



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 22, 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



6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do
I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." - Jn 14:27

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

OLPI

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, Joan Figula, Joanne Giba, David Gombos, Mike Gorlo, Roberta Greiner, Stephen Hutton, Marie Iannucci, Carolyn Kordish, Lesley Kostyszyn, Allen Lagor, 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, Dhia 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

May 29: Catholic Communications Campaign

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 for 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,

Before we come to summer vacation, I need to share with you some challenges we are facing in the parish. The pandemic has changed our lives and we continue to see many unexpected events.

Our parish census has changed over the past couple of years. We have lost more than 120 parishioners to death since the beginning of the pandemic. Many of our older parishioners have moved to live with family, and some have entered assisted living care. What changes have occurred in your life, please notify the parish office if your address has changed or you have a new phone number.

Like your personal expenses, our parish expenses continue to go up! You do not want to see our parish gas bill! As the bills expand our Sunday collection continues to lag behind. During the summer months I hope that we can address a plan to improve our ability to balance the budget.

Finally the greatest challenge is mass attendance. We can sit about 265 people at weekend mass. The number attending weekend mass is about 250 people total. If you are new to the parish may we invite you to use the coupon in the parish bulletin to request a parish census form.

I will share more information on the challenges facing our parish as we work to build the Body of Christ.

Peace,

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.**
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!

Thank You for Your Prayers

As I return from sick leave, I share good news with you. The vision in my left eye has greatly improved and the doctor is very pleased with the eye and the healing process. I thank you for your prayers.

Msgr. Ryan

5th Sunday Rosary

Please join the Knights of Columbus for the "family Rosary" on Sunday May 29th at 11:30am. May is the month of Mary. Come and join in Mary's prayer.

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. 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

The Sacrament of Penance is celebrated each Saturday from 1:15-2:15pm. We ask you to wear a mask when coming to Confession.

Hope for the Future

The Hope for the Future campaign has been of great assistance to the parish during these past months. The campaign envelope is dated May 28/29. We hope that you will join us in financially supporting the parish and build this hope for the future of Our Lady of Grace Parish. Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

MONDAY, MAY 23

9:00am Mary Valenichis r/b Joan Barbarich

TUESDAY, MAY 24

9:00am Helena & Stanislaw Lipka r/b Family

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

9:00am Our Parishioners

THURSDAY, MAY 26

9:00am George Zamar, Sr. r/b Pat Maurer

FRIDAY, MAY 27

9:00am Tom Penny r/b George Zamar

SATURDAY, MAY 28

4:00pm Joseph & Anna Greytak r/b Sharon Greytak

SUNDAY, MAY 29

8:00am Our Parishioners

12:00pm Liz Mack



Sanctuary Lamp Intentions

May 22, 2022 - May 28, 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!

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 holyday will be at 9:00am and Noon! Please join us for the Feast Day.

Global Synod

Please pray this prayer for the success of the Global Synod!

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen

Faith Formation

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

Last Sunday Fr. Roger celebrated the 12:00 Mass where 4 of our children received their First Holy Communion. We would like to Congratulate those children and their parents. The children were presented with Rosary Beads and a Book on Saints, given by the Msgr. Mooney Council # 13228 Knights of Columbus. We thank the Knights for these gifts.

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 someone 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.

First Communion Thank you

We would like to congratulate our parish children who received their “First Communion” on Sunday 15th. We thank Denise Bartelson, Jennifer Volturno and Fran DePietro for preparing our children to receive the precious sacrament. May God bless you!

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.

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.

Marriage Moments

Natural or national disasters can bring out the best in humanity as we rally to help those in need. A marriage crisis can also prompt a couple to sacrifice for each other or honestly deal with a recurring problem. Don’t wait for a disaster, however, to test your love. Prevention is better.

Parenting Pointers

It’s not Christmas but there are still important gifts of words your family can give each other – Say a genuine, unexpected “I love you.” Tell each one something they do that makes you proud. Recognize something that each one is good at.

