



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!*

March 8, 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

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Monsignor Martin P. Ryan,
D. Min.
Pastor

Mrs. Denise Bartelson
Director of Faith Formation

Mr. George Zamary
Pastoral Assistant

Mrs. Stacey Breyan
Office Staff

Ann Baker
Bookkeeper

Mr. Matthew Roumeles
Director of Music Ministry

Ms. Tina Manus
Choir Director

Mr. Howard Wardlow
Finance Council Chairman

PLEASED



“This is my beloved Son,
with whom I am well
pleased; listen to him.”

MATTHEW 17:5B

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

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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 x13 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 x13 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.

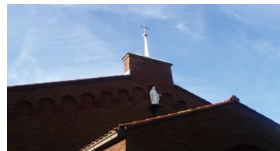
PARISH INFORMATION

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, Michelle Goncalves, Flo & Mike Gorlo, Nancy Griffin, John Knapik, Elaine Lagor, Marge Martire, Cindy Maurer, Maida Mayernick, Owen McNaboe, Michael Meade, Frances Mudre, Barbara Muth, David Oleynik, Sal Pace, Tom Penny, Eugene Richard, Carol Ruggio, Rev. Leo Spodnik, Shirley Tutunjian, Ann Ward, Andrew Yankowski, George Zamarly, 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!



On-line Giving Program

Please spread the word, regarding our new on-line giving program! We are contacting 20 parish households who have yet to make their renewed commitment. Please sign up today! **For customer assistance please call 1-800-348-2886 and choose option 1.**

To insure the proper date for your donation, we will be announcing each month the **second collections and their dates. (March 22, Catholic Relief Services)**

Loaves and Fishes

The Bridgeport Catholic Charities Soup Kitchens, yearly support envelopes are now available in the parish book racks. Thank you for your generosity.

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

Last Call for any parishioners wishing to join our Liturgical Ministry Team as Readers and Eucharistic Ministers. Please watch the bulletin for an upcoming meeting!

If you were a Liturgical Minister and have not completed the Diocesan Ministry program or have not received a Diocesan Mandate, I will be contacting you and inviting you to join in our parish program.

Msgr. Ryan

Stations of the Cross

Lenten Fridays at 12:00 (Noon)

Lenten Fasting and Abstinence during Lent

The **rules** for **fasting** and abstinence in the United States are: Every person 14 years or older must abstain from meat (and items made with meat) on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent. Every person between the age of 18 and 59 (beginning of 60th year) must **fast** on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting is one full meal and two smaller meals and fast between meals.

Parish Lenten Night of Prayer

We invite you to join us for a night of prayer. On Wednesday, March 11th we will have a "Meditative Way of the Cross." Fr. Joseph Cervero, the Pastor of St. Patrick Parish will lead us in prayer reflection and song. "Meditating on the Way of the Cross" we will be led to a deeper understanding of our lives.

The Meditative Station will be held on Wednesday, March 11th at 7 pm. Please plan to join us!

Our Parish Confession times are:

Friday 8:30am – 8:50am

Saturday 1:15pm – 2:15pm

Our Parish Lenten Penance Service

Wednesday, April 8th at 7:00pm

The Diocesan Penance Monday will be:

Monday, April 6th 3:00pm -9:00pm at St. James, Stratford

CRS Rice Bowls

Second Week of Lent

Meet Trinh

Trinh's family are farmers in Vietnam who have been affected by climate change. What would you do if your source of nutrition was threatened? How can we support those whose livelihoods are vulnerable to weather? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

Building and Grounds

The Parish Building and Grounds Committee will meet on **Saturday, March 14th at 9:30 am in Madonna Hall.**

My Spiritual Life

Pray Everyday

Please join Bishop Caggiano on his new radio show "Let me be Frank" Wednesday at Noon on Veritas Radio. (Radio 1350 AM.)

Lenten Materials

Please look at the many Lenten materials that are available in our parish book racks. Please support the CRS Rice Bowl Project, and the Diocesan Loaves and Fishes Collection.

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 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.

Lord's Kitchen

The OLG volunteers will be serving the meal at the Lord's Kitchen on Monday, March 23rd. 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. 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 March 14/15. We thank you very much on behalf of the people we serve!

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

8:00 am Stella Soisson r/b Soisson Family

10:00 am Margaret & Paul Root r/b Son & Family

12:00 pm Our Parishioners

MONDAY, MARCH 9

9:00 am Health & Blessing of Joseph Galatie, Jr.
r/b Family

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

9:00 am Catherine Buturla r/b Brother

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

9:00 am Walter Gaffney r/b Family

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

9:00 am Margaret & Michael Hughes r/b Brother

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

9:00 am Souls in Purgatory

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

4:00 pm Michael Torok r/b Family

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

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

10:00 am Our Parishioners

12:00 pm Rosann Sholanich r/b Paul & Julie Maciejewski



Sanctuary Lamp Intentions

March 8, 2020 - March 14, 2020

Lamp I: Mary & John Fusco r/b Family

Lamp II: Ben Rapice r/b Family

Mass Celebrants

Saturday, March 14th	4:00 p.m.	Msgr. Ryan
Sunday, March 15th	8:00 a.m.	Msgr. Ryan
	10:00 a.m.	Msgr. Ryan
	Noon	Fr. McDonough

Diocesan White Mass

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano invites all Health Care professionals and all who serve the sick to the Twenty-Seventh Annual White Mass & Brunch that will take place on Sunday, March 22, 2020 at 9:00am at St. Joseph Parish in Danbury. Mass will be followed by brunch at the Ethan Allen Hotel, 21 Lake Avenue Extension, Danbury, CT 06811. There is limited seating so please register no later than March 16, 2020 at:

www.bridgeportdiocese.com/2020whitemass

Lauralton Hall

Will host **Discover Lauralton** on Sunday, March 29 from 1:00-3:30pm for 5th, 6th and 7th grade girls and their parents. Visit www.lauraltonhall.org/discover to register by March 25. For further information, please call (203) 877-2786 ext. 115.

Faith Formation



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

SOS - Sharing Our Saintliness.

This week we will be highlighting, Melissa Lembo's 3rd grade class who chose St. Nicholas as their class Saint. As part of a homework assignment each child was to pick a Saint that they were interested in and write a few lines about them and present it to the class. After each child presented their Saint they chose St. Nicholas for their class. They decided on him to be their class Saint because of his generosity and good will towards those in need.

Faith Formation Fundraiser:

LADIES NIGHT OUT BINGO

(a new twist on Ladies Night Out)

COME JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020: FIRST DAY OF SPRING

Tickets purchased through March 15 : \$30.00 per person

Tickets after March 15 will be \$40.00 per person.

Limited Seating!

Ticket includes:

Bingo Cards, Raffle Ticket, 1 Signature Drink, Appetizers, Coffee and Dessert.

Prizes for Bingo Games will include purses, jewelry, gift cards, wine and more. NO cash prizes.

Doors will open at 6:30 pm, games will start at 7:00 pm.

No one under 21 will be admitted! BYOB

Tickets can be purchased at the Parish Center on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 pm; Saturday from 9:00 – 11:30 am; calling Faith Formation Office at 203-375-6133; email denisebartelson@olgstratford.com

Tickets will be sold after all the Masses next weekend:

March 14 & 15.

Faith Formation Reconciliation

Last Saturday 10 children received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. After receiving the Sacrament, they lit a candle on the altar that was presented to them a few weeks ago at a special Mass when they began their preparation for this Sacrament. The candles are a reminder of the candle their parents received for them at their Baptism. The children brought home their candles as a reminder of their First Reconciliation. Msgr Ryan gave a special blessing to the students and their parents. Everyone went over to the Parish Center after, where the children had their pictures taken for their Communion banner and enjoyed ice cream sundaes.

