



# OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH

WELCOME TO OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH

*Please join us to Pray, Smile, Listen, Encourage,  
and Invite Others to Come Home!*

December 15, 2019

## SABBATH MASSES

Saturday

4:00 pm.

Sunday

8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm.

## DAILY MASS

Monday - Friday at 9:00 am.

## CONFESSION

Friday 8:30 am - 8:50 am

Saturday 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm

Monsignor Martin P. Ryan,  
D. Min.  
Pastor

Mrs. Denise Bartelson  
Director of Faith Formation

Mr. George Zamary  
Pastoral Assistant

Mrs. Stacey Breyan  
Office Staff

Mr. Matthew Roumeles  
Director of Music Ministry

Ms. Tina Manus  
Choir Director

Mr. Howard Wardlow  
Finance Council Chairman



## Sacrament of Baptism

If you wish to have your child baptized at Our Lady of Grace, we ask families to register in the parish and attend "Growing-up Catholic," our parish baptism program.

For information regarding dates and times of baptisms, please speak with Stacey at the Parish Office: (203)377-0928 during the week or email: [staceybreyan@olgstratford.com](mailto:staceybreyan@olgstratford.com). For additional information regarding "Growing-Up Catholic," contact Melissa Lembo: 203-556-0611 or email: [baptismprogram@olgstratford.com](mailto:baptismprogram@olgstratford.com).

## Sacrament of Matrimony

For those wishing to enter the Sacrament of Matrimony, please contact the Parish Office (203-377-0928) one year prior to the date of your wedding. The couple must meet with the parish priest to review all the legal and canonical requirements.

## PARISH INFORMATION

**Office/Rectory:** 203-377-0928 x13  
**FAX:** 203-377-5235  
**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
**Religious Education:** 203-375-6133  
**Bingo:** 203-375-2005  
**Finance Council Chairman:** 203-745-6655  
**Parish Website:** [www.olgstratford.com](http://www.olgstratford.com)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

*Please pray for:* Nadine Alusik, Bernard Ardry, Lois Balga, Ted Balga, Thomas Boiano, Anna Curry, Barbara Dlouhy, James Farrell, Peter Faustine, John Goncalves, Flo & Mike Gorlo, Nancy Griffin, Elaine Lagor, Marge Martire, Owen McNaboe, Michael Meade, Helen Miller, Frances Mudre, Barbara Muth, David Oleynik, Sal Pace, Tom Penny, Mary Roviello, Carol Ruggio, Monsignor Martin Ryan, Marie Sasso, Rev. Leo Spodnik, Laura Tutunjian, Shirley Tutunjian, Ann Ward, Andrew Yankowski, George Zmary, Sr.

*Welcome to  
 "Our Little Church."*



## Welcome Sheet

We have seen many new faces in our Church in recent weeks. We invite you to join us! Please begin the process of becoming a member by completing the "Welcome Sheet on the last page of the bulletin!

## Parish Website

Please take a look at the OLG Website. We are updating the site to make the website more user friendly. Please stop and visit!

## Annual Collection

The annual collection is well underway. We thank all those who have generously given. If you have not given, we ask your support so that we make our goal of \$10,000.00. The amount received thus far is \$4790.00

## Christmas Mass Schedule

**Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec. 24:**

4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 10:30 pm

**Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25:**

9:00 am, 12:00 pm

## Hope for the Future Collection

We ask your assistance in building the future of the parish. Your donations in the Hope for the Future Envelope on December 28/29, will keep us current with are bills!

## Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

We are ten days away from Christmas! Please make your plans for Mass. The Christmas Eve Masses are very crowded, so please come early. Please welcome all who join "Our Little Church" for the Celebration of the "Birth of Jesus Christ".

We will need your assistance for Mass. Please say yes to assist as an usher. Readers and Eucharistic Ministers there is a sign-up sheet for Christmas Mass on the Bulletin Board!

