

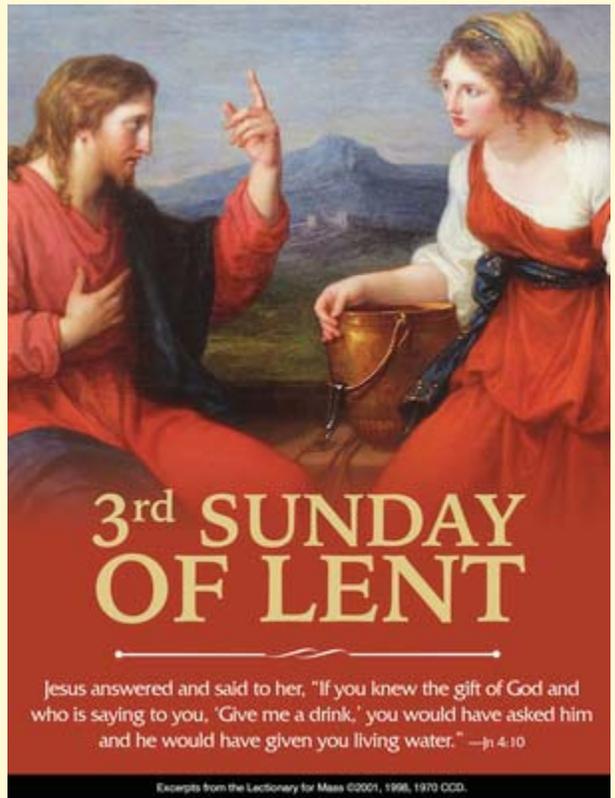
THE PARISH OF ST. CECILIA ~ ST. GABRIEL

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

March 15, 2020

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

Maryanne Didelot, Director of Religious Education
DRE@stcecilia-stgabriel.org
203-322-1562

Gina DeVito, Parish Office Manager
Office@stcecilia-stgabriel.org
203-322-1562

Amanda Day, Assistant Parish Office Manager
Amanda.Day@stcecilia-stgabriel.org
203-322-1562

Michele Schule, Organist and Music Director
Mschule@stcecilia-stgabriel.org
or call the parish office 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 4 PM	March 14, 2020 Gloria Ricioppi (Her Family)
SUNDAY 9 AM	March 15, 2020 Alberta Meceli (Joseph Rainone, Jr.)
FRIDAY 7 PM	March 20, 2020 +++ STATIONS OF THE CROSS +++
SATURDAY 4 PM	March 21, 2020 Amelia & Aristides (Jane & Heinz Huble)
SUNDAY 9 AM	March 22, 2020 Annunziata/Sarafino/Docimo Families (Rocco & Carmela Longo & Family)

SAINT CECILIA CHURCH MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY 5:30 PM	March 14, 2020 Lawrence Franko, Sr. & Frank Franko (Bella Franko)
SUNDAY 7:30 AM	March 15, 2020 Tommaso Marena (Anthony & Josephine Marena)
9 AM	Anna Celia Vargas (20th Anniversary) (Her Family)
11:15 AM	Vincent Russo (Pat Siciliano)
MONDAY 7:30 AM	March 16, 2020 Kenneth W. Faistl (Spillane Family)
TUESDAY 7:30 AM	March 17, 2020 <i>St. Patrick</i> Sister Campbell (Vera Gardell)
WEDNESDAY 7:30 AM	March 18, 2020 <i>St. Cyril of Jerusalem</i> Catherine & Frank Zezima (Carol & Peter Zezima)
THURSDAY 7:30 AM	March 19, 2020 <i>St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Marlene Harthman (Dottie Dahm)
FRIDAY 7:30 AM	March 20, 2020 For the Parish
SATURDAY 5:30 PM	March 21, 2020 Kerry Sheehan (Cathy Sheehan)
SUNDAY 7:30 AM	March 22, 2020 Richard & Carmel Moore (Michael & Lisa Alfieri)
9 AM	Agnes Benison (Joe Skelly)
11:15 AM	Dylan Joseph Pape (His Family)

