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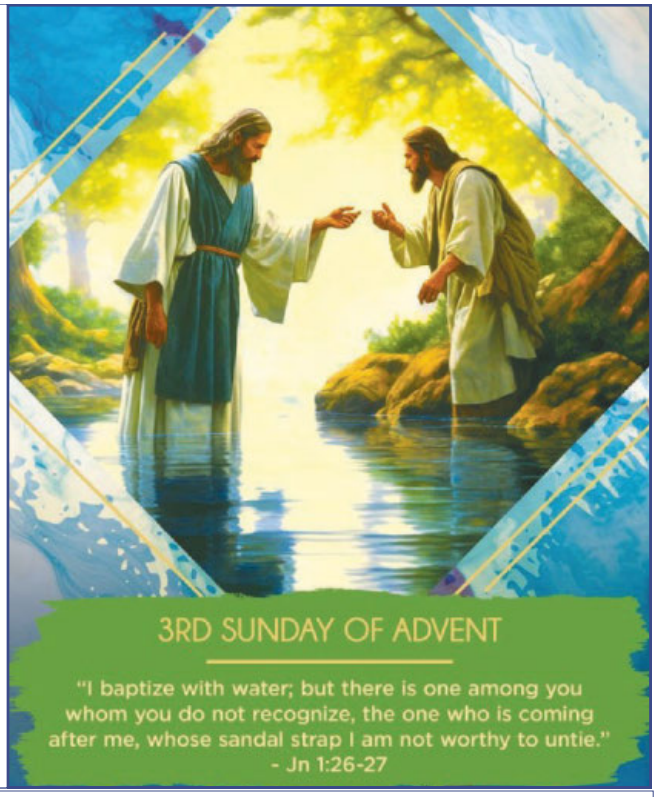
Saint Cecilia
1184 Newfield Avenue

Saint Gabriel
948 Newfield Avenue

Stamford, CT 06905

December 17, 2023

Please See Today's Readings Inside the Bulletin



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203.322.6505

Daily Mass at St. Cecilia Church
Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m.

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.

Mass at St. Gabriel Church
Saturday 8:00 a.m.
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

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.

Notre Dame du Perpetuel Secours
Creole Mass Schedule at St. Gabriel Church
203.406.0343
Saturday (Vigil Mass) 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Mass 8:00 a.m.
Charismatic Prayer Service
Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Mass & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursday from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish Mass Intentions

All Daily 7:30 a.m. Masses will be celebrated at St. Cecilia Church

SATURDAY	**December 16, 2023**
8:00 a.m. *St. Gabriel*	**Al Serricchio** (Vincent Serricchio & Family)
4:00 p.m. *St. Gabriel*	**Alana Uy Tow** (Jack & Katie Arnau)
5:30 p.m. *St. Cecilia*	**Mary Somers** (Her Family)
SUNDAY	**December 17, 2023**
7:30 a.m.	**Concetta D'Agostino** (Laura Jean Waters)
9:00 a.m.	**Audrey Murphy** (John Murphy)
11:15 a.m.	**Felicia Miller, Birthday Remembrance** (Edmund & Angela D'Onofrio)
MONDAY	**December 18, 2023**
7:30 a.m.	**Mario Pombo** (Maritza Pombo)
TUESDAY	**December 19, 2023**
7:30 a.m.	**Rocco Vinci** (The Children)
WEDNESDAY	**December 20, 2023**
7:30 a.m.	**William Cullen** (John Cullen, Jr.)
THURSDAY	**December 21, 2023**
7:30 a.m.	***St. Peter Canisius*** **For the People of the Parish**
FRIDAY	**December 22, 2023**
7:30 a.m.	**Maureen Mullarkey** (Lucille Ballentine)
SATURDAY	**December 23, 2023**
8:00 a.m. *St. Gabriel*	***St. John of Kanty*** **Mary A. DeLuca DeFelice** (Jack & Joyce Pinto)
4:00 p.m. *St. Gabriel*	**George Cooke & Marilyn Abbazia-Lodato** (The Family)
5:30 p.m. *St. Cecilia*	**John Gardell** (Vera Gardell)
SUNDAY	**December 24, 2023**
7:30 a.m.	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
Christmas Eve	
4:00 p.m. *St. Gabriel*	For the People of the Parish
4:00 p.m. *St. Cecilia*	For the People of the Parish
6:00 p.m. *St. Gabriel*	For the People of the Parish
10:00 p.m. *St. Cecilia*	For the People of the Parish
MONDAY	**December 25, 2023**
Nativity of the Lord	
7:30 a.m. *St. Cecilia*	For the People of the Parish
9:00 a.m. *St. Cecilia*	For the People of the Parish
11:15 a.m. *St. Cecilia*	For the People of the Parish