May we all bring the Peace of Christ to all!

Peace,  
 Msgr. Ryan



Our Lady of Grace will be offering a new Online Giving option through a new vendor (Our Sunday Visitor), a web-based electronic contribution application. We are providing this service so that you have the option to manage your contributions online or with your offering envelope. This service is safe and secure. It is convenient for you and for our parish staff. You will be able to sign up for Online Giving soon by visiting our parish website at [www.olgstratford.com](http://www.olgstratford.com) and selecting the Online Giving link. We will continue to provide you with more information.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### St. Matthew Guild

We would like to thank our St. Matthew Guild volunteers for their service to the parish. Starting Monday January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Guild will be performing their weekly offertory count on Mondays. We are always looking for new volunteers, if you are interested in joining the team, please contact Suzanna Zello (203-400-4044) or Marie Radcliff (908-768-0838) for details

### Come Home for Christmas

My Family invitation list consists of many family members and friends. Come Home for Christmas!

A person divorced and remarried and away from the Church?

The recovering person trying to find Jesus in recovery

The women grieving her mother's death

The person hurting and needs to hear the words I apologize!

Jesus says "Come to Me"!

## My Spiritual Life

Did you know that we have Catholic program on TV!

On Optimum

Channel 137 Catholic Faith Network

Channel 135 EWTN

The Catholic Mass

Daily at 10:00 am

Channel 24

[www.Masstimes.org](http://www.Masstimes.org)

If you will be traveling over the holidays, please use the above mentioned website to find local churches and their Mass schedules in the areas you are visiting



## Flu Season

I hope you have taken the time to receive your annual flu shot. Please use the hand sanitizer stands as you enter and leave church. Please consider the following:

- If you are feeling ill, *please* stay at home and watch Mass on TV.
- Contact George Zamy at the Parish Office if you will have an extended period at home so you might receive Communion at home.
- At the Sign of Peace, please extend the Sign of Peace in gesture (nod, bow, wave) and do not shake hands.
- The clergy and Eucharistic Ministers will use hand sanitizer before distributing Communion.
- Please realize your health is important!



## The Lord's Kitchen

A special note of thanks to the OLG volunteers who will be serving the meal at the Lord's Kitchen on Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup>. May we wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God bless you for your good work! As always, the OLG volunteers thank everyone for their continued support and donations.

## Parish Christmas Mailing

Please watch for the Parish Christmas Mailing. The mailing contains a Christmas brochure with the Christmas and New Year's Day Mass schedule and the collection envelopes. We look forward to celebrating Christmas with you and your family. Please contact the Parish Office if you do not receive our mailing!

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, December 14

4:00 pm Thomas & Carmella Ettore r/b Michael Ettore

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

8:00 am Deceased Members of the Soisson & Popo Families r/b Family

10:00 am Patricia Kasper r/b The Rapice Family

12:00 pm The Kiman Family r/b Pat & Joe Guerra

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

9:00 am Roman Brodnik r/b Mother

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:00 am Luciani Family r/b Linda & Ed Skowronski

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00 am Irena Ryryt r/b Friend

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:00 am Pauline Mayernick r/b Cortello Family

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:00 am Ben Rapice r/b Rapice Family

### SATURDAY, December 21

4:00 pm Dolores Cozza r/b Daughter

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:00 am Stella Soisson r/b Kathy Knapik & George Zamy

10:00 am Deceased Members of the Mirfin Family r/b Nancy Mirfin

12:00 pm Barbara Duca r/b Husband



## Sanctuary Lamp Intentions



December 15, 2019 - December 21, 2019

Lamp I: Anthony Battistelli Family  
r/b Ed & Louise Gernat

Lamp II: The Frank Gernat Family  
r/b Ed & Louise Gernat

## Mass Celebrants

Saturday, December 21h	4:00 p.m.	Msgr. Ryan
Sunday, December 22th	8:00 a.m.	Fr. McDonough
	10:00 a.m.	Msgr. Ryan
	Noon	Msgr. Ryan

## Parish Pastoral Council

We are now looking for 2 new members to join the Council. The Council meets six times a year to advise the Pastor on spiritual and pastoral needs and programs of the parish. If you are interested in more information or would like to volunteer for the Council, please contact Jack Boitano, Parish Pastoral Chairperson at 203-377-2917.



