

THE PARISH OF ST. CECILIA ~ ST. GABRIEL

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Saint Cecilia

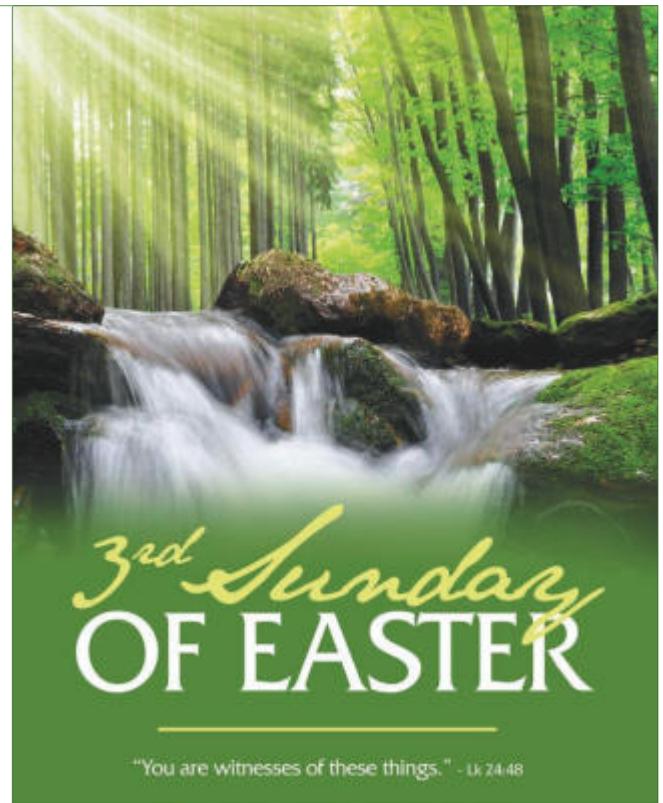
1184 Newfield Avenue
Stamford, CT 06905

Saint Gabriel

948 Newfield Avenue

April 18, 2021

Rev. John P. Connaughton, Pastor
Rev. Mariusz M. Olbrys, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Larry Buzzeo
Seminarian Anh Vu, Pastoral Assistant



"You are witnesses of these things." - Lk 24:48

Fr. John Connaughton, Pastor
FrConnaughton@diobpt.org

Fr. Mariusz Olbrys, Parochial Vicar
FrOlbrys@diobpt.org

Deacon Larry Buzzeo
Lbuz@optonline.net

Anh Vu, Pastoral Assistant
Anh.vu@diobpt.org

Parish Center Office Hours:
Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Main Number 203.322.1562

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

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Lynn Rule, Pastoral Council President
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Patricia Brady, Principal, Catholic Academy of Stamford
203.322.6505

Daily Mass at St. Cecilia Church

Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m.

Weekend Masses at St. Cecilia Church

Saturday (Vigil Mass) 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Masses 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. & 12 Noon

Mass at St. Gabriel Church

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Reservations are no longer required to attend Mass

We will still observe social distancing
and all attendees must wear a mask.

We will continue to sanitize after each Mass.

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for personal devotion

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.
& Wednesday evenings from 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Confession Schedule at St. Cecilia Church

Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturdays: 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

BAPTISMS: Sundays following Noon Mass at St. Cecilia Church.
Arrangements should be made at least one month prior to the baptism.

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.

St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish

Mass Intentions

*All Masses will be at St. Cecilia Church
plus an additional 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass at St. Gabriel Church.*

