

THE PARISH OF ST. CECILIA ~ ST. GABRIEL

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

December 22, 2019

Rev. John P. Connaughton, Pastor

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



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 7:30 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 21, 2019 |
| 4 PM | Charlie Schenarts (Betty & Daughters) |
| SUNDAY | December 22, 2019 |
| 9 AM | George Cooke (Bea Cooke) |
| TUESDAY December 24, 2019 Christmas Eve | |
| 4:00 PM | For the Parish |
| 6:00 PM | For the Parish |
| WEDNESDAY December 25, 2019 Christmas Day | |
| 9:00 AM | For the Parish |
| SATURDAY | December 28, 2019 |
| 4 PM | Paul & Kerry Sheehan, & Margaret Rutledge (Family) |
| SUNDAY | December 29, 2019 |
| 9 AM | Katie Knorr (Madeleine Terenzio) |

SAINT CECILIA CHURCH MASS INTENTIONS

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| 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) |
| MONDAY | December 23, 2019 St. John of Kanty |
| 7:30 AM | Nicholas DeVito (Alice Ryan) |
| TUESDAY December 24, 2019 Christmas Eve | |
| 4:00 PM | For the Parish |
| 10:00 PM | For the Parish |
| WEDNESDAY December 25, 2019 Christmas Day | |
| 7:30 AM | For the Parish |
| 11:15 AM | For the Parish |
| THURSDAY | December 26, 2019 St. Stephen |
| 7:30 AM | Domingos Ferreira (Maurice Ryan) |
| FRIDAY | December 27, 2019 St. John |
| 7:30 AM | Jane Guinta (Charlie) |
| SATURDAY | December 28, 2019 |
| 5:30 PM | Michael Donnelly (Joan Donnelly) |
| SUNDAY | December 29, 2019 |
| 7:30 AM | Sharon Sullivan (Her Sister & Family) |
| 9 AM | Martha Hosinski (Birthday Remembrance) (D'Onofrio Family) |
| 11:15 AM | Michael Napolitano (Donna Napolitano) |



Meaning Made Flesh

In these final days before the Solemnity of Christmas, I like to turn to the writings of Pope Benedict XVI who always wrote so beautifully about the mystery of the Incarnation of God and what it means for us.

There is one reflection he wrote about the beginning of the Gospel of John that is particularly striking. St. John the Evangelist begins his gospel with: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." All of this sounds pretty abstract. What is St. John talking about? It becomes clear a few verses later when he says: "And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." When St. John refers to "the Word" he refers to God the Son, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. Because He is God, Our Lord has existed from "the beginning." But 2000 years ago He entered creation as a man, becoming flesh, while remaining fully divine.

But why does St. John call Christ "the Word?" A word is more than a sound, it is sound that has order and meaning. In fact, the Greek word St. John uses in this passage is "Logos" which can also be translated as "meaning." Thus, "and the Word became flesh" also could be read as, "and the meaning became flesh." In light of this, Pope Benedict writes: "the eternal meaning of the world has come to us in so real a manner that we can touch Him and see Him." Christ is the meaning of all things, and the Incarnation reveals to us that the meaning of all things is personal, which means that we can have a relationship with Him. Pope Benedict elaborates: "The meaning addresses us; the meaning is a word spoken to us. The meaning knows us; it calls to us; it leads us. The meaning is not a universal law in which we play some kind of role. It is meant personally for each individual. The meaning is itself a person: The Son of the living God, who was born in a stable in Bethlehem. The meaning has power. It is God. And God is good."

All of this is to say that we are not beings who are lost in the cosmos, like some lonely sojourners in an otherwise cold and indifferent universe. The Lord of all things has made His dwelling among us as one of us. Through the Incarnation, "God is not some remote highest being, forever inaccessible. He is very close to us; we can call to Him; we can always reach Him. He has time for me, so much time that he lay as a man in the crib and remains a man for all eternity." As we prepare to receive the Christ child once again on December 25, may the truth of our being known and loved by God move us to love ourselves and our neighbor with greater tenderness and compassion, this Christmas and always.

