

THE PARISH OF ST. CECILIA ~ ST. GABRIEL

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Saint Cecilia **Saint Gabriel**

1184 Newfield Ave.

914 Newfield Ave.

Stamford, CT 06905

March 29, 2020

Rev. John P. Connaughton, Pastor

Rev. Mariusz M. Olbrys, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Larry Buzzeo

Seminarian Anh Vu



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live."
- Jn 11:25

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

G.P.A.

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

**PLEASE SEE TEMPORARY
SCHEDULE INSIDE
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 28, 2020**
4 PM Agatha Vallone
 (Her Family)

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

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

SATURDAY **April 4, 2020**
4 PM Michael Murray
 (Sheehan Family)

SUNDAY **April 5, 2020**
9 AM Josephine Marino
 (Vera Gardell)

SAINT CECILIA CHURCH MASS INTENTIONS

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)

MONDAY **March 30, 2020**
7:30 AM Margaret Cacace
 (Anne Marie Cacace)

TUESDAY **March 31, 2020**
7:30 AM Nicholas DeVito
 (His Family)

WEDNESDAY **April 1, 2020**
7:30 AM Shaun Sheridan
 (Lorraine & Family)

THURSDAY **April 2, 2020** *St. Francis of Paola*
7:30 AM Kyle D. Rice
 (Michelle & Bob Kolenberg)

FRIDAY **April 3, 2020**
7:30 AM For the Parish

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

SATURDAY **April 4, 2020**
5:30 PM Blanche Manjuck
 (Caporizzo Family)

SUNDAY **April 5, 2020**
7:30 AM Filomena & Gennaro Tevolini
 (Phyllis Altamura)
9 AM Theodore Lionetti
 (Angela Lionetti)
11:15 AM Gerardo & Josephina DelVaglio
 (Family)

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

Missing Mass

"Sometimes I think that those who have never been deprived of an opportunity to say or hear Mass do not really appreciate what a treasure the Mass is." – Fr. Walter Cizek

For the past month or so I've been making my way through a book called *He Leadeth Me*, which is the spiritual autobiography of Fr. Walter Cizek, SJ. He was an American priest and member of the Society of Jesus who responded to the worldwide request from Pope Pius XI in 1929 for priests to volunteer to be missionaries in the Soviet Union. Cizek eventually made it to Russia, where he was quickly captured by the Soviet secret police. He spent 5 years in solitary confinement at the notorious Lubyanka prison in Moscow before being sentenced to 9 years of work in the slave labor camps of Siberia. After 23 years in the Soviet Union, Cizek was eventually returned to the United States in 1963 through a prisoner swap.

As a young seminarian preparing for missionary work in the Soviet Union, Cizek and his classmates knew that there would be times when they would be deprived of the Mass. But, he writes, in those seminary days "the thought that it might someday be difficult to be able to say Mass was really only a day-dream. It was something you talked about, something you read about in the history of the Church persecutions, but not really something you had ever had to suffer or experience."

During his five years in solitary confinement, Cizek was completely deprived of the consolation of saying or attending Mass. While in the gulag, the prisoners devised clever ways of smuggling in the bread and the sacramental wine necessary to have Mass. But offering Mass in the camps was very difficult. One challenge was the general state of borderline starvation among the prisoners. In those days, priests and those who wanted to receive the Eucharist at Mass had to observe a strict fast, taking no food or water from midnight the night before until the reception of the Blessed Sacrament. "I have seen priests pass up breakfast and work at hard labor on an empty stomach until noon in order to keep the Eucharistic fast, because the noon break at the work site was the time we could best get together for a hidden Mass." Informers were always a threat, and the authorities would severely punish the priests they caught offering Mass in the camp. "But the Mass to us was always worth the danger and the sacrifice; we treasured it, we looked forward to it, we would do almost anything in order to say or attend a Mass."

Cizek's determination to offer Mass was rooted in his understanding of what the Mass is as well as the desire that the other prisoners expressed for the Mass. "I was amazed at the devotion of these men. Most of them had really had very little formal religious training; for the most part they knew little of religion except the prayers and beliefs that pious parents or grandparents had taught them. And yet they believed, and were willing to make unheard-of sacrifices for the consolation of attending Mass or receiving Communion."

