



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH

WELCOME TO OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH

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 Zmary
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. For additional information regarding "Growing-Up Catholic," contact Melissa Lembo: 203-556-0611 or email: 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.

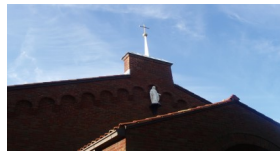
PARISH INFORMATION

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

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!

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 \$6730.00.



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 and selecting the Online Giving link. We will continue to provide you with more information.

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

As the Angels announce the "Birth of the Child Jesus", I pray that your hearts might be open to the Peace, Joy, and Wonder of the newborn Christ. I pray for the answers of your prayers. May His "Star" guide you.

On behalf of the Parish Staff and myself may we wish you and your families a Blessed Christmas!

Msgr. Ryan

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24:

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

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25:

9:00 am, 12:00 pm



Christmas Greetings

Christmas Flowers

You have received an envelope, to support the Christmas decorations and flowers. As you make your donation your intentions will be remembered at all masses from December 23rd through January 12th.

Thank you for your generosity!

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"!

Thank You

On Sunday December 8th, the parish began its celebration of Christmas, with the Blessing of the Parish Creche, the Parish Family Mass and Breakfast with Santa sponsored by our Knights of Columbus. It was a great day of celebration for the parish.

We would like to thank the Faith Formation children from 1st and 3rd grades for their Christmas Play. Thank you to Denise Bartelson and Melissa Lembo and all the volunteers that made this moment special.

We would like to thank the Knights of Columbus for their Breakfast with Santa. Thank you to Terry Morgan and all the Knights who volunteered. The food was delicious, the spirit was warm and welcoming to more than 200 people who attended! The children enjoyed the candy canes and the visit of Santa.

May God bless your work and ministry!

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

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 Zmary 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!



PARISH WEBSITE



Parish Website

Please check our updated parish website! We are always looking for good information and parish pictures. If you have a picture to share, contact Sue Zello at suzannazello@olgstratford.com

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, December 21

4:00 pm Dolores Cozza *r/b* Daughter

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

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

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

12:00 pm Barbara Duca *r/b* Husband

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

9:00 am Harry Bagley *r/b* Family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 pm Parish Intentions

6:00 pm Parish Intentions

10:30 pm Parish Intentions

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:00 am Parish Intentions

12:00 pm Parish Intentions

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:00 am Barbara Duca *r/b* Soisson Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

9:00 am Stephen Moran *r/b* Brother

SATURDAY, December 28

4:00 pm Hermes Radcliff *r/b* Marie Radcliff

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

8:00 am Stella Soisson *r/b* The Findley Family

10:00 am Robert Cartellidio *r/b* Family

12:00 pm Barbara McLaughlin *r/b* Family

Sanctuary Lamp Intentions

December 22, 2019 - December 28, 2019

Lamp I: Barbara Duca *r/b* Husband

Lamp II: Ben Rapice *r/b* Family

Mass Celebrants

Tuesday, Dec. 24th	4:00 pm	Msgr. Ryan
	6:00 pm	Fr. McDonough
	10:30 pm	Msgr. Ryan
Wednesday, Dec. 25th	9:00 am	Fr. McDonough
	12:00 pm	Msgr. Ryan
	4:00 p.m.	Fr. McDonough
Saturday, Dec. 28th	8:00 a.m.	Msgr. Ryan
Sunday, Dec. 29th	10:00 a.m.	Msgr. Ryan
	Noon	Fr. McDonough

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St. Matthew Guild

We would like to thank our St. Matthew Guild volunteers for their service to the parish. Starting Monday January 5th, 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.

Faith Formation



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

SOS - Sharing Our Saintliness

We would like to thank all the parishioners who were so generous with purchasing the gifts needed from the Giving Tree. The true meaning of Christmas giving was evident. All the gifts were wrapped and sorted by students from our Faith Formation classes along with many adult volunteers. We thank them for all the help. Many families feel blessed because of everyone's generosity. Thank You!

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 the Crèche and lit the crèche along with a blessing. Check our website for pictures.

We would like to thank all the families that contributed to our Bake Sale during the Breakfast with Santa and all the parishioners that purchased the goodies.

