

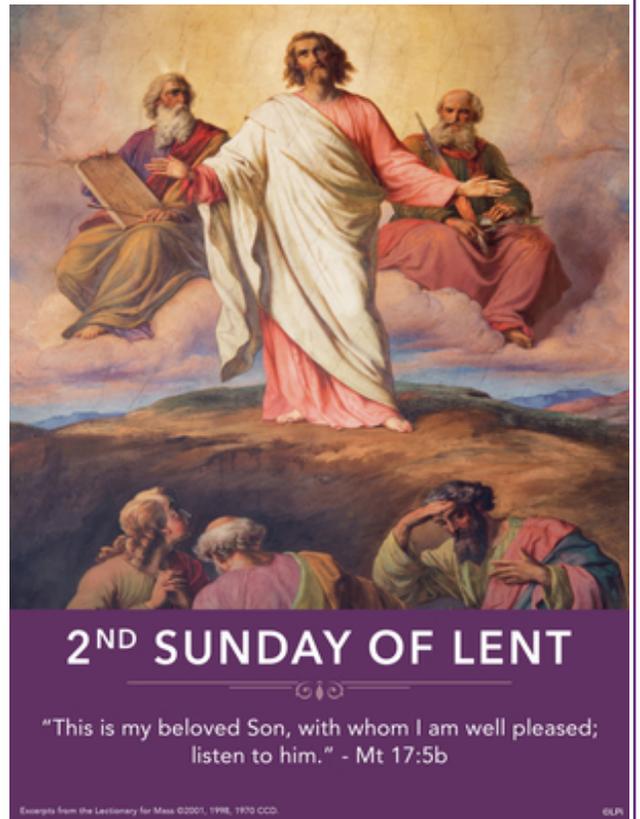
THE PARISH OF ST. CECILIA ~ ST. GABRIEL

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

March 8, 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, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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 a.m. at St. Cecilia

Rosary Daily—prior to the 7:30 a.m. Mass
Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous
Medal—Mondays following the 7:30 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Adoration

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

CONFESSIONS at St. Gabriel

Saturday 3 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.

Saturday Vigil Masses

4:00 p.m. at St. Gabriel

5:30 p.m. at St. Cecilia

Sunday Masses

7:30 a.m. at St. Cecilia (no music)

9:00 a.m. at St. Gabriel (no music)

9:00 a.m. at St. Cecilia

11:15 a.m. at St. Cecilia

BAPTISMS: Sundays following 11:15 a.m. 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: St. Gabriel or St. Cecilia upon request of the family.

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

SAINT GABRIEL CHURCH MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY **March 7, 2020**
 4 PM George Devoto
 (His Family)

SUNDAY **March 8, 2020**
 9 AM Ralph Izzi
 (Dottie & Dennis Dahm)

FRIDAY **March 13, 2020**
 7PM + + + + STATIONS OF THE CROSS + + + +

SATURDAY **March 14, 2020**
 4 PM Gloria Ricioppi
 (Her Family)

SUNDAY **March 15, 2020**
 9 AM Alberta Mecell
 (Joseph Rainone Jr.)

SAINT CECILIA CHURCH MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY **March 7, 2020**
 5:30 PM John DaPra
 (Kitty Mandi)

SUNDAY **March 8, 2020**
 7:30 AM Matthew Baxter
 (Janet & JR McMullen)

9 AM Ralph DeAngelis
 (Marie DeAngelis)

11:15 AM Frank Fleischer
 (His Family)

MONDAY **March 9, 2020** *St. Frances of Rome*
 7:30 AM Pio Petisme Jr.
 (Magda Bayoneta)

TUESDAY **March 10, 2020**
 7:30 AM Mairead Corbett
 (Norrie Regan)

WEDNESDAY **March 11, 2020**
 7:30 AM John Cullen Sr.
 (John Cullen)

THURSDAY **March 12, 2020**
 7:30 AM Alice McDermott
 (The Doering Family)

