



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!*

January 5, 2020

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.

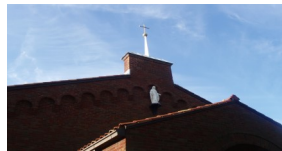
PARISH INFORMATION

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

As we close the Parish Annual Collection, I would like to thank those who contributed to the Annual Collection. We have received \$7681.00 but failed to meet our goal of \$10,000.00!



Our Lady of Grace is now offering Online Giving through our new vendor Our Sunday Visitor. To sign up, or for more information, visit our website at www.olgstratford.com and select the Online Giving link. Customer support number for Our Sunday Visitor online giving is 1-800-348-2886 option 1.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Monday, January 7th at 7:00 pm in Madonna Hall.

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

May I wish you a Blessed, Holy, and Happy New Year! The year 2020 will be a challenge year for the parish. As the parish works and grows there is always the need for new volunteers. We will continue to invite our young families to participate in our Growing up Catholic Program, the Road from Bethlehem and the Family Mass. Please spread the word about our "little Church" and ask your family and friends to visit our parish website. May God bless us in 2020!

Msgr. Ryan

THANK YOU

Christmas in the parish can only take place with the many hands and volunteer hearts, thank you one and all!

Please Save the Date Parish Leaders

Parish Leaders Meeting
 Monday, January 27, 2020

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).

Parishioner's Generosity

May God bless you for your generosity during this year's Christmas time. Your generosity to the parish is a gift. Your sharing in the "Giving Tree" served more than 350 individuals. Your prayerfulness was a gift to me! May God bless you!

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, & Altar Servers

Thank You for your service to God and our Parish. More than 1100 people attended Christmas Masses. Our Liturgical Ministers prayerfully cared for parishioner and visitor and made our "little Church" a spiritual home for many!

Be a Parish Altar-Server

We will be inviting children in the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth grade to join our parish Altar-Servers. More Information will be given during the Faith Formation Classes

Buildings and Grounds

The Building and Ground Committee will meet on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 9:30am in Madonna Hall. New Members are welcome!

My Spiritual Life

The Diocesan Leadership Institute website offers much information for your spiritual well-being. Please visit the Institute at <Institute@diobpt.org

Virtus Process

We are a parish that is working to keep our children safe! In the coming weeks we will be asking all our parish volunteers to begin the re-certification process for Virtus Training and to renew their Background Checks. When you receive your parish notice please follow the instructions. You can update your information on-line. Please watch the bulletin for further information.

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

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

Flower Ministry

The Church was beautifully decorated and gave a warm glow for the Nativity of Jesus. Thank you to Joan Pruzinsky and her many helpers who decorated our Church and spiritual Home!

Parish Nurses

The Parish Nurses will be conducting blood pressure screenings on Sunday, January 19th from 9:30-11:30am in Madonna Hall!

SAVE THE DATE

Save the date

Parents of young children, the next "On the Road from Bethlehem" Gathering will be Sunday, February 9th at 9am. More information to follow!

MASS INTENTIONS

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

9:00 am Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

9:00 am Paul Reyes *r/b* Lynn Corra

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

9:00 am Elaine, Al, & Lee Lagor Living *r/b* Elaine

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

9:00 am Our Parishioners

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

9:00 am Frank (Smitty) Smith *r/b* Carol Ruggio

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

4:00 pm James Carlson, Sr. *r/b* Eileen & Jeff Krause

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

8:00 am Our Parishioners

10:00 am Helen Tiano *r/b* Leigh Cleveland

12:00 pm Stephen & Helen Spodnick *r/b* Son

Sanctuary Lamp Intentions

January 5, 2020 - January 11, 2020

Lamp I: Our Parishioners

Lamp II: Souls in Purgatory

Mass Celebrants

Saturday, January 11th 4:00 p.m. Fr. McDonough

Sunday, January 12th 8:00 a.m. Msgr. Ryan

10:00 a.m. Msgr. Ryan

Noon Fr. McDonough



Feast of the Epiphany

This 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.

"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

Faith Formation



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

SOS - Sharing Our Saintliness

Formation for Catechist

We are grateful to all our catechists and want to offer them support, resources, and formation. To make sure the young people and adults in our communities are served by those who are well-formed, all those who serve their parishes as catechists are required to enter into ongoing formation beginning Sept. 1, 2019. The formation will be both online and face-to-face, and will be conducted by the Leadership Institute of the Diocese of Bridgeport. For those without consistent computer access, an offline workbook will be available.

