



THE PARISH OF ST. CECILIA ~ ST. GABRIEL

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

February 23, 2020

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 7:30am 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 February 22, 2020
4 PM Jennie Salvino
(Her Family)

SUNDAY February 23, 2020
9 AM Ernesto Deza
(Joyce Pinto)

ASH WEDNESDAY February 26, 2020
9:00 AM (with Trinity Catholic Students)
4:30 PM For the Parish
7 PM For the Parish

FRIDAY February 28, 2020
7PM + + + + STATIONS OF THE CROSS + + + +

SATURDAY February 29, 2020
4 PM Betty Ann Vinci
(Her Children)

SUNDAY March 1, 2020
9 AM Rosaria & Gabriel Docimo
(Carmela & Rocco Longo)

SAINT CECILIA CHURCH MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY February 22, 2020
5:30 PM Lois Dinnan
(Giovanni & Carmelina Ferraro)

SUNDAY February 23, 2020
7:30 AM Anthony Pryzpek
(His Family)
9 AM Mary Murphy
(Cathy Sheehan)
11:15 AM Rose & Rita Napolitano
(Donna Napolitano)

MONDAY February 24, 2020
7:30 AM Rita Caveney
(Frank Caveney)

TUESDAY February 25, 2020
7:30 AM Margaret Harahan (40th Anniversary)
(Family)

ASH WEDNESDAY February 26, 2020
7:30 AM For the Parish
9:30 AM (with Catholic Academy Students)

THURSDAY February 27, 2020
7:30 AM For the Parish

FRIDAY February 28, 2020
7:30 AM David Goyette
(Kitty Mandi)

SATURDAY February 29, 2020
5:30 PM Frank & Catherine Bianco
(Mary DeCarlo)

SUNDAY March 1, 2020
7:30 AM Domenico A. Musilli
(John & Laura Walker)
9 AM Ralph Cipriani
(Gina & Charlie Denner)
11:15 AM William Toomy
(John & Anne Connaughton)

Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras gets a bad rap. Perhaps it's understandable when we consider the images of debauchery that popular culture typically associates with it. But Mardi Gras is an event whose Catholic roots run deep. French for "Fat Tuesday," Mardi Gras is the final day of the period of Carnival, which begins on January 6, the feast of the Epiphany. The word Carnival is derived from the Latin "carne vale" which means: "good-bye meat." This time of Carnival was seen as a period of indulgence before the penitential season of Lent, when foods such as meat, eggs, dairy products, and sugar were not eaten. The celebrations of Carnival culminated on Fat Tuesday, which to this day in New Orleans come to an abrupt end at the stroke of midnight, when the bars and restaurants close and the street sweepers suddenly appear to remove all evidence of the prolonged revelry.

When approached properly, Mardi Gras is an experience of the cycle of life seasons described in the Book of Ecclesiastes: *"There is an appointed time for every season... A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces."* In a beautiful essay by John Hazard Wildman, originally published in *America* magazine in 1955, the author refers to the relationship between Mardi Gras and Lent and the passage of time. "Mardi Gras must end; and yet its joys are right and good, in their time, in their place. Lent faces fairly, unsentimentally, with calm, examining eyes, the small sorrows and the bigger ones and, ultimately, the biggest of them all, pain and death, and with no Pollyanna sweetness, but with an awful and splendid conviction. Lent finds that death has been destroyed and that pain, rightly used, leads to joy. And, in this mighty buildup, Easter names the joys that have no term and makes Carnival seem to have been a feeble little squeak of happiness – but a *good* feeble little squeak."

We shouldn't think of Carnival and Mardi Gras as mere opportunities to indulge the dark spirits of hedonism. Rather, they are times of celebration of the good things of the world that are created for our enjoyment. They are a period of revelry that is followed by Lent, a period of sobriety and penance. We live Lent in eager anticipation of Easter, the celebration of Our Lord's victory over sin and death. Easter allows us to hope for the eternal banquet of Heaven which exceeds all earthly joys, and which is worth every sacrifice to attain. If Carnival prepares us well for Lent, and Lent prepares us well for Easter, then these sacred seasons will fulfill their holy purpose to prepare us well for Heaven. Happy Mardi Gras!

Please be sure to check this bulletin for the schedule for the Ash Wednesday Masses and Lenten Stations of the Cross. For your convenience we have also included the official guidelines for fasting and abstinence during Lent. We will continue to have confessions at our regular times – 3-3:45 on Saturdays at St. Gabriel's and 7:30-9pm on Wednesday evenings at St. Cecilia's.