FRIDAY **March 13, 2020**
 7:30 AM For the Parish

SATURDAY **March 14, 2020**
 5:30 PM Lawrence Franko Sr. & Frank Franko
 (Bella Franko)

SUNDAY **March 15, 2020**
 7:30 AM Tommaso Marena
 (Anthony & Josephine Marena)

9 AM Anna Celia Vargas (20th Anniversary)
 (Her Family)

11:15 AM Vincent Russo
 (Pat Siciliano)

Carlo Acutis

On February 21, 2020 Pope Francis issued a decree recognizing the authenticity of a miracle attributed to the intercession of Carlo Acutis, a young man from Milan who passed away in 2006 at the age of 15 from leukemia. Although he died at a young age, Carlo made a great impression on the people who knew him for his intelligence and his goodness. As a very young boy, Carlo became very interested in his Catholic faith. From the time he made his First Holy Communion at the age of 7, Carlo went to Mass every day without exception. Even if he was travelling with his family, he always made a point of finding a local church where he could attend the daily Mass and spend time in adoration afterwards. His devotion surprised his parents who were more “culturally Catholic” than faithful believers. Impressed by his witness, Carlo’s parents began to take greater interest in their faith.

Because of his obvious intelligence and devotion, the priests of his parish allowed him to receive the sacrament of Confirmation at the age of 11. He became a catechist, teaching his peers the faith. To his great dismay, Carlo discovered that most of the kids in the program didn’t understand the Mass because they rarely attended on Sundays. Carlo had an intense devotion to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament and he knew how essential Mass is for us. According to his mother he would say, “When we receive Jesus in the Eucharist, we encounter the very source of love and He helps us to love others more.” To help others grow in their devotion to the Eucharist, Carlo used his remarkable computer skills to create a still-operative website cataloguing all of the Eucharistic miracles that had taken place throughout the world. At the time he began the project he wrote: “The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of Heaven.”

When doctors discovered Carlo’s leukemia it was already in its advanced stages. It caused him great pain, but he never complained. When his physician asked if he was suffering, his response was, “There are many people who suffer much more than me.” He died seven days after his diagnosis. Carlo’s funeral Mass was packed with people whose lives he touched, including many of the homeless in the city of Milan whom Carlo befriended by bringing them food and blankets with his mother. In a recent interview with the National Catholic Register, his mother said that it was Carlo who helped her and her husband come to faith, and it was their faith that sustained them through the great sadness they felt when he died.

She also remarked that her son’s life of faith was remarkable in its normalness. He went to daily Mass at his local parish, prayed each day, and had a great devotion to the Blessed Mother. He volunteered to work with children, the sick, and the elderly, and he showed special concern for his friends and peers who were experiencing struggles – many of whom came to faith in Christ through his example. Carlo knew that sanctity is for everyone, and he often expressed sadness that instead of striving for holiness so many people conform themselves to the ways of the world and forget about Heaven.

Continued.....

This season of Lent is a time in which we are called to deepen our prayer life. We should ask for the intercession of soon-to-be Blessed Carlo Acutis to help us to grow in love with Our Lord and, like him, share that love with others that they might come to love Him too.

In Christ,
Fr. John



The sick and their caregivers. Sal Bonina, Michael Pratt, Nick Pensiero, Tamika Anderson, Ken Byxbee, Conor Ehring, Mary Brundage, Matt Marshall, William Perkins, Tricia Saxe Coccomo, 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, Owen Ryan, Michael Connole, Ginny Woolston, 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

**St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish
Stations of the Cross - Fridays at 7PM at St. Gabriel**

Week of March 7, 2020

St. Cecilia Church

Tabernacle Lamp shines for **John DaPra** from Kitty Mandi.
St. Joseph's Candle shines for **Mark Auriana** from his family.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION

Classes as scheduled March 8th and 10th.

No Classes March 15th and 17th.

Classes resume on March 22nd and 24th.

Grades 1 – 8 and Confirmation

Sundays 10:05 a.m. to 11a.m.

Grades 1 – 6 Tuesdays 4:15 p.m. to 5:10 p.m.

