



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!*

SABBATH MASSES

Saturday

4:00 pm.

Sunday

8:00 am & 12:00 pm.

*Videos Mass available on
Saturday & Sunday

DAILY MASS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday at 9:00 am.

Wednesday
Communion Service

CONFESSION

Saturday 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm

—————
Monsignor Martin P. Ryan,
D. Min.
Pastor

Mrs. Denise Bartelson
Director of Faith Formation

Mr. George Zamy
Pastoral Assistant

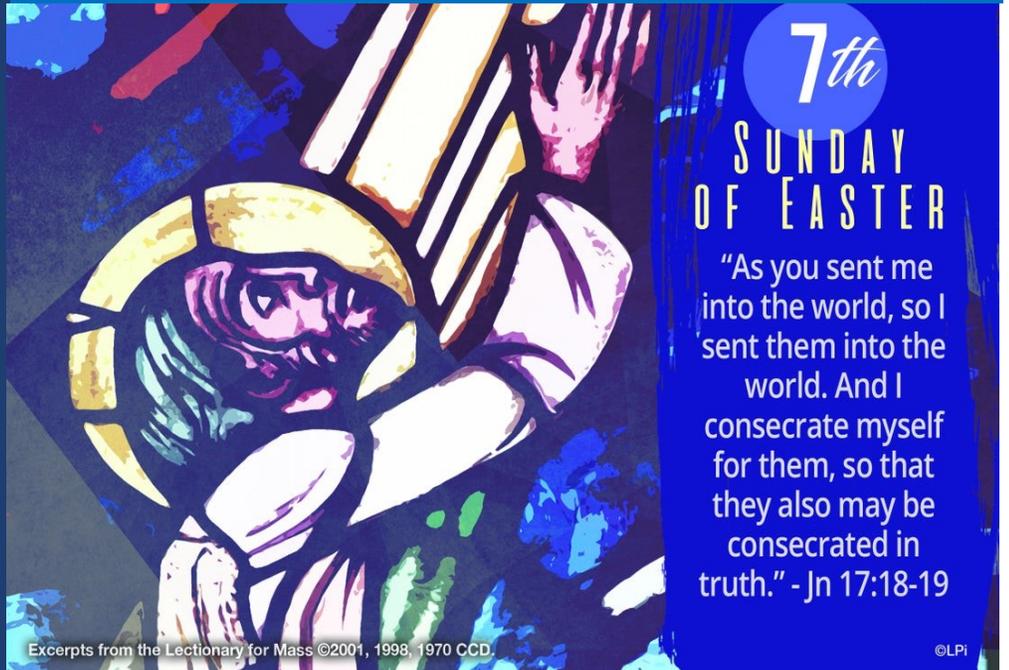
Mrs. Stacey Breyan
Office Staff

Ann Baker
Bookkeeper

Mr. Matthew Roumeles
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Howard Wardlow
Finance Council Chairman

May 16, 2021



7th
SUNDAY
OF EASTER

"As you sent me
into the world, so I
sent them into the
world. And I
consecrate myself
for them, so that
they also may be
consecrated in
truth." - Jn 17:18-19

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, Diane Bajorinas, Joan Bajorinas, Lois Balga, Ted Balga, Denise Bartelson, Thomas Boiano, Anna Curry, Barbara Dlouhy, James Farrell, Joanne Giba, David Gombos, John Goncalves, Flo & Mike Gorlo, Roberta Greiner, John Knapik, Elaine Lagor, Lee Lagor, Annette LaFleur, Joshua Craig LaFleur, Barry Latham, Mary Ann Mainak, Marge Martire, Cindy Maurer, Owen McNaboe, Michael Meade, David Oleynik, Sal Pace, Tom Penny, Eugene Richard, Michael Shulick, Marion Sebens, Rev. Leo Spodnik, Phil Stinson, Ann Ward, Andrew Yankowski, George Zmary, Sr.

+Joseph Magnano

*Welcome to
 "Our Little Church."*



Offertory Donation

To make donations during this time of masses being cancelled please consider:

1. Mailing your donation to the Parish directly.
2. Dropping off your donation in lock box that has been installed outside to the left of the garage located next to the rectory sidewalk.
3. Go online to our EFT/Online Giving and sign up temporarily. Please call Stacey at the Parish Office (203) 377-0928 x13 with any questions or concerns.