Marriage Moments

A contract is an agreement based on distrust, A covenant is a commitment based on trust. That's why the scriptures continually refer to God's covenant with humanity. Our Church refers to marriage as a covenant between the two spouses and God. It goes beyond a legal contract.

Parenting Pointers

March 21 is **Single Parent Day**.

(<https://www.hrc.org/blog/honoring-all-families-national-single-parent-day>) If you are a single parent we honor you for the effort you must make to provide continuous care for your child, often without the help of a ready partner. If you are blessed to have a helpmate, make plans to reach out to a parent who needs a helping hand next weekend.

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EMAIL: SusanVogt1@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.SusanVogt.net



FAMILIES

Hey Daddy....Hey Mommy Did you know??

Our next On the Road to Bethlehem event is scheduled this Sunday, March 8, 2020 All families with children 5 and under are welcomed.

Come at 9:00 am in the church, we will have a short prayer with music, then we will go over to the Parish Center for a little craft and story. Coffee and juice will be provided, please feel free to bring a snack for your child

Hope to see you there..... Call 203-375-6133 (Faith Formation Office) if you have any questions.

March 17th is the Feast day of St. Patrick. Did you know that St. Patrick is the patron Saint of Ireland? St. Patrick was a sheep herder.

*Get a bunch of cotton balls and a straw and try to herd your sheep while blowing through the straw. Can you herd your sheep like St. Patrick?

*Look for a 3 leaf clover talk about the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. St. Patrick often used Shamrocks to talk about the Holy Trinity.

March 19th is the Feast day of St. Joseph the patron Saint of Universal church, unborn children, Fathers, workers, travelers and immigrants. Joseph the husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus. Joseph was a carpenter. Pray together as a family for the Patriarch in your family.

Gracious St. Joseph, protect me and my family from all evil as you did the Holy Family. Kindly keep us ever united in the love of Christ, ever fervent in imitation of the virtue of our Blessed Lady, your sinless spouse, and always faithful in devotion to you. Amen.

PARISH CALENDAR, COLLECTIONS

PARISH FINANCES*

Sunday Offertory	Actual	Budget	Over (Under)
Income for the week of 2/18/20 - 2/24/20	\$7345.	\$7,800.	(\$455.)
Budget Year-to-date	\$244,276.	\$264,572.	(\$20,296.)

Second Collection: Capital Improvement \$1692.00
March 8, 2020: No Second Collection
March 15, 2020: 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., Mar. 8, 11:00am - 12:00pm.
- ◆ Growing Up Catholic, Sun., Mar 8, 1:30pm. (MH)
- ◆ Bingo, Tues., Mar. 10, Doors open at 4:30 pm/first game 6:30 pm. Food and beverages available for purchase. (PC)
- ◆ RCIA Class, Wed., Mar. 11, 7:00pm
- ◆ Blood Pressure Screening, Sun., Mar. 16, 9:30am (MH)
- ◆ Choir Practice, Sun., Mar. 16, 11:00am - 12:00pm.

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

Make-Up Envelopes

We welcome back to Church those who have been away because of colds, and flu. Please assist us in using “make-up” envelopes!

Welcome back to our snowbirds!

Parish Garden Club

I have two volunteers who are beginning our Parish Garden Club. Their task will be to maintain our gardens and develop new ones. Watch the bulletin for further information.



Growing up Catholic

Pope St. John Paul II coined a phrase in his teaching “On the Family” when he called the Family the “Domestic Church”. Our families come in many shapes and sizes and are looking to belong! If you are Grandparents, Godparents, Aunts, Uncles, or a family member, you have a great opportunity to witness the Faith by sharing the contact information about “Growing up Catholic”. We invite families with young children to contact Melissa Lembo: 203-556-0061.



Blood Pressure Screening

The Nurses are available Sunday March 15th, from 9:30 -11:30am in the parish center.

