

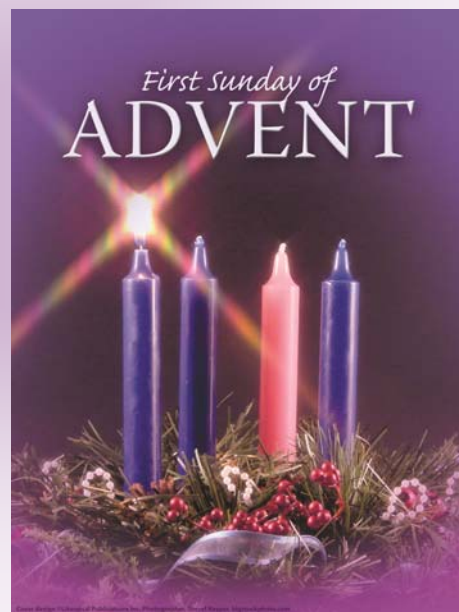
THE PARISH OF ST. CECILIA ~ ST. GABRIEL

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Saint Cecilia **Saint Gabriel**
1184 Newfield Ave. 914 Newfield Ave.
Stamford, CT 06905

December 1, 2019

Rev. John P. Connaughton, Pastor

Rev. Mariusz M. Olbrys, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Larry Buzzeo
Seminarian Anh Vu



Fr. John Connaughton, Pastor
FrConnaughton@diobpt.org

Fr. Mariusz Olbrys, Parochial Vicar
FrOlbrys@diobpt.org

Deacon Larry Buzzeo
Lbuz@optonline.net

Seminarian Anh Vu
Anh.vu@diobpt.org

Maryanne Didelot, Director of Religious Education
DRE@stcecilia-stgabriel.org
203-329-2707

Gina DeVito, Parish Office Manager
Office@stcecilia-stgabriel.org
203-322-1562

Michele Schule, Organist and Music Director
203-322-1562

Tom McKiernan, Business Manager
203-246-7681

Mark Browning, Finance Council President
203-322-1562

Vicki Alton, Prayer Line
VickiA@optonline.net
or call the parish office 203-322-1562

**Patricia Brady, Head of School & Principal
Catholic Academy of Stamford Lower School**
203-322-6505

Parish Website <http://stcecilia-stgabriel.org>

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass

7:30 am at St. Cecilia

Rosary Daily—prior to the 7:30AM Mass
Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous
Medal—Mondays following the 7:30 Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

with Benediction every Wednesday night in the Church
of St. Cecilia from 7:30-9pm with confession available.

Saturday Vigil

CONFESSIONS at St. Gabriel
Saturday 3 P.M. to 3:50 P.M.

4:00 pm at St. Gabriel

5:30 pm at St. Cecilia

Sunday Masses

7:30 am at St. Cecilia (no music)

9:00 am at St. Gabriel (no music)

9:00 am at St. Cecilia

11:15 am at St. Cecilia

BAPTISMS: Sundays following 11:15am Mass at St. Cecilia.

WEDDINGS: St. Gabriel or St. Cecilia upon request of the couple.
Arrangements to be made at least six months prior to the wedding.

FUNERALS: at St. Gabriel or St. Cecilia upon request of the family.

SAINT GABRIEL CHURCH MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY **November 30, 2019**
 4 PM Kerry Gotshall
 (Alice Ryan)

SUNDAY **December 1, 2019**
 9 AM Luigi Cardillo
 (His Wife & Children)

SATURDAY **December 7, 2019**
 4 PM Bob Gill
 (Kaye & Family)

SUNDAY **December 8, 2019**
 9 AM Jerry Ormond
 (Family)

SAINT CECILIA CHURCH MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY **November 30, 2019**
 5:30 PM Cathy O'Brien
 (Terry & Tom McKiernan)

SUNDAY **December 1, 2019**
 7:30 AM Danielle Leyva
 (J.R. & Janet McMullen
 9 AM Maria, Aurea, & Alice
 (Jane & Heinz Hubli)
 11:15 AM John Quinn
 (Chris Quinn & Family)

MONDAY **December 2, 2019**
 7:30 AM Special Intention
 (Parishioner)

TUESDAY **December 3, 2019** St. Francis Xavier
 7:30 AM Patrick Thompson
 (The Cannon Family)

WEDNESDAY **December 4, 2019** St. John Damascene
 7:30 AM John & Vera Raino
 (Joseph Rainone Jr.)

