

# THE PARISH OF ST. CECILIA ~ ST. GABRIEL

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

**February 2, 2020**

**Rev. John P. Connaughton, Pastor**

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



## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,  
"Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise  
of many in Israel." - Lk 2:34a

**Fr. John Connaughton, Pastor**  
FrConnaughton@diobpt.org

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

**Deacon Larry Buzzeo**  
Lbuz@optonline.net

**Seminarist Anh Vu**  
Anh.vu@diobpt.org

Parish Center Office hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 4pm

**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

## 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 7:30am Mass

### Eucharistic Adoration

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

CONFESSIONS at St. Gabriel

Saturday 3 P.M. to 3:50 P.M.

### Saturday Vigil Masses

**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.

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

**SAINT GABRIEL CHURCH MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>SATURDAY</b> 4 PM	<b>February 1, 2020</b> Bridget McGuire (Michael & Celia Beluk)
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9 AM	<b>February 2, 2020</b> Maria & Luigi Longo Sr. (Rocco & Carmela Longo)
<b>SATURDAY</b> 4 PM	<b>February 8, 2020</b> Paul Sheehan (His Family)
<b>SUNDAY</b> 9 AM	<b>February 9, 2020</b> Dottie Castignetti (Dottie & Dennis Dahm)

**SAINT CECILIA CHURCH MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>SATURDAY</b> 5:30 PM	<b>February 1, 2020</b> Kyle Savard (Aileen Masone)
<b>SUNDAY</b> 7:30 AM	<b>February 2, 2020</b> Warija Kowalski (Frank Caveney)
9 AM	George Cooke (Bea & Family)
11:15 AM	Pasquale DeAngelis (Marie DeAngelis)
<b>MONDAY</b> 7:30 AM	<b>February 3, 2020</b> <i>St. Blaise &amp; St. Angsar</i> Carmen Campagna (The Breen Family)
<b>TUESDAY</b> 7:30 AM	<b>February 4, 2020</b> Tommy Molgano (His Family)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 7:30 AM	<b>February 5, 2020</b> <i>Saint Agatha</i> Jim McElderry (Gina & Gina Marie DeVito)
<b>THURSDAY</b> 7:30 AM	<b>February 6, 2020</b> <i>St. Paul Miki</i> Bruce A. Zirpoli (Tom & Eileen Corrigan)
<b>FRIDAY</b> 7:30 AM	<b>February 7, 2020</b> For the Parish
<b>SATURDAY</b> 5:30 PM	<b>February 8, 2020</b> Mary Somers (Paul & Tina Salvatore & Family)
<b>SUNDAY</b> 7:30 AM	<b>February 9, 2020</b> Joseph Butler (Cathy Sheehan)
9 AM	Michael Vagnone (Family)
11:15 AM	Gambino Family (Laura Croft)

**Kobe Bryant, RIP**

Last Sunday the sports world was shocked by the death of NBA great Kobe Bryant at the age of 41. Bryant was killed in a helicopter accident that also claimed the lives of Bryant's 13-year-old daughter Gianna and eight others who were travelling with him that day. Bryant was one of the greatest players in the history of professional basketball, having won 5 championships with the Los Angeles Lakers and being #4 of all-time leading scorers in the NBA, with over 33,000 points over the course of his 20-year career. As great as he was on the basketball court, however, Kobe Bryant made headlines off the court in 2003 when he was charged with one count of sexual assault. Bryant admitted to the encounter with his accuser, but claimed it was consensual. The charges were later dropped, but the event took a terrible toll on his personal life, especially his marriage to his wife Vanessa.

