



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!*

May 1, 2022

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

Mrs. Stacey Breyan
Office Staff

Ann Baker
Bookkeeper

Mr. Matthew Roumeles
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Howard Wardlow
Finance Council Chairman

Parish Website: www.olgstratford.com



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 x113 during the week or email: staceybreyan@olgstratford.com. For additional information regarding "Growing-Up Catholic," contact Melissa Lembo by email: baptismprogram@olgstratford.com.

Sacrament of Matrimony

For those wishing to enter the Sacrament of Matrimony, please contact the Parish Office (203)-377-0928 x113 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 x113
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, Ted Balga, Nina Sica Collins, Anna Curry, Barbara Dlouhy, Sandy Erickson, James Farrell, Dennis Festa, Joanne Giba, David Gombos, Mike Gorlo, Roberta Greiner, Stephen Hutton, Marie Iannucci, Carolyn Kordish, Lesley Kostyszyn, Elaine Lagor, Lee Lagor, Annette LaFleur, Joshua Craig LaFleur, Barry Latham, Mary Ann Mainak, Mary Maraczi, Marge Martire, Cindy Maurer, Owen McNaboe, Michael Meade, Arline Nelson, David Oleynik, Sal Pace, Marion Petrino, Debbie Pfeifer, Mert Pruzinsky, Eugene Richard, Jamie Rivera, Dhiaa Shubber, Michael Shulick, James Sinnott, Rev. Leo Spodnik, Phil Stinson, Andrew Yankowski

+Lois Balga

Welcome to

“Our Little Church.”



Online 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. Please contact Stacey Breyan at (203) 377-0928 x113 or staceybreyan@olgstratford.com with questions.

Second Collection: May 1: Capital Improvement;

May 22: Hope for the Future

Make up envelope

Thank you for your support by making up your weekly envelopes! With the Easter holiday and school spring vacation, we ask your support! The winter months have taken a toll on our church steps, and the parking lot. Repairs need to be made and first estimates are expensive! If you have been away or have been isolating because of Covid-19, we need your help for your “Little Church”. We ask that you make up envelopes when you are away! You may drop your donations in the mail or in the parish drop-box at the side of the parish garage. We thank those who make their donations by our online giving program. Your consistent giving has been very important to our parish financial stability! We thank you for your generosity in the past and ask all to help us support our “Little Church”.

Pastor’s Letter

Dear Friends,

The parish would like to recognize all our parish College Graduates. The month of May, is a time when we celebrate the achievement of our family members. May God bless them and guide them. This year I celebrate my 50th Anniversary of graduation from Fairfield University. The power of education and the use of God-given gifts has given me much. I hope that our new graduates will find joy and fulfillment!

God Bless!

Msgr. Ryan

Medical Leave

I will be on medical leave from May 4th through May 19th. I will be undergoing Cornea eye surgery on May 5th. Please keep me in your prayers. Thank you for your support and understanding!

Msgr. Ryan

Covid Protocol

The Covid-19 status for Stratford is at an “**RED Alert**” status.

As a parish we need to be considerate and keep each other safe. Therefore we ask that:

1. If you are feeling sick, please stay home and recover!
2. We recommend all people wear masks in parish buildings especially in areas designated for social distancing.
3. All unvaccinated persons should follow state guidance in wearing masks inside buildings!
4. We recommend parishioners to sign-in. We have learned through the pandemic that phone is the best way to communicate with our parishioners.
5. May we care for each other in the name of Jesus!

Catholic Communication Collection

On May 28/29 our parish special collection supports the Catholic Communication Campaign. This campaign engages and builds Catholic communities in the United States and developing countries using the internet, television, radio, and print media. Half of the money collected remains here in the Diocese of Bridgeport to fund local communications efforts. Your support helps spread the Gospel message! To learn more visit. www.usccb.org/cc

Mother’s Day

Come and join us on the weekend of May 7/8 for a special recognition for the Mothers of our parish. We will have a special blessing at each weekend Mass and a special prayer card will be given to the women of our parish.