In Christ
Fr. John



Week of December 21, 2019

St. Cecilia Church Vigil Lamp for Our Lady, Saint Joseph, and Tabernacle Candles shine for Pat Siciliano (LIVING) by Kitty Mandi

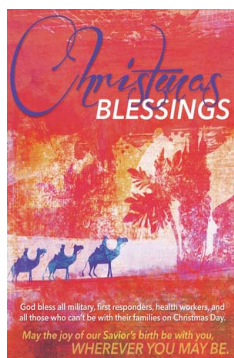
St. Gabriel Church Vigil Lamp for Our Lady Shines for Sol Galindo (LIVING) by Ada Parker, Patty Coyne, & Johanna Inzitari



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 Nygyesi, 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, 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.

**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

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|------------|--|
| 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

Thank you to all who participated and attended *Lessons and Carols* last weekend.

Choir will sing at the 10:00 Mass on Christmas Eve. Regular cantors and instruments are scheduled for all other Masses.



There will be no Tuesday evening rehearsals the month of January but will continue Sunday mornings at 10:30 before the 11:15 Mass.

Please see Michele, email micheleschule@gmail.com, contact a choir member or call the rectory at 203-322-1562 if you would like to join the choir.

*When you sing, you pray twice.
We would love to have you!*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION

No classes Dec 22nd, 24th, 29th, 31st
Classes Resume January 5th and 7th
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
Due to early holiday bulletin deadlines our totals will not be updated until next week.

Online  Giving

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!

Lectio Divina will NOT meet on 12/23 or 12/30. We will resume on January 6, 2020 at 7pm in the Parish Center Conference Room

Meetings/Activities Schedule

Tues. 12/24 Christmas Eve - No Meetings at Parish Center
Parish Office will close at Noon and re-open Friday Dec. 27th.
Tues. 12/24 7:30pm - AA - St. Gabriel Hall
Wed. 12/25 Christmas Day - NO Eucharistic Adoration & Confession. **We will resume on January 1, 2020**
Thurs. 12/26 7pm - AA - MH
Sat. 12/28 7:15am - Men's Breakfast - Parish Center
Sat. 12/28 7am - Men's Roundtable - St. Gabriel Hall



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.

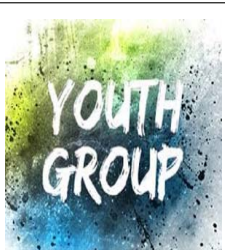
Saint Cecilia, Stamford raised 241 gifts worth \$85,775 from 201 donors bringing the parish to 81.69% of its \$105,000 goal.

Thank you for your generosity.

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

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



STAMFORD CATHOLIC YOUTH GROUP

Upcoming meeting dates and locations are:

High School: 1/10/20 – 7 to 9:00on at St. Bridget Church;

Middle School: 1/17/20 – 7 to 8:30pm at St. Gabriel Church;

All 6th - 12th grade youth from any parish are welcome to join us – just show up! Scheduled meeting dates for 2020 will be posted soon to <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.

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.

Starting Jan. 16, 2020, Thursday night at 7:15 p.m. & repeated on Jan. 17th Friday morning 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 c 203-561-3558 VickiA@optonline.net, participant workbook is \$30.00.

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.



**We will not meet on Wednesday Dec. 25th or Jan. 1st.
We will meet again on Wednesday January 8, 2020.**

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.



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

**We will not meet on Dec. 24th or Dec. 31st.
We will resume meeting on January 7, 2020.**

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.

**We will not meet on Dec. 24th or Dec. 31st.
We will resume meeting on January 7, 2020.**



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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 17 bags to St. Joseph's Parenting 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.

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



O Come, All Ye

Faithful



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