On-line Giving Program

Another easy way to manage your church giving is with Online Giving. You can manage your giving or give a one-time gift right from home. Visit our church website (olgstratford.com) and click the Online Giving link and register with our church. Your support during the year helps sustain our church. Any questions please contact Stacey Breyan at or at (203) 377-0928 x13 or staceybreyan@olgstratford.com.

Second Collection: May 16, Catholic Communications Campaign

Confessions

The Sacrament of Confession is celebrated on Saturday at 1:15pm. The Confessions are heard in the Madonna Hall. Please enter by the "RED Doors". All must wear masks and practice social-distancing.

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

On May 10th the Bishop's of the State issued a statement inviting parishioners to a deeper understanding of the Holy Eucharist and the need for us to return to our participation in the Mass. The emergency dispensation from Sunday Mass will end.

On May 22nd, our masses will follow the new State mandates and we will have open seating, but will continue with some seating that will have social distancing by reservation. Masks must be worn in the Church at all times!

I am sure that parishioners will have questions regarding the lifting of the Mass dispensation. I encourage to contact Stacey Breyan, Denise Bartelson, Ann Baker or George Zmary regarding any questions about personal dispensations.

I will be communicating with you by callingpost in the coming days to give you further information.

Peace,

Msgr. Ryan

Parish Memorial Books

Several years ago the parish instituted a Memorial Fund. The purpose of the Memorial Fund was to provide assistance for purchasing new and needed items for our liturgies. For example, vestments, ritual books, etc. This is a wonderful way to acknowledge someone living or deceased or in thanksgiving for a prayer answered. For information or to make a donation please call the Parish Office at 203-377-0928.

Have you moved!

We are reaching out to our senior parishioners who may have moved or have changed your contact phone number during the pandemic. Please contact George Zmary at 203-377-0928 x9. To update your contact information!

Face of prayer

On Divine Mercy Sunday 2017, the Diocese announced *The Face of Prayer*, an online prayer experience that brings together social media, text alerts, and the power of prayer.

Each day around 4 pm, a text message is sent to all participants, inviting them to stop whatever they are doing and to pray for a specific intention, followed by the recitation of one Hail Mary. This simple gesture unites thousands of people in prayer, while reminding us of the place that prayer should play in our ordinary lives. To date, over eight million prayer texts that have been shared by subscribers.

To join the movement is easy. Simply text the word pray from your smartphone to **55778**. You will automatically receive a response to confirm your subscription. Standard texting rates apply.

My Spiritual Life

Sunday Mass from Our Lady of Grace

Please join us for Sunday Mass from OLG

Parish website: www.olgstratford.com

On Youtube: search

Our Lady of Grace Roman Catholic Church,
Stratford, CT

On Facebook: search

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Stratford, CT

TV Masses

We invite you to pray with us by watching mass on TV.

Here are the Channels:

Optimum

Channel 24 Hartford 10am daily

Channel 137 Catholic Faith Network

Channel 135 EWTN

Frontier TV

Channel 20 Hartford 10 am

Channel 562 EWTN

Please pray the following prayer at Communion Time.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

As is the practice of the Church, one can make an Act of Spiritual Communion at the time others are receiving. The Act, which can be offered for all those who have died or are suffering from Coronavirus, can be a simple prayer, such as, "My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

Save the Date

May 22nd First Communion

May 31st Memorial Day

The Mysteries of the St. Joseph

Betrothal to Mary (Mt 1:18). Now this is how the birth of Jesus came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph, son of David, and husband of Mary

Mass in Honor of Healthcare Workers

Over this past year, many of our healthcare workers offered heroic service on behalf of those who fell ill with the Coronavirus, often risking their own lives to care for those who were sick. Bishop Frank believes that it is important that our Diocesan Church recognize their service and honor them during a special celebration of the Mass that will take place on Saturday, May 29, 2021 at 11:00am at Saint Joseph Church, Brookfield. Given the limited capacity in Church due to the pandemic participants will be required to register online. Registration will be available on the Diocesan website.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MAY 15