## Just a reminder...

There will be no parish Bingo on Tuesday, December 24th and Tuesday, December 31st. The parish Bingo will resume on Tuesday, January 7th. Please have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

## Faith Formation



The 2019-2020 Faith Formation theme this school year is:

### SOS - Sharing Our Saintliness.

Last weekend students from Wednesday evening classes along with adult volunteers came together to organize and wrap all the gifts from the Giving Tree. It was a huge task but very rewarding. We would like to thank all the parishioners who were so generous with purchasing the gifts needed. The true meaning of Christmas giving was evident. Check out our website for future pictures.

Last weekend some of the children in Class 1 and 3 participated in our Nativity scene at the end of the 10:00 Mass. At the end of Mass, Msgr Ryan along with the children and all the parishioners processed outside to Crèche and lit the crèche along with a blessing. Check our website for future pictures.

### Christmas Collection (Dec. 24 & 25)

1st Collection:

“O Come Let Us Adore Him” Envelope (Regular Christmas Collection)

2nd Collection:

“My Christmas Offering” Envelope  
(Church & Parish Center Repairs Collection)

### Oplatki

We are continuing the wonderful holiday tradition of providing Oplatki. Each packet contains 4 wafers (3 white & 1 pink). We ask for a donation of \$4.00 for each packet. They will be available after Mass beginning the weekend of November 30/December 1 in the Sacristy or at the Parish Office during office hours.

### 2020 Parish Calendars

We will be distributing 2020 Parish Calendars on the weekend of December 28/29. We thank the McDonald Funeral Home for their support in publishing our calendars. Happy New Year!

### Christmas Concert

Diocese of Bridgeport Choir for youth will perform Friday, December 20, 2019 at 7:30 pm at Fairfield University Quick Center for the Arts, general admission tickets are \$22.00 and can be purchased at [www.quickcenter.fairfield.edu](http://www.quickcenter.fairfield.edu)

### “Just Visiting?”

Please use our visitor envelopes located in the pews when attending our parish. We would enjoy putting your name on our active list.

## Marriage Moments

"Think in harmony with one another." (Rom. 15:5) In any marriage spouses will have disagreements. That's because we are independent individuals - and that is good. But today, celebrate one quality that you wholeheartedly agree upon.

## Parenting Pointers

Today is St. Nick's Day when children often find a trinket in their shoe...but some don't. Help your child go beyond trinkets and contemplate "A spirit of wisdom and of understanding" (Is11:2) Discuss who is a wise person that each of you know (other than each other). Why?

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WEBSITE: [www.SusanVogt.net](http://www.SusanVogt.net)

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION - THE MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST

We would like to thank all of the people that attended our discussions on the "Real Presence". We will be announcing our next steps. Please watch the bulletin for further information or contact Sue Zello at 203-368-6000 or Lynn Corra at 203-374- 9094.

### Offertory Ministry

We invite members of the community to join in our liturgy celebration by participating in the offertory procession. Please contact the head usher before Mass if you wish to volunteer to bring up the offertory gifts.

**Special Note:** If you have requested the Mass intention and would like to bring up the offertory gifts please see the Head Usher as early as possible before Mass begins.

## VIRTUS COMMUNICATION

### Virtus Training and Background Checks

We are currently notifying parishioners for Recertification in our Diocesan Safe Environment Program. There are 24 parishioners who volunteer in our parish who will need to re-certify. Please respond to the email we are sending. (if we do not have your email address you will be receiving a phone message). Please follow the directions! Thanks.