SATURDAY 4:00 p.m.	April 17, 2021 Dylan Pape (His Family)
SUNDAY 8:00 a.m.	April 18, 2021 Audrey Murphy (Her Family)
10:00 a.m.	Rosanna Vitti (Palma Casinelli)
10:00 a.m. <i>St. Gabriel</i>	Noel Hickey (The Hickey Family)
12:00 Noon	Frank Ross III (Donna Napolitano)
MONDAY 7:30 a.m.	April 19, 2021 Lena Costello (Mary DeCarlo)
TUESDAY 7:30 a.m.	April 20, 2021 Maureen Riley (Mary Beth Riley)
WEDNESDAY 7:30 a.m.	April 21, 2021 St. Anselm Marie Ostaszewski (The Family)
THURSDAY 7:30 a.m.	April 22, 2021 For the Parish
FRIDAY 7:30 a.m.	April 23, 2021 St. George, St. Adalbert Mary DePra (Kitty Mandi)
SATURDAY 4:00 p.m.	April 24, 2021 St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen Audrey Murphy (John, Maryanne & Matt Didelot)
SUNDAY 8:00 a.m.	April 25, 2021 World Day of Prayer for Vocations Lillian M. Germain (Clare Joy)
10:00 a.m.	Nikolle Iosh Gashaj (The Abbazia Family)
10:00 a.m. <i>St. Gabriel</i>	Audrey Murphy (Cathy Sheehan)
12:00 Noon	Deirdre McParland (The Zarrilli Family)

Learning the Narrative

You hear sometimes people in politics and public relations talking about “controlling the narrative.” Usually, this means trying to get a jump on a story by being the first to explain what is going on. The hope is that a “narrative” friendly to one’s position will be established in the mind of the public so that adversaries will be at a disadvantage, having to attack the already accepted presuppositions of the public. The constant struggle in the media to control narratives reveals just how powerful stories are. A well-told story has a way of ingraining itself into the minds of listeners, shaping their understanding of reality.

Our Lord was a master storyteller. The parables captured the imaginations of the people who heard Him. But this is unsurprising since the whole story of salvation is one grand narrative. It might not seem that way if we’re unfamiliar with the Bible. We might have some sense of the importance of people like Adam and Eve, Abraham, King David, and vaguely understand them as being somehow connected to Christ. But the more we learn about the scriptures, the more deeply we can discern the threads that connect all of the different people and their stories. Moreover, the more clearly we recognize the themes, the more relatable the scriptures become to our own lives. And the more relatable they become to us, the more salvation history shapes our understanding of reality as it is intended by God.

But even if we do want to know the scriptures better, it’s hard to know where to start. The Bible is a really thick book, filled with strange-sounding places and names. Where to begin? Recently, I came across a really good resource that’s available to watch on YouTube. It’s called “The Bible Project,” and it is a series of animated videos that give an overview of the different books of the Bible. The animation is very well done, and the narrators give excellent descriptions of what is happening in each book, showing how different events that sound strange and obscure fit into the overall narrative of salvation history. Viewers should know that the creators are not Catholic but Evangelical Protestants, so they do present some things in a way that don’t fit exactly into the Church’s reading of Sacred Scripture. But overall, it’s a tremendous accomplishment. I would highly recommend their series on the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament. It’s a great introduction to the series and sets the tone for reading the books as a whole.

In an age that is obsessed with controlling the narrative, it is essential for Christians to understand our own story. Unless we know and understand our own story, we will never understand ourselves in relationship to God and each other. And unless we understand that, we will never be able to engage in the work of evangelization that the Lord Jesus has entrusted to His followers. Thankfully, there are a growing number of resources out there that present the Faith in a simple but very sophisticated way. “The Bible Project” is one of these resources. Check out the Torah Series and let me know what you think.

In Christ,
Fr. John

Mass for The Third Sunday of Easter

Introit: O be joyfull in God all ye lands, alleluia; sing praises unto the honor of His name, alleluia; make His praise to be exceeding glorious, alleluia. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end, Amen.

First Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Peter said to the people: "The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, whom you handed over and denied in Pilate's presence when he had decided to release him. You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from the dead; of this we are witnesses. Now I know, brothers, that you acted out of ignorance, just as your leaders did; but God has thus brought to fulfillment what He had announced beforehand through the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer. Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away."

Gradual: Alleluia. Yea they knew him, the disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Second Reading: 1 Jn 2:1-5a

My children, I am writing this to you so that you may not commit sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. He is expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world. The way we may be sure that we know Him is to keep His commandments. Those who say, "I know Him," but do not keep His commandments are liars, and the truth is not in them. But whoever keeps his word, the love of God is truly perfected in him.

Gospel: Lk 24:35-48

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way, and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

While they were still speaking about this, He stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." And as He said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, He asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of baked fish; He took it and ate it in front of them.

He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And He said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and

rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

Communion Antiphon: Proclaim the Lord's salvation day after day, alleluia.

Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host,
by the power of God, cast into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.

For the Week of April 17, 2021**St. Cecilia Church**

The Tabernacle Lamp shines for Mary DaPra
from Kitty Mandi

St. Gabriel Church

The Tabernacle Lamp shines for Brigitta Muro
from Tom and Ann Verrastro

**"Two Thousand Hail Marys"**

Saturday, May 1, 2021
St. Gabriel Church
5:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Mass at 8:00 a.m.

Come Pray to the Blessed Mother
Stay for a few minutes, a couple of hours or the whole time.
Questions? Call Tessie Senerador at 203.570.3109

Marian Procession

This year's First Communion Ceremony takes place on Saturday, May 1st.



Please join our First Communion children for a procession to the Marian Grotto on Sunday, May 2, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. All are invited to visit the shrine of Our Lady to give thanks for the reception of First Holy Eucharist to the one who gave Jesus the body that He shares with us in the Most Blessed Sacrament. All of us who have received the Eucharist should express our gratitude often for the gift of the Sacrament. This is a special opportunity to join some of the young members of our parish who have received it for the very first time. We hope you can join us on Sunday, May 2nd.

St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish Offertory Totals

	Week ending <u>April 11th</u>
Mail In	\$ 320
4:00 p.m.	\$ 1,161
8:00 a.m.	\$ 793
10:00 a.m. combined	\$ 2,470
Noon	\$ 1,040
Online Giving Total	\$ 5,461
Monthly - All Masses	\$ 1,141
Additional Easter	\$ 438



Thank you for your continued support & generosity!

Many thanks to those who have signed up for Online Giving and to those who continue to mail in your offertory envelopes.

Set up your gift today or consider an additional gift via our web-based app on your smart device. Visit our parish website to sign up and get started. Our Online Giving system provides you the opportunity to give to our special collections in addition to regular offerings. Even if you typically use your offering envelopes, you may contribute online to a particular collection. It's easy and it's convenient!

For Online Giving please register at www.osvonlinegiving.com/1522/
Or check the link on our website.

Please call the parish office at 203.322.1562 or OSV Online Giving at 1.800.348.2886 if you have questions or need assistance in setting up your account.

Foundations in Education

2021 Virtual Hybrid Spring Benefit

Join Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano on Thursday, May 6th, to celebrate Honorees Dr. Julia M. McNamara and Lynn and Frank Mara of the New York Giants and participate in an online auction from the comfort of your home. All to celebrate and support Catholic education! Proceeds support Foundations in Education, whose mission is to provide hundreds of children from low-and middle income families with a quality education focused on Christian values and character formation.

To purchase tickets and sponsorships or for more information, please contact Megan Quinn at 203.416.1671 or via email at mquinn@foundationsineducation.org.



THE STAMFORD CATHOLIC YOUTH GROUP

For more information, contact Fr. Joseph Gill at frgill@diobpt.org, or 203.324.1553

or check out <https://stjohnbasilica.org/youth-ministry>

Masks will be worn and social distancing will be observed!
[Middle School Youth Group Schedule](#)

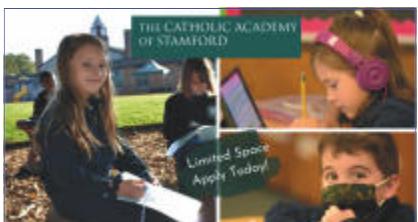
Regular Youth Group Meetings are from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
April 23 - May 7, 21 - to meet at St. Gabriel

[High School Youth Group Schedule](#)

Regular Youth Group Meetings are from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
April 30 - May 14, 28 - to meet at Holy Spirit

[Service Projects & Trips for Both Middle School & High School](#)
May 31: Hiking Trip to Sleeping Giant State Park

St. Gabriel Parish . 914 Newfield Avenue (behind the former Trinity Catholic)
Holy Spirit Parish . 403 Schofieldtown Road



Schedule a Personal Tour Virtual Open House
Contact
Admissions 203.322.6505 - info@casct.org
Apply online at www.casct.org

The 2000 Hail Marys Group of St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish is sponsoring a Day Trip to

QUEEN ESTHER

Saturday, May 15th, 2021
at

Sight and Sound in Lancaster PA

Tickets are \$150 per person

Includes an awesome, panoramic show with live animals, transportation to and from PA and an all-you-can-eat amazing, home-style dinner and the wonderful camaraderie of our parishioners and friends.

