

## St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



December 3, 2023 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

### Parish Contacts

PASTOR  
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON  
Jeanine May

VICE  
CHAIRPERSON  
Dee Smith

Financial  
Secretary  
Barbara  
Chernesky

Office  
Administrator  
Lisa Vasas

Dear Parishioners,

*"It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work."*

It comes as no surprise that Jesus is speaking of himself when he speaks of the man traveling abroad in today's Gospel passage. (Mark 13:33-37) Extending this understanding to ourselves, we see that we are his servants. Each one of us is charged with our own work. Are we clear about what is expected of us? What we should be doing so that when the master of the house returns, we may not be found sleeping on the job.

Grace and peace,  
Fr. Tom

### Mass Times

Vigil Mass – Saturday 4:00pm.

Sunday Mass – 9:30am.

1300 Stratford Road, Stratford, CT 06615 / (203) 377-9901  
[www.saintjosephsofstratford.org](http://www.saintjosephsofstratford.org) / [sjosparishpncc@outlook.com](mailto:sjosparishpncc@outlook.com)



TODAY'S READINGS: **SEE CENTER INSERT**

**SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS:** For the repose of the soul of  
†Thomas Marshall, given by wife Barbara

### PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Jan Coppola, Linda Hendrickson, Joe Fowler, Jane Pelland, Joe Pelland, Nancy Anzalone, Jean Macionus, Fr. Henry Smolinski & Margo, Rich Lasecki, Edmond Bresh, Helen Reynolds, Helen Popp, Florence Rasmussen, Robin Lupinski, Judy DiLorenzo, Frank Bonitatebus, Martha Lesnick, Bill Homa, Ray & Carol Morrison, Meghan Castelot, Mateo Cirioli, Albert Fanning, Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak.

### For those new to our church (and even those who aren't!)



To follow along with the Mass, begin on **page 63** in the Mass booklet. Father will announce which page to turn to for the Canon at the appropriate time and where to pick up the service following the Canon.

**Changes for Advent:** 1<sup>st</sup> form of Confession is used, no Gloria said, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Communion prayer is used.

**And please remember** – there is no eating or drinking inside the church proper (small bottles of water excepted).

**Please silence your cell phones before Mass.**

## Advent collection



For each of the four Sundays in Advent, we are collecting a different item – one for the children who are food insecure for the upcoming Christmas break and one for toiletries for those less fortunate.

The collection schedule will be:

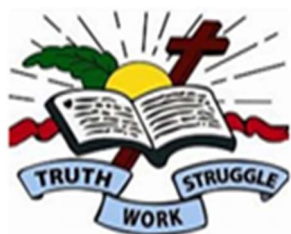
	Kids	Adults
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent:	Oatmeal/cereal	Soap
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent:	Single-serve pasta	Toilet paper
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent:	Canned fruit/applesauce	Toothpaste/brush
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent:	Peanut butter & jelly	Shampoo

Any contributions may be placed in the marked boxes in the foyer. Thank you in advance for your help!

## A Special Event at a sister parish!

The town of Deerfield, MA, is celebrating the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. Next Sunday, 10 December, as part of the town-wide events going on that day, each of the four historic churches in the town will be holding an Open House. One of those churches is our own **Holy Name of Jesus PNCC** parish. Father Robert Koerber is their pastor. Their open house will be held from 1 – 2 p.m. followed by a Mass in Polish and Benediction from 2 – 3 p.m. The church is located at 15 Thayer Street, South Deerfield. If you're in the area, stop in and check out the festivities!

## Next “Know & Grow” session



The next session in the “Know & Grow” series focusing on the PNCC Confession of Faith is going to be held on Thursday, 14 December, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. The Rev. Robert Koerber will help us to explore the topic, “I BELIEVE in immortality and everlasting happiness in eternity in union with God...”

To join via Zoom, please contact [revpauls@yahoo.com](mailto:revpauls@yahoo.com) or [ksobiechowski@yahoo.com](mailto:ksobiechowski@yahoo.com)

## Keep up the good work!

Know those pull tabs on soda cans or soup cans? Save them, bring them in, and put them in the barrel in the foyer for Ronald McDonald House. They use the revenue from these tabs to subsidize the care they provide to families whose children are undergoing treatment for serious illnesses. Already there are some tabs in the container. Let's fill up the barrel and help the kids!



## Crafts group



The crafts group meets in the classrooms on Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m. to make prayer shawls, prayer blankets, rosaries, prayer squares and chemo caps. All are welcome to join, regardless of gender, age, or experience. We will train! If you are a crafter who does not wish to come to the group meetings, you can still work

from home and bring your creations with you to church for inclusion in the next batch to be blessed.

The group is also accepting donations of the raw materials for these crafts (beads, beading string, small non-metallic crosses, yarn, etc.) so we can keep stitching and beading on.



*Fellowship Hour*  
*Hosts Needed*



The success of our Coffee & Fellowship depends on you. There is a sign-up sheet outside the kitchen with the remaining Sundays for this year. We invite you to put your name in the slot for the day you would like to host. And it doesn't have to be a solitary individual! People have gotten together to co-host a day so all the work doesn't fall to just one person. Help keep this tradition going!

## READINGS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### First Reading

Is 63: 16-17, 19; 64: 2-7

#### A Reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old.

No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt.

Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

The Word of the Lord

**R: Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS. 80: 2-3,15-16, 18-19

**R: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hearken,  
from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.  
Rouse your power,  
and come to save us.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine,  
and protect what your right hand has planted  
the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

May your help be with the man of your right hand,  
with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.  
Then we will no more withdraw from you;  
give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

## Second Reading

1 Cor 1: 3-9

### A Reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

Brothers and sisters:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

**R: Thanks be to God.**

C. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**R: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

C. Show us Lord, your love;  
and grant us your salvation.

**R: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

## THE GOSPEL

Mk 13: 33-37

C: The Lord be with you.

**R: And also with you.**

C: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

**R: Glory be to You, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R: Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**



## Today's hymns

Until the new hymnal boards arrive and are installed, we will publish which hymns are to be performed at the Sunday Mass.

Opening:	1. Hymn of Faith
Offertory:	22. Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Communion:	142. Abba, Father
Post-Communion:	147. Seek the Lord
Recessional:	21. Ready the Way

## Donor stones & leaves



For those of you who are interested in obtaining a leaf or stone for the Donor Tree in the foyer, information on how to do so is posted on the bulletin board. Or you can contact the office for further information.

## LifeLine Screening Event in January

There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions. These painless screenings go beyond your regular checkup to identify dangerous plaque buildup or blockage, a major risk factor for stroke and heart disease. The screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor.



To that end, we are hosting a screening event on Monday, 15 January 2024 in the church hall. Don't let heart disease and stroke get in the way of the life you love. The 4 vital screenings offered take 60-90 minutes to complete. Circle the date on your calendar and register for an appointment.

Flyers are on the table in the foyer. Call soon, as spots fill up quickly!



## St. Mary School Prekindergarten Open House

A message from St. Mary's School in Milford:

Please join us for a Pre-K Open House alongside our Christmas tree farm on the beautiful St. Mary School campus located at 72 Gulf St., Milford. From 10am - 11am on December 10th, there will be teachers and families available to show you our prekindergarten classrooms and answer your questions. We look forward to seeing you then!

Please pass this information on to anyone who might be interested.

## 2024 Parish Board Meeting schedule

The Parish Board will be meeting on the following dates in 2024:

January 14	September 17
January 21 – Full Parish	October 20
February 18	November 4 – budget meeting
March 17	December 1 – budget & election
June 16	December 15
July 21	January 19, 2025
August 18	January 26, 2025 – Full Parish

Parishioners are welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings. This schedule is also posted on the bulletin board in the foyer in case you need to reference it in the future.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CHURCH

☩ **Sunday, 3 Dec 2023** – Mass in memory of ☩ Thomas Marshall, given by his wife, Barbara

**Thursday, 7 Dec 2023** – Craft group meets 11 a.m. in the classrooms

**Sunday, 10 Dec 2023** – 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Deerfield, MA. Open House 1 - 2 p.m. followed by Mass in Polish and Benediction, Holy Name of Jesus parish, South Deerfield, MA

### Prayer Blankets are back!



Two have already been completed since the last blessing, with several more to come! Check in the hall after Mass during coffee hour to work on the latest ones.

Meanwhile, we are still collecting towards the purchase of fabric for the future. Now that it's getting chillier outside, the new season's patterns are in stock, with something for almost everyone's tastes. There is a donation box at the back of the church, on the table near the bulletins for those interested in donating to the cause.

### No Flowers on the Altar for Advent

Now that Advent has started, flowers no longer decorate our altars. For those of you wishing to provide blooms to beautify the church in the period from Christmas to Lent when flowers are again allowed, please contact Dee Smith for information on how to do so.

### Looking to have a Mass for a loved one?

To reserve a date for a memorial/commemorative Mass, contact the office at 203-377-9901, email [sjosparishpncc@outlook.com](mailto:sjosparishpncc@outlook.com) or use the Mass intention cards on the table in the foyer. Intentions will be listed in the "What's Happening" section of the bulletin, marked with a ☩. If you do not see it listed there, please contact the office.

### Items for the bulletin

Deadline for submitting items for the bulletin is Thursday. Items turned in after Thursday are not guaranteed inclusion in that Sunday's bulletin.

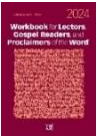
## Holiday Platters available for ordering



Decided yet what you're doing for food for Christmas and New Year's? Here's one option - once again, Colossal Kielbasa is preparing platters of Polish food for pickup right before the holidays. Further information, including pricing, is listed on the flyers on the foyer table. A portion of the proceeds from these sales goes toward the Lord's Kitchen fund, to provide food for those less fortunate when it's our day to serve. Tell your friends! **Deadline for orders is 17 December!**

### Attention Lectors!

Advent has started and with it the Liturgical Year has changed from Year A to Year B. If you have not already picked up your new lector workbook, please stop by the office or make arrangements to pick it up.



### New Prayer Calendar & Wednesday topic

The December prayer calendar and Wednesday prayer topic are posted on the bulletin board and the web site. Copies are available on the table in the foyer for those who would like to participate in the diocesan prayer.

## Christmas Fair 2023

To all those who helped with or supported the Christmas Fair in any way, a heartfelt **THANK YOU!** An update on how things went will be in a future bulletin.

