



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 15, 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



5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you,
so you also should love one another." - Jn 13:34

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

GLPI

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

*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 22: Hope for the Future

Make up envelope

Thank you for your support by making up your weekly envelopes! With the present uptick in Covid-19 cases, and the busy month of May, we ask your support! The winter months have taken a toll on our church steps, and the parking lot. We hope to have the steps repaired soon! 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,

Thank you for your prayers! My surgery went well! My eyesight is improving each day. By the time you read this note, I will have had my second post-opt visit with the surgeon. I am looking forward to more good news! God is Good!

On May 15th, I celebrate my 46th Anniversary of Ordination, I will offer my Mass today for your intentions.

Peace,
 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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Msgr. Ryan!

Congratulations to Msgr. Ryan on the 46th anniversary of his ordination.
 Blessings and well wishes to him!

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

Take a walk through the community life after the Resurrection. Search The Acts of the Apostles on Formed and Mark Hart will give you a guided tour..

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. Preregistration is required for each week.

Special workshops for:

Parents, Catechists, Catholic School Teachers, Parish Staff, Faith Formation Leaders, Special Needs Ministry, 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.

Confessions

There will be no Confessions on Saturdays while Msgr. Ryan is on sick leave. Confession will resume on Saturday, May 21. 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

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MAY 14

4:00pm Thaddeus Walewski r/b Walewski Family

SUNDAY, MAY 15

8:00am Our Parishioners

12:00pm Thomas & Carmella Ettore r/b Michael Ettore

MONDAY, MAY 16

9:00am Thomas Zaleski r/b Halina Lipka

TUESDAY, MAY 17

9:00am Our Parishioners

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

9:00am Our Parishioners

THURSDAY, MAY 19

9:00am Zennon, Helen, & Tommy Zaleski r/b Family

FRIDAY, MAY 20

9:00am Sal & Margaret Pace & Matera Families r/b Sal & MaryJo Pace

SATURDAY, MAY 21

4:00pm John Buynak r/b Chuck Carroll

SUNDAY, MAY 22

8:00am Our Parishioners

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



Sanctuary Lamp Intentions



May 15, 2022 - May 21, 2022

Lamp I: Our Parishioners

Lamp II: Souls in Purgatory

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 projectrachel@diobpt.org. God's mercy, healing and forgiveness are waiting for you!

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, deceased or in thanksgiving for a prayer answered. For information or to make a donation please call the Parish Office at 203-377-0928.

Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord will be celebrated on Thursday, May 26. It is a Holy Day of obligation! Our vigil mass will be at 7:00pm on Wednesday, May 25 and will be live-streamed. Masses for the Holy day will be at 9:00am and Noon! Please join us for the Feast Day.

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.

Faith Formation

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

Four children will be receiving First Holy Communion during the 12:00 Mass this weekend. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

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.



PRAYER WALK THE FRIEND OF JESUS PRAYER

Sign up on Church Bulletin Board to receive our Prayer Walk every month. You can also email denisebartelson@olgstratford.com with your name and email to get on the list to receive emails. **All parishioners can add some-one or themselves for prayers just email the information to denisebartelson@olgstratford.com.** 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 can get us through many difficult times.

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



Plant Sale

We would like to thank all the parishioners who came to the Parish Center and bought the beautiful flowers and plants last weekend. Thank you for supporting the Faith Formation programs.

We would also like to thank Karla Kowalski for painting our signs for advertisement. Thank you to Lillie, Keith and Gia Toni for working with Filanowski, organizing all the flowers and plants and selling the plants all weekend. Our Fundraiser could not have happened without them. Also, thank to all our hard workers throughout the weekend, Liz Christiansen, Sheila Finnegan and Carol Soisson.

Thank You

We would like to thank Flower Works Designer for donating the flowers for the Mother's Day Masses and First Holy Communion Mass.

Marriage Moments

"As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." (John 13:34) Easy to say. Hard to do. Remember that Jesus' love for humanity brought him to the crucifixion. Ponder what each of you might sacrifice for the other this week.

Parenting Pointers

What does it mean to fly? – not in an airplane but to, almost magically, lift off the ground. May 26 is Ascension Thursday. Talk to your child about lifting up their spirit to God – in prayer, by doing a favor for someone... Maybe fly a kite or watch some birds together to connect with Jesus' Ascension.