Global Synod

We are asking our parishioner to participate in the worldwide Synod. You can still participate by going to the parish website and completing the questionnaire.

My Spiritual Life

Mass from Our Lady of Grace

Please join us for Sunday Mass from OLG Parish by
"Live Stream"

Saturday at 4:00 pm.

You can also find our Sunday Mass on our 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 137 Catholic Faith Network

Channel 135 EWTN

Frontier TV

Channel 12 Hartford 10:00 am

Channel 562 EWTN

Formed.org

Don't Forget Brother Francis!

Our Best Whole-Family Easter Season Resource



Join Brother Francis as he helps children understand how
to live a joy-filled Catholic life.

Registering for FORMED is easier than ever:

1. Go to formed.org/signup
2. Select your parish: Enter parish zip code 06614 and
select Our Lady of Grace from the provided dropdown
menu
3. Register with your name and email address
4. Check that email Inbox for a link to start watching
FORMED.

People of Hope

Throughout the month of May, the Institute for Catholic
Formation will be hosting a series of online workshops,
keynotes, and webinars. These workshops will feature
more than 60 topics from a wide array of speakers. All
events will be held online and are free to attend. Preregis-
tration is required for each week.

Special workshops for:

**Parents, Catechists, Catholic School Teachers, Parish
Staff, Faith Formation Leaders, Special Needs Minis-
try, Young Adults, and Youth Ministry Leaders**

Workshops will be in English, Spanish, or Vietnamese
Plus, everyone who registers will receive a packet in the
mail with prayer cards, Rosary, and a free gift from the
Institute. For further information visit Formationreimagined.com.

Annual Bishop's Appeal

**Our Lady of Grace, Stratford has raised 150 gifts worth
\$38,387.00 from 126 donors bringing the parish to 57.0%
of its \$67,800 goal.**

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

4:00pm Charles Siwicki r/b Doreen Siwicki & Family

SUNDAY, MAY 1

8:00am Joseph & Pierina Montagnino r/b Family

12:00pm Our Parishioners

MONDAY, MAY 2

9:00am Beatrice Corsino r/b The Rosary Group & Friends

TUESDAY, MAY 3

9:00am Jim Perrotta r/b Joan & Mert Pruzinsky

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

9:00am Our Parishioners

THURSDAY, MAY 5

9:00am Souls in Purgatory

FRIDAY, MAY 6

9:00am Father Oliver Renaud r/b Mary Maraczi

SATURDAY, MAY 7

4:00pm Our Parishioners

SUNDAY, MAY 8

8:00am Stella Soisson r/b Soisson Family

12:00pm Vicki Hartz r/b Family



Sanctuary Lamp Intentions



May 1, 2022 - May 7, 2022

Lamp I: Souls in Purgatory

Lamp II: Our Parishioners

Project Rachel

Are you or someone you know experiencing
pain and sorrow from losing a child to abortion? You are
not alone! For information and resources or to find out
about our upcoming focal Days of Prayer and Healing,
contact Maureen at 203-416-1619 or [projectra-
chel@diobpt.org](mailto:projectrachel@diobpt.org). God's mercy, healing and forgiveness
are waiting for you!

Parish Memorial Books

Several years ago the parish instituted a Memori-
al Fund. The purpose of the Memorial Fund was to pro-
vide 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,
deceased or in thanksgiving for a prayer answered. For
information or to make a donation please call the Parish
Office at 203-377-0928.

Confessions

There will be no Confessions on Saturdays while Msgr.
Ryan is on sick leave. Confession will resume on Satur-
day May 21st. You may attend Confessions at:

St. Mark Church on Saturday 3:30-4:30pm

St. James Church on Saturday 12:15-1:30pm

Holy Name of Jesus on Saturday 3:00-3:30pm

First Communion

Our First Communion Children will be receiving their
First Communion on Sunday, May 15th at our Noon
parish mass. Please keep our children in your prayers.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Office is open Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

We would like to congratulate our students who made their Confirmation on Friday, April 22, 2022. It was a lovely spiritual ceremony and we would like to thank Msgr Thomas Powers, Vicar General for confirming our students.

