

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Wanda Copple, Janet Marino, Nancy Anzalone, Jean Macionus, Fr. Henry Smolinski & Margo, Nancy Sirois, Rich Lasecki, Edmond Bresh, Helen Reynolds, Helen Popp, Irene Smith, Florence Rasmussen, Robin Lupinski, Judy DiLorenzo, Yvonne Walsh, Frank Bonitatebus, Kevin & Sue.

COVID PRECAUTIONS CONTINUE

Masks are mandatory for all those who are not fully vaccinated while inside the St. Joseph facility. Masks are strongly encouraged for those who are fully vaccinated. If you are diagnosed with COVID or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID you need to call, not send an email, to Fr. Tom to let him know so contact tracing can begin in a timely manner. Do not enter the St. Joseph facility until cleared to do so. Please call Fr. Tom at 860-417-9888. If no answer leave a detailed message. You can send a text to this number as well.

THANK YOU from Blessed Sacrament!

Email received from the Blessed Sacrament Food Panty Director: "All went well this past week. We had nearly 1700 families come on Wednesday and our bags contained the usual Thanksgiving items plus some of, if not all, the foods we distribute on Thursday. Thank you all for your generosity; I hope your holiday and week was holy and blessed."

You can see how much your donations were needed and appreciated. Please continue to shop for the food pantry and bring the items to the bin here at St. Joseph's when you attend Mass. There are many people who suffer from hunger every day, not only on Thanksgiving. While the official "pantry distribution day" is Thursday, anyone who comes asking for food another day is not turned away.

"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)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CHURCH

Ladies Society Meeting

The Ladies Society will be meeting on Sunday, December 12 after Mass.

Annual Election Coming Up

The Election of the 2022 Parish Committee and the acceptance of the 2022 Budget will be held on Sunday, December 5 following 10 a.m. Mass. Your input as a parish member is extremely important at this meeting to approve a 2022 Committee and a 2022 working Budget in order to best serve St Joseph's parish.

Be A Part Of It!

We encourage anyone interested in serving on the Parish Committee to please contact Fr. Tom, Jeannine, or any committee member. We are always looking for new additions with fresh ideas. We welcome you to join us!

Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 23, 2022 is the Annual Parish Meeting following 10 a.m. Mass in the church hall. Please make time to attend as we need All Parish input so we can serve St Joseph's to the best of all our abilities. Coffee and Rolls will be served.

St. Joseph's Super Project

In the near future we will be starting a Fund Raising Project to purchase a new Boiler system for the church, the expense will be very high. Continue to read the bulletin for church updates.

The Second Sunday of Advent ~ We Love



Presider Today is the second Sunday of Advent and we light the candle of Love. Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope. We light the candle of Hope again as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope and our peace.

(Participant 1 lights the first candle, the candle of Hope.)

Participant 1 Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Love. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show God's love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

(Participant 2 lights the second candle, the candle of Love.)

Participant 2 Love is like a candle shining in the darkness. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

All Lord God, Your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love that we would be witnesses to him and spread the Good News of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome the Lord. Amen.

St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



December 5, 2021 – Second Sunday of Advent

Dear Parishioners,

Parish Contacts

PASTOR

Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON

Jeanine May

VICE

CHAIRPERSON

Dee Smith

Finance

Secretary

Barbara
Chernesky

The First Reading today from the Prophet Baruch (5:1-9) speaks of God commanding that every lofty mountain be made low, and that age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, so that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. John the Baptist, the last of the Old Testament prophets, echoes this to us in today's Gospel passage.

Advent is that time for us to advance secure in the glory of God. But first we have some work to do as we dismantle all obstacles to God in our hearts. We need to repent of our sins of commission and omission, what we have done and what we have failed to do.

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom