

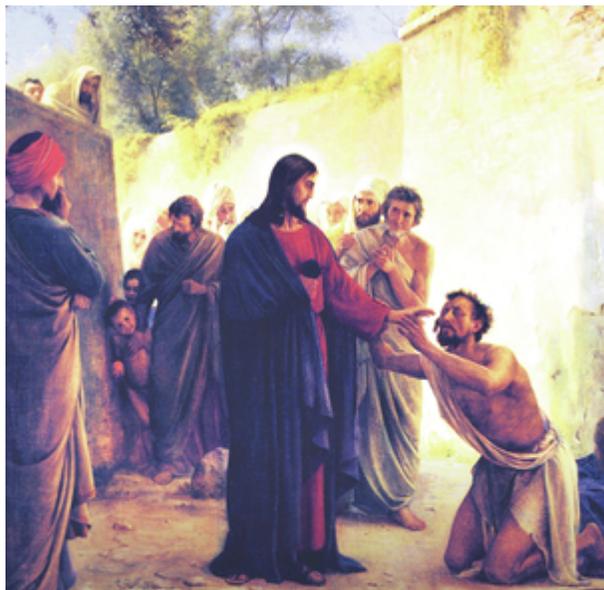
THE PARISH OF ST. CECILIA ~ ST. GABRIEL

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

March 22, 2020

Rev. John P. Connaughton, Pastor

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



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,
he found him and said, "Do you believe in the
Son of Man?" - Jn 9:35

Image from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC

OLP

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
203-322-1562

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 **March 21, 2020**
4 PM Amelia & Aristides
 (Jane & Heinz Huble)

SUNDAY **March 22, 2020**
9 AM Annunziata/Sarafino/Docimo Families
 (Rocco & Carmela Longo & Family)

SATURDAY **March 28, 2020**
4 PM Agatha Vallone
 (Her Family)

SUNDAY **March 29, 2020**
9 AM Philomena Totilo
 (Joyce Pinto)

SAINT CECILIA CHURCH MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY **March 21, 2020**
5:30 PM Kerry Sheehan
 (Cathy Sheehan)

SUNDAY **March 22, 2020**
7:30 AM Richard & Carmel Moore
 (Michael & Lisa Alfieri)

9 AM Agnes Benison
 (Joe Skelly)

11:15 AM Dylan Joseph Pape
 (His Family)

MONDAY **March 23, 2020**
7:30 AM *St. Turbius of Mogrovejo*
 Joseph O'Driscoll
 (Cathy Sheehan)

TUESDAY **March 24, 2020**
7:30 AM *St. Oscar Romero*
 Rita Caveney
 (Frank Caveney)

WEDNESDAY **March 25, 2020**
7:30 AM *The Annunciation of the Lord*
 Sr. Rosamond Abadesco
 (Magda Bayometa)

THURSDAY **March 26, 2020**
7:30 AM Rosanna Silvestro
 (Vera Gardell)

FRIDAY **March 27, 2020**
7:30 AM For the Parish

SATURDAY **March 28, 2020**
5:30 PM Agnes Sessa
 (Alison Sessa Pellicci)

SUNDAY **March 29, 2020**
7:30 AM David Goyette
 (Kitty Mandi)
9 AM Michael Violette, 50th Birthday
 (His Parents)
11:15 AM Michelangelo Meriano & Family
 (Family)

All Masses will be said privately for the above intentions
by Fr. John and Fr. Mariusz

Christians & Coronavirus

In the year 165 AD plague broke out in the Roman Empire. Now referred to as the Antonine Plague, historians believe it originated in China and that Roman soldiers came into contact with it while on campaign in modern-day Iraq. It quickly spread into Gaul and the Germanic territories held by the Empire and even down into the Italian peninsula. Based on contemporary descriptions of the epidemic, it seems that the plague was a variation of smallpox - and it was devastating. Some writers from the period estimated that 2000 people a day died in the city of Rome at the height of the crisis. All told, historians think that about 60-70 million people died from the plague, numbers that represent a quarter to a third of the entire population of the Empire. Among the victims was Lucius Verus, who reigned as co-emperor with Marcus Aurelius, and died in 169.