Questions? Please contact our

DRE, Maryanne Didelot at

DRE@stcecilia-stgabriel.org or 203-329-2707

Precautions for Cold & Flu Season

Recently people from the parish have approached me, including several who are in the health professions, raising concerns about the spread of germs from the practice of the sign of peace and the offering of the cup during Mass. This is a concern every year, but of course with the news about the spread of the coronavirus there is added concern this year.

Obviously, the number of cases of coronavirus in the United States continues to be small, so we don't want to overstate its danger to us at this time. But I think it would be wise to exercise prudence and reduce the possibility of people getting sick, even if it's the spread of the common cold and the flu. With this in mind I've decided that for the time being we should exchange the sign of peace with minimal physical contact with our neighbors in the pews and suspend the distribution of the cup at Mass (which has been the practice at St. Cecilia).

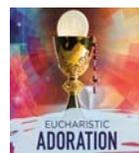
With regard to the suspension of the cup, it's important to remember that there is nothing lacking of Christ in either the Host or the Precious Blood. The Church describes this Eucharistic reality as "concomitance," which basically means that Our Lord is fully present in both. And so, by receiving Our Lord in the Host we can be certain that we receive the fullness of the Most Blessed Sacrament (*Catechism* 1390).

Thank you for your understanding and your cooperation.

Fr. John

Eucharistic Adoration

with Benediction and Confessions Wednesday evenings in the Church of St. Cecilia from 7:30-9pm. Please come to spend time with the Lord for as little or as long as you like.





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 Parish Office at 203-322-1562.



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 19 Bags to the New Covenant 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 ongoing activities please contact Bob Violette 203-357-1481 or John Cullen 203-322-1947. Thank you.*

St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish
Offertory Totals

March 1, 2020

Weekly Offering: \$8,224

Monthly Offering: \$3,254

Ash Wednesday Offering: \$2,657

Online Giving Offering: \$4,587

Thank you for your generosity.



Please consider Online 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.

Our Lady of Loreto

Apostolate of Spiritual Motherhood for the Sanctification of Priests, Seminarians, and for new Vocations

The vocation to be a spiritual mother for priests is largely unknown, scarcely understood and, consequently, rarely lived, notwithstanding its fundamental importance. It is a vocation that is frequently hidden, invisible to the naked eye, but meant to transmit spiritual life.

Calling all Ladies, You are invited to come for a morning of prayer and Adoration to pray for our Seminarians, Priests and for future Vocations.

When: Saturday, March 21, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Where: St. Gabriel Church, 914 Newfield Ave, Stamford, CT

As spiritual mothers, we strive to grow in virtue and live a holy life. We pray daily for the church. We pray for our individual priests and seminarians, and for the gift of new vocations. We do this privately in a quiet and anonymous manner so it is between us and God alone. We come together once a month to join our prayers as mothers, to support each other, and to grow in our faith. In order to share our ministry, monthly meetings will travel between various parishes in the diocese with a few based in the seminary.

Come discover the vocation of Spiritual Motherhood and see if you feel called...

- Pray for the strengthening and consolation of priests, in union with Mary.
- Offer your daily sacrifices, works and suffering to sanctify priests.
- Pray and sacrifice for seminarians.
- Pray for future vocations.
- Pray for healing within our church.

For more information contact gracemaryavitabile@gmail.com or lsweeney413@gmail.com

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

Meetings/Activities Schedule

Mon.	3/9	7 p.m.	Lectio Divina - Parish Center Conf. Rm.
Mon.	3/9	7:30 p.m.	Knights of Columbus Council 5833 - MH
Tues.	3/10	1-4 p.m.	Senior Circle - St. Gabriel Church Hall
Tues.	3/10	1-3 p.m.	Veteran's Project - Parish Center Sun Rm.
Tues.	3/10	7:30 p.m.	AA - St. Gabriel Hall
Tues.	3/10	7-8:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal at St. Cecilia Church
Wed.	3/11	7:30-9 p.m.	Eucharistic Adoration & Confession St. Cecilia Church
Wed.	3/11	10 a.m.	Handcraft Group - Parish Center Sun Rm.
Thurs.	3/12	7 p.m.	AA - MH
Thurs.	3/12	7:15 p.m.	Bible Study - St. Gabriel Hall
Fri.	3/13	9:15 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Gabriel Hall
Fri.	3/13	7 p.m.	Stations of the Cross - St. Gabriel Church
Sat.	3/14	6:45 a.m.	Saturday Morning Faith Gathering for Men - St. Gabriel Hall
Sun.	3/15	10:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal -St. Cecilia Church