We would also like to thank Msgr Ryan for his guidance and the catechists who prepared the students. Thank you to the altar servers, to our organist, Matt Roumeles for the beautiful music and to Lauren Baker for taping the ceremony and for photos. Please keep these students and their families in your prayers. They were truly Blessed as they received the Gifts of the Holy Spirit on Friday evening.

Our First Holy Communion students are preparing for their special Sacrament which will take place during the 12:00 Mass on May 15. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Registration is ongoing for all the classes, new Registration forms for 2022 – 2023 school year will be available in June. There will be an announcement in our bulletin and website when available. If you have questions on our programs or would like to know when the registrations are available call 203-375-6133 or email Denise at denisebartelson@olgstratford.com.

Nazareth Program

If you have a child that has never started Religious Education class or have missed a few years we offer the Nazareth Program. This program meets the children where it is needed, and they can get caught up with special classes and then can start preparing to make their Sacraments. If you would like further information on this program call 203-375-6133 or email Denise at denisebartelson@olgstratford.com.



SAVE THE DATE

Plant Sale is returning this year!

Mother's Day Weekend:

Herbs, Veggies, Hanging Baskets, Cocco Baskets, Flats of Flowers, Potted Flowers, and Mosquito Plants

Location – OLG Gym

Friday, May 6, 2022: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Saturday, May 7, 2022: 9:30 am – 5:30 pm

Sunday, May 8, 2022: 9:00 am – 1:30 pm

Thank you

We would like to recognize Denise Bartleson and the catechists who prepared our students to receive their Confirmation on April 22. We would like to thank our volunteers who served as Readers, and Altar-servers. A special note of thanks to Matt Roumeles in leading our music ministry.

Marriage Moments

Many religions have times of fasting (Christians-Lent, Jews-Yom Kippur, Hindus-Navratis). Perhaps less known is that May 2 is Eid al Fitre, the day that Muslims break their Ramadan fast. Whether or not you are religious, fasting can awaken your appreciation for food. Today awaken your affection for your beloved. Maybe have a special “break-fast” together.

Parenting Pointers

May 2-8 is **Screen Free Week**. (<https://www.screenfree.org/resources-for-families-individuals/>)

It's not too late to celebrate by taking a break from TV, video games, or phone apps. Check out [these resources](#) for families. Go outside. Make your own fun.

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WEBSITE: www.SusanVogt.net

Questions of the Week

MAY 1 • 3rd Sunday of Easter

Feed My Sheep

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord: you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”(John 21:15)

- Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 - Disciples' second trial before Sanhedrin
- Revelation 5:11-14 - Praise to the lamb
- John 21:1-19 or 21:1-14 - Appearance at the Sea of Tiberias
- Adults: In what ways are you answering Jesus' command to Peter to “feed My sheep”?
- Kids: What do you do to take care of others as Jesus asked Peter to do?

Book of Healing Prayer

We thank the Lord Jesus for his continued healing presence in our parish family. There have been many prayers heard and more individuals and families are requesting “Healing Prayer”! Please remember the requests for prayers for the names listed in our book! Please also remember the names of those listed in our parish bulletin. We thank you for your many stories of encountering the Healing Lord! The Book of Healing Prayer has gathered more than 3300 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 Jesus Heal You

Growing up Catholic Pre-Baptism Class

We will be conducting a GUC Baptism Class on Tuesday, May 24th at 7:00 pm. The GUC class will be conducted by videoconference. We ask all parents wishing to baptize their children to join us for the class. Please register for the class by Tuesday, May 17th. By contacting Stacey Breyan at 203-377-0928 x113 or email at staceybreyan@olgstratford.com.

