



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 29, 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

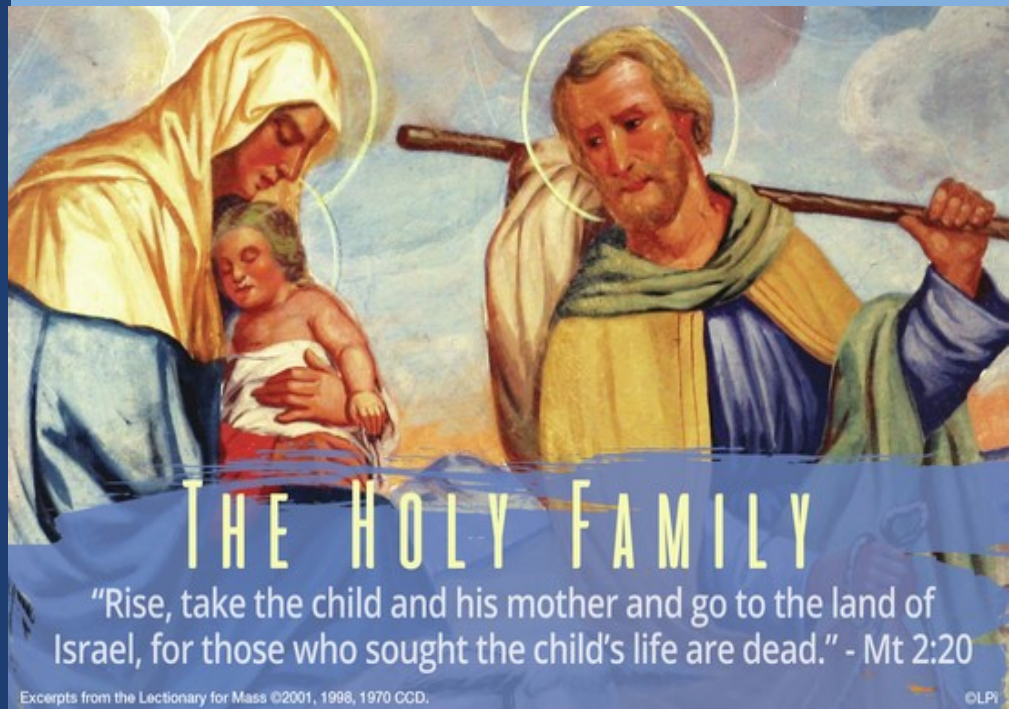
Mr. George Zarny
Pastoral Assistant

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

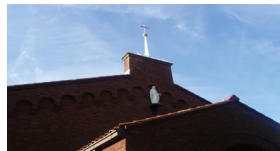
Finance Council Chairman: 203-745-6655

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 Zamar, 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 \$7287.00.



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,

I invite you to take time this week and make some strong resolutions for the new year 2020.

As I ask you to make some resolutions for 2020, do not forget the spiritual resolutions we need. In looking at my own life. I use the following prayer as a guide for my life's review.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; To be understood, as to understand; To be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

In the name of the Parish Staff and myself, may we wish you and your family a Holy and Blessed New Year 2020!

Msgr. Ryan

Please Save the Date Parish Leaders

Parish Leaders Meeting
Monday, January 27, 2020

Thank You

A note of thanks to the Msgr. Mooney Knights of Columbus for leading the 5th Sunday Rosary for the parish. May God Bless you!

Monthly Food Drive is January 4/5, 2020

Items needed: Boxes of macaroni and cheese, jars of pasta sauce, spaghetti (all types of pasta), flavored rice (Rice a Roni, Knorr-Lipton rice mixes), instant boxed potatoes (all types), cans of baked beans/pork and beans, pancake mix and syrup, dry milk, jelly/jam, hot and cold cereal, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, relish, canned fruit, canned meals: canned ravioli, hash, beef stew & non-food items: bar soap & diapers (all sizes).

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.

Just a reminder...

