

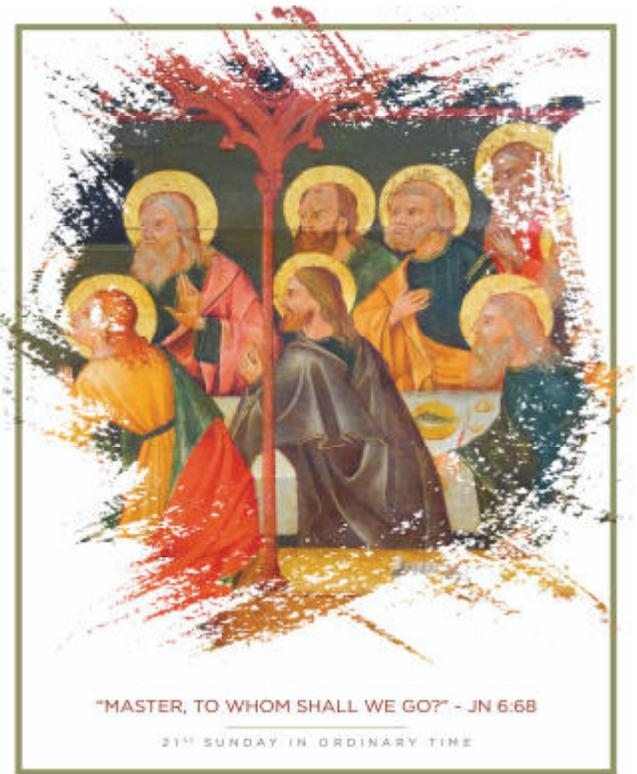
# THE PARISH OF ST. CECILIA ~ ST. GABRIEL

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

**August 22, 2021**

**Rev. John P. Connaughton, Pastor**

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



"MASTER, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?" - JN 6:68

21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**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 - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
June, July, August, Friday hours 9 a.m. - 12 Noon  
Main Number 203.322.1562

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

**Gina DeVito, Parish Office Manager**  
Office@stcecilia-stgabriel.org

**Betsy Mercede, Assistant Office Manager**  
betsy.mercede@stcecilia-stgabriel.org

**Michele Schule, Organist and Music Director**  
michele.schule@stcecilia-stgabriel.org

**Vicki Alton, Prayer Line**  
VickiA@optonline.net

**Joe Fiorito and Mark Browning, Trustees**  
**Jim Fleischer, Finance Council President**

**Tom McKiernan, Business Manager**  
203.246.7681

**Lynn Rule, Pastoral Council President**  
lynn.rule15@aol.com

**Patricia Brady, Principal, Catholic Academy of Stamford**  
203.322.6505

## Daily Mass at St. Cecilia Church

Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m.

***NEW WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE  
EFFECTIVE 8/28/21***

## St. Cecilia Church

**Saturday (Vigil Mass) 5:30 p.m.**

**Sunday Masses 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.**

## Mass at St. Gabriel Church

**Saturday (Vigil Mass) 4:00 p.m.**

## New Confession Schedule

Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at St. Cecilia Church

Saturdays: 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church

Sundays: 8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. at St. Cecilia Church

## Masks are again required inside church.

***The wearing of facemasks/coverings is required  
regardless of vaccination status***

and will be in effect until further notice. The face covering requirement applies to those attending our parish liturgies and any parish-related function/meeting. The mandate does not require social distancing, so there are no capacity restrictions on our Masses.

The faithful's obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect.

Reservations are not required to attend Mass.

## The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for personal devotion

Adoration is Wednesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**BAPTISMS:** Sundays following noon Mass at St. Cecilia Church.

