

THE PARISH OF ST. CECILIA ~ ST. GABRIEL

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Saint Cecilia **Saint Gabriel**
1184 Newfield Avenue 948 Newfield Avenue
Stamford, CT 06905

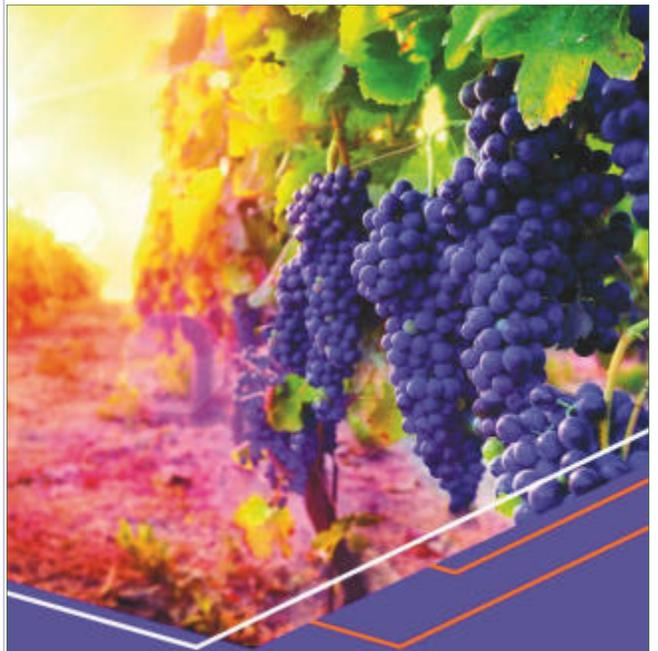
May 2, 2021

Rev. John P. Connaughton, Pastor

Rev. Mariusz M. Olbrys, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Larry Buzzeo

Seminarian Anh Vu, Pastoral Assistant



5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit." - Jn 15:1-2

Fr. John Connaughton, Pastor
FrConnaughton@diobpt.org

Fr. Mariusz Olbrys, Parochial Vicar
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Deacon Larry Buzzeo
Lbuz@optonline.net

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

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DRE@stcecilia-stgabriel.org

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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 follow Diocesan guidelines
regarding sanitizing.

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	May 1, 2021 <i>St. Joseph the Worker</i> Antoinette Guglielmo (John & Mary Powers)
SUNDAY 8:00 a.m.	May 2, 2021 Nicola Casinelli (Antonio & Catherine Cardillo)
10:00 a.m.	Patricia DiMaggio Minnick (Her Family)
10:00 a.m. <i>St. Gabriel</i>	Joan Fleischer (Maryanne Didelot)
12:00 Noon	Patricia Wilkes (Donna Napolitano)
MONDAY 7:30 a.m.	May 3, 2021 <i>St. Philip & St. James</i> Lena Costello (Heinz and Jane Hubli)
TUESDAY 7:30 a.m.	May 4, 2021 Giacchi Abate (Giovanni & Carmelina Ferraro)
WEDNESDAY 7:30 a.m.	May 5, 2021 Carol James (Vera Gardell)
THURSDAY 7:30 a.m.	May 6, 2021 William & Annie Kinahan (Paddy & Annie Kinahan)
FRIDAY 7:30 a.m.	May 7, 2021 For the People of the Parish
SATURDAY 4:00 p.m.	May 8, 2021 Timothy Vitanza (The Vitanza Family)
SUNDAY 8:00 a.m.	May 9, 2021 Mother's Day The Riley-Smith Family (Mary Beth Riley)
10:00 a.m.	Lori Rubino (Bob & Michelle Kolenberg)
10:00 a.m. <i>St. Gabriel</i>	Kerry Sheehan (Her Family)
12:00 noon	CJ Ceci (Taylor Molgano)

Month of Mary

May is the month of Mary. In May 2020, when the world was still suffering in the early stages of the pandemic, Pope Francis shared with the faithful his own devotion to the Blessed Mother and encouraged us to pray the rosary each day. "Contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial." The Holy Father attributes the example of his predecessor, St. John Paul II, with the intensification of his own devotion to Our Lady. After praying the rosary in the presence of John Paul, Pope Francis (then Archbishop Jorge Bergoglio) resolved to pray 15 decades of the rosary each day.

