

# THE PARISH OF ST. CECILIA ~ ST. GABRIEL

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Saint Cecilia**

1184 Newfield Ave.

**Saint Gabriel**

914 Newfield Ave.

Stamford, CT 06905

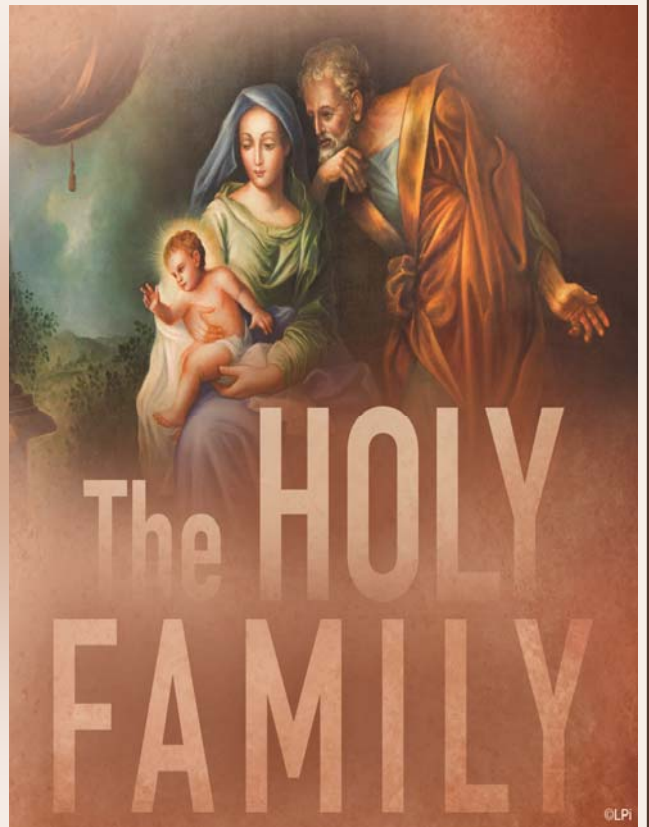
***December 29, 2019***

**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 7:30am 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**

**SATURDAY**                 **December 28, 2019**  
4 PM                         Paul & Kerry Sheehan, & Margaret Rutledge  
                                      (Family)

**SUNDAY**                   **December 29, 2019**  
9 AM                         Katie Knorr  
                                      (Madeleine Terenzio)

**WEDNESDAY**             **January 1, 2020 Solemnity of Mary**  
9:00 AM                     For the Parish

**SATURDAY**                 **January 4, 2019**  
4 PM                         Jason Lorenti  
                                      (Family)

**SUNDAY**                   **January 5, 2019**  
9 AM                         William Pannella  
                                      (Paul & Tina Salvatore)

**SAINT CECILIA CHURCH MASS INTENTIONS**

**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)

**MONDAY**                   **December 30, 2019**  
7:30 AM                     Thomas Ryan  
                                      (Family)

**TUESDAY**                 **December 31, 2019 St. Sylvester**  
7:30 AM                     Nick DeVito  
                                      (Helen Foster)

5:30 PM                     Vigil Mass for *The Solemnity of Mary*  
                                      For the Parish

**WEDNESDAY**             **January 1, 2020 The Solemnity of Mary**  
11:15 AM                    **NO 7:30AM Mass**  
                                      Dinah & Betsy  
                                      (Jane & Heinz Hubli)

**THURSDAY**               **January 2, 2020**  
7:30 AM                     *St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen*  
                                      Marjorie Crotty  
                                      (Dottie & Dennis Dahm)

**FRIDAY**                    **January 3, 2020 Holy Name of Jesus**  
7:30 AM                     For the Parish

**SATURDAY**                 **January 4, 2020**  
5:30 PM                     Sharon Sullivan  
                                      (Her Sister)

**SUNDAY**                   **January 5, 2019**  
7:30 AM                     Michael J. Murray  
                                      (Peter & Diane Handley)  
9 AM                         Lilian Franchina  
                                      (Granddaughters)  
11:15 AM                    Jean Florenza  
                                      (Joseph Rainone Jr.)

**St. Sylvester**

Recently, whenever she finds herself sitting at the table with my parents, my 10-year-old niece starts asking them lots of questions about what life was like when they were her age. But whenever she does it, it's always in reference to "the olden days." I found it very amusing and charming, until the day she turned to me and said, "Uncle Johnny, did you have phones in the olden days?" Swallowing hard, I told her that we did have phones, but that they were connected to the wall with a wire and that you couldn't see the person you were talking to. And there was something called "long-distance" calling, which you tried to avoid at all costs. My niece looked at me with amazement, as though wondering how any of us survived life in "the olden days."

St. Sylvester was someone who witnessed great changes over the course of his lifetime. Born in Rome in the middle of the 3rd century, he was ordained a priest by Pope Marcellinus sometime between 296-300 A.D. Like all Christian communities in the first centuries of Christianity, the Church during Sylvester's lifetime experienced intermittent periods of persecution, of varying degrees of severity. But it was the Emperor Diocletian (284-305) who initiated around the year 300 the most terrible persecution of Christians in Roman history. Churches were destroyed, over 3,500 Christians were put to death, and many more had their property confiscated by the Empire for refusal to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. The violence eventually subsided, and Diocletian abdicated the throne. His successors were less interested in persecuting Christianity, and Diocletian's edict against Christians was rescinded by the Emperor Galerius in 311. The following year, Constantine came to power and issued the Edict of Milan in 313 which officially ended the persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire. In 314, Sylvester became the pope.