In Christ,
Fr. John



The sick and their caregivers. Michael Pratt, Nick Pensiero, Tamika Anderson, Ken Byxbee, 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, Alice Carella, Kimberley Pracilio, Marilyn Ritchie, Leon Zavos, Rose Sorbo Barosky, Deirdre, John Cullen, Steven Farrell, Joseph Freeth, Dorothy Tierney, Italia Malagisi, 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 THE 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, 2Lt. James Arpaio.

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



St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish
ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE
February 26, 2020
Mass and Distribution of Ashes
7:30 AM at St. Cecilia
9:AM at St. Gabriel - TCHS Student Mass
9:30 AM at St. Cecilia - Catholic Academy Student Mass
4:30 PM at St. Gabriel
7 PM at St. Gabriel
Stations of the Cross - Fridays at 7PM at St. Gabriel

Rules about abstaining from meat during Lent:
 Every person 14 years or older must abstain from meat (and items made with meat) on
 1) Ash Wednesday,
 2) Good Friday, and
 3) All the Fridays of Lent.
Rules about fasting during Lent:
 Every person between the age of 18 and 59 (beginning of 60th year) must fast on
 1) Ash Wednesday and
 2) Good Friday.
 When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

Open House at Trinity Catholic High School THIS WEEKEND!!!



Come see Trinity in action and find out how your student can benefit from all that Trinity has to offer.

Our Admissions Open House will be **Sunday, February 23rd from 12pm - 2pm.**
 Trinity Catholic High School
 926 Newfield Ave, Stamford, CT 06905
 203-322-3401, admissions@trinitycatholic.org

Diocesan 2020 Wedding Jubilee Mass and Concert

On Sunday, April 26, 2020 at 3:00pm at St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull, Bishop Caggiano will be celebrating the 2020 Wedding Jubilee Mass. This Mass is for couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50+ year wedding anniversaries. As a special gift to those celebrating anniversaries, the Mass will be immediately followed by a concert by the Diocesan Choir 4 Youth. To register, please contact the parish office or go to: www.bridgeportdiocese.org/jubileemass to register directly. There is no cost to attend. Space is limited, so please RSVP by April 16,2020.



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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION

Classes resume Sun. Feb. 23rd & Tues. Feb 25th.

No Classes March 1st or March 3rd.

Classes resume March 8th and 10th.

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

February 16, 2020

Weekly Offering: \$7,478

Online Giving Offering: \$4,560



Please remember our Parish when you are away for the holiday weekends!

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!

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.



Tune in to Veritas Catholic Network

our local EWTN affiliate Catholic radio station: 1350AM WNLK.

More information is available at www.veritascatholic.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 the MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE CHURCH. Please use strong reusable bags if possible and **please NO GLASS** jars. Please also,

limit the bags and boxes of rice to 5lb. bags. 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 28 bags to St. Joseph's parenting Center last week. THANK YOU for your responsible stewardship. *Occasionally we need additional drivers. If you are interested in offering some of your time and talent to these on-going activities please contact Bob Violette 203-357-1481 or John Cullen 203-322-1947. Thank you.*

Meetings/Activities Schedule

Mon.	2/24	7pm Lectio Divina - Parish Center Conf. Rm.
Tues.	2/25	1-4 Senior Circle - St. Gabriel Church Hall
Tues.	2/25	1-3pm Veteran's Project - Parish Center Sun Rm.
Tues.	2/25	7:30pm - AA - St. Gabriel Hall
Tues.	2/25	7-8:30pm Choir Rehearsal at St. Cecilia Church
Wed.	2/26	Ash Wednesday - See Mass Schedule
Wed.	2/26	7:30-9pm Eucharistic Adoration & Confession St. Cecilia Church
Wed.	2/26	10am Handcraft Group - Parish Center Sun Rm.
Thurs.	2/27	7pm AA - MH
Thurs.	2/27	7:15pm Bible Study - St. Gabriel Hall
Fri.	2/28	9:15am Bible Study - St. Gabriel Hall
Fri.	2/28	7pm Stations of the Cross - St. Gabriel Church
Sat.	2/29	6:45am Saturday Morning Faith Gathering for Men - St. Gabriel Hall
Sun.	3/1	10:30am Choir Rehearsal -St. Cecilia Church

27th Annual WHITE MASS

For Health Care Professionals and All Who Serve the Sick

Principal Celebrant and Homilist
Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano,
Bishop of Bridgeport



Sunday, March 22, 2020 • 9:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Parish
8 Robinson Avenue, Danbury, CT
followed by brunch at
Ethan Allen Hotel
21 Lake Avenue Extension,
Danbury, CT 06811