But why is May dedicated to Mary? I recently came across a poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins, the 19th century English poet and priest, entitled: "This May Magnificat." I'm really not much of a poetry guy, but I found the poem helpful in understanding the reason a little better. The poem is filled with images of the natural beauty of the month of May. The life that bursts forth from "Nature's motherhood" in this most beautiful of months is surpassed in vitality and loveliness, however, by the life that bursts forth from Mary's Motherhood. Her Son is the Creator of all things. And when His creation fell under the spell of winter, the season of death, He recreated it through His Incarnation and work of redemption. Hopkins' poem refers to Our Lady's gazing upon the pulchritude of the month of May, contemplating what the Lord was accomplishing through her – making the world not just beautiful again, but more beautiful and wondrous than ever it was before.

Towards the end of the poem, Hopkins notes that there is more to Mary's connection to the month of May than the beauty of new life. He refers to the life that's appearing everywhere in May as: "This ecstasy all through mothering earth/ Tells Mary her mirth till Christ's birth/ To remember and exultation/ In God who was her salvation." Part of the experience of motherhood is the suffering of childbirth. Hopkins points to the trees and the bramble bushes that would provide wood for Our Lord's cross and thorns for His crown, and how in the month of May they are magnificent, awash in flowers and blossoms. This foreshadows the way the cross and the crown are made beautiful by the One who suffered them. Though we traditionally believe Our Lady was uniquely preserved from the pangs of labor, she was in no way preserved from the experience of suffering as the Mother of God. For Hopkins, it seems, May is Mary's month because it reminds her of the glory that would come through the experience of her sorrows that would be united to the Passion of her Son.

Hopkins' insight into the month of May provides much food for meditation, especially as we, please God, emerge from the pandemic. Rather than simply trying to go back to life as it was before, we might respond to the trial we have endured by

turning to Our Lady this May with greater devotion, praying that it might “give birth” to renewal and a reawakening of faith in her Son, Our Savior and hers. Through devotion to the Blessed Mother, our faith in Him can come alive again, more beautiful and wonderous than ever it was before.

In Christ,
Fr. John

Mass for The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Introit: O sing unto the Lord a new song, alleluia; because marvelous deeds have been done by the Lord, alleluia. In the sight of the heathen hath He openly showed is righteousness, 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 9:26-31

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem, and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord. He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. And when the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him on his way to Tarsus. The church throughout all Judea, Galilee and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

Gradual: Alleluia, the right hand of God hath the pre-eminence; the right hand of the Lord hath exalted me.

Second Reading: 1 Jn 3:18-24

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before Him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from Him whatever we ask, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him. And His commandment is this: we should believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as He commanded us. Those who keep His commandments remain in Him, and He in them, and the way we know that He remains in us is from the Spirit He gave us.

Gospel: Jn 15:1-8

Jesus said to His disciples: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does He prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Communion Antiphon: I have chosen you from the world, to bring forth fruit that should last.



God Bless our parish children receiving the Holy Eucharist for the first time this Saturday, May 1st.

Thank you to the followers of the 2,000 Hail Marys group for their gift of a Rosary and Mass Book for each First Communion child.