THURSDAY **December 5, 2019**
 7:30 AM Jose, Sevi, Edgar & Ura
 (Jane & Heinz Hubli)

FRIDAY **December 6, 2019** *Saint Nicholas*
 7:30 AM For the Parish
 9:30 AM Catholic Academy First Friday Mass
 Ronald Canlas
 (Catholic Academy)

SATURDAY **December 7, 2019**
 5:30 PM Thomas Poltrack
 (Daughter Maryanne)

SUNDAY **December 8, 2019**
 7:30 AM Ted Ottaviano
 (Dolores Grossman)
 9 AM Marthinson & Maloney Families
 (Pat Maloney)
 11:15 AM Donna Melfi
 (Cesare & Carmela DelVaglio)

Advent

My mother worked for many years as a school teacher. One of the things she loved about teaching was summer vacation. But I think even more than summer vacation itself, she loved the days leading up to summer vacation – especially the last day of school. She used to say that she actually liked the last day of school better than the first day of vacation. She loved the feeling of anticipation, knowing that soon she would be enjoying carefree days of summer leisure. During the month of June she would drive to school with the windows down, listening to the Carly Simon song “Anticipation” with a big smile on her face.

This Sunday we enter into Advent, which is a 4-week season of anticipation. It’s a time in which we as the Church embrace the feeling of eager expectation. One way in which we do this in the liturgy is by singing “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” which is a hymn that expresses the longing of the world for the Savior. What makes this hymn particularly great is that it uses language from the Old Testament prophecies that foretold the coming of the Messiah. By singing it, we adopt for ourselves the desire that these prophecies express. The One who freed Israel from bondage in Egypt and restored them from exile in Babylon would be born in a manger to liberate us from sin and death through His own death and resurrection. And so, we Christians live these four weeks in expectation for the celebration of Christmas as a way also of living in joyful hope for the Second Coming of Christ and our encounter with Him when we die.

During these four weeks we must be intentional about entering into the experience of longing for the Savior. Advent wreaths and Advent calendars are great ways to foster a sense of anticipation as a family, because we look forward to opening the next door on the calendar and lighting the next candle on the wreath. Culturally, there is a temptation to treat Advent as the Christmas season. Instead of a time of anticipation, Advent can get lost in the “hustle and bustle” of the holidays, becoming a time of consumption and consumerism. Unfortunately, these things deaden the feeling of anticipation that is proper to this time of year, and by the time Christmas rolls around we no longer feel much like celebrating.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes the Church as “Mother and Teacher” (Mater et Magistra). Our Mother the Church gives us the season of Advent as a sacred time of anticipation so that we might experience Christmas as the beginning of the feast and the fulfillment of our longing. May we live this season of Advent well this year, so that we might be better prepared to receive the One who is the Desire of Nations with enthusiasm and joy.
 In Christ,
 Fr. John

Week of November 30, 2019



St. Cecilia Church Tabernacle Candles shines in memory of John Quinn by Ann Quinn
St. Gabriel Church Vigil Lamp for Our Lady shines for Paulette Badalamenti (Living) by the DeVito Family