STAMFORD CATHOLIC YOUTH GROUP

Upcoming meeting dates and locations are:

Middle School: 3/13/20 7-8:30 p.m. St. Gabriel;

High School: 3/20/20 7-9:00 p.m. St. Bridget;

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>.



Our Paintball Trip is 3/14/20! All middle and high school kids are invited to join us for a day of paintballing at Liberty Paintball. Permission slip and flyer are required, as well as an additional waiver you need to fill out online at 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

It's a one week sleep-away pilgrimage experience for teens going into 7th - 12th grade, near Newburgh, NY. The recipe is play-and-pray with full immersion in the Catholic Faith thru sacraments and activities. Camp Veritas provides a journey to Christ and a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith thru an intense fellowship immersion with other youth. It also has all the great camp activities: sports, swimming, boating, hiking, rock climbing, zip-lines, etc., with daily Adoration, Rosary, Mass, dynamic talks, lively praise music. It's a life-changing encounter with God along and the most fun week of the year! There is a week in July and one in August. Read more at www.campveritas.org. Fr. Joseph Gill will be attending and is offering a \$200 scholarship to Stamford Catholic Youth Group kids! So 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!



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**. Everyone, ages 8 to 108, is welcome; age - and ability-appropriate tasks will be assigned. It's a great opportunity for a whole family, or a group of teen friends to do some community service for a very worthy cause! If you can't join us to pack meals, please consider making a donation to do your part in feeding starving children. The FMSC organization has consistently received the highest awards for ensuring that over 90% of total donations go directly toward feeding kids in need. If you already know that you would like to volunteer, or make a donation, email us at stceciliastgabrielcare@gmail.com, or call Gina Denner at 203-968-6388. Look for more details on church bulletin boards and in future bulletins.

27th Annual WHITE MASS For Health Care Professionals and All Who Serve the Sick



Principal Celebrant and Homilist
Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano

Sunday, March 22, 2020 • 9:00 a.m. at 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

Diocesan 2020 Wedding Jubilee Mass and Concert

On Sunday, April 26, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. 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.



Tune in to Veritas Catholic Network

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

More information is available at
www.veritascatholic.com.

TRINITY CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL
proudly presents



MARCH
13th & 14th—7:30pm
15th—2pm
20th & 21st—7:30pm

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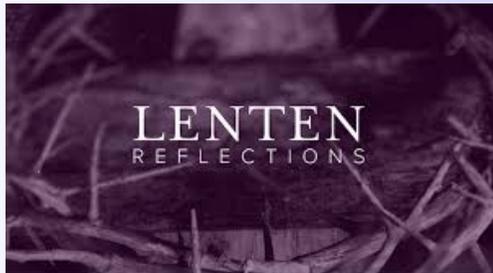
Click Sign Up

Select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization"

Find our parish by name, zip, or parish code

Enter your email - and you're in!

This Weeks Feature from FORMED

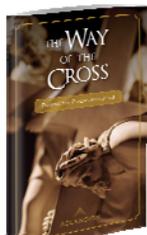


Imagine a 3 minute video sent directly to your email each day during Lent to help you on your journey to Easter.

Log onto FORMED.org to sign up and while you are there, check out the many programs movies, books and more.

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 at St. Cecilia, you'll be glad you did!



This week's feature – The Way of the Cross: Praying the Psalms with Jesus. Experience the way of the cross as you never have before. Rather than meditating about Christ's journey to the cross, pray with him. Many titles to choose from books, CDs/MP3, booklets, pamphlets.

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.

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.