Going to Confession

Last Saturday the children of the parish who are preparing for First Holy Communion went to Confession for the first time. I remember hearing a priest once compare the experience of hearing first confessions to "being pelted with mini marshmallows." In a certain sense that's true, but when I hear the confessions of children I am most struck by how seriously they take it. For the most part, little kids have good consciences - they know when they've done something bad. As a priest, it's very moving to listen to them entrust their souls to God and ask for forgiveness in the sacrament. It's a credit to their parents who taught them the difference between good and evil and faith in the power of confession. But it's also important to remember that as we get older and life gets more complicated, we still need help in the formation of our consciences. That's why we should avail ourselves of the teaching authority of the Church, so that when we find ourselves in challenging situations we are able to distinguish well between good and evil.

But why do we need to confess our sins to a priest? Why can't we just confess them directly to God? These are common questions, and the answer is that it appears to be God's will that we confess our sins to a priest. When Jesus rose from the dead He appeared to the Apostles and breathed on them, saying: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (John 20:22-23). To fulfill this command, the priest would have to know the sins of those confessing in order to determine whether to forgive or retain them. Sacramental confession of sins has been a practice since the earliest times of the Church, when it often was done publicly. Private confession as we now know it became widespread through the missionary efforts of Irish monks beginning in the 7th century.

Scripture makes distinctions between the different degrees of sins (1 John 5:16-17) which we call mortal & venial. Venial sins can be forgiven in various ways - by receiving the Eucharist, by using holy water to bless oneself, and by saying the "I confess" prayer that we use at the beginning of Mass, for example. When a person confesses venial sins, we call that a devotional confession, the grace from which is a great help in the living of the moral life. Forgiveness of mortal sin, however, requires sacramental confession since mortal sin is a turning away from God which leads to the destruction of charity in our hearts. If we're not sure what kinds of actions would be mortal sins, there are resources such as the "Guide to Confession" pamphlets that we make available in our churches which provide an examination of conscience outline. This outline is informed by Church teaching and is extremely helpful.

If you have been away from Confession for a long time, consider this an invitation to come back to the sacrament. There is nothing God wants more than to share with us His loving mercy, which we receive with greatest assurances through the gift of Confession.

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 Cocomo, Steven Deccicco, Richard Negyesi, Ed Adams, Msgr. Powers, Wendy Lenard, Edward Cioffi, Barbara Cebula, Columbia Smith, and Kaye Gill, 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 M. Hicks, SR Allison McNamara, 2Lt. James Arpaio.

St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish

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



We remember in our prayers, Betty Schenarts who recently passed. May she rest in the peace of Heaven.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION

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 203-322-1562



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



The 2021 Mass book will open on June 1, 2020. Please know that Masses are still available for 2020.

Our next "Two Thousand Hail Marys" will be on Saturday, April 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

Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday



In His messages to St. Faustina Kowalska almost 100 years ago, Our Lord said: "Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to my Divine Mercy." Please join us for a special celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday, during which we will have a brief talk about Divine Mercy, with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Confessions will also be available.

Date: Sunday, April 19
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: Church of St. Cecilia



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 mschule@stcecilia-stgabriel.org, 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 17 Bags to the Food Bank 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 8, 2020

Weekly Offering: \$7,618

Flower Offering: \$481

Lenten Offering: \$ 857

Online Giving Offering: \$4,000

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.	3/16	7 p.m.	Lectio Divina - Parish Center Sunroom
Tues.	3/17	1-4 p.m.	Senior Circle - St. Gabriel Church Hall
Tues.	3/17	1-3 p.m.	Veteran's Project - Parish Center Sun Rm.
Tues.	3/17	7:30 p.m.	- AA - St. Gabriel Hall
Tues.	3/17	7-8:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal at St. Cecilia Church
Wed.	3/18	7:30-9 p.m.	Eucharistic Adoration & Confession St. Cecilia Church
Wed.	3/18	10 a.m.	Handcraft Group - Parish Center Sun Rm.
Thurs.	3/19	7 p.m.	AA - MH
Thurs.	3/19	7:15 p.m.	Bible Study - St. Gabriel Hall
Fri.	3/20	9:15 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Gabriel Hall
Fri.	3/20	7 p.m.	Stations of the Cross - St. Gabriel Church
Sat.	3/21	6:45 a.m.	Saturday Morning Faith Gathering for Men - St. Gabriel Hall
Sun.	3/22	10:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal - St. Cecilia Church