The sick and their caregivers. Michael Pratt, Phil Totilo, Nick Pensiero, Tamika Anderson, Ken Byxbee, Sal Bonina, Conor Ehring, Mary Brundage, Matt Marshall, William Perkins, Tricia Saxe Cocco, Steven Deccicco, Richard Ngyesi, Ed Adams, Msgr. Powers, Wendy Lenard, Edward Cioffi, Barbara Cebula, Columbia Smith, and Kaye Gill, Betty Schenarts, Baby Elyssa, Andrew Allesandro, Michael Anderson, Pat Arpaio, Gloria Boccuzzi, Christopher Brady, Amy Burns-Duda, Fr. Michael Cambi, Michael Cooper, Tim Cooper, Allyn Dodd, Carolyn Gagnon, Steve Grossman, Matthew J. Hammill, Eileen Hynes, Melissa Jambol, Musfira Khan, Kitty Mandi, Richard Nanos, Karen Parent, Chet Quinlan, Donna Raus, Bill Ritchie, Bonnie Sigfried, Thomas Sparan, Dominic Totino, Alex Trebek, George Wetzler, Christopher Hoepfner, Caroline Andreana, Joe Butler, Lori Ciccarella, Mark Mullen, Joe Butler, Kim Pugliaall who travel ... the wounded and recovering military personnel and all who put themselves in harm's way to protect us,... victims of war, terrorism and violence around the world, ... those whom we remember in our Eucharistic Celebrations this weekend and throughout the week and those who have died especially John Matthew Kotosky.

We also have a prayer line available for anyone wishing for immediate prayers. Please send your prayer needs to Vicki at VickiA@optonline.net

If you are hospitalized or homebound and would like a visit or a communion call, please contact the parish office at 203-322-1562.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN MILITARY

We pray that the Lord may preserve the members of our Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force and National Guard from all harm...especially: SPC Thomas Boccuzzi, LCpl. Michael Lowe, SR Julia Terese Bova, Capt. Josie Quijano-Carpanzano, Capt. Mario Carpanzano, C.J. DelVaglio, Sgt. Taylor A. Ritchie, FN Ellie Fratturo, Maj. Michael J. Souza, Jack H Whitney, Christopher Ciacchiarella, SA Joshua M. Hicks, SR Allison McNamara.



Support Troop 9 Stamford Boy Scouts of America

The Scouts will be selling wreaths after all masses at St. Cecilia and St. Gabriel this Weekend, Nov. 30 / Dec. 1.

The 25 inch wreaths are fresh balsam, decorated with a red bow, pine cones and berries. Each wreath is \$25. Please continue to support Troop 9's 96 years of service to the community. If you miss us this weekend please contact Alison Pellicci at alisonjpellicci@gmail.com to place an order.

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

The parish RCIA program will soon be starting. Please contact the parish office for more information.

We are very proud of the Catholic Academy of Stamford Honor Roll students from St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish!

High Honors: Olivia Tomas and Kaitlyn Fox

Honor Roll: Nora Byrnes, Rachel Janik, Bryan Larkin, Ryan Connors, Samantha Loy, Emilia Coppola
God Bless you! Keep up the good work!

A BIG THANK YOU to ALL who donated groceries and volunteered their time organizing and delivering for our Thanksgiving Food Drive, especially our 2020 Confirmation Class and Mr. Bruce Vukson. We sent approximately 175 bags of groceries to St. Josephs Parenting Center, Wilson Memorial Church, New Covenant Center, The Food Bank of Fairfield County, Haitian American Catholic Center and Faith Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church. Your generosity was appreciated.



S.O.M.E Please consider a weekly contribution of non-perishable food. S.O.M.E. (So Others May Eat) Baskets are at each church entrance. Your contributions will be delivered to the Food Banks, Wilson Food Pantry, St. Joseph Parenting Center, St. Mary's Food Pantry, or New Covenant Center every week. THANK YOU for your responsible stewardship. If you are interested in offering some of your time and talent to these on-going activities contact the parish office or: Bob Violette 203.357.1481

Email "hotline" for parishioners to provide feedback and ask questions: Madeleineterenzio@gmail.com



Music Notes Attention Singers!

The music ministry is seeking new members to join in enhancing the music liturgy during the liturgical year and Christmas. We are in need of voices and musicians to join our choirs. Please see Michele, another choir member or call the rectory at 203-322-1562 or email micheleschule@gmail.com. When you sing, you pray twice. We would love to have you! Choir Practice at St. Cecilia Church on Tuesday Evenings 7 - 8:30.

Lessons and Carols

Dec. 15th at 3PM

Please join us as we

"Rejoice in the Lord"

in an afternoon of prayer and song.



Please plan on joining us for hot chocolate and Christmas treats following *Lessons and Carols*, in McDermott Hall.



All are welcome. We meet on Tuesday's 12-3 pm at the St. Gabriel Church Hall.

