

THE PARISH OF ST. CECILIA ~ ST. GABRIEL

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Saint Cecilia

1184 Newfield Avenue

Stamford, CT 06905

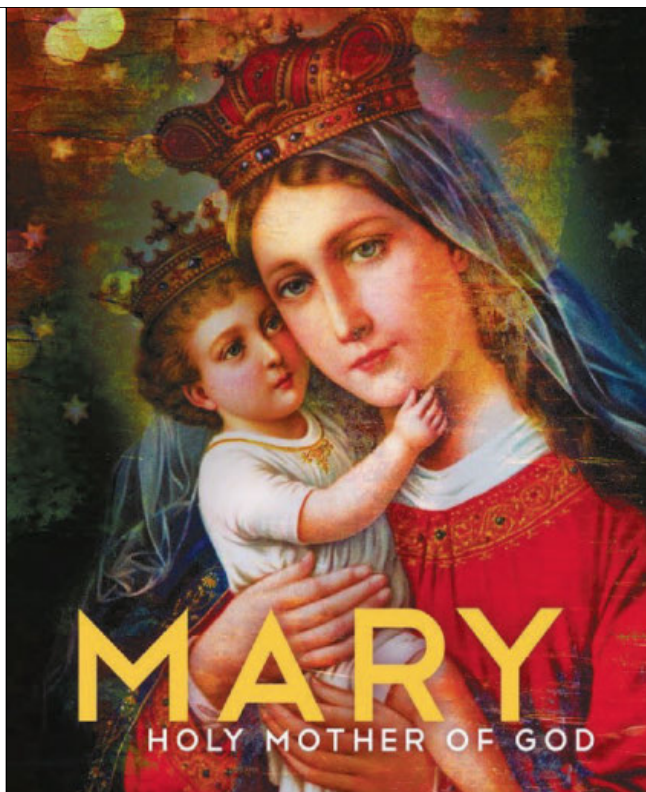
Saint Gabriel

948 Newfield Avenue

January 1, 2023

The Solemnity of Mary

Please See Today's Readings Inside the Bulletin



Fr. John Connaughton, Pastor

FrConnaughton@diobpt.org

Fr. Mariusz Olbrys, Parochial Vicar

FrOlbrys@diobpt.org

Deacon Larry Buzzeo

lbuzzeo83@gmail.com

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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203.246.7681

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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.

Weekend Mass at St. Cecilia Church

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

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

Weekend Mass at St. Gabriel Church

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

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

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for personal devotion

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

at St. Cecilia Church

**Masks Are Optional Inside Church as per the
City of Stamford Ordinance**

The mandate does not require social distancing, so there are no capacity restrictions on our Masses and reservations are not required. The faithful's obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect.

BAPTISMS: Sunday following the 11:15 a.m. 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

SATURDAY	December 31, 2022
4:00 p.m. <i>St. Gabriel</i>	St. Sylvester Mariantonia Masi (Tom & Ann Verraastro)
5:30 p.m. <i>St. Cecilia</i>	Sharron Sullivan (Michael Sullivan)
SUNDAY	January 1, 2023
7:30 a.m.	Solemnity of Mary For the People of the Parish
9:00 a.m.	For the People of the Parish
11:15 a.m.	For the People of the Parish
MONDAY	January 2, 2023
7:30 a.m.	St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen Jeff Cortese (The Hawthorn Family)
TUESDAY	January 3, 2023
7:30 a.m.	The Most Holy Name of Jesus Jason Lorenti (His Family)
WEDNESDAY	January 4, 2023
7:30 a.m.	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Richard Velleco (The Molgano Family)
THURSDAY	January 5, 2023
7:30 a.m.	St. John Neumann Michael Ammirata (Paul Moverley)
FRIDAY	January 6, 2023
7:30 a.m.	St. Andre Bessette Maureen Mullarkey (Kathleen Fitzsimons)
SATURDAY	January 7, 2023
4:00 p.m. <i>St. Gabriel</i>	St. Raymond the Penafort Robert & Gloria Valenti (Robert & Maureen Valenti)
5:30 p.m. <i>St. Cecilia</i>	Julio Monteleone (Anne Marie Cacace)
SUNDAY	January 8, 2023
7:30 a.m.	The Epiphany of the Lord Richard T. Swatland (JR & Janet McMullin)
9:00 a.m.	Kevin Floreno (Anne Marie Vergara)
11:15 a.m.	Julio Monteleone (Donna Napolitano)

