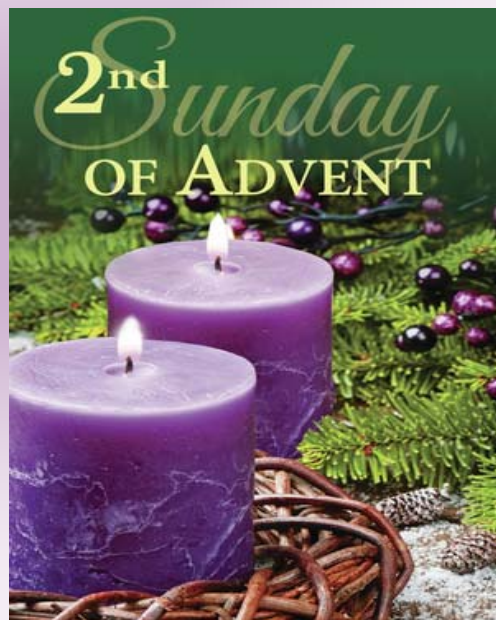


# THE PARISH OF ST. CECILIA ~ ST. GABRIEL

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



*December 8, 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**      **December 7, 2019**  
4 PM              Bob Gill  
                         (Kaye & Family)

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

**SATURDAY**      **December 14, 2019**  
4 PM              Timmy Vitanza  
                         (Mom & Dad)

**SUNDAY**        **December 15, 2019**  
9 AM              Betty Ann Vinci  
                         (Her Children)

SAINT CECILIA CHURCH MASS INTENTIONS

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

**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)

**MONDAY**        **December 9, 2019**  
*Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
7:30 AM          Bob Foster (25th Anniversary)  
                         (Helen)

**TUESDAY**      **December 10, 2019**  
7:30 AM          Thomas Silvestro  
                         (Vera Gardell)

**WEDNESDAY**   **December 11, 2019** *St. Damasus*  
7:30 AM          Katie Knorr  
                         (Cathy Sheehan)

**THURSDAY**     **December 12, 2019**  
*Our Lady of Guadalupe*  
7:30 AM          Irene Covello  
                         (Aunt Helen)

**FRIDAY**        **December 13, 2019** *Saint Lucy*  
7:30 AM          For the Parish  
9:30 AM          Catholic Academy Mass

**SATURDAY**      **December 14, 2019**  
5:30 PM          Vito Cataldo  
                         (Maria & Frank DeCostanzo)

**SUNDAY**        **December 15, 2019**  
7:30 AM          For the Parish  
9 AM              Joseph L. Gambino  
                         (Laura Croft & Family)

11:15 AM        Gerardo Coppola  
                         (Angionna Coppola)

**Knowing Ourselves**

Everybody likes a good story. When I was a kid I loved to listen to my grandparents tell stories about their own parents and life on the farm in Ireland as well as the various characters who populated their little towns. I was fascinated by their experiences as teenaged immigrants to America – what they did for work, what they did for fun, and how they met each other and got married and raised their families. When I think back on those times with my grandparents, I realize that what made their life stories so important to me was that they were part of my own life story. They revealed to me where I came from. Knowing where I came from gave me a stronger sense of my own identity. Old wives’ tales notwithstanding, none of us fell off the cabbage truck or was delivered via a friendly stork. All of us are part of a much larger story of human interaction and family histories. Some stories are happy, some are not, but being familiar with our story helps us to understand ourselves better.

That’s why it is so important for us to be familiar with Sacred Scripture. The Scriptures are our story, the very foundation of which is the relationship of God with His Creation. St. Jerome (347-420 AD), the great Scripture scholar of the early Church, wrote: “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.” Almost 1600 years later, the Second Vatican Council stated that “only in the mystery of the Incarnate Word does the mystery of man take on light.” It is Christ who “fully reveals man to himself and makes his supreme calling clear” (Gaudium et Spes, 22). Therefore, we cannot know ourselves without reference to Christ. And we cannot know Christ unless we are steeped in Sacred Scripture.

Unfortunately, ignorance of Scripture is widespread. Most young (and not-so-young) people are at best vaguely familiar with the great stories of the Bible. On a secular level, this leads to cultural impoverishment. Without familiarity with Scripture, many of the important themes and references contained in the great works of literature, music, and art are not appreciated because they are not recognized. But more significantly, without familiarity with the Scriptures we cannot know who we are, where we came from, and what we stand to inherit as those claimed by the Blood of Christ.

We need to know our story. But the size of the Bible can be intimidating – where to start? I would suggest The Action Bible. Published in 2010, The Action Bible is a retelling of the Bible in the form of a graphic novel (think long-form “comic book”). It’s not a substitute for the actual Bible, but it does an excellent job of presenting the narrative of salvation history in a very accessible way. My nieces & nephews actually fight over it! It is said that the Bible is “the greatest story ever told.” Unfortunately, it is becoming a story that fewer people are hearing, and our culture is suffering the consequences.

Perhaps The Action Bible will awaken the imagination of someone in your family this Christmas.

In Christ,  
Fr. John

Week of December 7, 2019



St. Gabriel Church Vigil Lamp for Our Lady shines for Thomas Poltrack by Daughter, Maryanne



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 Cocomo, Steven Deccicco, Richard Negyesi, 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 Puglia .....all 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 some of our former parishioners, Dominic Mezzapelle, Betty Cassidy, and Eleanor Stoich.

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 Ciacciarella, SA Joshua M. Hicks, SR Allison McNamara.