Faith Formation would like to wish all the parishioners a Blessed Christmas and to Thank You for your continued support with our programs and fundraising throughout the year. Many things could not be accomplished without your support!



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.

“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

In the northern hemisphere, Christmas coincides with the longest nights of the year. Let darkness be your friend. Pause with your honey amidst your busy preparations to go outside (even in the cold) and look at the sky. Ponder your smallness in this universe, but also the warmth of your love for each other.

Parenting Pointers

Dec. 21, is the longest night of the year - and not only because kids are getting antsy about Christmas. Celebrate the darkness with candles. Perhaps make a "pilgrimage" through your home carrying a candle an reflecting on the holiness of each room and person.

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EMAIL: SusanVogt1@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.SusanVogt.net

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.



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!

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

PARISH CALENDAR, COLLECTIONS

<u>PARISH FINANCES*</u>			
Sunday Offertory	Actual	Budget	Over (Under)
Income for the week of 12/2/19 - 12/9/19	\$7784.	\$7,800.	(\$16.)
Budget Year-to-date	\$168,821.	\$178,813.	(\$9992.)
Second Collection: Religious Retirement \$1438. December 22, 2019 Second Collection: No Second Collection			
*Please note: Due to the printing deadline, the Parish Finance Report will be delayed by one week.			

Meetings & Events

- ◆ Choir Practice, Sun., Dec. 22, 11:00 am to Noon
- ◆ Parish Office Closed Dec. 24th and 25th.
- ◆ No Bingo, Tues., Dec. 24th
- ◆ No RCIA Class, Wed., Dec. 25th
- ◆ Cub Scout Meeting, Pack 272, Dec. 26th, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.
- ◆ Faith Formation no classes, Sat., Dec. 28th
- ◆ 5th Sunday Rosary, Dec. 29th at 9:30 am
- ◆ Choir Practice, Sun., Dec. 29, 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.

Save the Date!Feast of the Epiphany

On Sunday, January 5th, 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.

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.

OTHER NEWS

A Stewardship Moment
Fourth Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel we hear of the coming of Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." We celebrate three Advents: the birth of Christ, his Second Coming, and his presence in the world today. Our daily lives are attended by God's presence. Indeed, "God is with us." The Good News of Christ's Incarnation is that we are the sign, the "sacrament," of Christ's presence in the world. People are supposed to see us, see how we love one another, see how we treat the stranger among us, see how we give comfort to the poor and afflicted, and share the Good News with joy. They see how good stewards are the light of Christ. And there can be no possible response except to say: "God is here!"

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?"

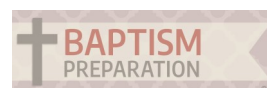
Please stop by the Parish Office! Office hours are Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

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!

"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

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.

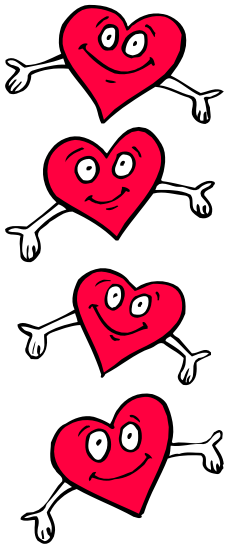


Knights Corner
Msgr. Mooney Council #13228
at Our Lady of Grace Parish

Helping those that can't help themselves

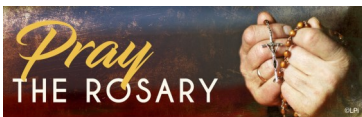
The Knights are collecting **NEW and UNWRAPPED** baby gift items to be distributed to local Catholic agencies in January. They will be brought to the **Annual Connecticut Knights of Columbus Pro-Life Mass** and we invite our parish family to assist by donating **NEW and UNWRAPPED** items until the weekend 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")



Save the Date

K of C Council #2370
50 College Street, Stratford, CT
St. Valentine's Dinner Dance
Saturday February 15th 7:00pm
Steak Dinner and Dancing BYOB
\$25 per person \$50.00 per couple
Pre-pay discount
\$45 per couple if payment by 2/13/20
All reservations must be received by
2/12/20
Checks payable to K of C #2370
Mail to attention of Bob Bradley
535 Cutspring Rd.
Stratford, CT 06614
Proceeds for Vocation Scholarships



5th 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.

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 _____