A FRESH START

People love New Year’s Day for the same reason we love make overs and mulligans - they all offer a fresh start. As we try to come up with different ways to make the most of this opportunity of a brand new year, may I suggest a resolution to rediscover the Sacrament of Confession, which offers us the most important kind of fresh start. Here are some tips on Confession that I hope you find helpful.

1) Be Prepared: A good confession requires some preparation. We should be in the habit of doing a brief examination of conscience each day so that we become more aware of our weaknesses in the face of temptation, and of our habitual sins. When we get to church, we should take a few minutes to reflect on what we want to confess prior to entering the confessional. We also should know the proper way to begin our confession, saying: *“Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been [x amount of time] since my last confession. I am single/married. And these are my sins.”* It’s important to remember that we must confess all serious (mortal) sins that we’re aware of in order to be validly forgiven. That being said, it is also good to confess venial (non-mortal) sins, though confession is not strictly necessary to receive forgiveness for them. Confessing venial sins helps us to form our consciences, to be strengthened against future temptations, and to be healed so we can progress in our lives with the Lord.

2) Be Intentional: Plan to go to confession 4-6 times in 2023, and put those dates in the calendar now. If you’d like to go more frequently, that’s certainly a fine thing. If you need to go more frequently, you definitely should. Availing ourselves regularly of the sacrament takes the mystique out of going to confession, making it much easier to go.

3) Be Concise: A good confession should not be so vague that the priest does not know what you’re confessing, but it also does not need to be filled with many details. All that’s needed is the expression of the kind of sin committed and the approximate frequency of the sin. It’s important to resist the temptation to couch our confession with excuses or to confess in a way that makes it sound like something positive. Instead of saying: “I’m working on being more patient with my spouse,” say: “I lost my patience many times with my spouse.”

4) Bring your Family: The family is where we learn how to love, to sacrifice, to share, to forgive, and to ask pardon. Spouses who go to confession regularly develop greater self-awareness and a greater appreciation for mercy. Confession helps young people develop good consciences and instills in them an understanding that the Church is a refuge for sinners in an increasingly strange, confusing, and merciless world.

continued

The habit of going to confession is a very precious gift that parents can give to their children. But it only happens if parents go too!

5) Do not be Afraid or Discouraged: If it's been a long time since you've been to confession, do not be afraid to come back. I daresay the priests in this parish are very nice - especially Fr. Mariusz! Both of us are happy to help you make a good confession. And if you find yourself confessing the same things over and over, don't give up. As Pope Francis has said: "Although we often tire of asking forgiveness, Jesus never tires of forgiving us."

Sin is a great burden in the human heart that even the best among us struggles with. We must not deprive the Lord the opportunity to relieve us of that burden and give us new life in exchange. After all, in St. John's gospel He tells us: "I came that they might have life, and have it more abundantly." New life in Christ is the freshest of fresh starts. And we find it in the Sacrament of Confession.

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.



Entrance: Hark the Herald Angels Sing #548

Introit: Hail holy mother who gave birth to the king who rules heaven and earth forever. 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: Nm 6:22-27

The Lord said to Moses: "Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them: This is how you shall bless the Israelites. Say to them: The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace! So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them."

Responsorial Psalm: May God bless us in His mercy.

Second Reading: Gal 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters: When the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. As proof that you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir, through God.

Gospel: Lk 2:16-21

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for His circumcision, He was named Jesus, the name given Him by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

Offertory Hymn: Away in a Manager #443

Communion Antiphon: O Daughter of Zion sing praises, behold your King is coming.