### Congratulation to:

Brandon Stasko & Kimberly Kusha  
who were married on

Saturday, December 7, 2019

**May God bless them**



## PARISH CALENDAR, COLLECTIONS

<b>PARISH FINANCES*</b>			
<b>Sunday Offertory</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Over (Under)</b>
Income for the week of 11/26/19 - 12/2/19	\$7086.	\$7,800.	(\$714.)
Budget Year-to-date	\$160,992.	\$171,180.	(\$10,188.)
Second Collection: Capital Improvement \$1669. December 15, 2019 Second Collection: No Second Collection			
*Please note: Due to the printing deadline, the Parish Finance Report will be <u>delayed by one week</u> .			

### Meetings & Events

- ◆ Blood Pressure Screening, Dec 15, 9:30 -11:30 am.
- ◆ Choir Practice, Sun., Dec. 15, 11:00 am to Noon
- ◆ Bingo, Tues., Dec. 17, Doors open at 4:30 pm/first game 6:30 pm. Food and beverages available for purchase. (PC)
- ◆ RCIA Class, Wed., Dec. 18th, 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm.
- ◆ Lord's Kitchen Service, Dec. 18 at 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm.
- ◆ Cub Scout Meeting. Dec. 19th, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.
- ◆ Faith Formation no classes, Dec. 21.
- ◆ Choir Practice, Sun., Dec. 22, 11:00 am to Noon

FFO = Faith Formation Office MH = Madonna Hall  
PO = Parish Office PC = Parish Center

### Feast of the Holy Innocents

The Feast of the Holy Innocents is December 28. It has been our parish tradition to burn lighted candles on the Feast of the Holy Family (Dec. 28/29) to remember any child who has died by miscarriage, still-birth, abortion, accidental, or natural death. Candles will be available on the table by the Icon of Mary on the weekend of December 14/15. Please label the candle with the child's name and your candle will burn at all Masses the weekend of Dec. 28/29.

### Christmas Penance Service

Msr. Ryan and Fr. Roger will be celebrating the parish Penance Service on Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Come and spend some time in prayer, meditation and share in the Sacrament of Reconciliation!

### Save the Date!

#### Feast of the Epiphany

On Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. Our tradition is that we bless our homes on this Feast. On the Feast, we ask you to bring your holy water bottle and we will bless chalk for you to use to write the blessing letters above your door. We will also have a prayer for you to say as you bless your home.

## OTHER NEWS

### A Stewardship Moment Third Sunday of Advent

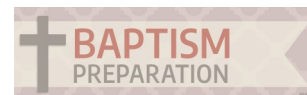
From the loneliness of his prison cell John the Baptist asks of Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" The weeks before Christmas offer much to be joyous about, celebrating with family and friends, the glitter of seasonal decorations, the excitement of gift giving and receiving. But in our midst there are the lonely and neglected, the poor, the hospitalized, the wayward, the shut-ins. There are those who feel that they have no hope. To whom should they look? Discipleship in the Lord includes being good stewards of others. Are there those in our family, our neighborhood, our community to whom we can reach out to show them a sign of Christ's presence in their midst?

### Parish Registration Information

**Why register in our parish?** Through your participation as a "Parish Steward", you continue to help a community of faith grow. **You gain services when you need them, such as Baptism, Visitation of the Sick, Sponsorship Certificates and a place for a Funeral.** You will receive updated information regarding the parish by "email" or calling post (an auto-call system).

#### "How Do I Register?"

Please stop by the Parish Office! Office hours are Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.