Hailey Albrecht
Madelyn Aldrich
Santino Bevilacqua
Matthew Blake
Colton Bowen
Marko Cartiera
Joseph Claps
Macklin Clark
Ilya Cuevas
Luke Galvin
Andrew Gjuraj

Lila Gross
Ethan Hermosura
Sofia Hernandez
Sophie Huang
Weston Jeraci
Aaliah Jerome
Hanna Joseph
Yohan Joseph
Emily Karmerdin
Ava Karpus
Henley Kursar

Skylar Lapierre
Ellie LaRa
Braden LaRoche
Lillian Lenhart
Abigail Lyden
James Lynch
Eric Moore
Addison Morales
Connor O’Brien
Lena Olszewski
Liv Orgera

Ella Patterson
Mia Price
Sara Reid
Declan Sapia
Dean Serricchio
Daniel Sileo
Gabriella Telesca
Gabriella Vasile
Paige Vetere
William Walsh
Logan Williams

St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish Offertory Totals

	Week ending <u>April 25th</u>
Mail In	\$ 2,055
4:00 p.m.	\$ 1,077
8:00 a.m.	\$ 961
10:00 a.m. combined	\$ 1,632
Noon	\$ 640
Online Giving Total	\$ 4,311
Diocesan Collection Catholic Home Missions	\$ 471



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.*



Mass in Honor of All Healthcare Workers

The Diocesan Church will recognize and honor the service of all healthcare workers during a special celebration of Mass on Saturday, May 29th, at 11:00 a.m. in Saint Joseph Church, Brookfield. Registration is necessary for the Mass and will be available on the diocesan website beginning April 14th. Mass will also be livestreamed on the diocesan website and the Saint Joseph Church, Brookfield, website.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2020-2021

**SUNDAY, MAY 2ND
CONFIRMATION EXAM**

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

**SUNDAY, MAY 2ND
MARIAN PROCESSION
FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT COMPLETED LESSONS.

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



**Fr. John Connaughton
is going to be on the radio!
Monday, May 3rd
3:00 pm.**

1350 AM



Fr. John will be live on the air from the Veritas studio during their spring pledge drive.

Tune in and call in to show your support.
The number is 833.88.TRUTH or
833.888.7884.

Veritas is the only 24-hour Catholic station in this area.
Listen on the radio or by using the mobile app on your phone.

For the Week of May 2nd, 2021 St. Cecilia Church

The Tabernacle Lamp shines for Gloria Parente from George, Lori & Lucille Longo

The Vigil Lamp for Mary shines for Charles & Ella Claps from Their Family

The Vigil Lamp for Joseph shines for George & Allison Andriunus from Their Family



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 2nd, 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 Communion for the very first time.

We hope you can join us on Sunday, May 2nd.





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, Wendy Lenard, Edward Cioffi, Barbara Cebula, Columbia Smith, Kaye Gill, Baby Elyssa, Andrew Allesandro, Michael Anderson, Pat Arpaio, Ted & 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, George Wetzler, Christopher Hoepfner, Caroline Andreana, Lori Ciccarella, 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 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, Lt. Col. Michael J. Souza, Jack H. Whitney, Christopher Ciacciarella, PO Joshua M. Hicks, SR Allison McNamara, 2Lt. James Arpaio, Ryan Frattaroli.



Wedding Banns

*I Claire Hosinski & Trevor Shepherd
have made a promise of marriage.*

**2nd Annual Theology of the Body Conference
Virtual Conference Friday 4/30-Sunday 5/2
All online, free registration!
<https://www.tobvirtualconference.com>**

This three-day virtual conference is hosted by the Theology of the Body Institute and will feature prominent speakers who will show how Theology of the Body (TOB) applies to everyday life.

Familiarity with TOB will bring your Catholic faith alive, transform your prayer life, and bring healing to your relationships. Speakers include Scott Hahn, Fr. Jacques Philippe, Sr. Bethany Madonna, Fr. Timothy Gallagher, Dr. Edward Sri, and many more. Last year, over 77,000 people from 160 countries participated, making it the world's largest Catholic Conference in 2020.

Participation in the conference during the weekend of 4/30 - 5/2 is entirely free to anyone who wishes to attend virtually. The presentations are pre-recorded, so participants can access any talk for free during that three-day period. If you would like access to the recorded presentations after the dates of the conference, they will be available for purchase after May 2nd.