Closing Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem #666

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

Sal Bonina, Nick Pensiero, Mary Brundage, William Perkins, Tricia Saxe Cocomo, Steven Deccicco, Richard Negyesi, Ed Adams, Edward Cioffi, Columbia Smith, Kaye Gill, Andrew Allesandro, Michael Anderson, Pat Arpaio, 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, Chet Quinlan, Bill Ritchie, Bonnie Sigfried, Thomas Sparan, Dominic Totino, George Wetzler, Caroline Andreana, Lori Ciccarella, Mark Mullen, George Uzwiak, Alice Carella, Marilyn Ritchie, Rose Sorbo Barosky, Steven Farrell, Joseph Freeth, Owen Ryan, Mark Mones, Diane Heach, Kyle Bancroft, Joseph Roche, Miguel Machado, John Gaffney, Irene Steinmann, Sal Casino, Linda Pape, Martha Catul, Michael Sale, Clifford Lueck, Michael Walsh, Frank Carpanzano, Maggie Caban, John O'Connor, Maria Altamura, Henrietta Adams, MaryAlice May, Robert Eberhardt, Anita Lueck, Ellen Retcho, Kasandre Demond, Scott Able, Marie Luline Toussaint, Anne Pettus, Layne Katherine Ellison... all who travel...the wounded and recovering military personnel and all who put themselves in harms 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, most recently Bill Cullen.

We also have a prayer line available for anyone wishing for immediate prayers. Please send prayer needs to Vicki at VickiA@optonline.net.

Please let us know if you see a name that should be removed from this list because their circumstances have changed.

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, HM3 Julia Terese Bova, Sgt. Taylor A. Ritchie, Jack H. Whitney, Lt. Col. Michael J. Souza, PO2 Joshua M. Hicks, Ryan Frattaroli, Christopher Ciacciarella, HM3 Allison McNamara, 2Lt. James Arpaio, Peter J. Hosinski USMC, PO1 Michael Schemmel, GySgt. R. J. Maiorini, USMC and LCpl Matthew J. Fox, USMC, Liam M. Finnegan, CW2 US Army



**OUR SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB
NOW MEETS ON
MONDAY EVENINGS
7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the
Parish Center Conference Room**
We are reading "A Christmas Carol"
by Charles Dickens

Join us and bring a friend! It's an hour of camaraderie, joy and uplifting spirituality.

Questions? call Nancy @ 203.561.6222 or Fr Olbrys @203.940.1836

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

	12/18/22
On Line	\$ 8,073
Mail In	\$ 4,555
4:00 p.m. St. Gabriel	\$ 1,691
5:30 p.m. St. Cecilia	\$ 620
7:30 a.m. St. Cecilia	\$ 1,131
9:00 a.m. St. Cecilia	\$ 1,461
11:15 a.m. St. Cecilia	\$ 1,231
Christmas Flowers	\$ 1,556

Due to early bulletin deadlines, the offertory totals for the week ending 12/25 will be reported next week.



Many thanks to those who participate in Online Giving and to those who continue to mail in your offertory envelopes. Your support throughout the year helps to sustain our Parish.

Thanks also to our many new visitors and contributors! Would you like to register with our Parish and receive offertory envelopes?

Please visit our website and fill out a Parish Registration form and send it to office@stcecilia-stgabriel.org or email us at this address and we will help you register.

Please consider On-line giving which safely enables you to support our parish during those times when you are away.

Online Giving! Register at

<https://osvhub.com/stcecilia-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.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 31, 2022



St. Cecilia Church

*The Tabernacle Lamp shines for
Ellen McKiernan from John & Maria Manning*

*The Vigil Lamp for the Blessed Mother shines for
Frank & Barbara Vetti from Jean Pensiero*

*The Vigil Lamp for St. Joseph shines for
Grace Pimpinella from the Ferris & DiLascio Families*

St. Gabriel Church

*The Vigil Lamp for the Blessed Mother shines for
Mariantonia Masi from Tom & Ann Verrastro*

*The Sanctuary Lamp shines for
Richard J. Moavero, Sr. from his family*



Memorialize a Hymnal

Want to dedicate a church hymnal in memory of a loved one? Bring a hymnal to the parish office and we can do that for you.