No Double-Dipping

George Costanza is not a good role model. There are many reasons why this is true, including his propensity to double-dip. We first learned of the Seinfeld character's bad habit in Season 4 during the episode when George tries to score points with his new girlfriend by accompanying her to Michigan to attend the funeral of her favorite aunt. While in the family home, where they have gathered to grieve, George goes to the snack table and begins to eat some chips and dip. His girlfriend's cousin Timmy confronts George, accusing him of "double-dipping." Confused, George asks him what he's talking about. Outraged, Timmy explains: "You dipped a chip, you took a bite, and then you dipped again. That's like putting your whole mouth right in the dip! From now on when you take a chip just take one dip and end it." George, of course, takes exception to this correction. To Timmy's dismay, George resumes double-dipping, which leads to an altercation in the living room that needs to be broken up, which then leads to the breakup of George and his girlfriend. Don't be like George. No double-dipping.

That advice also applies to our attendance at Mass next weekend. As you know, Christmas falls on a Monday this year. Christmas is, of course, a holy day of obligation, which means Catholics are required to attend Mass to celebrate the great feast. Likewise, every Sunday is a day of obligation when we are obliged to attend Mass to keep the Lord's Day holy. So, how might we arrange our weekend to make sure that we fulfill our worship obligations for both the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas this year? The answer is to listen to cousin Timmy. No double-dipping. In other words, because there are two feasts to observe – Christmas and Sunday – Catholics must attend Mass twice. We can't use attendance at one Mass to count for both. To miss Mass without a serious reason is a sin, something we must bring to confession. Inconvenience is not a sufficiently serious reason to miss Mass. In fact, if getting to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days feels very inconvenient it might be time to re-evaluate one's priorities. This is a time of year when we are invited to contemplate the love of God who became man to save us from slavery to sin and death. We must take care not to let the busyness of life distract us from the most important

Continued ⇨

act of expressing our thanks to Him through our worship of the Lord together at Mass.

With that said, here are your basic options: 1) Attend Saturday vigil on 12/23 to fulfill Sunday obligation, and then either a Christmas Eve Mass or Christmas Day Mass to fulfill the Christmas obligation. 2) Attend Sunday morning Mass on 12/24 and then a second Mass that evening (Christmas Eve) or a Mass on Christmas morning. 3) Attend Christmas Eve Mass to fulfill the Sunday obligation and then a Christmas morning Mass to fulfill the Christmas obligation.

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 Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #650 - verses 4 and 5

Introit: Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near. 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: Is 61:1-2A, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God. I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul; for He has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord God make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

Responsorial Psalm: My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading: 1 Thes 5:16-24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and He will also accomplish it.

Gospel: Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, “Who are you?” He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, “I am not the Christ.” So they asked him, “What are you then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?” He said: “I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘make straight the way of the Lord,’ as Isaiah the prophet said.” Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.” This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Offertory Hymn: Prepare the Royal Highway #722

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: dona nobis pacem.

Communion Antiphon: Take courage and do not fear; our God will come and save us.

Closing Hymn: O Come Devine Messiah #649



Kyle Bancroft, Steve Grossman, Bob Maloney, Miguel Machado, Joseph Roche, Lorrie Ciccarelli, Frank Yurkas, Robert Eberhardt, Mark Mones, Vito Tiriolo, Pat Brady, Charlie Costello, Teresa Mallozzi, Marjorie McGuinness … 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 requesting immediate prayers. Please send prayer needs to Vicki at VickiA@optonline.net.

Please help us keep our prayer vine refreshed.

If you would like us to list and pray for your loved one, please contact the St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish office at 203.322.1562 or email: office@stcecilia-stgabriel.org with the full (first and last) name of the person you would like us to pray for along with your name and phone number.

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, Julia Terese Bova E-5 HM2, Sgt. Taylor A. Ritchie, Jack H. Whitney, Lt. Col. Michael J. Souza, PO2 Joshua M. Hicks, Ryan Frattaroli, Christopher Ciacciarella, HM3 Allison McNamara, Captain James Arpaio, Peter J. Hosinski USMC, PO1 Michael Schemmel, WO1 Robert J. Maiorini Jr. USMC, LCpl Matthew J. Fox USMC, CW2 Liam M. Finnegan US Army, A1C Nicholas Mallozzi, and SA Marissa Mallozzi US Air Force, Will Dorvilier, AF A1C, Col. Brian Mulhern, US Special Forces



Columbiette Fundraising Event

Homemade Christmas Cookie Sale

This Saturday, 12/16 & Sunday, 12/17

After all masses at both St. Cecilia & St. Gabriel Churches



Hand Craft Group

We meet every Wednesday morning throughout the year from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon in the Parish Sun Room. Please contact Candice Bryan at 203.253.7591 or Kathleen Carty at 203.322.3771 if you are interested in joining.