PARISH CALENDAR, COLLECTIONS

PARISH FINANCES*			
Sunday Offertory	Actual	Budget	Over (Under)
Income for the week of 4/12/22 - 4/18/22	\$6,572.	\$7,019.	(\$447.)
Budget Year-to-date	\$263,069.	\$293,017.	(\$29,947.)
Collection for Easter Sunday \$5,636. Goof Friday \$1,638. Second Collection: May 1; Capital Improvement May 22; Hope for the Future			
*Please note: Due to the printing deadline, the Parish Finance Report will be delayed by one week.			



***Parish Office** is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. **Please call prior to visiting the Parish Office (203) 377-0928 x113. We will continue to try and keep everyone safe.**

***Church** is open for prayer Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

We Stand with Christ

Our Lady of Grace Parish	
<i>We Stand With Christ Campaign Redemption Update</i>	
Total Pledged:	\$342,265.10
Total Collected (As of 3/21/22):	\$174,368.10 (51%)
To make a payment on your pledge, please visit GiveCentral.org/WSWC or call 203-648-9050.	

Bishop’s Annual Appeal

Over the years, many corporations in the Diocese have participated in the Matching Gift Program. When making your pledge to the 2022 Bishop’s Appeal, please consult with your employer to determine if they match gifts. If your company does participate, the Diocese of Bridgeport or its designated agencies such as Catholic Charities, Catholic Academy of Bridgeport, or Foundations in Education, may qualify for these additional funds. The company match will increase the dollar amount received at no extra cost to you. A list of Matching Gift companies has been posted on our website, www.2022BishopsAppeal.com. For further information please contact the Development Office at (203) 416-1312 or email us at 2022BishopsAppeal@diobpt.org. Thank you for your support of the Appeal.

Church Air Conditioning

Our parish church, air-conditioning units will be serviced on May 9 & 10.

OTHER NEWS

A Stewardship Moment

Third Sunday of Easter

This weekend’s Gospel reading from John enjoys a number of themes not least of which has to do with hearing Christ’s call to live differently but returning to our “comfort zones.” Even after seeing the risen Lord and receiving his blessing and missionary charge, his disciples go back to what they were doing before Jesus first called them. Instead of continuing Jesus’ ministry, they return to the life they knew. When faced with the choice between embarking on a new way of life or staying where life is familiar and comfortable, they chose the latter. Good stewards know that Christ has called them to open their hearts and live in a different way. How often do we retreat from the Lord’s call so that we may remain with what is comfortable and familiar.

Virtus Training

We have been in conversation with parishioners who wish to return to ministry. Over the past two years many people and programs stopped because of the virus and the fear of becoming infected. In looking at steps that are needed to renew our parish life, we all need to commit ourselves to “A Safe environment, and Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults”.

Every parish volunteer must complete the training, background check, and review the Diocesan handbook. Denise Bartelson will create a process where you can check your status as people return to ministry. The process can be as easy of activating your status, but some parishioners will need to update training, complete a background check, and review the Diocesan manual. Denise can be reached at denisebartelson@olgstratford.com.

Diocesan Mandate for Readers and EMHC

The Diocese will be contacting our Readers and EMHC for further training and to renew their diocesan mandate!

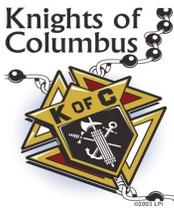
The renewal process will begin in May!

“The Chosen”

Did you ever want to know what the people were like who walked with Jesus? The show “The Chosen” offers you the sights and sounds when Jesus walked this earth. You can find Seasons one & two on Youtube and Facebook. Give yourself a spiritual moment in Easter Season!

Knights of Columbus Food Drive

We ask your support of the monthly Food drive. Food will be collected on Saturday, May 7th from 10:00am until noon in the parish parking lot! Thank you for your generosity!