In 2015, Bryant gave an interview to the magazine GQ in which he talked about that time in his life: "The one thing that really helped me through that process – I'm Catholic, I grew up Catholic, my kids are Catholic – was talking to a priest." He continued: "It was actually kind of funny: He looks at me and says, 'Did you do it?' And I say, 'Of course not.' Then he asks, 'Do you have a good lawyer?' And I'm like, 'Uh, yeah, he's phenomenal.' So then he just said, 'Let it go. Move on. God's not going to give you anything you can't handle, and it's in his hands now. This is something you can't control. So let it go.' And that was the turning point." Although his legal problems were resolved, Bryant's relationship with his wife continued to be strained and in 2011 Vanessa filed for divorce. But Bryant was determined not to give up on his marriage and two years later they reconciled. He and his family are said to have been regulars at their local parish and Kobe would sometimes attend daily Mass.

In recent years, Kobe and Vanessa Bryant established a foundation to build homeless shelters for youth and to develop other initiatives to help the poor. He once noted that the homeless are often unfairly blamed for their situation. "In life, we all make mistakes and to stand back and allow someone to live that way and kind of wash your hands of it ... that's not right," he said.

When someone we admire dies, there is a temptation to canonize him. But God alone is judge, and for us to declare someone to be in heaven would deny them the benefit of our prayers. Kobe Bryant was a complicated man and far from perfect. But Pope Benedict XVI once said: "Holiness does not consist in never having erred or sinned. Holiness increases the capacity for conversion, for repentance, for willingness to start again and, especially, for reconciliation and forgiveness." May he and all those who died with him in that tragic accident rest in peace.

In Christ,  
Fr. John



Please notice our beautiful Votive Candle Stands at the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph Statues in St. Cecilia Church. The stands are gifts from generous benefactors. We would like to add another stand soon. Please visit Mary and Joseph to say a prayer and light a candle.



The sick and their caregivers. Michael Pratt, 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, Bill Ritchie, Bonnie Sigfried, Thomas Sparan, Dominic Totino, Alex Trebek, George Wetzler, Christopher Hoepfner, Caroline Andreana, Lori Ciccarelli, Mark Mullen, Kim Puglia, George Uzwiak, Fritz Hirsch, Alice Carella, Kimberley Pracilio, Marilyn Ritchie .....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.

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.



**Week of February 1, 2020**

St. Cecilia Church Vigil Lamp for Our Lady, shines for Maryann Vetti (living) by Jean Pensiero and the Vigil Lamp for Saint Joseph, for Leo Spinelli Sr., by Jean Pensiero



**Veritas Catholic Network**

A representative from Veritas Catholic Network will be speaking at all masses next weekend (Feb. 8th & 9th) to share exciting details about our local EWTN affiliate Catholic radio station: 1350AM WNLK. More information is available at: [www.veritascatholic.com](http://www.veritascatholic.com).



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Knights of Columbus Council # 5833 will be selling raffle tickets at Saint Gabriel on February 1st & 2nd and at Saint Cecilia on February 8th & 9th. Tickets are \$10 and cash prizes range from \$200 to \$5,000. The Connecticut State Council annual Raffle will take place on Friday, April 17, 2020. Please support your local Council by purchasing a ticket. Good Luck!

**Knights of Columbus Connecticut State Council Raffle Prizes:**

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1st Prize: \$5,000 | 2nd Prize: \$3,500 |
| 3rd Prize: \$2,000 | 4th Prize: \$1,500 |
| 5th Prize: \$1,000 | 6th Prize: \$600   |
| 7th Prize: \$500   | 8th Prize: \$400   |
| 9th Prize: \$300   | 10th Prize: \$200  |

**Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel**

St. Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in battle.  
Be our defense against the wickedness  
and snares of the Devil.  
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,  
and do thou,  
O Prince of the heavenly host,  
by the power of God,  
cast into hell Satan,  
and all the evil spirits,  
who prowl about the world  
seeking the ruin of souls.  
Amen.



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





**Music Notes:** The music program is growing and why not be a part of it. The choir is accepting new members and will be preparing for weekly Mass, Lent, and Easter. Please contact Michele for more information. The Choir has also resumed Tuesday evening rehearsals in preparation for the Easter Season. When you sing, you pray twice. We would love to have you!