Those required to participate include:

- *Catechist in parish school of religious education
- *Volunteers for Vacation Bible Camps or other pre-school programs
- *RCIA team members
- *Pre-Cana team members/sponsor couples
- *Pre and Post Baptism team members
- *Adult education team members

We will be having a Formation class here at OLG on Sunday, January 12, 2020 from 12:30 – 2:30 pm at the Parish Center. (there are other dates on the site also)

Please sign up at:

The Leadership Institute

203.416.1657

institute@diobpt.org

www.formationreimagined.org@bptleadership

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.

Flower Collection

A note of thanks to all those who contributed to the "Flower Collection, your gift is the beauty seen in our Church!

Marriage Moments

The Epiphany is a feast of outreach and inclusion. The appearance of Jesus to the three wise men from the East reminds us that Jesus came for all humankind, not just the Jewish people. So too, married love is not a gift to be hoarded. Reach out to someone who is sad, in trouble, or from a different culture. Can you do it together?

Parenting Pointers

As we start a new calendar year resolutions are common - but too soon forgotten. Perhaps *remembering* important things is timely. Share as a family: The happiest time for me this past year was _____ & A regret (sadness) I have about last year is _____.

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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 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 12/17/19 - 12/23/19 | \$7471. | \$7,800. | (\$329.) |
| Budget Year-to-date | \$183,289. | \$194,077. | (\$10,788.) |
| No Second Collection to Report January 5, 2020 Second Collection: Capital Improvement | | | |
| *Please note: Due to the printing deadline, the Parish Finance Report will be delayed by one week. | | | |

Meetings & Events

- ◆ Choir Practice, Sun., Jan. 5th 11:00am - 12:00pm.
- ◆ Parish Pastoral Council, Mon., Jan. 6th 7:00pm - 9:00pm. (MH)
- ◆ Choir Practice, Sun., Jan. 12th 11:00am - 12:00pm.
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.

Bingo Returns!

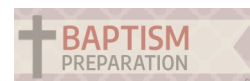
The parish bingo will return on **Tuesday, January 7th**!

OTHER NEWS

A Stewardship Moment

The Epiphany of the Lord

“You have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace...” This is how Saint Paul begins his letter to the members of the Church at Ephesus in today’s second reading. He proclaims that he, and they, are stewards of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and therefore stewards of God’s loving, unifying and inclusive grace. He also proclaims that the Holy Spirit is at work within each of them, if only they would be open to the Spirit. Today, our world races by with intolerance, violence, desperate poverty, fear and division. At the beginning of this New Year, perhaps it is appropriate to reflect on Saint Paul’s words and ask ourselves how we can be good stewards of the gospel today. How will we allow the Holy Spirit to work within us? How can we be better stewards of Christ’s justice and peace?

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.

Mercy Learning Center Seeks Volunteers

Mercy Learning Center provides basic literacy and life skills training to low income women in the Greater Bridgeport area. The Center is seeking volunteers to teach English Language Learners as well as basic adult reading and math in its small group tutoring program. No experience necessary. Training materials are provided.

New Tutor Training Dates

Friday, January 10th

Friday, January 24th

9:00am - 3:00pm

Please contact Lynn Gabriel, Tutor Coordinator, to register for a training session. (203) 334-6699 or lynn.gabriel@mercylearningcenter.org

Choir

The music for Christmas Masses were done so well! A special note of thanks to Matt Roumeles, the cantor, and the choir for their prayerful and inspiring liturgical music.

Knights of Columbus



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

Officers and members of the Msgr. Thomas Mooney Council here at Our Lady of Grace wish everyone a very prosperous and **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** We thank all



parishioners for their kindness and support in helping us support our many causes. May God Bless you and your families. We're filled with gratitude for all you do, all you've done and all you'll continue to do.

We continue to collect **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 is posted on the parish bulletin board or may be viewed on our website: <https://msgrmooneycouncil13228.weebly.com/>

YOU SHOULD KNOW Knights here at OLG distributed over \$13,000 in charitable donations and contributed over 2,378 volunteer hours in 2019.

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.



Family Mass

Please join us for our Parish Family Mass on Sunday, January 12th, at 10:00 am. The Mass theme is "The Baptism of the Lord". Three children will be baptized at the Mass, and there will be a children's homily and the children will be able to see and learn about the Sacrament of Baptism!

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.

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 _____