



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!*

February 2, 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



THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel." - Lk 2:34a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LJ

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

+Edward Stern

*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!



On-line Giving Program

We would like to thank those who have joined our on-line giving program. We are finding that parishioners are having difficulty in making a donation to the second collection.

To insure the proper date for your donation, we will be announcing each month the **second collections and their dates. (Capital Improvement Feb 2, Hope for the Future Collection Feb 23, and Ash Wednesday Feb 26th.)**

Parish Leaders

A note of thanks to the Parish Leaders for a good fruitful meeting. Your ministries are the heart of our parish life!

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

As we enter into the month of February, we need to start our planning for Lent. Ash Wednesday is February 26th. In the next weeks, please check the bulletin for the Ash Wednesday schedule, times for Stations of the Cross, rules for Fast and Abstinence, and the list of Lenten materials for your spiritual growth.

This year we will be participating in a new Lenten Program called "CRS Rice Bowl". In the past we have been supporters of "Loaves and Fishes", this year our program will ask your same sacrifice but in a new program. The new program materials will be available on February 22/23. More information to follow.

Msgr. Ryan

Parish Finances

A parishioner recently told me that the problem with the church is that it is always asking for money! It is true! I am asking for money because we are always falling short of the goal! We have more than 1200 families registered. 330 families give 50 weeks of giving a year, an average weekly gift of \$19. The next 218 parishioners give an average of \$5.00-7.00 a week. The next 239 parishioners give less than \$150.00 a year or less than \$3.00 a week the remaining parishioners have not made a recognized donation, the parish budget is based on 450 families giving \$18.00 A WEEK.

The good news is that our attendance numbers are higher. We are averaging 575 people on a weekend for mass. But many of the people attending have yet to join us! Invite the person next to you to use the welcome form in the bulletin.

I was told that a parishioner is mad that the Diocese has not sent a second priest to OLG! With the figures I have just given you, the parish cannot afford a second assigned priest! I am thankful for the help of a retired Priest and a retired Deacon.

I cannot afford to let the parish continue in a deficit! We are behind in our weekly offertory. We missed our Annual Collection goal by \$1500.00. I have had to have two trees removed because of ice damage and disease. (\$2000.00 bill).

What can you do?

1. You can be a recognized donor by using an envelope or using our on-line giving!
2. The goal is \$18.00 a week per household, can you get us closer?
3. Invite the family sitting next to you to register in the parish?
4. Ask questions of the Finance Council and stayed informed?

Msgr. Ryan

My Spiritual Life

Pray Everyday

Join Bishop Caggiano every day in prayer. Simply text the word pray to 55778 and join **The Face of Prayer**.

Brochure Racks

Please visit the Brochure Racks in the Church. We have added new titles to the featured brochures!

Virtus

We are currently reviewing all volunteers who serve in the parish. If you took the Virtus Training while you were a member of a different parish, you will need to update your Virtus profile. We will be in contact with you for a copy of your Virtus Certificate.

Creating a Safe Environment for our Parish

We need all of our parish volunteers to be Virtus Trained, and to take a Background Check!



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.

St. Blaise Blessing of Throats

The Feast of St. Blaise is February 3rd. We will bless throats after all Masses this weekend of Feb. 1 & 2.

Feast of the Presentation - Feb. 2

We will bless candles on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord this weekend, February 1 & 2. Blessed candles will be available after Mass on the Feast Day. A \$3.00 donation is requested.

Lord' Kitchen

A note of thanks to our OLG volunteers who served the meal at the "Lord's Kitchen" on Monday, January 27th. May God bless you and all the people you served.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

4:00 pm The Ringarry Family r/b Michael Ettore

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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

10:00 am Eileen Yablonski r/b Mom & Dad

12:00 pm Our Parishioners

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

9:00 am Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

9:00 am Fr. Paul D'Souza & Family r/b Linda Skowronski

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

9:00 am Leopold Galanty r/b Sister in-law

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

9:00 am Anthony Meczykowski 1st Anniversary r/b Wife & Daughter Buglione

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

9:00 am Stella Soisson r/b Soisson Family

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

4:00 pm Helen Malino r/b Family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

8:00 am Our Parishioners

10:00 am Marian & Regina Kostyszyn r/b Family

12:00 pm Rose Silvestro



Sanctuary Lamp Intentions



February 2, 2020 - February 8, 2020

Lamp I: Our Parishioners

Lamp II: Souls in Purgatory

Mass Celebrants

Saturday, February 8th	4:00 p.m.	Fr. McDonough
Sunday, February 9th	8:00 a.m.	Msgr. Ryan
	10:00 a.m.	Msgr. Ryan
	Noon	Fr. McDonough

Tax letters

The Parish Office sent out the Annual Tax Letters on January 27, 2020. All Parishioners who have donated \$250.00 or more will receive the tax donation letter. If there are any questions, please contact Stacey Breyan at 203-377-0928 x13.