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WEBSITE: www.SusanVogt.net

Questions of the Week

MAY 15 • 5th Sunday of Easter

Love One Another

Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (Jn. 13:34)

- Acts 14:21-27 - End of the first mission.
- Revelation 21:1 - Sa - New heavens and new earth
- John 13:31-33a, 34-35 - A new commandment
- Adults: When have you seen the power of love overcome a bad situation?
- Kids: Do you believe love is stronger than hate? Why?

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.

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.

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!

PARISH CALENDAR, COLLECTIONS

PARISH FINANCES*			
Sunday Offertory	Actual	Budget	Over (Under)
Income for the week of 4/26/22 - 5/2/22	\$5,357.	\$7,019.	(\$1,662.)
Budget Year-to-date	\$273,070.	\$306,132.	(\$33,062.)
Collection for Capital Improvement \$1,596. Second Collection: 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	
2022 Bishop's Appeal as of May 6, 2022	
ABA Goal:	\$67,800
Total Pledged:	\$50,431 74.22%
Donors to Date:	168 Donors
To make a gift, or for more information, please visit us at 2022BishopsAppeal.org , call (203) 416-1470 or scan with your phone.	

Armed Forces Day

Armed Forces Day will be celebrated on Saturday, May 21st. We will recognize the women and men serving in the military services of our country at the 4:00pm Mass. There will be a special prayer and music during the time of recognition. May we all be thankful for those who serve our nation!

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.

OTHER NEWS

A Stewardship Moment
Fifth Sunday of Easter

In today's Gospel Jesus makes a bold and clear statement to his disciples. "I give you a new commandment: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." We are called to love others as a sign of our discipleship in Jesus Christ. That includes even those "others" we might prefer to forget. We are so often tempted to draw lines between those who we will love and those who we consider not worthy of our love. This week take time to reflect on Jesus' love command. How often do we heed Jesus' love command? What change in our lives must take place in order for us to obey this command?

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.

Bishop's Annual Appeal

The Institute for Catholic Formation offers online and in-person formation for our diocesan Ambassadors. In 2021, more than 200 Ambassadors participated in online formation, gathered sessions for prayer and reflection and then were commissioned by Bishop Caggiano for work in their parish faith communities. When you make a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, you support the ministries that continue faith formation. Thank you for your gift.

If you have not yet responded to the 2022 Bishop's Appeal, please reflect upon the importance of your support to the ministry and outreach that relies upon the charity of the Diocese of Bridgeport. The challenge is immediate and far-reaching, but the solution is within our reach! Whatever you decide, your gift will be greatly appreciated and make a difference in the lives of others.



Knights Corner Msgr. Mooney Council #13228

God bless those who received their **First Communion** this weekend! How awesome! Knights celebrate these little ones and their families, gifting each child a KofC rosary!

We invite them, and all parishioners, to bring your rosaries to our **Family Rosary**, 11:30 a.m. Sunday, May 29 *right here in church*. If you and your family would like to lead a decade please let us know by contacting Dan Plavcan at 203-378-5868.

Our **Annual Scholarship Program** *is now coed!!!* We award **ONE \$500.00 scholarship** to a member of Our Lady of Grace parish graduating High School or completing a GED moving on to trade school or college in 2022. Rules and Application Forms are available for downloading at msgrmooneycouncil13228.weebly.com/contests.html. Applications with attached essays *must be submitted on or before 1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 5, 2022* to: Mr. Terry Morgan C/O Our Lady of Grace, 497 Second Hill Lane, Stratford, CT 06614 or may be dropped in the collection box for delivery. The scholarship will be awarded on Father's Day weekend, Sunday, June 19, 2022. Time and place TBD.

Our Council has launched an online **Ukraine Solidarity Fund** to help Ukrainian and Polish brother knights provide spiritual and material needs of Ukrainian refugees. Partnering with us, you will bring much needed shelter, food, medical supplies, clothing and religious goods to the displaced communities that are now in Poland and western Ukraine. Every dollar you donate has an immediate effect, and 100% of every donation goes directly to those in need. So donate today! The process is fast, easy, and secure - *and tax deductible using this webpage: donate.kofccharities.org/team/421132*. You can even dedicate your donation in honor or memory of someone.

Learn more about how Knights of Columbus are responding to alleviate suffering in Ukraine with these short videos found here: youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dhS0o-trLijWN1wMTHHzCXhth-jikF

If you're a practicing Catholic male, 18 years or older and like what you see our local council doing, why not join us? Visit kofc.org/joinus to learn more about how you can join for FREE during your first year of membership, or text 203-913-7225

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.

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 _____