Many in the Empire thought that the plague was a punishment sent from the gods – due to either a violation of a sacred oath or an act of sacrilege. Marcus Aurelius attributed it to the refusal of Christians to pay homage to the pagan deities. Ironically, the average Roman's sympathy for Christianity was growing alongside the hostility of their rulers toward the relatively new sect. The reason for this was that, unlike adherents to the polytheistic system of the Roman Empire, Christians believed that they had a moral duty to care for those in need, including people affected by the plague. While pagan nobles fled the urban areas where the disease was wreaking havoc, Christians remained and provided the sick with basic needs of food and water, as well as compassionate care. The people noticed that Christians provided care to everyone, including non-Christians. Furthermore, Christianity taught people that life has meaning even under the most difficult circumstances, and that death is not the end of existence. As a result, many people became Christian. Some historians trace the eventual establishment of Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire, to the way Christians comported themselves during the time of this terrible plague.

Like the ancient Romans, we find ourselves in the midst of a public health crisis. Thankfully, the Coronavirus is far less dangerous than the plague outbreak of 165. But we are no less called as followers of Christ to imitate the charity of the Catholics in the Roman Empire. Part of the charitable response is to be conscientious about not taking unnecessary risks that might expose ourselves or others to the virus. It is a sign of prudence to observe "social distancing." At the same time, it's very important for us to keep tabs on each other and to check in with people whom we know are alone and who might be feeling anxious, to console them, and to ask them if there's anything we can do for them. And most importantly we should be using this time to pray for each other. Our Lord is with us. We must put our trust in Him.

In Christ,
Fr. John



The sick and their caregivers. Sal Bonina, Michael Pratt, Nick Pensiero, Ken Byxbee, Conor Ehring, Mary Brundage, Matt Marshall, William Perkins, Tricia Saxe Cocco, 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, Joseph Cullen, Mark Mones, 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.



Coronavirus resources & information can be found by visiting the Diocese of Bridgeport website at www.bridgeportdiocese.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION

No Religious Education Classes until Public School Resumes. As of now Rel Ed. classes will resume after Easter, April 19th and April 21st.

If schools remain closed, those dates will change.

First Holy Communion students and Confirmation students should have been notified regarding home preparation for the Sacraments.

If not Please contact our DRE, Maryanne Didelot at DRE@stcecilia-stgabriel.org or 203-322-1562



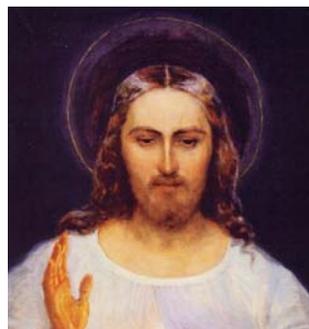
“Two Thousand Hail Marys” has been Cancelled for Saturday, April 4, 2020

Stations of the Cross has been cancelled Fridays at 7 PM at St. Gabriel Church

Saint Cecilia Church will be open daily from 7am—8pm for prayer and contemplation.

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



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



Music Notes:
Choir practice and
Choir singing at Mass
has been temporarily suspended.
Pray we will be back soon!

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 22 Bags to St. Joseph 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 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 15, 2020
Weekly Offering: \$5,459
Lenten Offering: \$495
Online Giving Offering: \$3,957
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.

Coronavirus Announcement

All weekday and Sunday public Masses celebrated in the presence of the lay faithful are temporarily suspended in the Diocese of Bridgeport. This will remain in effect until Friday, April 3rd. We will receive a confirmation or revision of that date on Monday, March 30th.

Please know that Bishop Caggiano has dispensed the faithful from their obligation to attend Sunday Mass during this timeframe. The Bishop does ask to the extent possible that Sunday be kept a holy day, try to watch Mass on television or online at catholictv.org.