Arrangements must 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 Daily Masses will be celebrated at St. Cecilia Church*

<b>SATURDAY</b> 4:00 p.m.	<b>August 21, 2021</b> <b>St. Pius X, Pope</b> <b>Mary Devoto</b> (The Pesce Family)
<b>SUNDAY</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>August 22, 2021</b> <b>Tihomir Matosevic</b> (The Family)
10:00 a.m.	<b>Luigi Tevolini</b> (Ralph & Phyllis Altamura)
10:00 a.m. <i>St. Gabriel</i>	<b>Ann Scutti</b> (Nick Scutti & Family)
12:00 Noon	<b>Gaetomo Cecere &amp; Heresa Vele</b> (Giovanni & Carmelina Ferraro)
<b>MONDAY</b> 7:30 a.m.	<b>August 23, 2021</b> <b>St. Rose of Lima</b> <b>Rosemary O'Connell</b> (The Breen Family)
<b>TUESDAY</b> 7:30 a.m.	<b>August 24, 2021</b> <b>St. Bartholomew</b> <b>Judith Pensiero</b> (Leonard Pensiero)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 7:30 a.m.	<b>August 25, 2021</b> <b>St. Louis, St. Joseph Calasanz</b> <b>Carmine Victor Longo, Sr.</b> (The Longo Family)
<b>THURSDAY</b> 7:30 a.m.	<b>August 26, 2021</b> <b>Pera Franko</b> (Jack & Pat Maloney)
<b>FRIDAY</b> 7:30 a.m.	<b>August 27, 2021</b> <b>St. Monica</b> For the People of the Parish

***NEW SCHEDULE***

<b>SATURDAY</b> 4:00 p.m. <i>St. Gabriel Church</i>	<b>August 28, 2021</b> <b>Andrew V. Desidero</b> (Charlie & Gina Denner)
5:30 p.m. <i>St. Cecilia Church</i>	<b>Paul Mertl</b> (His Family)
<b>SUNDAY</b> <i>All Sunday Masses will be celebrated at St. Cecilia Church</i>	<b>August 29, 2021</b>
7:30 a.m.	<b>MaryGrace LaDestro</b> (Her Parents)
9:00 a.m.	<b>Rosemary O'Connell</b> (Joe & Carol Zerbo)
11:15 a.m.	<b>George &amp; Allison Andriunas</b> (The Andriunas Family)

**Breaking the Spell**

There was a very interesting opinion article in last Sunday's *New York Times* ("How to Think Your Way Into Religious Belief" 8/15/21). It was written by Ross Douthat, who has had a column in the Op-Ed section of the *Times* since 2009, and has on occasion used that space to write about religion. Douthat is Catholic, and his writings demonstrate a broad interest in religious belief, in particular the wide-ranging religious habits of Christians in the United States and the growing number of the disaffiliated who are "spiritual but not religious." In his column, Douthat speaks to those readers who are drawn to some aspects of religion and spirituality but who balk at accepting the existence of the supernatural. To these, Douthat gives the following advice: "Instead of starting by praying or practicing in defiance of the intellect, you could start by questioning the assumption that it's really so difficult, so impossible, to credit ideas of God and accounts of supernatural happenings."

We've all heard the stories about kids going off to college and having the unfortunate experience of atheist professors deconstructing their faith, leaving them to doubt and even reject what previously they had accepted as true. In his column, Douthat attempts to turn the tables by inviting non-believers to question the foundations of the materialist world view that they take for granted, and which he argues requires a similar leap of faith. Referring to the philosophical positions of atheists who essentially argue that "religious faith prevents believers from seeing the world clearly," Douthat poses the provocative question: "What if atheism is actually the prejudice held against the evidence?" In other words, the categorical refusal to consider the possibility that God exists might actually restrict the atheist's own ability to accurately perceive the fullness of reality.