Come join us to play cards, games or just to chat, meet new people & make new friends. Any questions contact Dottie Annunziata 203-322-8830

Join the Veterans Project!

Help make a lap robe for a wheelchair Vet. Tuesday's 1 - 3 pm in the *Parish Center Sun Room*. Contact Helen D'Elia 203-322-0615.

Books, CDs, Booklets, Pamphlets

The kiosk in the vestibule of St. Cecilia Church offers an inspirational opportunity from the Augustine Institute for parishioners, visitors and friends. These CDs, books and booklets include explanations of our Catholic Faith, accounts of God's incredible mercy and practical information for living our faith. Take a few minutes either before Mass or after to browse through the available selections. New titles arrive often. Visit the kiosk - you'll be glad you did!

Meetings/Activities Schedule

Mon.	12/2	7pm	Lectio Divina - Parish Center Conf. Rm.
Mon.	12/2	6:30	Columbiettes - St. Gabriel Hall
Tues.	12/3	12-3pm	Senior Circle - St. Gabriel Church Hall
Tues.	12/3	1-3pm	Veteran's Project - Parish Center Sun Rm.
Tues.	12/3	7:30pm	AA - St. Gabriel Hall
Wed.	12/4	7:30-9pm	Eucharistic Adoration & Confession - St. Cecilia Church
Wed.	12/4	10am	Handcraft Group - Parish Center Sun Rm.
Thurs.	12/5	7pm	AA - MH
Fri.	12/6	6:30pm	Bible Study Potluck - St. Gabriel Hall
Sat.	12/7	7:15am	Men's Breakfast - Parish Center
Sat.	12/7	7am	Men's Roundtable - St. Gabriel Hall

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION

Classes as usual Sun. Nov. 24th and Tues. Nov. 26th.

No Classes Sun. Dec. 1st or Tues. Dec. 3rd.

Grades 1 - 8 and Confirmation - Sundays 10:05am to 11am

Grades 1 - 6 Tuesdays 4:15pm to 5:10pm

Questions? Please contact our

DRE, Maryanne Didelot at

DRE@stcecilia-stgabriel.org or 203-329-2707

St. Cecilia-St. Gabriel Offering

Nov. 17th Offertory Totals: \$9,471

On-line Giving: \$3,735

Due to early bulletin deadlines our offertory totals are a week behind.



Please consider On-line Giving

Register at www.osvonlinegiving.com/1522/

Our Online Giving system provides you the opportunity to give to our special collections in addition to regular offerings. You can choose to do a One Time Gift, or you can set up Regularly Scheduled Contributions that are withdrawn on the date you specify in the system. Even if you typically use your offering envelopes, you may wish to contribute online to a particular collection. It's easy and it's convenient!

SATURDAY MEN'S MINISTRY

To provide men of all ages the opportunity to reflect on sacred scripture, and see how it has meaning and purpose in our lives today. We meet each Saturday morning 7:15 - 8:30 am in the Parish Center and reflect on sacred scripture over breakfast. Coffee and bagels at 7 am.

Contact Anthony Pramberger for information on this ministry at 203-968-1481

ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST MEN'S WEEKLY ROUNDTABLE

To Know, Live and Make Christ's Love Known.

We meet at St Gabriel Church Hall on Saturday Mornings 7- 8 am. Contact Bill Nagle for information on this ministry at 203-570-2593.

Altar Server Training

Being an altar server is a wonderful way to serve the parish community and enhance the beauty of the Sacred Liturgy. If you have a child (boys and girls, grades 4-7), who is interested in learning how to serve at Mass, please contact the parish office .

Phone: 203-322-1562

Email: office@stcecilia-stgabriel.org

Our next "Two Thousand Hail Marys" will be on Saturday, December 7th in the St. Philip Neri Chapel at St. Gabriel 6 AM to 3 PM Mass at 8AM in the Church.



Come Pray to the Blessed Mother. Stay for a few minutes, a couple of hours, or for the whole time. Questions? Call Tessie Senerador 203-570-3109

St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish Coffee Hour



Please join us for coffee and some treats on December 8th, after the 9AM Mass at St. Gabriel in the Church Hall.