The Church historian Eusebius writes about this period of Sylvester's reign: "there was inexpressible joy and a heavenly happiness shone on every face. Every place that a short time before had been laid waste by the tyrants' wickedness we now saw restored to life, recovering, as it seemed, from a long and deadly disease. Churches were once again rising from the ground high into the air, far surpassing in splendor and magnificence the ones that had previously been stormed and destroyed." In the places where their brethren in the faith had been publicly executed, Christian festivals were taking place. Bishops and priests were offering the Mass without fear and filled with a spirit of thanksgiving. One can imagine Sylvester seeing all of these things happening and marveling at the world's transformation during his lifetime. It is fitting, therefore, that the Church celebrates St. Sylvester's feast day on 12/31 - a time of year when we reflect on the past and look forward to the future. In this age of incredible technological, social, and cultural changes, the life of St. Sylvester helps us to see that the olden days weren't much different than these days. May this fill our hearts with Christian hope for the future.

In Christ,  
Fr. John



**Week of December 28, 2019**

*St. Cecilia Church* Vigil Lamp for Our Lady shines for Sharon Sullivan from her sister and family

*St. Gabriel Church* Vigil Lamp for Our Lady Shines for Mariantonio Masi - 7th Anniversary from Tom & Ann Verrastro

*St. Gabriel Church* Sanctuary Candles shine for the Deceased Members of the Knorr, Lanigan, and Casey Families from JoAnn Knorr



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 Ciccarella, Mark Mullen, Joe Butler, Kim Puglia, George Uzwiak .....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 Tom Driscoll, and Phil (Philomena) Totilo.

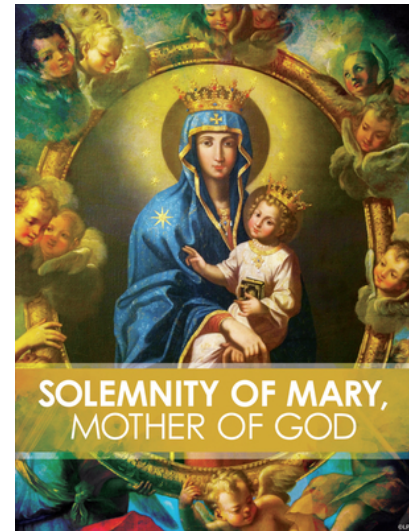
We also have a prayer line available for anyone wishing for immediate prayers. Please send your prayer needs to Vicki at VickiA@optonline.net

**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*

*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



**The Parish Center Office will close at Noon on Tuesday, December 31st and reopen on Thursday, January 2, 2020**



### Music Notes

Attention Singers!  
Please see our Music Director 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!*

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

*Warmest wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.*

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION

No classes December 29th or 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*

#### *Offertory Totals*

*December 15, 2019*

*Weekly Offering: \$10,767*

*Online Giving: \$4,408*

*Due to early holiday bulletin deadlines our recent  
totals will not be updated until next week.*



*Please consider On-line Giving  
Register at [www.osvonlinegiving.com/1522/](http://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1522/)  
Our Online Giving system provides you the oppor-  
tunity 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 Contri-  
butions 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!*



#### 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.*



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



**S.O.M.E.** Please consider a weekly con-  
tribution 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 contribu-  
tions will be delivered to the Food

Banks, Wilson Food Pantry, St. Joseph  
Parenting Center, St. Mary's Food Pantry, or New Cove-  
nant Center every week.

We brought 22 bags to Wilson Food Pantry 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. 7pm - Lectio Divina - will resume on January 6th  
in the Parish Center Conference Room

Tues. 12/31 New Year's Eve - No Meetings at Parish Center  
Parish Office will close at Noon and  
re-open Thursday January 2, 2020

Tues. 12/31 7:30pm - AA - St. Gabriel Hall

Wed. 1/1/20 7:30pm - Eucharistic Adoration &  
Confession - St. Cecilia Church

Thurs. 1/2/20 7pm - AA - MH

Sat. 1/4/20 7:15am - Men's Breakfast - Parish Center

Sat. 1/4/20 7am - Men's Roundtable - St. Gabriel Hall

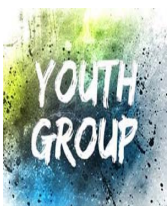
Email "hotline" for parishioners to  
provide feedback and ask questions:  
[Madeleineterenzio@gmail.com](mailto:Madeleineterenzio@gmail.com)

### Altar Server Training

Being an altar server is a wonderful way to serve the parish com-  
munity 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](mailto:office@stcecilia-stgabriel.org)



### **STAMFORD CATHOLIC YOUTH GROUP**

Upcoming meeting dates and locations are:  
**High School: 1/10/20 – 7 to 9:00pm** 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! Flyers with meeting and special event dates for Winter/Spring, 2020 can be found at the entrances to St. Cecilia and St. Gabriel Churches. It will also be posted to <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.



### **“BAPTISM ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION”**

Invitations to our first St. Cecilia-St. Gabriel “Baptism Anniversary Celebration” are on their way to all families of children baptized in 2019 and 2014-15.

On February 2, 2020, we will be gathering these families at the Church of St. Cecilia for the 11:15am mass, during which there will be a special blessing of all the children attending, followed by a brunch reception in McDermott Hall. All parishioners are welcome.

#### **Please PLAN TO JOIN US!**

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

### **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 January, we will be highlighting two items on our list - Baby Wipes and Playing Cards for children and adults. 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

### **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 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. 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. 31st.**

**We will resume meeting on January 7, 2020.**

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**THANK YOU**  
for your generosity

Thanks to all who participated in the Adopt-A-Family Christmas gift program this year. Our Parish adopted fifteen families. They received seventy four Christmas presents in total. Thank you for your generosity in making a special Christmas available to these very needy families.



Anthony A. Pramberger, Jr.

### 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.

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.

#### 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!