Douthat readily concedes that advances in scientific knowledge over the past 500 years have forced believers to rethink some previously-held ideas. But, he argues, "there are also important ways in which the progress of science and the experience of modernity have strengthened the reasons to entertain the idea of God." He points to the challenges that the experience of human consciousness and "the strange fittedness of our universe to human life" pose to materialism. To accommodate their materialist worldview, some posit theories that consciousness is just an illusion, and that we just happen to be living in one of the privileged worlds that make up the "multiverse of infinite realities." This, however, requires no less a leap of faith than does belief in an intelligent mind that created all things, including human beings who have rational minds that can discern the order of the universe, apply our own powers of creativity to it, and wonder at its beauty. Douthat also points to the interesting fact that while people are becoming less religious, they are not necessarily becoming materialists. "You can read about ghosts in *The London Review of Books* and *Elle* magazine; you can find accounts of bizarre psychic phenomena in the pages of *The New Yorker*." Are these simply misinterpretations of material reality? Or do they somehow correspond to real experiences of the supernatural?

Douthat acknowledges that none of this is proof of the truth of Catholicism, or Buddhism, or any other particular religion. Rather it is an attempt at breaking the spell that atheistic materialism has cast on the modern imagination. Once that happens, more people will be free to take seriously the great questions of truth and meaning, and whether it just might be the case that God exists, that He created all things, and that maybe, just maybe, He knows and loves us.

In Christ,  
Fr. John

*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.

**Week of August 21, 2021**



**St. Cecilia Church**  
*The Tabernacle Lamp and  
The Vigil Lamp for Our Blessed Mother  
shine for Carmine Victor Longo, Sr.  
from the Longo Family.*



*The Vigil Lamp for St. Joseph  
shines for Johnny Melchiorre from Lori Longo*

**Anh Vu,  
Seminarian & Pastoral Assistant**

For the past two years we have been blessed with a seminarian, Anh Vu, who has been faithful in his service to our parish. On August 24th, Anh will be leaving us to return to seminary where he will begin his final preparations for ordination to the priesthood.

***After Masses this weekend we will serve some light refreshments in front of the Church of St. Cecilia. We invite you to join us in wishing Anh well as he prepares to return to seminary formation at Pope St. John XXIII Seminary in Weston, MA.***

We hope to see you there. Fr. John

**Introit:** Bow down O Lord, Thine ear to me and hear me; save Thy servant, O my God, that putteth his trust in Thee. Be merciful unto me O Lord for I will call daily upon Thee. Glory to to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in th beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

**First Reading: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b**

Joshua gathered together all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, summoning their elders, their leaders, their judges, and their officers. When they stood in ranks before God, Joshua addressed all the people: "If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve, the gods your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are now dwelling. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." But the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the Lord for the service of other gods. For it was the Lord, our God, who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, out of a state of slavery. He performed those great miracles before our very eyes and protected us along our entire journey and among the peoples through whom we passed. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

**Responsorial Psalm:** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**Second Reading: Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32**

Brothers and sisters: Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, He himself the savior of the body. As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are members of His body. For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church.

**Gospel: Jn 6:60-69**

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" Since Jesus knew that His disciples were murmuring about this, He said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And He said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." As a result of this, many of His disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered Him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

**Communion Antiphone:** You bring forth bread from the land and wine to gladden our hearts.



**THE SICK AND THEIR CAREGIVERS**

Sal Bonina, Michael Pratt, Nick Pensiero, Ken Byxbee, Conor Ehring, Mary Brundage, William Perkins, Tricia Saxe Cocomo, Steven Deccico, Richard Negyesi, Ed Adams, Wendy Lenard, Edward Cioffi, Barbara Cebula, Columbia Smith, Kaye Gill, 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 Andrena, Lori Ciccarella, Mark Mullen, George Uzwiak, Alice Carella, Kimberley Pracilio, Marilyn Ritchie, Leon Zavos, Rose Sorbo Barosky, Steven Farrell, Joseph Freeth, Dorothy Tierney, Owen Ryan, Ginny Woolston, Mark Mones, Diane Heach, Kyle Bancroft, Joseph Roche, Miguel Machado, Joe Faugno, Sr., John Gaffney, Kevin Pierce, Msgr. Nick Greico, Irene Steinmann, Sal Casino, Linda Pape, Dolores Violette, Estelle Pierce, 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](mailto:VickiA@optonline.net).