St. Cecilia - St. Gabriel Parish Offertory Totals

Due to an early bulletin deadline our offertory totals for 12/10/23 will appear in the 12/24 bulletin



Online Giving helps support our Parish by allowing you to make donations and payments to our Parish via your mobile phone, smart device or computer.

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Please call the parish office at 203.322.1562 or OSV Online Giving at 1.800.348.2886 with questions or for assistance in setting up your account.

Week of December 16, 2023



St. Cecilia Church

The Tabernacle Lamp shines for ***Mary Petito, Michael & Mary Lou Guarnieri*** *from Michelle Guarnieri*

The Vigil Lamp for the Blessed Virgin Mary shines for ***Claudia Monaco*** *from Her Cousins*

The Vigil Lamp for Joseph shines for ***Ray Interlandi, Jr.*** *from Lori Longo Legierse*

St. Gabriel Church

The Vigil Lamp for the Bless Virgin Mary shines for ***Sheila Brennan (living)*** *from Kathleen Whitehead*



With joyful hearts, we welcome our newly baptized:

Michela Altamura
Daughter of Luigi & Daniele Altamura

Daniel Altwal
Son of Thair & Abeer Tannus Altwal



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Opportunities to Learn More About Your Faith

Everyone is welcome to join us for our Winter Bible Study

PRIEST, PROPHET, KING

From Word on Fire

We meet for seven weeks:
ZOOM: Starts Tuesday, January 9th - 7:00 p.m. or
In person: Starts Thursday, January 11th - 7:00 p.m.
at St. Gabriel meeting room.

In **PRIEST, PROPHET, KING**, we'll hear biblical insights and engaging stories from Bishop Barron to discover Jesus, the Anointed One; the ultimate priest, prophet and king foreshadowed throughout the Hebrew Scriptures of the Old Testament. To purchase the necessary study guide/workbook currently on sale for $19.96 (regular price $24.95) go to: https://bookstore.wordonfire.org/products/priest-prophet-king-study-guide
To purchase a video (cost $31.85), please go to: wofdigital.org

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

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED to receive the link to the ZOOM classes and to join the in-person classes.

Our Spiritual Book Club is reading
***"Introduction to The Devout Life"* by Saint Francis de Sales**
We meet Monday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Center Conference Room.
Hope you can join us - and bring a friend!
For more information call: Nancy O'Connell @ 203.561.6222 or Fr Olbrys @ 203.940.1836.



Join us on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m.
in the Parish Center sunroom for a weekly, women-only Endow study.

Use this link to purchase the study material. There is an option to buy an ebook as well. https://www.endowgroups.org/store/adult-study-guides/study-guide-aquinas-for-beginners-part-i/

Questions? Contact Deirdre Breen at deirdre00@gmail.com

AQUINAS FOR BEGINNERS

Save the Date
February 4, 2024
Baptism Anniversary Celebration

If you had a child baptized in 2023, or one celebrating a fifth anniversary of their 2019 baptism, look for your family's invitation letter to our February 4, 2024, Baptism Anniversary Celebration Mass and Brunch coming by mail in December.

For more information, email us at baptismcelebration@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome to join us at the celebration.

Anyone interested in helping the team in food preparation, decorating and setup, and/or serving, are welcome. Call 203.968.6388 or email Gina Denner at ginadenner@optonline.net



Christmas Week Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 23, 2023
St. Gabriel Church: 4:00 p.m.
St. Cecilia Church: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 24, 2023
St. Cecilia Church: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Sunday, December 24, 2023
Christmas Eve Vigil Masses
St. Gabriel Church: 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.
St. Cecilia Church: 4:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Monday, December 25, 2023
Christmas Day - Nativity of the Lord
St. Cecilia Church: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

** ** ** ** **

Saturday, December 30, 2023
St. Gabriel Church: 4:00 p.m.
St. Cecilia Church: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 31, 2023
St. Cecilia Church: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Monday, January 1, 2024
Solemnity of Mary
St. Cecilia Church: 7:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.



Memorialize a Loved One With 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Classes will begin again on January 7th and 9th
Have a Blessed Christmas!

Questions? Call DRE, Maryanne Didelot at 203.322.1562 or email at dre@stcecilia-stgabriel.org

Advent Family Fest
December 3, 2023

Many thanks to ALL the Volunteers and to NOTHING bundt CAKES* and DJ Joe Saglimbeni who helped to make our Advent Family Fest a success.































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