Michele Schule, our Music Director, can be reached at micheleschule@gmail.com, or call the rectory at 203-322-1562

**St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish  
Mardi Gras Celebration!  
Saturday February 22nd!**



at St. Gabriel Church Hall after the 4pm Mass. Tickets will be sold after Masses beginning Feb 1st. \$20. adults, Children 12 & under no charge. Food, friends and fun! Any questions call Tess at 203-570-3109. Limited availability - get your tickets asap!



**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. Please use strong reusable bags if possible and *please NO GLASS* jars. 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.

We brought 20 bags to the New Covenant Center last 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 Bob Violette 203-357-1481 or John Cullen 203-322-1947.

**Meetings/Activities Schedule**

Mon.	2/3	7pm Lectio Divina - Parish Center Conf Rm
Mon.	2/3	6:30pm Columbiettes - MH speaker 6:45, meeting 7
Tues.	2/4	12-3pm Senior Circle - St. Gabriel Church Hall
Tues.	2/4	1-3pm Veteran's Project - Parish Center Sun Rm.
Tues.	2/4	7:30pm - AA - St. Gabriel Hall
Tues.	2/4	7-8:30 Choir Rehearsal at St. Cecilia Church
Wed.	2/5	7:30-9pm Eucharistic Adoration & Confession St. Cecilia Church
Wed.	2/5	10am Handcraft Group - Parish Center Sun Rm.
Thurs.	2/6	7pm AA - MH
Thurs.	2/6	7:15pm Bible Study - St. Gabriel Hall
Fri.	2/7	9:15am Bible Study - St. Gabriel Hall
Sat.	2/8	6:45am Saturday Morning Faith Gathering for Men - St. Gabriel Hall
Sun.	2/9	10:30am Choir Rehearsal -St. Cecilia Church

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION**

Classes continue Feb. 2nd and 4th, 9th and 11th.  
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  
Offertory Totals**

January 26, 2020

Weekly Offering: \$7,619

Online Giving Offering: \$2,943

Diocesan Collection - for the Church in Latin America:  
\$1,383 plus \$115 Online Giving

We rely upon the generosity of our parishioners to help meet parish operating expenses which actually go up during the winter months because of inclement weather. If you are unable to attend Mass due to the weather and unable to submit your offering, Online Giving is a great option.



**Please consider On-line Giving in 2020**  
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!

**Please call the parish office or OSV Online giving 1-800-348-2886 if you have questions or need assistance in setting up your account.**

By this weekend you should receive your **2019 Offertory Contribution Statements** if your contribution totals were over \$250. If you were originally a St. Gabriel Parishioner you may receive 2 statements, one from January 1 - June 30, 2019 from St. Gabriel Parish, and a second, which will include contributions to St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish from July 1 - December 31, 2019. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call the parish office at 203-322-1562.

### STAMFORD CATHOLIC YOUTH GROUP

Upcoming meeting dates and locations are:

**High School: 2/7/20 and 2/21/20**

– 7 to 9:00pm at St. Bridget Church

**Middle School: 2/14/20 and 2/28/20**

– 7 to 8:30pm at St. Gabriel Church;



All 6th - 12th grade youth from any parish are welcome! Meeting/special event dates can be found on flyers at the entrances to St. Cecilia and St. Gabriel Churches, and posted 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.

### **Saturday Morning Faith Gathering for Men**

**Join us every Saturday morning from 6:45 am to 8:15 am in the St Gabriel Church Hall** – 6:45 coffee & bagel; 7:00 opening prayer; 7:20 roundtable discussion; 8:10 closing prayer.

**The St Cecilia-St Gabriel Men's Ministry** seeks to help men better know Jesus Christ in order to imitate Him. This community of faithful men meets weekly to pray, meditate on sacred scripture and reflect on its application in our lives. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit we seek to be a light that leads our families, our friends and our neighbors to Christ.

**Contact Anthony Pramberger** 203-968-1481

or **Bill Nagle** 203-570-2593, [billnagle@hotmail.com](mailto:billnagle@hotmail.com) for more information, join our mailing list or just show up.