**Prayer Service for Family Members and Friends of Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse**

On Friday, August 27th at 6:30pm there will be a special prayer service for family members and friends of victims/survivors of sexual abuse as a minor by clergy and by others. The prayer service is being coordinated by family members of victims together with a community of survivors and the Office of Safe Environments of the Diocese of Bridgeport. The event will take place at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Church in Brookfield, CT. For more information about this event or to learn about the victim assistance program, please contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator Office of the Diocese of Bridgeport at (203) 416.1406.

**Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebration**

**Saturday, September 25th**

**10:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.**

**St. Matthew Parish, Norwalk  
Celebrated by Bishop Caggiano**



*Couples who celebrated their 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th or 50+ in 2020 or will celebrate in 2021 are welcome to register via the ad which will appear in the August edition of the Fairfield County Catholic or online beginning August 1st. Space will be allotted first-come, first-serve.*

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**New Mass Schedule Effective August 28th-29th**

St. Gabriel	Saturday	4:00 p.m.
St. Cecilia	Saturday	5:30 p.m.
	Sunday	7:30 a.m.
	Sunday	9:00 a.m.
	Sunday	11:15 a.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 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.

**Sunday, August 29th**

**8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**COVID-19 Vaccinations**

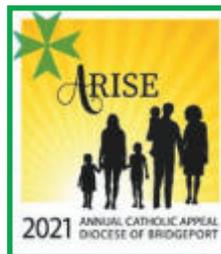
**St. Cecilia's McDermott Hall**



Offering both

**Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson**

**Walk-ins Welcome  
or pre-register here**



**2021 Annual Catholic Appeal  
Our Parish Goal is \$134,000**

The ACA allows the Diocese to provide for the needy and do the good work of the Church in Fairfield County.

**As of 8/12 we have raised gifts worth \$112,222 from 262 donors bringing the parish to 83.75% of its \$134,000 goal**

**Thank you for your continued support. Please consider making a donation. There's a link on our website.**



**REMINDER  
The Parish Office  
closes at Noon on Fridays,  
through August.**

## St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish Offertory Totals

Week Ending	August 15th
Mail In	\$1,985
4:00 p.m.	\$ 880
8:00 a.m.	\$1,019
10:00 a.m. combined	\$1,584
12:00 noon	\$ 311
On-line Giving	\$5,122
<b>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	<b>\$1,020</b>

*Many thanks to those who have participated in Online Giving and to those who continue to mail in your offertory envelopes.*



Summer is here and it's time for beaches, sunshine and travel. While you are on the go this summer, make giving easy and participate in Online Giving. Our Parish is a spiritual home for all of us which relies on our time, talent and treasure.

Online Giving is an easy way to support our Parish and allows you to make donations and payments via your mobile phone, smart device or computer. 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**  
<https://osvhub.com/stceecilia-stgabriel/funds>

*Or click the **DONATE** 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.*

### 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 delivered 20 bags to Person to Person. **Questions? Contact Bob Violette 203.357.1481**

## Religious Education News

**We have updated our registration process!**  
**Registration is now available ON-LINE via our Website.**

If you are new to the parish, have a first grader, or did not participate last year due to covid, please notify the Religious Education Office for information and updates.

Classes meet Sunday mornings 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and Tuesday afternoon 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

### High School Volunteer Opportunity

Catechist aids are needed to help with our Religious Education program. Most high school students need to fulfill service hours for school, join us!!

#### Contact:

**Maryanne Didelot, Director of Religious Education**  
[DRE@stceecilia-stgabriel.org](mailto:DRE@stceecilia-stgabriel.org)



## SOCK IT TO ME!

Knights of Columbus - Fr. Myron V. Miller Council

We are collecting NEW socks for adults and children. All socks will go to the New Covenant Center in Stamford CT

Sock Drive Duration: August 21st to September 12th

Drop off Locations: St. Cecilia Vestibule  
St. Gabriel Vestibule

Email: [sheeran.kofc5833@gmail.com](mailto:sheeran.kofc5833@gmail.com) with any questions



## "Two Thousand Hail Marys"

Saturday, September 4, 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

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

STAYCATION OR VACATION!

