

THE PARISH OF ST. CECILIA ~ ST. GABRIEL

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

December 15, 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

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 7:30 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.

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

SAINT GABRIEL CHURCH MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY December 14, 2019

4 PM Timmy Vitanza
(Mom & Dad)

SUNDAY December 15, 2019

9 AM Betty Ann Vinci
(Her Children)

SATURDAY December 21, 2019

4 PM Charlie Schenarts
(Betty & Daughters)

SUNDAY December 22, 2019

9 AM George Cooke
(Bea Cooke)

SAINT CECILIA CHURCH MASS INTENTIONS

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)

MONDAY December 16, 2019

7:30 AM Charles Trudeau
(Carol & Robert Wasil)

TUESDAY December 17, 2019

7:30 AM Normalita Asistin
(Tessie Senerador)

WEDNESDAY December 18, 2019

7:30 AM Bob Foster
(Helen)

THURSDAY December 19, 2019

7:30 AM Rocco Vinci
(His Children)

FRIDAY December 20, 2019

7:30 AM Ernesto Deza
(Rosemary & Frank Barba)

SATURDAY December 21, 2019

5:30 PM Linda Tiberio
(Children & Grandchildren)

SUNDAY December 22, 2019

7:30 AM For the Parish
9 AM Giovanni Lombardo
(Andreina Mailhot)
11:15 AM Rita Caveney
(Frank Caveney)

Votive Candles

When I visit a church I am always comforted by the flickering light of votive candles. There's something especially moving about them when the church is otherwise empty. The little lights shining on the votive racks are evidence that another pilgrim had recently been there, lifting up a petition asking for a prayer to be heard. Votives have a long history in our Catholic tradition. A "votive offering" is something that is vowed or given to God or a saint. Through this offering the object is understood to be consecrated to God. People can make votive offering of a multitude of things. Statues can be erected out of gratitude for a favor bestowed. In old churches you sometimes see silver or pewter objects hanging on the wall around a particular shrine. They can be in the shape of an eye or a leg or a heart and they indicate a healing attributed to the intercession of the saint to whom the shrine is dedicated. The second-hand chalice that I received as a gift for my ordination has an inscription in French on the bottom that says: "In thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for the healing of my wife." The man who commissioned the making of that chalice many years ago intended it as a votive offering, a way of setting aside something precious out of gratitude for a grace received.

What's beautiful about votive candles is that they are intended as a means of making a votive offering that is available to everyone. In the Old Testament, at the birth of their first-born son parents were required to have a priest make a burnt offering of a lamb in the Temple. But because a lamb was expensive, the Law allowed those of modest means to substitute a pair of turtledoves or two pigeons for the lamb. In fact, this was the modest offering offered by Joseph and Mary when they brought the infant Christ to the Temple 40 days after His birth. Large statues and sacred vessels are worthy offerings for those who have means. But one does not need to have significant resources to make an offering of a candle. And to know that the offering continues and the light from the candle persists even when we must walk away to go about our daily business is a great comfort to the one who made the offering and encouragement to the next one to approach the candle rack.

I'm happy to announce to you this weekend that, due to the generosity of a benefactor, there is a new rack of votive candles in the shrine to Our Lady at the Church of St. Cecilia. I hope eventually to be able to do the same for the shrine of St. Joseph and to establish a devotional area for St. Cecilia as well. The lights of votive candles represent the needs, the hopes, and the desires of the people in our parish community. May they be offerings pleasing in the sight of the Lord and a source of blessing to us as a parish for years to come.

In Christ,
Fr. John



Week of December 14, 2019

St. Cecilia Church Vigil Lamp for Our Lady shines for Mary Somers by the DeVito Family
 St. Gabriel Church Vigil Lamp for Our Lady Shines for Mary Somers by the Duddie 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, Bill Ritchie, Bonnie Sigfried, Thomas Sparan, Dominic Totino, Alex Trebek, George Wetzler, Christopher Hoepfner, Caroline Andreana, Lori Ciccarella, Mark Mullen, Joe Butler, Kim Puglia, George Uzwiakall 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.

***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 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. When you sing, you pray twice. We would love to have you! Choir Practice at St. Cecilia Church on Tuesday Evenings 7 - 8:30.

THIS WEEKEND 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.

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 or 203-329-2707

St. Cecilia-St. Gabriel Offering

December 8th Offertory Totals:

Sunday :\$9,567

Christmas Flowers:\$2,219

Immaculate Conception:\$1,034

Diocesan Collection- Retirement for Religious :\$1,479

On-line Giving: \$3,408



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!



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. 12/16 7pm Lectio Divina - Parish Center Sun Rm.
- Tues. 12/17 12-3pm Senior Circle - St. Gabriel Church Hall
- Tues. 12/17 1-3pm Veteran's Project - Parish Center Sun Rm.
- Tues. 12/17 7:30pm - AA - St. Gabriel Hall
- Wed. 12/18 7:30-9pm Eucharistic Adoration & Confession - St. Cecilia Church
- Wed. 12/18 10am Handcraft Group - Parish Center Sun Rm.
- Thurs. 12/19 7pm AA - MH
- Sat. 12/21 7:15am Men's Breakfast - Parish Center
- Sat. 12/21 7am Men's Roundtable - St. Gabriel Hall

THANK YOU!

The BSA Troop 9 Stamford CT would like to thank the parishioners of St. Cecilia-St. Gabriel parish for helping to make our Annual Wreath Sale such a success! We sold close to 50 wreaths across all the masses. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy 2020.

If you know someone who is interested in scouting and Troop 9 please visit our website:
www.troop9stamford.org

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



CHRISTMAS CAROLING TO THE ELDERLY!

All Middle and High School Youth

On Friday, **December 20**, the youth group is going Christmas caroling to the elderly! Help make the season bright for our

homebound parishioners and those in nursing homes.

5:30-7:30pm - all middle and high school kids are invited to join us. Anyone interested, just meet us 5:30pm in the parking lot at **St. Bridget Church** on 12/20. We also need a few VIRTUS-trained parents who can help drive - please contact Fr. Joseph (contact info below), if you are able to help!

2020 scheduled meeting dates will be communicated in our next bulletin and will also be listed 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 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.

Please **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 or call (203) 968-6388.

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



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.



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.

Parish Senior Circle

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.

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



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. 29 bags of food was delivered to the Food Bank 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.

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Thank you for your participation in our parish giving !

Adopt-A-Family Christmas Gift Drive

If you have participated in the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Gift Drive, 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 contact Anthony Pramberger (apram@optonline.net or 203-968-1481) if you have any questions.

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 this 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 and generosity.