Monthly Food Drive is February 1&2, 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).

Faith Formation



The 2019-2020 Faith Formation theme this school year is: **SOS - Sharing Our Saintliness.**

This week we will be highlighting, St. Anthony of Padua. Ms. Theresa Jacksis 8th grade class has chosen this as their class Saint.

They chose him because: 1. He's from Portugal 2. He had a valuable book of psalms that was stolen from him. He prayed and prayed about it and the thief returned it. 3. He is the Patron Saint of lost things, lost people and spirituality.

First Reconciliation and First Communion classes

Classes have begun for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. At the 10:00 Mass last weekend Msgr Ryan called all the children preparing for this Sacrament and their parents to come up to the altar for a special blessing. Each child was given a candle which symbolizes the candle they were given at their Baptism. The candles will be lit again after they receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they prepare for this special Sacrament.

If you have a child attending 2nd grade in Catholic school and you belong to Our Lady of Grace please contact our Faith Formation office so we can speak to you about signing your child up for these classes.

Next Sunday, February 9th there will be a Family Mass at 10:00 am. The 4th grade class will be participating in the Mass and there will be a homily geared to the children. Please come join us.

Nazareth Program - Baptisms

Last weekend on the Sunday of the Baptism of the Lord at the 10:00 am Mass, Msgr Ryan Baptized 3 children from our Faith Formation programs. We would like to congratulate Emma Feneque, Emilia Goldman and Aaron Goldman. The parishioners were able to witness and participate as we received our newest members into our Parish.

THE FRIEND OF JESUS PRAYER

Don't walk behind me because I may not want to lead

Don't walk ahead of me I may not want to follow

Walk aside me and be my friend!

Prayer is a powerful tool and I am sure many of you can witness to that, but if you have not been one to turn to prayer this will be a good place to start. Join our Prayer Walk! You can email denisebartel-son@olgstratford.com, with your name and email to get on the list to help pray for special intentions.

Also, if you have a request for a special prayer intention for you or a family member email the intention to denisebartel-son@olgstratford.com.



Marriage Moments

Feb. 2 is Ground Hog Day. It's all about noticing how life get played over and over. What traditions keep your love alive - a weekly date, repeating a special meal, revisiting a place that has meaning for you as a couple? Perhaps look through old photos for ideas.

Parenting Pointers

Feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked. Parents do this naturally in the course of raising their children. Good. Is it time to engage your own children in these works for other less fortunate families? Challenge them to help.

© 2019 Susan Vogt

EMAIL: SusanVogt1@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.SusanVogt.net

New Parish Altar servers

We want to thank the families of our new altar servers in training. We will meet this Saturday, February 1st at 11:30am in the Church.

SAVE THE DATE

On the Road from Bethlehem

A Sunday Prayer Time for Parents and Infants, Toddlers, and Pre-Schoolers

How can I go to Church with a child who might be noisy! Is there a way to teach my child about Church, while not disturbing others? Are there ways for my child to learn about God? Yes! We invite our young families with young children to come and experience a short prayer, a time for crafts and community, and play time for your child.

On Sunday, February 9th at 9:00am in the Church we will have a short prayer with music, followed by a gathering in Madonna Hall for a craft. Our program will be from 9:00 - 10:30 am. Coffee and juice will be served, please feel free to bring a snack for your child.

For more information please call Melissa Lembo at 203-556-0611 or Denise Bartel-son at 203-375-6133.

World Day of Prayer for the Sick

On **February 11th** we will join with the Churches around the world to pray for the sick person. Our Lady of Grace parish will have a notebook available on the weekend of February 8/9 for the names of people you wish to remember on February 11th!

Buildings and Grounds

The Building and Ground Committee will meet on Saturday, **February 8, 2020 at 9:30am** in Madonna Hall. New members are welcome!

PARISH CALENDAR, COLLECTIONS

PARISH FINANCES*			
Sunday Offertory	Actual	Budget	Over (Under)
Income for the week of 1/7/2020 - 1/13/20	\$4580.	\$7,800.	(\$3220.)
Budget Year-to-date	\$208,252.	\$224,606.	(\$16,354.)
Second Collection: \$0. February 2, 2020 Second Collection: Capital Improvement February 9, 2020: No Second Collection			
*Please note: Due to the printing deadline, the Parish Finance Report will be <u>delayed by one week.</u>			

Meetings & Events

- ◆ KofC Food Collection, Feb. 1 & Feb. 2
- ◆ Choir Practice, Sun., Feb. 2, 11:00am - 12:00pm.
- ◆ Bingo, Tues., Feb. 4, Doors open at 4:30 pm/first game 6:30 pm. Food and beverages available for purchase. (PC)
- ◆ RCIA, Wed., Feb. 5, 7:00pm - 8:15pm
- ◆ Cub Scout Pack 272 Meeting, Thurs., Feb. 6, 6:30pm - 8:30pm.
- ◆ The Road from Bethlehem, Sun., Feb. 9, 9:00am.
- ◆ Choir Practice, Sun., Feb. 9, 11:00am - 12:00pm.