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

SUNDAY, MAY 16

8:00am Our Parishioners

Parish Video Our Parishioners

12:00 pm Goncalo Lazaro r/b Beverly Evans

MONDAY, MAY 17

9:00am Marina Verrilli r/b The Soisson & Babiyan Families

TUESDAY, MAY 18

9:00am Ryleigh Jacobi r/b The Soisson & Babiyan Families

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

9:00am Our Parishioners

THURSDAY, MAY 20

9:00am Elizabeth Grace r/b Family

FRIDAY, MAY 21

9:00am Arthur Miller & Wife Marty & Family

SATURDAY, MAY 22

4:00pm Joseph Voytek r/b Linda Skowronski

SUNDAY, MAY 23

8:00am Our Parishioners

Parish Video Our Parishioners

12:00 pm Edward & Margaret Kelly r/b Family



Sanctuary Lamp Intentions



May 16, 2021– May 22, 2021

Lamp I: Barbara Daniak r/b Francis Piazza

Lamp II: Steven Wright r/b The Soisson & Babiyan Families

On-line registration

We see many new faces attending Mass after vaccinations. We invite you to use the on-line registration form in the bulletin to begin the process of parish membership.

Coming to mass after May 23rd

We will encourage you to continue to use our parish reservation system for the transition period for a full church. We will reconfigure the seating in the church for our parishioners in a safe manner! There will be some seats with social distancing for those people seeking a safe seat! We will open the middle of the church for open seating! All people attending Mass MUST wear a mask. You will enter for Mass by the sacristy door! You may exit by any door!

We will continue to take your reservations online. We will begin our process each Wednesday at 6:00pm through Noon on Friday. Phone reservations will be taken each Thursday from 9:00am - 1:00pm by calling 203-450-6898. Information for seating for walk ins will be available each Saturday at 203-377-0928 x4 after 9:30 am. We ask you to make your donation in the box as you enter church for Mass!

We ask your understanding as we journey through this next phase!

Faith Formation

We ask our parishioners to please keep the 15 children and their families who are preparing for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in their prayers. First Holy Communion will take place on May 22, 2021. During the Month of May, our Faith Formation families will receive prayers and devotions to the Blessed Mother so as a family they could gather and pray to the Blessed Mother.

PRAYER WALK

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, and it is such an important time for all of us to pray for one another. Faith and prayer helps us get through this difficult times. Join our Prayer Walk! If you would like to sign up, you can email denisebartelson@olgstratford.com with your name and email to get on the list to receive emails or to ask for prayers for someone. The next Prayer Walk will go out at the end of the month.



Baptisms

If you are planning to have your child baptized at OLG, we ask you to contact the parish office! We are only baptizing one child at each of our Baptism Ceremonies. We are following all State Mandates during this pandemic time. For further information, please contact Stacey at the Parish Office 203-377-0928 x13 or email her at: staceybreyan@olgstratford.com

Sponsor Certificate Procedure

The Diocese of Bridgeport has recently updated the Sponsor Certificate Procedure for all parishes. When a parishioners requests a sponsor certificate the forms will be sent to them by the parish office. The parishioner will review the information and submit the form for the Pastor's signature.

Project Rachel

Are you or someone you know carrying the pain and sorrow of losing a child to abortion? The Diocese of Bridgeport's Project Rachel Ministry is here to assist those who are suffering from a past abortion. For help and more information on beginning the healing journey, contact us at 203-416-1619 or email projectrachel@diobpt.org. All inquires are confidential. God's mercy, healing and forgiveness are waiting for you!

Marriage Moments

Distance can put stress on a marriage. Having a spouse who travels a lot or who is deployed to military service poses a challenge. Do you have any practices that help the two of you when you are apart for awhile?

Parenting Pointers

Teach your child to pray. Sure, you may already say grace before meals and a bedtime prayer, but help them practice humble prayers from their heart. You may learn a lot by listening to their genuine prayer.

© 2019 Susan Vogt

EMAIL: SusanVogt1@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.SusanVogt.net



FAMILIES

Hey Daddy....Hey Mommy did you know??

The Prayer Rock Garden has been blessed. Please stop by the red doors in the back of the Parish Center and do a drive by prayer.