STAMFORD CATHOLIC YOUTH GROUP

Upcoming meeting dates and locations are:

High School: 3/20/20 7-9 PM at St. Bridget Church

Middle School: 3/27/20 7-8:30 PM at St. Gabriel Church

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



PURA VIDA "FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN"

A parish community event for all ages

Join the St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel parish team as we participate in our 4th Annual Pura Vida "Feed My Starving Children" Mobile Food-Packing Event on

Saturday, 5/16 or Sunday, 5/17. Everyone, ages 8 to 108, is welcome to participate, as age and ability appropriate tasks will be assigned. Last year, 90 parish members (31 under the age of 18!) volunteered for a 2 hour shift over that weekend, which resulted in **257,000** meals packed and ready to ship. That's enough food to feed **703 STARVING CHILDREN FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR!**

"Feed My Starving Children" (FMSC) is an amazing organization and their methods and manna packs are highly effective in combatting world hunger, but their mission would be impossible without the help of many volunteers. This event is a great opportunity for a whole family, or a group of teen friends to do some community service for a very worthy cause, while having fun doing it! But, if you can't join us to pack meals, please consider making a donation to do your part to feed starving children.

The FMSC organization has consistently received the highest awards for ensuring that over 90% of all donations go directly toward feeding kids in need. If you already know that you would like to volunteer or make a donation, write to us at stceciliastgabrielcare@gmail.com or phone Gina Denner at 203-968-6388. Additional details are posted on church bulletin boards. Watch for details on how you can register for the "St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Cares" team in future bulletins.

***Note: "Pura Vida for Children"** is the local non-profit organization sponsoring the annual event at New Canaan HS, and is responsible for fund-raising to reach the required goal of \$63,000 to cover the cost of the food to be packed at the event. Contributions are just as important as volunteer food-packing time! Checks submitted should be written out to "Pura Vida-Feed My Starving Children" for our weekend and team to get credit. Read more about the Pura Vida organization by going to www.puravidaforchildren.org.

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.

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, and 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!

Cardinal Kung Academy is a diocesan high school in Stamford offering a rigorous all-honors program with a classical pedagogy.

Come meet the teachers and experience the difference of a classical high school education at our OPEN HOUSE on March 28th from 11 am - 1 pm at 948 Newfield Avenue, Stamford.

Now accepting applications for all grades for the 2020 - 2021 academic year. To schedule a visit or a shadow day, please contact Barbara Logsdail at 203-329-8296 or CardinalKungAcademy@gmail.com or visit www.cardinalkungacademy.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Fundraising day trip sponsored by The 2000 Hail Mary's Group of St. Cecilia— St. Gabriel Parish.



A Sights and Sounds Production

When: Saturday, December 12, 2020

Where: Lancaster, PA

Fee: \$150/person

includes ticket, bus fare & family style dinner

Make your reservation now as seats are limited!

For questions and inquiries, please call

Tess: (203) 570 - 3109 or

Lynn: (347) 675 - 7287



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

More information is available at www.veritascatholic.com.

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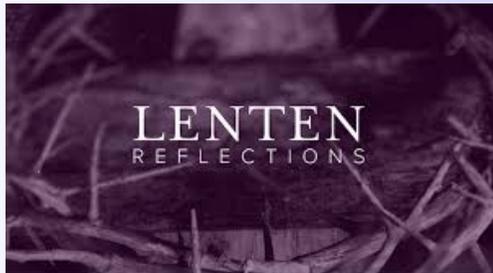
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Select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization"

Find our parish by name, zip, or parish code

Enter your email - and you're in!

This Weeks Feature from FORMED

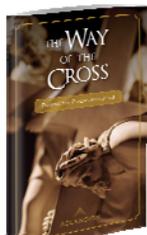


Imagine a 3 minute video sent directly to your email each day during Lent to help you on your journey to Easter.

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 online to view with us in class, or at home.

Our Metanoia session will 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.

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 March, we will be highlighting two items - new, travel size soaps and deodorant. Baby wipes and diapers 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) 561-6222