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

New Liturgical Ministers Readers and Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion

We are asking God to call forth new Liturgical Ministers for our parish, If you are interested in joining our parish ministries, Please Contact Msgr. Ryan at 203-377-0928 X12 or msgrryan@olgstratford.com

The training process will be through the Diocesan Leadership Institute. Each candidate will need to complete an application, a recommendation from the Pastor, attendance at a Diocesan workshop and an on-line course

MAKE-UP ENVELOPES

With the recent winter weather, may we ask you to make up your offering envelope. Your weekly donation is important to us, so that we can continue to serve our parishioners.

Parish Website

www.olgstratford.com

Have you visited the website! Look at the pictures of Parish events!

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

OTHER NEWS

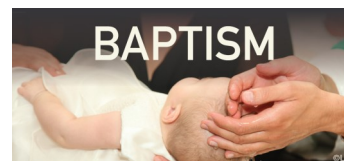
A Stewardship Moment

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's second reading we find one of the most beautiful and familiar passages in the Bible; a recitation of fifteen characteristics of Christian love typically read at weddings and anniversary celebrations. Of course, this was not what Saint Paul had in mind when he was chastising the Christian community at Corinth for its lack of love. He admonished the members of the community to exercise better stewardship of Christian love. The practice of patience, humility, joy, truth, peace, affirmation, and hope are ways good stewards put love into action. Might there be one or two of these attributes we can work on in order to grow in our love for God and others?

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.

**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, March 8th, 2020 at 1:30 pm in the Madonna Hall**. For further information contact Melissa at 203-556-0611 or email BaptismProgram@olgstratford.com.

Parish Memorial Books

When you wish to remember a special someone, remember that Our Lady of Grace Parish has a Memorial Program. The purpose of the Memorial Program is to provide the funding of small projects within the parish. For example, vestments, ritual books, and other liturgical needs. This is a wonderful way to acknowledge someone living or deceased or in thanksgiving for a prayer answered. The Memorial Books are displayed in the Chapel area by the Tabernacle. For information on the OLG Memorial Program or to make a donation please call Stacey at the Parish Office (203) 377-0928 x13.



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

What's not to love about pasta?
Just a reminder that our **Valentine Day Knight Dinner** is Saturday, February 15 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. With a menu which includes pasta, chicken, salad and garlic bread. Coffee, tea and dessert you're sure to have a great meal. Come dine to a wonderful meal with music playing softly in the background!



Cost is \$9.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 4 - 12, children 3 and under are FREE. All proceeds from the **Valentine's Day Knight Dinner** will go to our pro-life and other charitable giving.

DID YOU KNOW knights have placed a kiosk with booklets to help answer questions on our faith in the rear of the Church ~ and they're all FREE!!! Take some time to review the titles. Visit the KofC's **Catholic Information Service** to view the many other booklets available to download or read online including a searchable Catechism of the Catholic Church, a Faith Formation Course and more at <https://www.kofc.org/uns/en/cis/index.html>

We also congratulate members **Charlie Lembo and Bill Siosson** who advanced to full knighthood in an exemplification of Chairt, Unity and Fraternity Sunday January 26, 2020. Both members were accompanied by family members who were able to watch them participate in their advancement to full knighthood in the Order. All practicing Catholic males 18 years or older are invited to see what membership in the Knights of Columbus has to offer. Contact Terry Morgan at paxterry@gmail.com, Pat O'Keefe at virtualpat@yahoo.com, Chaplain Msgr. Ryan, drop a note in the collection basket with your name and contact information, or go to <http://bit.ly/Council13228>. **Make 2020 the year you decide to join the Knights of Columbus.**

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.

Publicity Person

Msgr. Ryan is seeking a volunteer to assist the Parish Team in creating articles, news announcements, and public announcements of our parish programs. If God has gifted you please give us a call! Contact Msgr. Ryan at msgrryan@olgstratford.com or 203-377-0928 x12.

Parish Ministry to the Sick
Sick and Shut Ins

George Zamary and our ministers to the sick and homebound are currently visiting more than 60 parishioners. Our parishioners are visited and receive Holy Communion on a regular schedule.

If you have a loved one who is homebound or in a nursing facility, **please contact George Zamary at 203-377-0928 x9**. George will arrange for a friendly visit or a Communion call!

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.

“How Do I Register?”

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



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 _____

We look forward to hearing from you!