**Please don't forget our friends at New Covenant Center and our Military.**

There is a continuous need at NCC for new socks for men and women, any size and color; and toiletries any size, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.. All donations may be placed in the Columbiette Basket in the vestibule of the church.

Please join us as we support the non-profit organization, "Project from the Heart", who sends Care packages to our troops wherever they are stationed. Our Military also have an on-going need for new socks, toiletries, non-perishable snacks, chewing gum and hand-held games. All donations should be placed in the Columbiette Basket in the vestibule of St. Cecilia Church. They protect us, let's support them. Contact - Anna at 203 - 855 - 1357 for a complete list of requested items.

As always, The Columbiettes thank you for your generous support. God bless you.

## The CHOSEN

Zoom Meetings are  
Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m.  
August 31

Have you watched the series, "The CHOSEN"? Director Dallas Jenkins's new original series, "The CHOSEN" offers us a glimpse into what the daily life of Jesus and his disciples might have looked like 2,000 years ago. The production quality of the series is impressive; the writing, acting and musical score all add to encountering Jesus, fully Human and fully Divine.

Using "The CHOSEN" as a starting point, the bible study will watch the first season together and discuss the life of Jesus and his disciples. We'll acknowledge where liberty has been granted in the production and how seeing the bible come to life has increased our faith and love of the bible.

There is no cost to join, just RSVP to receive the ZOOM link.  
Please contact Vicki Alton  
VickiA@optonline.net - cell 203.561.3558  
Come and experience the bible like never before.

## Fall Book Study

- *Tactics: A Game Plan for  
Discussing Your Christian Convictions*

In a world increasingly indifferent to Christian truth, followers of Christ need to be equipped to communicate with those who do not speak their language or accept their source of authority. In *Tactics*, Gregory Koukl demonstrates how to artfully regain control of conversations, keeping them moving forward in constructive ways through thoughtful diplomacy. You'll learn how to stop challengers in their tracks and how to turn the tables on questions or provocative statements. Most importantly, you'll learn how to get people thinking about Jesus. *Tactics* provides the game plan for communicating the compelling truth about Christianity with confidence and grace.

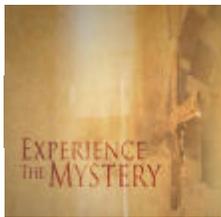
The study will start September 8th and run Wednesdays from 6:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. at St. Cecilia's McDermott Hall. Space is limited. To purchase the book and reserve your spot email [noelle.gross@gmail.com](mailto:noelle.gross@gmail.com) or call 857-345-0808.

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Want to create a new FORMED account with our parish? - Visit [FORMED.org](https://www.formed.org) - Click Sign Up- Select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization"  
- Find your parish by name, zip or parish code- Enter your email - and you're in!



### Symbolon: Session 1 The Journey of Faith: Trinity, Faith & the God Who Is Love

We begin our journey into the heart of the Catholic Faith as pilgrims, exploring the reality of God, who he is, and how he expresses himself to us in the most meaningful way imaginable. Only 31 minutes.

<https://watch.formed.org/symbolon-the-catholic-faith-explained/season:1/videos/the-journey-of-faith-trinity-faith-the-god-who-is-love>



### Young George and the Dragon Author: Emily Ortega

One cold, rainy afternoon George amuses himself by sketching a fire-breathing dragon flying above a castle. He finds himself inexplicably swept into the world he drew. Then it's up to George to face and defeat the evil of his own making.

<https://watch.formed.org/young-george-and-the-dragon>

## Hand Craft Group

Meets Wednesday's at 10:00 a.m.  
in the Parish Center Sunroom.

We welcome new members.

For information please call  
Kathleen Carty at 203.322.3771  
or Candice Bryan at 203.329.8932



Cardinal Kung Academy is a diocesan school located in Stamford with a classical pedagogy.

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