### Growing up Catholic

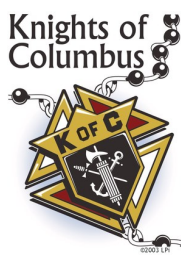
If you are planning to have your child baptized at Our Lady of Grace Parish, we ask you to attend our "Growing Up Catholic" class. The GUC class will give you a chance to center your faith journey with your child and take advantage of a time to meet other young parents in the parish. The next GUC class will be held on **Sunday, January 12th, 2020 at 1:30 pm in the Madonna Hall.** For further information contact Melissa at 203-556-0611 or email [BaptismProgram@olgstratford.com](mailto:BaptismProgram@olgstratford.com).

### Parish Readers

Please pick up a copy of the Lector's Workbook which can be found in the Sacristy this weekend!

### "Make-Up" Envelopes

Because the Parish Offertory is falling behind and the winter weather and the holidays are upon us, may I ask you to make up your envelopes when you are not able to be with us



**Knights Corner**  
**Msgr. Mooney Council #13228**  
**at Our Lady of Grace Parish**



**Helping those that can't help themselves**

The Knights are collecting **NEW and UNWRAPPED** baby gift items to be distributed to local Catholic agencies in January. They will be brought to the **Annual Connecticut Knights of Columbus Pro-Life Mass** and we invite our parish family to assist by donating **NEW and UNWRAPPED** items until the weekend of January 12, 2020. Just drop items outside sacristy or contact Tony Salerno at 203-378-5900.

Wish List includes: Booties, Baby Bath, Baby Lotion, Baby Shampoo, Baby Wipes, Bath Towels, Bibs, Blanket sleepers, Blankets, Bottles, Comb and Brush Sets, Crib Sheets, Desitin Ointment, Diaper Bags, Diapers, Hats and Sweaters, Onesies Outfits, Pacifiers, Rattles, Sleepers, Socks, Strollers and Stuffed Animals. Monetary contributions will also be gratefully accepted. Please make your checks payable to "Connecticut Knights of Columbus." Memo line - Pro-life Mass. (You may drop in offertory basket in a clearly marked envelope "KOF C PROLIFE MASS")

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Rosary**

The Knights of Columbus will lead our next 5th Sunday Rosary on Sunday, December 29 at 9:30 am. Please join us before the 10:00 am Mass as we encourage our families and parishioners to promote this devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary.



**Assistance in Receiving Holy Communion**

Recently, we have had a number of parishioners ask to receive Holy Communion at their seats in the side alcoves. Our Parish Ushers have been alerted to assist people requesting Holy Communion. Please ask the usher to have the Eucharist brought to you baptisms once a month at the Sunday Noon Mass? Please let me know your thoughts?

Msgr. Ryan

**Blood Pressure Screenings at OLG**

Our friendly parish nurses will be conducting blood pressure screenings on:

Sunday, December 15th, 9:30 am - 11:30 am.

Screenings are held in Madonna Hall.

**Parish Ministry to the Sick**  
**News for Hospital Patients**

If a parishioner is hospitalized at St. Vincent's or Bridgeport Hospital, please list Our Lady of Grace as your parish of registration. When our clergy makes their hospital visits, your name will come up on the parish list and we will visit you to pray and receive Communion. Also, there are "on-call" diocesan assigned chaplains at both hospitals available to parishioners if the need arises.



**Winter Weather Policy**

We have developed a policy that safe-guards our parishioners and will allow time for our parish contractors to clear the property during storms.

**Weekdays:** When the schools are closed or delayed or the Town or State has advised against travel, Daily Mass will be cancelled for that day. The parish will notify channel 8, channel 3 and the radio stations of the cancellation.

**Weekends:** When severe weather occurs during weekend Mass times, please check the local TV and Radio stations and our parish website for cancellations. It becomes very difficult to keep the sidewalks, driveways, and parking area clear if it snows during Mass time. Your safety is important to us!

Any Mass intention effected by the cancellation will be said during the next week.

**Being a Good Disciple**

Prayerfully invite and lead someone Home for Christmas!!!



**Interested in becoming a parishioner of Our Lady of Grace?**

Please complete the following and place it in the offertory basket.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_