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WEBSITE: www.SusanVogt.net

Questions of the Week

MAY 22 • 6th Sunday of Easter

Keeping Jesus’ Word

Jesus answered him. “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” (Jn. 14:23)

- Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 - Letter of the apostles to the gentiles.
- Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23 - The new Jerusalem
- John 14:23-29-Last discourse; faithfulness to God’s word
- Adults: When difference has it made in your life when you made a decision in accord with Jesus’ teachings?
- Kids: When will you have to make a decision this week? What will help you make a god decision?

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 3235 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!

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 CALENDAR, COLLECTIONS

PARISH FINANCES*			
Sunday Offertory	Actual	Budget	Over (Under)
Income for the week of 5/3/22 - 5/9/22	\$5,926.	\$7,019.	(\$1,093.)
Budget Year-to-date	\$278,996.	\$313,001.	(\$34,005.)

**Second Collection: May 22; Hope for the Future
May 29: Catholic Communications Campaign**

*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:	\$52,741. 77.79%
Donors to Date:	172 Donors
To make a gift, or for more information, please visit us at 2022BishopsAppeal.org , call (203) 416-1470 or scan with your phone.	

Catholic Communication Collection

Next Weekend we take up the collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). Your support helps CCC engage and build 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 to support local efforts. In the Bridgeport Diocese. Be a part of this campaign to spread the Gospel message. www.usccb.Org/cc. Support the collection today!

Anointing of Sick

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick on Tuesday May 31st at the 9:00am Mass.

OTHER NEWS

**A Stewardship Moment
Sixth Sunday of Easter**

In today's Gospel we witness the last evening Jesus spends with his disciples before his death. He has already made it clear that his followers will show their love for him by serving others. To live that kind of love, they will need the active presence of God in their midst. Jesus tells his disciples that he and his Father will come and make their home with them. He also tells them that the Holy Spirit will be among them to teach them and remind them of all that Jesus had taught. Good stewards recognize that God is in their midst and that the Holy Spirit is guiding them. How often do we acknowledge God's presence in our lives? How often do we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us?

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 Diaconate Formation Program supports the vocation and ministry of the deacon, beginning as an Inquirer through his journey to ordination and beyond. The diocese of Bridgeport provides an integrated four-and one – half-year program that is structured around the four pillars of human, spiritual, academic, and pastoral dimensions—all supported through gifts to the Bishop's Appeal.

Through prayer, study, and the grace of the Holy Spirit, the candidate undergoes a transformation of heart and mind as he prepares himself to be minister of the Word, Altar, and Charity. There are now 47 active deacons, 39 retired, most who continue to serve, and 8 men in formation. Our discussions with those interested in knowing more about our formation program in ongoing. When you give to the Bishop's Appeal, you support the formation of men who serve in our parishes and communities throughout the diocese for many years to come. Through the Bishop's Appeal, our men in formation are accompanied and supported, without the financial burden to fulfill their "call" to the diaconate.



Knights Corner Msgr. Mooney Council #13228

Thank you to those who came out in the rain to donate to our May Food Collection! Through your generosity we collected 629 lbs of food and were able to donate another \$625 in S&S store cards to the parish for distribution to those in need. Since the start of our fraternal year in July '21 a total of 7,113 lbs of food and \$7,110 in S&S cards have been distributed. Our next **Food Collection** will take place Saturday, June 4 between 10 a.m. and 12 noon,... rain or shine!!!!

Save the date, save a life! The Knights are sponsoring a **Blood Drive** Saturday, June 11 between 9 - 2 in the parish center gym and we're counting on your support. Appointments are being scheduled now. If you have questions or would like to sign up to donate at or contact Pat O'Keefe directly at 203-400-8712.

Knights will lead a **Family Rosary**, 11:30 a.m. Sunday, May 29. 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 open. 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.

"My grandfather, my dad and my uncle were all fourth degree Knights as well as my husband being a Knight. I know firsthand the dedication each member puts forth and pray God blesses you all for your heartfelt efforts." Those words were posted by an anonymous donor to our Ukrainian Solidarity Fund page. What a wonderful testimony. Consider making a gift here: donate.kofccharities.org/team/421132

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 Increasing and Stratford has a **Red 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. The OLG volunteers thank you for your support for the ministry of the "Lord's Kitchen". The hearts of the people of Our Lady of Grace bring the "Heart of Jesus" to people in need! May God bless you!

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 _____