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.

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 12 Bags for The Wilson Food Pantry. *Questions? Contact Bob Violette 203.357.1481*



**Spring for Moms Auction
April 30 - May 1 - May 2**

Celebrate moms and all the women who play an important role in our lives and the lives of our loved ones. Hundreds of spectacular items. Browse! Bid! Buy Now!

Online auction opens 6:00 p.m. Friday, April 30th
Online auction closes 3:00 p.m. Sunday, May 2nd
www.facebook.com/GALE.US.CT

In person 12:00 - 6:00 p.m. Saturday, May 1st
In person 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Sunday, May 2nd
Villa Maria School
163 Sky Meadow Drive - Stamford
<https://www.gale-us.org/upcoming-events-1>

**The Columbiettes Auxiliary #5833
The Women's Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus**

Please join us as we support the non-profit organization, "Project from the Heart", who sends care packages to our troops in the Middle East. Requested items include toiletries, non-perishable snacks, paperback books. All donations should be placed in the Columbiette Basket in the vestibule of St. Cecilia Church. They protect us, let's support them!

Contact Rosemary at 203.866.8840 or rmyken@aol.com for a complete list of items.

Snack items for the Grab-and-Go Lunch Program at New Covenant Center continues. Donations can be placed in the Snack Collection Box in the vestibule of St. Cecilia Church.

Become a Columbiette.
Contact Nancy O'Connell, President
203.561.6222.

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- Enter your email - and you're in!



[The Wonderful World of Benjamin Cello](https://www.formed.org/benjamin-cello/season:1/videos/benjamin-cello-episode-2-a-donkey-is-the-best-friend-ever) [Episode 2 - A Donkey is the Best Friend Ever](https://www.formed.org/benjamin-cello/season:1/videos/benjamin-cello-episode-2-a-donkey-is-the-best-friend-ever)

Miss Gretchen, the music teacher, pays a visit to Benjamin Cello to show him her new toy donkey. The two travel to the Big Ol' Barn, and hear from Cowboy Roy and the animals how Christ used a donkey to teach the ways of a Humble Servant.

<https://watch.formed.org/benjamin-cello/season:1/videos/benjamin-cello-episode-2-a-donkey-is-the-best-friend-ever>



The Spirit's Freedom **The Wild Goose with Fr. Dave Pivonka**

"When the Son sets you free you are free indeed." - John 8:36

The Holy Spirit brings freedom from fear, anger, and the past. So often Christians find themselves bound by so many things and are not aware that the Holy Spirit wants to bring the freedom of God to them. Many are slaves to anger, envy, jealousy, comparisons, and addictions. You do not have to live life like that. In this segment we will discuss how the Holy Spirit can bring you greater freedom.

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

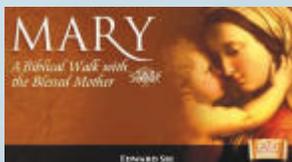


The Bible Collection **Esther**

Esther was a Jewish maiden who is found in the bible in the Old Testament under the title "Esther." She was chosen in a contest to be the wife of the Persian King Ahasuerus. He did not know she was a Jew, but she became the queen of Persia.

She is a heroine who rescued her people from a murderous plot to annihilate the Jewish people. Esther is recognized for her strength, bravery and dignity. The story of Esther is compelling, and well portrayed in the movie 'ESTHER', part of the Bible Collection on FORMED.

<https://watch.formed.org/the-bible-collection-esther>



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

Walk with Mary as she takes us through her joys and sorrows.

We'll learn how she works in our lives today to draw us ever closer to her divine Son.

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

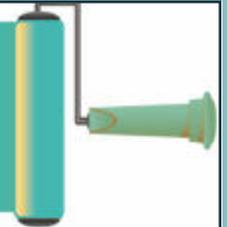
Be sure to RSVP to receive the ZOOM link and/or reserve your place for the live meeting

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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