OTHER NEWS

**A Stewardship Moment
 First Sunday of Lent**

In today’s Gospel reading we listen to the confrontation between Jesus and the devil, who thought he might tempt Jesus to forget who he was and commit a grievous sin when he was most vulnerable. Jesus had just spent 40 days and nights out in the desert, alone, away from civilization. He was hungry, thirsty, and tired. If there ever was a time to tempt Jesus, that was it. Temptations to sin come at us every day, from many directions and in many different forms. When the temptation to sin tries to overcome us, how do we react? Do we consciously remind ourselves that we are followers of Christ? Is there a time this week when you have needed to confront a temptation to sin? What lessons did you take away from the experience?

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.



2020 Wedding Jubilee Mass and Concert

On Sunday, April 26, 2020 at 3:00 pm at St Theresa Parish in Trumbull, Bishop Caggiano will be celebrating the 2020 Wedding Jubilee Mass. This Mass is for couples celebrating their 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50+ year wedding anniversaries. The Mass will be immediately followed by a concert by the Diocesan Choir 4 Youth. To register, please contact the parish office or go to www.bridgeportdiocese.org/jubileemass to register directly. There is no cost to attend. Space is limited, so please RSVP by April 16, 2020.



**Banns of Marriage II
 March 20, 2020**

Laura Knudsen & Daniel Abildgaard

**Banns of Marriage II
 March 28, 2020**

Brittany Podolak & Nial Griffin

Knights of Columbus



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

"Why are you here? To know God. To love God. To serve God. If you are a man, you are called to share the faith. You are called to live the faith. Step into the breach this Lent and discover your role as a Catholic man in today's world. The Knights of Columbus has produced a 12-episode video series inspired by the Apostolic Exhortation, "Into the Breach" written by Bishop Olmsted of Phoenix. Each episode features a man's personal story and major Catholic figures such as Dr. Scott Hahn, Fr. Mike Schmitz, former NFL player Matt Birk, FOCUS founder Curtis Martin and others who break down and explore the virtues of Catholic masculinity." (KofC website. See trailer at <https://youtu.be/ss0i4xuSffQ>) Council 13228 has provided booklets for this exhortation in the book rack at the rear of the church.

Graveside Palm Cross forms are available in the church or you may download a form at <https://msgrmooneycouncil13228.weebly.com/>. Crosses will be



available for pick-up Saturday, April 4. Contact Pat O'Keefe at 203.400.8712 with any questions.

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>

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.

Spanish Cursillo Retreat for Women

There will be a Spanish Cursillo retreat for women in the Diocese of Bridgeport. We are seeking candidates for this Cursillo. This is an apostolic Movement of the Catholic Church. The person should be a practicing Catholic who has received the sacraments.

Location: Seton Neuman Retreat Center, Danbury, CT

Date: April 23 - 26, 2020

Cost \$125.00

Please contact Eva Miranda at 203-615-4445 for more information.

Sick and Homebound

There are three ministries that are presently in our parish!

1. We celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick each Friday morning after 9am Mass. We have ministered to 30-50 people each Friday. Please come and join us in asking for the healing Grace of the sacrament.
2. More than 60 members of our parish are receiving home visits to receive Holy Communion. If you are Home bound or recuperating after a bout with illness. Please contact George Zamy at 203-377-0928 x9. You will be visited by George or one of our lay ministers.
3. Hospital Visits - George Zamy and Deacon Michael currently visit our local hospitals during the week. We depend on hospital list for our visits. The hospital list may not be up to date. When in the hospital please leave your name with George Zamy at 203-377-0928 x9.

RCIA Scrutiny

We will be welcoming two RCIA Candidates to our parish on Holy Saturday. In their next steps in the process they will be entering the scrutiny for preparation. They will receive a copy of "The Creed" and a Bible as part of their journey. Please keep them in your prayers.

Volunteers for Mailings

We are looking to set up a committee to help with mailings to our parishioners. If you are interested in participating, please contact Stacey Breyan in the Parish Office at 203-377-0928 x13.

Masses Available

The Mass Book has masses available for your loved ones. Please stop by the office Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 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!