A double decker bus will also be provided.

Due to the pandemic, all venues are making the appropriate concessions to minimize any risks of contamination.

For questions and inquiries please call

Tess at 203.570.3109 Lynn at 347.675.7287



The Columbiettes Auxiliary #5833

New Covenant Center is one of the major charities that the Columbiettes support during the year. Because of the pandemic, clients are not allowed into the NCC Café to sit and have a hot meal. NCC has a Grab-and-Go lunch bag program, which they distribute to their clients.

There is a need for the following items for their lunch program and we are asking for your assistance. Small individual sized food items such as raisins, chips, cookies, popcorn, fruit snacks, health bars, etc. are needed to round out the lunch bags. Boxes of items that are individually wrapped are also accepted.

The Columbiettes are so proud of what this parish has done in the past to support NCC. Your donations, as always, go a long way in nourishing the human soul and our neighbor's lives. Thank you and God bless you. The Columbiettes Donation Box is in the vestibule of St. Cecilia's Church.

Questions? Contact Nancy O'Connell, President at 203.561.6222



THE SICK AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

Sal Bonina, Michael Pratt, Nick Pensiero, Ken Byxbee, Conor Ehring, Mary Brundage, Matt Marshall, William Perkins, Tricia Saxe Cocommo, Steven Deccicco, Richard Negyesi, Ed Adams, Wendy Leonard, Edward Cioffi, Barbara Cebula, Columbia Smith, Kaye Gill, Baby Elyssa, Andrew Allesandro, Michael Anderson, Pat Arpaio, Ted & Gloria Bocuzzi, 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, George Wetzler, Christopher Hoeppner, Caroline Andreana, Lori Ciccarelli, Mark Mullen, George Uzwiak, Alice Carella, Kimberley Pracilio, Marilyn Ritchie, Leon Zavos, Rose Sorbo Barosky, Deirdre, Steven Farrell, Joseph Freeth, Dorothy Tierney, Owen Ryan, Ginny Woolston, Mark Mones, Diane Heach, Kyle Bancroft, Joseph Roche, Randy Palonia, Miguel Machado, Joe Faugno, Sr., John Gaffney, Kevin Pierce, Msgr. Nick Greico, Irene Steinmann, Sal Casino ... 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.



LOAVES AND FISHES

Catholic Charities has been serving the Diocese since 1916 and is one of the largest providers of food resources in Fairfield County. Their food service programs continue to provide critically needed assistance via their soup kitchens, food pantries and meal deliveries to the elderly.

The New Covenant Center here in Stamford is open 365 days a year serving lunch and dinner. Your donation will make a difference in the lives of a hungry family. Go to their website at www.ccfairfield.org to read more about their organization and to donate on line (select Loaves & Fishes). Or you may send a check, made payable to Catholic Charities, to Catholic Charities Finance - ATTN: Loaves & Fishes - 238 Jewett Avenue - Bridgeport CT 06606.



Notre Dame de Perpetuel Secours

*Creole Mass Schedule at St. Gabriel Church
Saturday at 6:00 p.m. - Sunday at 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.*

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 Bocuzzi, LCpl. Michael Lowe, SR Julia Terese Bova, Capt. Josie Quijano-Carpanzano, Capt. Mario Carpanzano, C.J. DelVaglio, Sgt. Taylor A. Ritchie, FN Ellie Fratturo, Lt. Col. Michael J. Souza, Jack H. Whitney, Christopher Ciacciarella, PO Joshua M. Hicks, SR Allison McNamara, 2Lt. James Arpaio, Ryan Frattaroli.

S.O.M.E (So Others May Eat)

Please consider a weekly contribution of non-perishable food.

S.O.M.E. Baskets are at the MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE CHURCH. Please use strong reusable bags if possible.



NO GLASS JARS AND PLEASE, NO PERISHABLE FOOD

If you would also limit the bags and boxes of rice to 5lb. bags.