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

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 Zamary 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 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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

9:00 am Barbara Duca *r/b* Husband

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

9:00 am John J. Hirschbeck *r/b* Zamary Family

5:30 pm Mary Zamary *r/b* Family

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

9:00 am Parish Intensions

12:00 pm Parish Intensions

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

9:00 am Souls in Purgatory

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

9:00 am Fran, Mary Ann, Barbara, Jo & Alma *r/b* Bridgettes

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

4:00 pm Mary DellaGioia & Elizabeth Kelly *r/b* Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

8:00 am Kathleen & Elizabeth Grace *r/b* June Grace

10:00 am David Fiorella *r/b* Family

12:00 pm Our Parishioners



Sanctuary Lamp Intentions



December 29, 2019 - January 4, 2020

Lamp I: Marie Shulik

Lamp II: Rose Silvestro

Mass Celebrants

Saturday, January 4th	4:00 p.m.	Msgr. Ryan
Sunday, January 5th	8:00 a.m.	Msgr. Ryan
	10:00 a.m.	Fr. McDonough
	Noon	Msgr. Ryan



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 Visiting?”

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

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!

On Friday evening, December 13 children and their families gathered to watch The Polar Express at the Parish Center. They came in their pajamas with blankets and stuffed animals to enjoy the movie. They drank hot chocolate, juice, ate pretzels, popcorn and cookies. At the end of the movie Santa made a surprise visit and gave each child their own bell and a Santa candy.

We thank the adult volunteers from the parish who helped set up, purchased the food and helped serve that night. We especially thank all the youth of the parish who came to help set up and serve. They did a great job.

March for Life 2020 and Mass

Join parishioners from throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport on a bus pilgrimage to the March for Life on Friday, January 24, 2020. This year's theme is **Life Empowers: Pro-Life is Pro-Women**. Buses depart from three locations—Bridgeport, Norwalk, and Stamford. Cost is \$75.00 pp/RT. Register online before January 17, 2020 at: <https://www.bridgeportdiocese.org/faith-formation>

If you are unable to travel, please join us in prayer the night before on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 6:30pm for the March for Life 2020 Mass celebrated by Bishop Caggiano at St. Augustine's Cathedral in Bridgeport.

2020 Parish Calendars

We will be distributing 2020 Parish Calendars this weekend. 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

Marriage Moments

The year is almost over. Of course this is an arbitrary division of time, but let it serve your love by thinking of the top way your beloved served you this past year. Write it down. Put it under each other's pillow tonight. (If one forgets - forgive. Give another chance.)

Parenting Pointers

Dec. 30 is the Feast of the Holy Family. What does it mean to be a "Holy Family"? Who in our family shows "heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiving one another, thankfulness..." (Col 3:12-13) Perhaps close with a group hug for above all is Love.

© 2019 Susan Vogt

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 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.

Lord's Kitchen

The OLG volunteers will be serving the meal at the Lord's Kitchen on Monday, January 27th. Our volunteers need your help in providing for the needs of the people they serve, as toiletry items cannot be purchased with food stamps / WIC, so we are requesting donations of toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper and bars of soap. We serve between 70-90 people each month, and we haven't been collecting enough of these items to distribute a toiletry bag every month we serve. During the meal last month, several people asked our volunteers if we were giving out the bags and we had to tell them we weren't. Your generosity in donating these items each month does not go unnoticed – the people of our community receiving these items are very appreciated! Please leave your donations by the Sacristy on the weekend of January 18/19. We thank you very much on behalf of the people we serve!

PARISH CALENDAR, COLLECTIONS

<u>PARISH FINANCES*</u>			
Sunday Offertory	Actual	Budget	Over (Under)
Income for the week of 12/10/19 - 12/16/19	\$6996.	\$7,800.	(\$804.)
Budget Year-to-date	\$175,817.	\$186,445.	(\$10,628.)
No Second Collection to Report December 9, 2019 Holy Day: \$1372. December 29, 2019 Second Collection: Deficit Fund			
*Please note: Due to the printing deadline, the Parish Finance Report will be <u>delayed by one week</u> .			