It's important that we look out for one another during this time as brothers and sisters in Christ, taking proper precautions not to spread the virus, but also checking in with people who might be alone and worried.

In order to provide for the maintenance of the parish during this time please prayerfully consider mailing in your offertory envelopes or making your contribution through online giving at

www.osvonlinegiving.com/1522/

Most importantly, let us pray for each other and for an end to this public health crisis, entrusting everything and everyone to the care of Our Lord.

Saint Cecilia Church will be open daily from 7am - 8pm for prayer and contemplation.

Fr. John

Meetings/Activities Schedule

All Parish Meetings Suspended
Until Further Notice.

AA Meetings will take place as usual unless the moderator decides to cancel.

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



STAMFORD CATHOLIC YOUTH GROUP

Please look for text or email updates on the status of the following from Fr. Joseph Gill

Middle School: 3/27/20 - 7 - 8:30 PM

Middle/High School: 4/3/20

“Passion of the Christ” Movie (details below)

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://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.



THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST™ MOVIE

Join us for the showing of “The passion of Christ” movie on Friday, April 3rd, from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM at St. Bridget Church (in the meeting room). Pizza will be served.

All are welcome



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 - 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 or Madeleine Terenzio at (203) 962-4373. Additional details are posted on church bulletin boards. Watch for details on how to 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.

Camp Veritas 2020



Camp Veritas is filling up quickly!

All 7th through 12th grade youth are invited to join us for the best Catholic summer camp ever! Located near Newburgh, NY, it’s a week of amazing camp activities (sports, boating, swimming, hiking, zip-lines, rock climbing, go-karts, and more!) along with a profound week of encounter with Jesus Christ (daily Mass, Rosary, Adoration, dynamic talks). Once again, Fr. Joseph Gill will be attending and is offering a \$200 scholarship to kids from the Stamford Catholic Youth Group! That means a week at Camp Veritas can cost as little as \$200. *To be eligible for the scholarship, kids must attend youth group regularly and Mass weekly - no exceptions! Please sign up by April 1st to receive the \$200 scholarship, by going to www.campveritas.org.*

There’s a week in July and one in August.

Contact Fr. Joseph at

frjosephgill@gmail.com to request the discount, or 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!



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 a.m. – 1 p.m.** 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

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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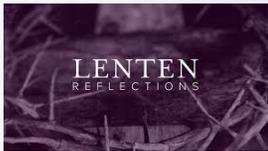
Click Sign Up

Select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization"

Find our parish by name, zip, or parish code

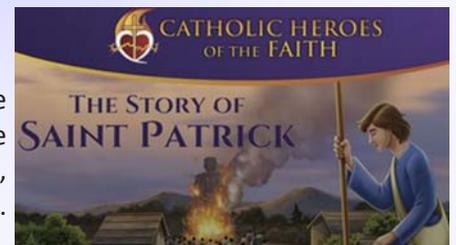
Enter your email - and you're in!

This Weeks Feature from FORMED



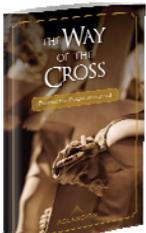
Imagine a 3 minute video sent directly to your email each day during Lent to help you on your journey to Easter.

Looking for something for the children to watch while they're home from school? The story of Saint Patrick is a good alternative to online video games. Far from home and at the mercy of the pirates, who kidnapped him, young Patrick spends his days tending sheep and surviving wild animal attacks.



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

Bible study has been canceled until further notice, but Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR, is offering his

Metanoia, A Journey with Christ into Conversion,
talks FREE online.

His reflections encourage us to have a change of heart (Metanoia) to really KNOW our Lord.



Metanoia, A Journey with Christ into Conversion, is beautifully filmed on location in the Holy Land. Each episode explores areas of life where conversion is so often necessary. Lent is a great time to experience Metanoia!

Open a FREE account to view the programs at
https://wildgoose.tv/programs/1-who-do-you-say-that-i-am-final_1-1af6ab

Download the FREE study guide at
<https://thewildgooseisloose.com/metanoia>

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