Those attending St. Cecilia 9AM Mass, please come too! All are welcome!

STAMFORD CATHOLIC YOUTH GROUP



Upcoming meeting dates and locations are:

Middle/High School: 12/6-8 – Fearless! Retreat (for those who registered)

High School: 12/13 – 7 to 9:00pm at St. Bridget Church;

Middle/High School: 12/20 – Christmas Caroling (details to come);

All 6th - 12th grade youth from any parish are welcome to join us – just show up! Scheduled meeting dates can be found at <http://stcecilia-stgabriel.org>.

Contact Fr. Joseph Gill at frjosephgill@gmail.com, (203) 324-1553, Gina Denner (203) 968-6388 (Middle School), or Diane McNamara (203) 329-0866 (High School) for info.

The Columbiette's #5833 will be hosting an outreach basket in St Cecilia's foyer through 2020. They will be collecting NEW and UN-USED personal care products and other items mentioned below. All items will be given to local needy charities. Please consider participating in their comforting care efforts. Items include: shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, hair brush, socks (children & adult), diapers, wipes, playing cards, small board games. Thank you. Questions? Contact Nancy (203)561-6222



The Columbiette's #5833 monthly meeting will be held Monday December 2nd at St Gabriel Church hall at 6:30pm. If you enjoy helping others and doing God's work, please look into joining us. All Catholic women 18 years or older are welcome to join.

HANDCRAFT GROUP

Each week we pray for the recipients as we continue our hand crafts, prayer shawls and baby blankets. Please join us! We continue to meet every Wednesday from 10 am - noon in the Parish Center Sun Room, or you can knit at home! Questions? Please call Candice Bryan 203.329.8932 or Kitty Carty 203.322.3771.



On November 20th, Fr. Mariusz blessed 150 prayer shawls and baby blankets that will be distributed to Malta House, Stamford Hospital NIC-Unit, and Bennett Cancer Center. If you know of someone that would benefit from our handcrafted items please contact Candice or Kitty.



The Spirit of Giving Continues.....

Adopt-A-Family Christmas Gift Drive

Interested St. Cecilia – St. Gabriel families will be assigned an indigent family for which you would purchase and wrap a gift for each family member.

If you are interested in participating in the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Gift Drive please contact Anthony Pramberger (apram@optonline.net or 203-968-1481) by Friday, November 22. Please be prepared to provide your name and contact information (telephone number and email address). We will then provide you via email with information on your adopted family to begin your shopping.

The wrapped gifts would be placed in large black trash bags, and returned to the St. Cecilia Church Hall or the St. Gabriel Corridor by Saturday, Dec. 14th. Please do not bring gifts to the Parish office.

**Christmas Presents for the
Lower Fairfield Regional Center**

Thank you for your continued generosity to the residents of Lower Fairfield Regional Center. Your generosity is making a difference in the quality of their lives. If you have taken an Index card with a name and gift request, kindly return the gift, wrapped (with the index card on it) no later than Sunday December 15th to the St. Gabriel vestibule.
May God bless you during this holiday season and always. Any questions please contact Cathy at 203-569-7998.

TOYS FOR TOTS

Please leave your donations in the boxes in the vestibule at both St. Cecilia and St. Gabriel Churches by Sunday, **December 15th.**

New, Unwrapped Gifts for children (ages 3-Teens).

Thank you!

Any questions please contact Madeleine at 203-962-4373

Seminarian Christmas Gift Card Program 2019

This is an initiative coordinated by a group of laity to provide seminarians with a Christmas card containing a gift card along with words of encouragement. There are 24 dedicated men discerning a call to the Priesthood in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Your prayers and generosity will support them and help them cover their incidental expenses while they tend to their formation.

If you have taken an envelope, please return it to the parish by Sunday, December 8th.

The envelopes will be presented to the seminarians by the Director of Seminarians, Rev. Paul Check at their annual Advent/Christmas Mass and Brunch gathering, where the

Most Reverend Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will be in attendance to celebrate Mass and visit with all the seminarians and their families. Thank you for your participation and generosity.

Any questions please contact the parish office 203-322-1562.