Seating is limited. Please register no later than March 16, 2020 at:

www.bridgeportdiocese.org/2020whitemass



STAMFORD CATHOLIC YOUTH GROUP

Upcoming meeting dates and locations are:
Middle School: 2/28/20 and 3/13/20 - 7 to 8:30pm at St. Gabriel Church;
High School: 3/6/20 and 3/20/20 - 7 to 9:00pm at St. Bridget Church;
Middle/High School: 3/14/20 - Paintball field trip (see below for details)

All 6th - 12th grade youth are welcome! For upcoming meeting and special event dates, look for flyers at the entrances to St. Cecilia and St. Gabriel Churches, and posted at <http://stcecilia-stgabriel.org>.



Also, our Paintball Trip is coming up! All middle and high school kids are invited to join us for a day of paintballing at Liberty Paintball on Saturday, March 14th. Permission slip and flyer are required, as well as an additional waiver you need to fill out online

at <http://www.libertypaintball.com/forms>. Cost is \$60 but financial help is available. We also need VIRTUS-trained chaperones to help - please let us know if you are available! Contact Fr. Joseph Gill at frjosephgill@gmail.com, (203) 324-1553, or Gina Denner (203) 968-6388 for forms or more info.

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. 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. 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!

SAVE THE DATE FOR "FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN"

A parish community event for all ages

Join the St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish team for our 4th Annual "Feed My Starving Children" Mobile Food -Packing Event on **Saturday, 5/16 or Sunday, 5/17**.

Look for details on church bulletin boards and in future bulletins.



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 for more information, join our mailing list or just show up.

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.

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

1-4 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

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

SAVE the DATE - March 14, 2020

Spa-Time for the Soul

The **Columbiettes Auxiliary #5833** are sponsoring a **Retreat for Women** on Saturday, March 14, 2020 at the Villa Maria Retreat Center in North Stamford from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$25.00 per person which includes lunch. Contact **Dolores Violette at 203-357-1481** for reservations and details by March 10th. All women are invited and welcome. A special time for yourself for reflection and quiet time.

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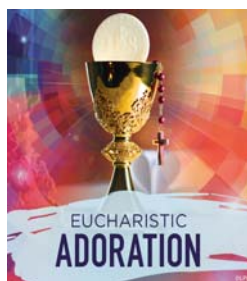
THIS MONTH'S FEATURED MOVIE!

"In 1948, Aurora Marin arrived with her family at the convent of the Canossian Sisters of Schio, Italy, where Sister Bakhita had just died. Aurora was hoping to see her before her death. She gathered her children around the picture of Bakhita, telling them of the incredible life of the woman who raised her as her nanny.

Born in a village in Sudan, kidnapped by slavers, often beaten and abused, in spite of the abuse she received, Bakhita is kind and generous to others.

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.



St. Cecilia – St. Gabriel Bible Study Has Lent put a desire in your heart to have a deeper relationship with our Lord?

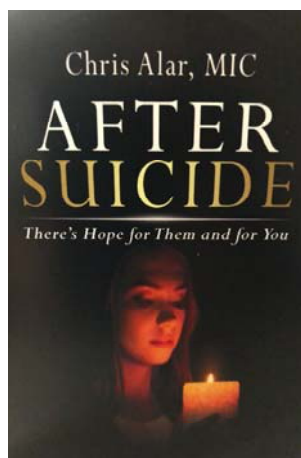
If so, then our new program "METANOIA" featuring Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR, is for you.



Metanoia is beautifully filmed on location in the Holy Land, highlighting sacred places, such as the Sea of Galilee, the River Jordan, the Desert of Temptations, and many other holy sites in Jerusalem. Each episode explores areas of life where conversion is so often necessary. Episodes are available on-line to view with us in class, or at home.

Our first Metanoia session will be Thursday, March 12, 7:15pm and will be repeated on Friday morning March 13, 9:15am, and continue through 4/23 & 24. All sessions will be held at St. Gabriel Church hall. There is NO cost, so give yourself the gift of getting to know Jesus personally. For more information, contact Vicki Alton: (203) 322-8526 or VickiA@optonline.net.

Books, CDs/MP3, Booklets, Pamphlets



Looking for more information about our Catholic Faith, grow in spirituality? Prepare for Lent. Stop by the kiosk in the vestibule, you'll be glad you did!

This week's featured CD/MP3 download – "AFTER SUICIDE, *There's Hope for Them and You*" – Many more titles to choose – books, CDs/MP3, booklets, pamphlets.