### **SUMMER IS COMING!!!**



### **Camp Veritas 2020**

**Camp Veritas** is filling up fast! It's a one week sleep-away pilgrimage experience for teens going into 7th grade through 12th grade, near Newburgh, NY. The recipe is play-and-pray with a full immersion in the Catholic Faith through sacraments and activities. Camp Veritas provides a journey to Christ and a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith through an intense fellowship immersion with other youth. It also has all the great camp activities: sports, swimming, boating, hiking, rock climbing, zip-lines, go-karts, etc., along with daily Adoration, Rosary, Mass, dynamic talks, lively praise music. It is a life-changing encounter with God along with being the most fun week of the year! There is a week in **July** and one in **August**. You can find out more at [www.campveritas.org](http://www.campveritas.org). Once again, Fr. Joseph Gill will be attending and is able to offer a \$200 scholarship to kids from the Stamford Catholic Youth Group! That means a week at Camp Veritas will cost only \$200. To be eligible for the scholarship, kids must attend youth group regularly and Mass weekly - no exceptions! To request the discount, contact Fr. Joseph at [frjosephgill@gmail.com](mailto:frjosephgill@gmail.com). To speak with someone directly, call Gina Denner at (203) 968-6388. Volunteers are needed, must be at least 18 years old, and attend for free!

*Camp Veritas - Play Hard· Pray Hard!*

### BAPTISM ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

#### MASS AND RECEPTION

#### ALL ARE WELCOME



This weekend, during the 11:15am Mass, we are gathering parents and their infants who were baptized at one of our parish churches in 2019, to honor them and to encourage them in their role of parent and first teacher of the Catholic faith. At the same Mass, we welcome families of children who are celebrating a 5th anniversary of their Baptism. Please join us in prayer for these parents that, by word and example, they may share our faith with their children. All are welcome at the Mass and reception, which will follow in McDermott Hall.

### **HANDCRAFT GROUP**

Each week we pray for the recipients as we continue our handcrafts, 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.



### **ALL are welcome.**

#### **We meet on Tuesdays**

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

**Parish Senior Circle**

### **Join the Veterans Project!**

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

Our next "Two Thousand Hail Marys" will be on Saturday, March 7, 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



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### St. Cecilia – St. Gabriel Bible Study Ephesians – Discover Your Inheritance

Ephesians was one of the most widely circulated of St. Paul's writings because of its powerful, practical instructions for disciples of Christ. Ephesians: Discover Your Inheritance examines several much-discussed themes in today's Christian culture and society. In this 8-session program, presenter Jeff Cavins explores what Paul's letter to the Ephesians tells us about the nature of the Church—as a body, as a household, as a mystery, as a communion, as a bride, and as an army.

Thursday evenings at 7:15 p.m. & repeated on Friday mornings at 9:15 a.m. **Meetings are held in the St. Gabriel Church hall.** New members are always welcome.

To register for Ephesians, please call or email Vicki Alton at c203-561-3558 or VickiA@optonline.net; participant workbook is \$30.00.

### 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!

**Eucharistic Adoration** with Benediction every Wednesday night in the Church of St. Cecilia from 7:30-9pm with confession available. Please come to spend time with the Lord for as little or as long as you like.



**The Columbiettes Auxiliary #5833** are grateful for the donations in our Outreach Basket, located in the front of the Church of St. Cecilia. During the month of February, we will be highlighting two items on our list - small board games and deodorant. Baby Wipes are in great demand. Other items on our list are shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, hair brushes, socks for children and adults, small board games and diapers. Donations are always welcome as the need is sadly growing in our community. God bless you for your efforts and thank you! Questions? Contact Nancy at (203)-562-6222



**Kate Lombardo, Dir. of Lower Fairfield County Food Bank will be the speaker at this month's meeting on Monday, February 3rd held at McDermott Hall. Please arrive at 6:30 pm, as she will speak at 6:45 and the meeting will start at 7:00pm. All women ages 18 and older are invited to attend. Questions? Contact Nancy 203-561-6222**

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