Your contributions will be delivered to The Food Bank,

Wilson Food Pantry, St. Mary's Food Pantry, Person to Person or New Covenant Center every week.

THANK YOU for your responsible stewardship.

Last week we collected 22 bags for The Food Bank

Questions? Contact Bob Violette 203.357.1481

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2020-2021

**SUNDAY, APRIL 18TH - HOME STUDY FOR ALL
SUNDAY APRIL 25 - LAST CLASS LEVELS 1 TO 8**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 30TH - FIRST COMMUNION REHEARSALS
GROUP A 4:30 P.M. - GROUP B 5:30 P.M.**

**SATURDAY, MAY 1ST - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
GROUP A AT 10:00 A.M. - GROUP B AT 12:00 NOON**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT COMPLETED LESSONS.
The health and safety of our children, families and catechists are of the utmost importance.**

Questions? Please email our DRE Maryanne Didelot at DRE@stcecilia-stgabriel.org or call 203.322.1562



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Francis: The Knight of Assisi

It was the age of knights and kings, when honor belonged to the heroes and glory was found in the battle field. There lived a brave young man named Francis, whose wish was to become a mighty warrior and conquer a magnificent castle. One day Francis felt a calling to greater glory. God had vested upon him a very special mission that would require a supreme act of courage. For the love of God, his King, Francis gave up everything that he had and joyfully embarked upon the most exciting and unexpected adventure. Francis: The Knight of Assisi is the remarkable story of the founder of the Order of Minor Friars and inspiration of three Franciscan orders.



The Spirit and the Desert

The Wild Goose with Fr. Dave Pivonka

"Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil." - Luke 4:1

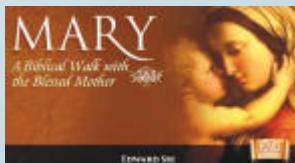
On the day Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit anointed him. Immediately after this event the Holy Spirit led Jesus to the desert. The desert was a place of isolation, death and defeat, but Jesus was led to the desert so that it may be forever changed into a place of grace. The Spirit led Jesus to the desert and also protected and cared for him while he was there. The desert is a part of every Christian's life but it does not have to be a place of despair or isolation. The Holy Spirit is present to life's deserts and when we experience his presence it changes our spiritual life. The desert is no longer a place to be feared but can be a profound encounter with Jesus.

<https://watch.formed.org/the-wild-goose-with-fr-dave-pivonka/season:1/videos/the-spirit-and-the-desert>

The Search: Episode 7 Why A Church?



How do I access this man who lived 2000 years ago? How do I live this call of love? We uniquely encounter the love of God in His Church. But really? The Church? There are so many negative views of the Church. It's out of touch. It's full of bad people. It's just too boring. Maybe when we say "The Church" we mean a little more. The church is the family of God that's been lovingly gathered through our entire story. It's the place we were meant to encounter His grace that prepares us for every step of life. The God that is love knows how we're made – material and spiritual – we need tangible ways to live our faith. We can't be spiritual but not religious. This is where we'll find ultimate happiness in life. This is where the God that has been seeking humanity, who wrote the deepest desires onto our human hearts, encounters us. Jesus' first words to humanity in the Gospel of John are "what do you seek?" The one that asked the question not only knows the answer, He is the answer. The answers to everything. And you find him most profoundly here in His Church. <https://watch.formed.org/the-search-1-season:1/videos/thesearch-ep7>



St. Cecilia – St. Gabriel Bible Study *Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother*

Tuesday Zoom meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday in-person meetings start at 7:15 p.m.

St. Gabriel meeting room

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<https://ascensionpress.com/collections/mary-a-biblical-walk-with-the-blessed-mother>

Be sure to RSVP to receive the ZOOM link and/or reserve your place for the live meeting

Vicki Alton's cell 203.561.3558 or vickia@optonline.net

Come see why so many have come to love the bible.

This year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are offering a hybrid program that allows people to participate either in person at the hall at St. Gabriel's or through ZOOM. In order to comply with the Bishop's current guidelines, we are encouraging those who are over 65 years old to participate using the ZOOM option. In-person participation will be limited to fewer than 25 people, observing all social distancing and mask requirements.

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Sales Associate / Parishioner



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