Continued.....

Over the past 12 hours or so, I've been moved by the outpouring of gratitude from parishioners for posting yesterday's parish Mass on our website. Based on the feedback, I will continue to post Sunday Masses on the website each week. Usually, we priests get (let's just say) a little annoyed when we hear about people missing Mass without serious reason. Fr. Cizek's insight about how under normal conditions we take Mass for granted really hits home at a time where the faithful are forced to miss Mass. It is tragic that we are not able to have Mass together in person, but there is consolation in the fact that we are talking about how much (rather than how many) people are missing Mass.

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 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, Joseph Cullen, Mark Mones, Diane Heach, 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

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 Ciacchiarella, SA Joshua M. Hicks, SR Allison McNamara, 2Lt. James Arpaio.

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

Please refer to the schedule provided for Church hours for prayer and adoration.



Week of March 28, 2020
St. Cecilia Church

Tabernacle Lamp shines for Martin Burke by Louise Dunn
St. Joseph's Candle shines for Michael Violette by his parents

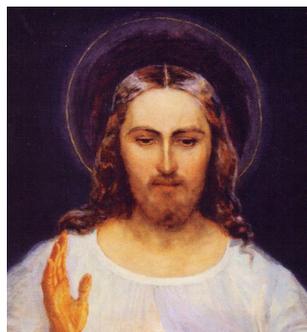
St. Gabriel Church

Vigil Lamp for Our Lady shines for Vincenzo Muro by Tom & Ann Verrastro



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.



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

St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish
Schedule during Suspension of Masses:

The Church of St. Cecilia will be open for personal prayer at these times:

- Monday-Friday 7am-8pm
(please note that on Wednesdays the church will close at 9pm)
- Saturday-Sunday 7am-6pm

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for personal devotion at the following times:

- Monday-Friday: 12-1pm, 7-8pm
(please note that on Wednesdays, evening adoration is from 7:30-9pm)
- Saturday: 4-6pm
- Sunday: 8am-12noon

Confession Schedule:

- Wednesdays: 7:30-9pm
- Saturdays: 4-6pm
- Sundays: 10am-12noon



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 10 Bags to the Wilson Food Pantry 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 22, 2020

Weekly Offering: \$1,446

Lenten Offering: \$15

Easter Flowers: \$95

Parishioner Gift: \$3,000

Online Giving Offering: \$4,150

Please consider Online Giving!

Register at www.osvonlinegiving.com/1522/



Many thanks to those of you who have recently signed up for Online Giving and to those who have mailed in your offertory envelopes. If you have been able to stop in at Church you will see baskets, you may leave you're offerings there as well. Your continued support is needed and greatly appreciated.

If you have been thinking about Online Giving, now is the perfect time. Our Church relies on your support. 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.

Thank you!
Stay Healthy!

Meetings/Activities Schedule

All Parish Meetings Suspended
Until Further Notice.

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



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



STAMFORD CATHOLIC YOUTH GROUP

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.

Please look for text or email updates from Fr. Joseph Gill

Let's stay connected!
Please visit our website daily for Fr. John's Reflections, Sunday Mass, and most current updates.

www.stcecilia-stgabriel.org

Coronavirus resources & information

can be found by visiting the Diocese of Bridgeport website at www.bridgeportdiocese.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!



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.

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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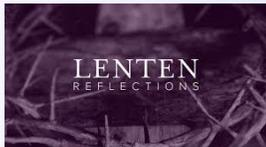
Click Sign Up

Select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization"

Find our parish by name, zip, or parish code

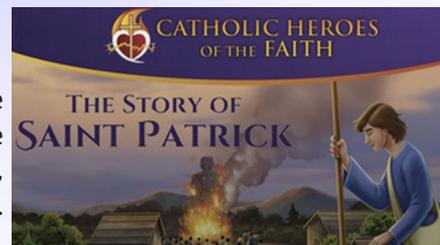
Enter your email - and you're in!

This Weeks Feature from FORMED



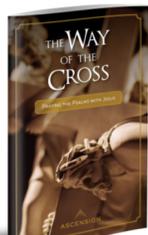
Imagine a 3 minute video sent directly to your email each day during Lent to help you on your journey to Easter.

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