Safe Environment Update

We thank all parishioners who have updated their Virtus Training. We will be contacting all parish volunteers who are currently registered in the Diocesan Safe Environment program. They need to have all read the 2020 Diocesan Safe Environment Handbook and complete the Executive Summary! If a volunteers has not been active during the pandemic time, you will need to reactivate your profile before resuming parish ministry. We hope to update all our information by June 1st.

Parking Lot Safety

With the better weather, we find many more using our parish parking lot. Some people are using the lot for teaching their children to drive a car. Some people are parking in our lot to use the wifi hot-spot. Please be careful when on the parish property. We have posted signs stating non-church use is not allowed.

Video Mass

We will be changing our weekly video-mass to a "Live-Stream Format" beginning Saturday, May 8th. We have gotten better with our technology, so our mass will be live streamed at the Saturday, 4:00pm. The mass will continue to be available beginning at 4:00pm on Saturday and throughout the weekend!

True Love that Lasts

The Leadership Institute is proud to present a webinar series, True Love That Lasts, for anyone interested in strengthening their marriage. The five-week webinar is held on Thursday, beginning May 27th. There are two options to join, 2:00pm or 7:00pm. For complete details and registration information, please visit www.formationreimagined.org.

PARISH CALENDAR, COLLECTIONS

<u>PARISH FINANCES*</u>			
Sunday Offertory	Actual	Budget	Over (Under)
Income for the week of 4/27/21 - 5/3/21	\$5,196.	\$7,212.	(\$2,016.)
Budget Year-to-date	\$264,183.	\$315,524.	(\$51,340.)
Second Collection: May 16, 2021—Catholic Communications Campaign *Please note: Due to the printing deadline, the Parish Finance Report will be <u>delayed by one week</u> .			

Meetings & Events

◆ In person Parish meetings have been cancelled. Parish Office is closed for social distancing. We will be accepting calls Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Parish Finances

We are beginning our parish budget process for 2021-2022. The budget will be submitted to the diocese for approval in early June. We thank you for your continued support. Our next budget will face many challenges and more information will be available in the coming weeks!

Correspondence with the Office

When calling the parish office, please listen to the menu! The following extensions (1, 2, 3) are only for your information on Mass schedules! The extensions are not monitored so do not leave a message!

We have installed a lock box outside the garages near the rectory sidewalk. Please feel free to place offertory envelopes and other correspondences to the office in this lock box between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm.

An additional Parish Office box is outside the garage for you to pick up the parish bulletin.

RESERVATIONSReservations for Masses on May 22 & 23

We have to make a change to the reservation system for the Masses on May 22 & 23.

ONLINE RESERVATIONS will start on Monday, May 17 at 6:00 pm and end on Wednesday, May 19 at 12:00 pm.

PHONE RESERVATIONS will be taken on Thursday, May 20 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Callingpost

Please listen for our callingposts during these next weeks. We will be updating you on changes occurring because of the mandate and guidelines changes!

OTHER NEWS

A Stewardship Moment
Seventh Sunday of Easter

Before he ascended into heaven, Jesus instructed his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all of creation. In the first reading, after Jesus' ascent, the angels ask his disciples "Why do you stand here staring at the skies?" The angels want them to look around themselves and be assured that Christ is working through them. The Ascension does not memorialize Christ leaving us. But instead, Christ working through us, his mystical body, his church. As stewards of this legacy, we too are called to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our words and actions; in how we live and how we treat others. Are we sharing the life of Christ with others in our day-to-day lives? In what ways do we see ourselves proclaiming the Gospel? In what ways can we do better?

Annual Catholic Appeal 2021

The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport is one school on four campuses in the inner City of Bridgeport: St. Andrew, St. Ann, St. Augustine and St. Raphael—and is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Its mission is to provide a Christ-centered, academically rigorous learning environment where cultural diversity is welcomed, Catholic values taught and all faiths celebrated. Students are nurtured, encouraged and challenged in preparation for a successful life of leadership and service.

This year we will serve nearly 800 children. Despite tuition being only \$5,150 a year 85% families afford this so the school must award more than \$2 million annually in financial assistance. More than 80% of students perform at grade level compared with only 23% in the Bridgeport public school system and 100% of student's graduate high school compared with barely 60% of Bridgeport public schools students.