The suggested offering is \$50 per hymnal. Cash or checks accepted. Checks should be made payable to the Parish of St. Cecilia-St. Gabriel.

The Parish of St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel

Solemnity of Mary
Saturday, December 31st Vigil Mass
St. Gabriel Church: 4:00 p.m.
St. Cecilia Church: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 1st, 2023
St. Cecilia Church: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m.



Invitations Are In The Mail
For our January 29, 2023
Baptism Anniversary Celebration

All families with a child baptized in 2022, or one celebrating the fifth anniversary of their 2018 baptism, should receive their invitation by December 31st.

If you do not receive your invitation please email us at: baptismcelebration@gmail.com

All are invited to join us at the 11:15 a.m. mass and at the celebration which immediately follows in McDermott Hall to welcome our newest members!

Interested in helping the team in food preparation, decorating and setup, and/or serving? Please call Gina Denner at 203.968.6388 or email ginadenner@optonline.net

New Bible Study Starting Soon!

The Book of Hebrews: The New & Eternal Covenant

Presented by Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins of Ascension Press, this eight-week study helps Catholics better understand their faith by drawing connections between the Old and New Testaments, the Liturgy, the Eucharist, the priesthood, and so much more. Most importantly *Hebrews* will help Catholics appreciate the astounding generosity of God as they see the wonders He has given us in the Church.

Zoom meetings start Tuesday, January 10th at 7:00 p.m.
In-person meetings start Thursday, January 12th 7:00 p.m.
gather at St. Gabriel meeting room.

For more information and to register please contact Vicki Alton at 203.561.3558 or vickia@optonline.net

Registration is required to receive the link for the ZOOM classes and to participate in the in-person classes.



Thank You!
Thanks to all the Parishioners & Friends who supported our Christmas Cookie Fundraising Event. We hope you had a very Merry Christmas and we wish you a Blessed New Year.

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

Some photos from our Bible Study Pot Luck Dinner





ENDOW
 Meets Every Wednesday
 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.
 in the Parish Center Sunroom

Endow is a structured study group for women looking to deepen their knowledge of the Church, scripture and the saints.

Our current study is on St. Edith Stein.

Please go to the Endow Groups website to purchase the book for this study.

www.endow-groups.myshopify.com

St. Edith Stein | Seeker of Truth

Questions? Contact Deirdre Breen
 deirdre00@gmail.com or 203.984.9531

Religious Education

Sunday classes meet 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday classes meet 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

All classes meet at the

Catholic Academy of Stamford

FIRST CLASSES OF 2023

Tuesday: January 3rd

Sunday: January 8th

Questions? Please contact our DRE

Maryanne Didelot at 203.322.1562

DRE@stcecilia-stgabriel.org

FIRST COFFEE AND DONUTS IN 2023

Next Sunday, January 8th,
 following the
 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Cecilia



Friday Night Youth Group

Middle and High School aged students, please join us for sports and games, faith-filled activities and prayer with Fr. Connaughton, Fr. Olbrys, Fr. Suarez, Deacon Ernie and the rest of the Stamford Youth Ministry team.

Friday night meetings take place at the Church of the Holy Spirit - 403 Scofieldtown Road

First Middle School Date of 2023: January 6th
 7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

First High School Date of 2023: January 27th
 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

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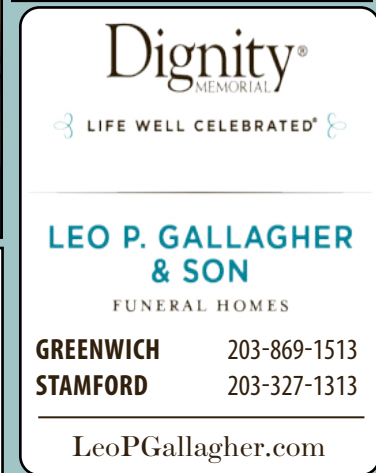
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