isaacs, Tom Milos, Annette Krietler, Wendell Barry, Helen Reynolds, Helen Popp, Jane Pelland, Irene Smith, Florence Rasmussen, Judy DiLorenzo, and Robin Lupinski.

We pray for the safety and wellbeing of all those affected by the Coronavirus.

## NEWS

### Christmas and the Weekend Mass Schedule

The Mass schedule for Christmas and the weekend follows below. Please note that you will need to sign up for the Mass that you choose to attend on the Church website [www.saintjosephsofstratford.org](http://www.saintjosephsofstratford.org), or you can email me at [pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org](mailto:pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org) including the names of any who will be attending with you.

Christmas Eve Vigil – 4:00pm in the Church  
Christmas Day – 10:00am in the Parish Hall  
Saturday Evening Vigil – 4:00pm in the Church  
Sunday Morning – 10:00am in the Parish Hall

### Christmas Flower Donations

Carol Murdzia in memory of Richard Murdzia, Alice, John & Bill Geffert, Victoria Billick and the Marianne Charabowski Family.

### A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE – THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Mark, the shortest and simplest of the four gospels believed to be written around A.D. 65-75, gives a crisp and fast-moving look at the life of Christ. It is possible to capture the message of the Gospel of Mark in a single verse: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served; he came to serve and to give his life to redeem many people."

(Mark 10:45) Mark portrays Jesus as a Servant on the move, instantly responsive to the will of the Father. By preaching, teaching, and healing, he ministers to the needs of others even to the point of death. After the Resurrection, he commissions his followers to continue his work in his power – servants following in the steps of the perfect Servant.

Mark can be outlined as follows: prologue (1:1-15); Jesus, Messiah - Teacher, Healer (1:16-8:21); Jesus, suffering Messiah - Son of Man (8:22-10:52); Jesus in Jerusalem (11:1-13:37); the Passion and Resurrection (14:1-16:20).

## PARISH CALENDAR

**By the Week: All activities suspended until further notice.**

**Saturdays:** Stepping Class with Mercy Tabernacle  
10:00 am-12:00 pm

**Sundays:** Mercy Tabernacle Church  
12:30 - 2:30 pm  
Cub Scouts 5:45-7:30 pm

**Mondays:** Scouts 7:00-8:30 pm

**Tuesdays:** Mercy Tabernacle Church  
6:00 - 8:00 pm

**Wednesdays:** Mass for Healing, 9:00am  
AA Meeting 12:00 pm

**Thursdays:** AA Men's Meeting 7:30 pm

### Readers Roster:

The roster will be updated when services resume.

We celebrate the Contemporary Rite of the Mass, which begins on page 63 of the pew missal.

## *Christ, the Light of Life!*



**Presider** This Christmas we recall the hope we have in Christ. Today we light again the candles of hope, love, joy and faith.

*(Participant 1 lights the four candles.)*

**Participant 1** Now we light our last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again; and with the shepherds we are filled with wonder and amazement.

*(Participant 2 lights the white Christ candle.)*

**Participant 2** Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God, and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.

**All:** Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen

***St. Joseph of Stratford***

## **National Catholic Church**



**December 25, 2020 – Christmas Day, Year B**

**Dear Parishioners,**

In today's reading from the Book of Hebrews we see that all things are sustained by God through Christ, through whom all things were made. The word sustain means an ongoing strengthening or support. The key word being ongoing. This means that God continues to be active in Creation, in our lives. God's act of Creation is not a one and done deal. Moment by moment God strengthens and supports us, individually.

Grace and peace,  
Fr. Tom

### **Parish Contacts**

*PASTOR*  
Fr. Tom Walsh

*CHAIRPERSON*  
Jeanine May

*VICE CHAIRPERSON*  
Dee Smith

*Finance Secretary*  
Barbara Chernesky

### **Mass Times**

Mass celebrations are Saturday Vigil at 4:00pm & Sunday Morning at 10:00am

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford, CT 06615  
(203) 377-9901 Church, (203) 923-2424 Rectory  
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