Donations to the Annual Catholic Appeal enable inner-city youth to become faith-filled, industrious, responsible and well-educated adults. Our world and the Church need these young students to excel academically and to develop a strong and active faith in God. Thank you for your support.

Book of Healing Prayer

There are many calls from individuals and families asking for prayer! Please remember the requests for prayers for the names listed in our book! The Book of Healing Prayer has gathered more than 1000 names of people seeking "Healing Prayer". We will continue to have the book available! Please feel free to continue to add names and the parish will keep you in prayers. May God Heal You!

Church Air-Conditioning

We have had our Church system serviced and will begin using the system as the weather dictates.



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

The Knights of Columbus Msgr. Thomas Mooney Council 13228 Annual Scholarship Program is now open. We offer one \$500.00 scholarship opportunity each year to young men of Our Lady of Grace parish who have graduated High School or completed a GED in preparation to go on to a trade school or college. Scholarship Rules as well as Application Forms are available online by visiting msgrmooneycouncil13228.weebly.com/contests.html. Scholarship applications with attached essays must be submitted on or before 1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 13, 2021 to: Mr. Terry Morgan C/O Our Lady of Grace, 497 Second Hill Lane, Stratford, CT 06614. Paperwork may also be dropped in the collection box for delivery. Scholarship will be awarded on Father's Day weekend, Sunday, June 20, 2021. Winners will be notified of time and place.

Recently our Chaplain, Msgr. Ryan, recommended a video series titled "Into The Breach" produced by the Knights of Columbus for Catholic men urging them to embrace wholeheartedly masculine virtues. You can view this series and an online study guide if interested at www.kofc.org/en/campaigns/into-the-breach.html

If you're a male age 18 or older, learn more about what the Knights of Columbus do for you and how you can join for FREE contact Grand Knight Terry Morgan at 203-913-7225.

Our Parish On-Line Donors

We thank you for your on-going support of the parish. Our list of on-line donors has grown during the pandemic. Your consistent giving has helped us to serve our parish and continue to pay our bills.

May God bless you!

Covid Vaccine/Elderly & Disabled

If you are disabled or homebound and are in need of a COVID vaccine, please call George Zamary at 203-377-0928 x9. He will make a referral to the appropriate health department for an in-home shot.

Catholic Communication Collection

Today we take up the collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). Your support helps the CCC connect people to Christ and builds Catholic communities in the United States and around the world using the internet, television, radio, and print media. Half the funds we collect remain here in the Diocese of Bridgeport to support local efforts. Be a part of this campaign to spread the Gospel message. Support the collection today! To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/cc.

Parish Ministry to Seniors

As we continue to journey into spring, we face many challenges. Are you a senior who has not been vaccinated? Our parish ministry for seniors may have information for you! We are currently delivering parish bulletins, sending a weekly word of encouragement, sending a card in our card ministry and making friendly phone calls. If you know anyone of our seniors who needs a call. Please stay in touch by calling George Zamary at 203-377-0928 x9.

When You are Hospitalized

We ask our parishioners to inform the Parish Office if you are hospitalized. We do have contact with Bridgeport Hospital and St. Vincent's Hospital but many times we miss you! We do make calls of encouragement and prayer. Please inform George Zamary at 203-377-0928 x9.

Lord's Kitchen

The OLG volunteers at the Lord's Kitchen, thank our parishioners for their support of the Lord's Kitchen. The OLG volunteers will be serving the meal at the Lord's Kitchen on Monday, May 24. We ask our parish family to keep our volunteers in their prayers. Our volunteers also ask the help of our parishioners by donating toothpaste, toothbrushes, and toilet tissue. We are accepting monetary donations to assist with the meal expenses! The collection buckets will be available May 15/16 to receive your donations. The buckets will be placed outside the garage.

May Marian Prayer

Regina Caeli - Queens of Heaven

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

The Son whom you merited to bear,
Alleluia, has risen as he said, alleluia.

Pray for us to God, alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!

For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray:

O God, who through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, did vouch safe to give joy to the world; grant, we beseech you, that through his Mother, the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

Parish On-line Registration

Our Parish is now offering online registration. Please go to our website and click on the link to complete your online registration form or complete the form below and place it in the offertory basket. Please contact Stacey Breyan at (203) 377-0928 x13 with any questions.

Name _____

Phone _____