Knights Corner Msgr. Mooney Council #13228

Msgr. Thomas Mooney Council here at Our Lady of Grace would like to recognize and congratulate all those who received their Confirmation Friday, April 22 who have now been "sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit". We pray the Gift of the Spirit will help them give witness to and live their faith in every aspect of their lives.

Continued call for solidarity with Ukraine - Knights rally broad-based support to provide refugee relief. Knights and their families and friends from around the world have responded rapidly to a call for prayers and contributions to support refugees. The international K of C community includes more than 1,800 members in Ukraine who, like their fellow citizens, are facing an urgent need for temporary shelter, food, medical supplies, clothing and pastoral support. Inspired by our Order's first principle, Charity, please join us in praying for peace and consider a donation to our Ukraine Solidarity Fund. 100% of your donation will be used to assist those directly affected by the conflict. That is why Council 13228 is hosting a fundraiser, in connection with Knights of Columbus around the world, to provide for the spiritual and material needs of Ukrainian refugees. Visit <https://donate.kofccharities.org/team/421132> Learn more about the situation in Ukraine and what our Polish and Ukrainian brother knights are doing by viewing any of the videos (most under 3 minutes long) in this playlist from Supreme here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dhS0o-trLijWN1wMTHHzCXhth-jikF> Next weekend we will kick off our **Annual Scholarship program**. Beginning this year our program will be open to both young men and women of the parish. Watch for details in next week's bulletin on how to apply.

Our next **Food Collection** is scheduled for Saturday, May 7 between 10 a.m. and noon.

Parish Bulletins for Seniors

We would like to recognize the members of the Msgr. Mooney council Knights of Columbus, who deliver our parish bulletin to our seniors. If you are a senior and would like to receive a bulletin, please contact the parish office.

People of Hope

The Institute for Catholic Formation will host a 31 day formation event in May. More than 70 workshops will be offered throughout the week (day and evening) in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The Rosary will be recited. More information will follow!

Callingpost

We will be using "callingpost" for our weekly update. As the summer months come upon us, we may not need to send a weekly update! When we send a weekly update it will be sent on Friday at 7:00 pm.

Parish Senior Call Ministry

We thank our Senior call ministry Team. They make weekly calls to our parishioners and offer support to our senior parishioners.

We have been very successful in keeping in contact with our senior members. A group of volunteers have been calling our parishioner once a week. The callers offer pastoral support. If you are a parish senior and would like to receive a call, contact the parish office with your name and phone number.

Hospital and Nursing Home

As the rate of Covid infections are decreasing and Stratford has a Yellow Alert Status, the visitation of our parishioners in hospitals or nursing homes continues to be dependent on the visitation directives of each medical institution. The local medical facilities are updating their visitation policies. Please let the parish office know when you are in the hospital or in one of the area nursing facilities. When you call the parish office leave the name and the phone where the patient can be reached.

Funeral Ministry

When we are contacted by a Funeral Home, to schedule a Funeral Mass and Burial, the Parish Bereavement Team will contact the family to extend the sympathy of the Parish. The Bereavement Team will schedule a meeting with the family to plan the readings and sacred music for the Funeral Mass. We invite the family to participate in the Funeral Mass. We have a mass booklet and song list to use in your planning. We can meet in person or through email to plan the funeral.

Lord's Kitchen

The volunteers from Our Lady of Grace Parish will be serving the meal at the Lord's Kitchen on Monday, May 23rd. We ask our parish family to keep our volunteers in their prayers as they take care of those who are in need. Our volunteers also ask the help of our parishioners by donating bars of soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toilet tissue. We are accepting monetary donations to assist with the meal expenses! The collection buckets will be available **May 14/15** to receive your donations. The buckets will be placed outside the rectory garage.

Parish Registration

We continue to see new faces at mass each weekend! We ask you to register at Our Lady of Grace Church. You may register at our parish office Monday-Friday between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. You may also register by using the registration form below or by submitting a registration through our website.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Email _____