***Interested in Becoming Catholic?  
The parish RCIA program will soon be starting.  
Please contact the parish office for  
more information.***

***St. Cecilia ~ St. Gabriel Parish  
Mass Schedule***

***Christmas Eve***

Tuesday, December 24, 2019  
St. Gabriel Church ~ 4pm and 6pm  
St. Cecilia Church ~ 4pm and 10pm

***Christmas Day***

Wednesday, December 25, 2019  
St. Cecilia Church ~ 7:30am  
St. Gabriel Church ~ 9am  
St. Cecilia Church ~ 11:15am

***The Solemnity of Mary***

Tuesday, December 31, 2019  
Vigil Mass ~ St. Cecilia Church ~ 5:30pm  
Wednesday, January 1, 2020  
St. Gabriel Church ~ 9am  
St. Cecilia Church ~ 11:15am



**Join the Diocese of Bridgeport on a Bus Pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. for the 47th March for Life Friday, January 24, 2020.**

This year's theme is: Life Empowers: Pro-Life is Pro-Woman. Busses depart from 3 locations – Bridgeport, Norwalk, and Stamford. Cost is \$75.00 per person (non-refundable). Register by Friday, January 17, 2020 at: <https://www.bridgeportdiocese.org/faith-formation>

**Schedule**

5:00 a.m. Depart The Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport  
5:30 a.m. Pick up at St. Thomas Apostle, Norwalk  
6:00 a.m. Pick up at Basilica of St. John the Evangelist, Stamford  
11:30 a.m. Arrive at March  
4:00 p.m. Depart for Connecticut

**PLEASE NOTE:** In the event of snow, unless travel is not recommended, the pilgrimage WILL take place. Tickets are non-refundable.

You are welcome to bring your own food and drink on the bus.

For more information, email [officeoffaithformation@diobpt.org](mailto:officeoffaithformation@diobpt.org) or call (203) 416-1670.

If you are unable to travel to Washington D.C., please join us in prayer the night before on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 6:30pm for the March for Life 2020 Mass celebrated by Bishop Caggiano at St. Augustine's Cathedral in Bridgeport.



### 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](mailto: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.*



Our next "Two Thousand Hail Marys" will be on Saturday, January 4, 2020 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

#### 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. 12/9 7pm Lectio Divina - Parish Center Conf. Rm.
- Mon. 12/9 7:30pm Knights of Columbus 5833 - MH
- Tues. 12/10 12-3pm Senior Circle - St. Gabriel Church Hall
- Tues. 12/10 1-3pm Veteran's Project - Parish Center Sun Rm.
- Tues. 12/10 7:30pm - AA - St. Gabriel Hall
- Wed. 12/11 7:30-9pm Eucharistic Adoration & Confession - St. Cecilia Church
- Wed. 12/11 10am Handcraft Group - Parish Center Sun Rm.
- Thurs. 12/12 7pm AA - MH
- Sat. 12/14 7:15am Men's Breakfast - Parish Center
- Sat. 12/14 7am Men's Roundtable - St. Gabriel Hall

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION

Classes as usual

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](mailto:DRE@stcecilia-stgabriel.org) or 203-329-2707

#### 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!



#### St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Offering

*Nov. 24th*

*Sunday Offering: \$8,188*

*On-line Giving: \$2,413*

*December 1st*

*Sunday Offering: \$7,784*

*Monthly Offering: \$2,955*

*On-line Giving: \$3,695*

Online  Giving

*Please consider On-line Giving*

*Register at [www.osvonlinegiving.com/1522/](http://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!*

Email "hotline" for parishioners to provide feedback and ask questions:  
[Madeleineterenzio@gmail.com](mailto:Madeleineterenzio@gmail.com)



*Erinn Maureen May & Jeremy William Makuch*

*Have made a promise of marriage.*



**STAMFORD CATHOLIC YOUTH GROUP**

Upcoming meeting dates and locations are:

**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](mailto:frjosephgill@gmail.com), (203) 324-1553, Gina Denner (203) 968-6388 (Middle School), or Diane McNamara (203) 329-0866 (High School) for more info.



**Our First St. Cecilia-St. Gabriel  
“BAPTISM ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION”**

On February 2, 2020, at the 11:15am Mass, we will be gathering families who had a child baptized in either of our parish churches during 2019, as honorees at our first St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish

“Baptism Anniversary Celebration” (formerly known as “Celebration of Life”). The event will be held at the Church of St. Cecilia. Families of children baptized in 2014/2015, in either church, will also be recognized and invited.

A reception for all will follow the Mass. Invitations to honored families, explaining more about the event, will go out the last week in

December. **SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO JOIN US!**

Anyone interested in joining this ministry, or who would like to help set-up, or assist at the event, please contact Gina Denner, at [ginadenner@optonline.net](mailto:ginadenner@optonline.net) or call (203) 968-6388.

**2019 Annual Catholic Appeal Update**



*Saint Gabriel, Stamford raised 168 gifts worth \$55,167 from 156 donors bringing the parish to 96.78% of its \$57,000 goal.*

*Saint Cecilia, Stamford raised 240 gifts worth \$85,675 from 201 donors bringing the*

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



**Our Parish Advent Wreath Making Event was a success!** Thank you to our Parish Council President, Lynn Rule and the volunteers who made it happen, and to everyone who participated. Thanks also to Tom and Terry McKiernan for providing the refreshments. We look forward to an even bigger event next year!



Please mention that you saw their ad in our bulletin when you visit their business and bring the bulletin with you! Advertising in our bulletin is what pays for our bulletin.

**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.

We still have some families available! If you are interested in participating, please contact Anthony Pramberger (apram@optonline.net or 203-968-1481) as soon as possible. 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**

Thank you for your participation!  
**If you have taken an envelope, please return it to the parish by Sunday, December 8th. You can leave the sealed card - clearly marked with the name of the Seminarian, in the offertory basket or return it to the Parish Office early on Monday December 9th.** 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.