Meetings & Events

- ♦ 5th Sunday Rosary, Sun., Dec 29th at 9:30am.
- ♦ No Bingo, Tues., Dec. 31st
- ♦ Parish Office Closed Jan. 1st
- ♦ No RCIA Class, Wed., Jan 1st
- ♦ Faith Formation no classes, Wed., Jan 1st
- ♦ Cub Scout Meeting, Pack 272, Jan. 2nd, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

FFO = Faith Formation Office MH = Madonna Hall

PO = Parish Office PC = Parish Center

In Memory of a Loved One or Friend

When a loved one or a friend passes away, please consider one of these ways to memorialize their passing. At Our Lady of Grace Parish, we have several options available to you.

- A Mass Card is available for those recently departed with a Mass said in their memory or you can have a Mass said on an anniversary, birthday or special occasion of a departed loved one or friend. Weekday Mass stipends are \$10 and the stipend for a weekend Mass with Music is \$20.
- Located on either side of the Tabernacle are two Sanctuary Lamps. A single lamp can be lit in your loved one's memory for a week, Sunday thru Saturday, for a donation of \$10.
- The Parish Memorial Fund assists the Church in purchasing items that may be needed for our liturgies. This would include vessels, vestments and ritual books. Your donation in your loved one's or friend's name is entered in our Parish Memorial Book.
- You may also speak with Msgr. Ryan if you would like to donate to something other than what has been mentioned. They would be happy to assist you in selecting a way to remember your loved one or friend.
- If you have any questions, please call Stacey at the Parish Office at 203-377-0928 x13.

OTHER NEWS

A Stewardship Moment

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

In today's second reading we listen to one of the most compelling exhortations for Christian living: "Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Col 3:17). "Whatever you do"---that means the whole of life is to be related to Christ Jesus. Everything in life, every activity, can become an act of glorifying the Lord. Good stewards commit even their daily routine to Christ: doing everything "in the name of the Lord." Perhaps it would be a good idea this week to memorize this marvelous verse and repeat it to yourself frequently. Make it part of your morning prayer each day.

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.

"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@ol Stratford.com.



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

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

Officers and members of the Msgr. Thomas Mooney Council wish everyone a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and thank all parishioners for their kindness and support in helping us support our many causes. God Bless you and your families.



This year's **Breakfast with Santa** was a successful event. We thank you for sharing the morning with us and all the gifts brought for our Unwed Mother's Baby Shower. (Photo's may be found on our Flickr page at [flic.kr/s/aHsmJTCbwd](https://www.flickr.com/photos/aHsmJTCbwd/))

5th Sunday Rosary

Knights will lead a Rosary Sunday, December 29 at 9:30 prior to the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Free Rosary Rings and "*How to pray the Rosary*" cards will be available to all who would like one as well as prayer intentions slips. Please join us.

Food for Families

With your help, knights have collected and distributed 4,925 lbs. of food in 2019. Our next scheduled food collection is the weekend of January 4-5. Food collected in January will be distributed to Merton House and Daughters of Charity. Thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information on our Food for Families program contact Tony Salerno at 203.378.5900.

During upcoming months we'll report on other specific ways knights at Our Lady of Grace support our parish and community. Learn more about Knights here at "Our Little Church" by visiting our website at msgrmooneycouncil13228.weebly.com/ for more information.

Save the Date!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2020

Welcome Deacon Saranich

We welcome Deacon Saranich who will be ministering in the parish. Deacon Michael and his wife have joined our parish. He is a retired Deacon of the Diocese. He will be visiting our parishioners in the local hospitals. He will assist in various areas of the parish as needed.

Handicapped Parking

The four spaces directly in front of the Church on Second Hill Lane are handicapped parking spaces. These spaces are for our parishioners who have a handicap parking sticker.

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 week-end 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 _____