SABBATH MASSES

Saturday
4:00 pm.

Sunday
8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm.

DAILY MASS
Monday - Friday at 9:00 am.

CONFESSION
Friday 8:30 am - 8:50 am
Saturday 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm

Sacrament of Baptism
If you wish to have your child baptized at Our Lady of Grace, we ask families to register in the parish and attend “Growing-up Catholic,” our parish baptism program.

For information regarding dates and times of baptisms, please speak with Stacey at the Parish Office: (203)377-0928 during the week or email: staceybreyan@olgstratford.com. For additional information regarding “Growing-Up Catholic,” contact Melissa Lembo: 203-556-0611 or email: baptismprogram@olgstratford.com.

Sacrament of Matrimony
For those wishing to enter the Sacrament of Matrimony, please contact the Parish Office (203-377-0928) one year prior to the date of your wedding. The couple must meet with the parish priest to review all the legal and canonical requirements.
Pastor’s Letter
Dear Friends,

After the weather mess last weekend, I need to bring to your attention that our collection was down $3500.00. I need to take this opportunity in this letter to inform our parishioners on some issues of our parish finances and ask for your help!

A parishioner recently told me that the problem with the church is that it is always asking for money, it is true! I am asking for money because, unfortunately, we have been falling short of our goal.

HERE IS THE BREAKDOWN: We have more than 1200 families registered, 330 families give 50 weeks of giving a year, an average weekly gift of $19. The next 218 parishioners give an average of $5.00-7.00 when they attend! The next 239 parishioners give less than $150.00 a year or less than $3.00 a week. The remaining parishioners have not made a recognized donation. The parish budget is based on 450 households giving $18.00 a WEEK.

The good news is that our attendance numbers are higher. We are averaging 575 people on a weekend for mass. But many of the people attending have yet to join us! Invite the person next to you to use the welcome form in the bulletin.

I was told that a parishioner is mad that the Diocese has not sent a second priest to OLG! With the figures I have just given you, the parish cannot afford a second assigned priest! I am thankful for the help of a retired priest and a retired Deacon.

I cannot afford to let the parish continue in a deficit! We are behind in our weekly offertory. We missed our Annual Collection goal by $1500.00. I have had to have two trees removed because of ice damage and disease. ($2000.00 bill).

What can you do?
1. You can be a recognized donor by using an envelope or using our on-line giving!
2. The goal is $18.00 a week per household, can you get us closer?
3. Invite the family sitting next to you to register in the parish?
4. Ask questions of the Finance Council and stayed informed?

Msgr. Ryan

Please Save the Date Parish Leaders
Parish Leaders join us for a very important meeting on Monday, January 27th at 7pm in Madonna Hall. We need to discuss timely topics, please bring your co-leaders to the meeting.

*Office Procedures (Bulletin, Website, Calendar, & Finances)
*Catholic Mutual Insurance Procedure and Training
*Safe Environment Training and the Re-certification process
**My Spiritual Life**

We would like to thank Cathy Marella for her care of our church book racks. We have recently added new “Care notes”. Thank you to those who have left donations for the “Care notes”. Each topic is $.70 a copy!

**Optimum**

Channel 24 Daily Mass (Hartford Archdiocese)
Channel 135 (EWTN)
Channel 137 (Catholic Faith Network)

**Virtus Process**

Creating a Safe Environment for our Parish

We need all of our parish volunteers to be Virtus Trained, and to take a Background Check!

**Virtus Training Class**

The next Virtus Training Class is scheduled for **Saturday, February 1 from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm** in Madonna Hall. If you are interested, please call George Zamary at the Parish Office at 203-377-0928 x9 for registration information.

**Flu Season**

I hope you have taken the time to receive your annual flu shot. Please use the hand sanitizer stands as you enter and leave church. Please consider the following:

- If you are feeling ill, please stay at home and watch Mass on TV.
- Contact George Zamary at the Parish Office if you will have an extended period at home so you might receive Communion at home.
- At the Sign of Peace, please extend the Sign of Peace in gesture (nod, bow, wave) and do not shake hands.
- The clergy and Eucharistic Ministers will use hand sanitizer before distributing Communion.
- Please realize your health is important.

**St. Blaise Blessing of Throats**

*The Feast of St. Blaise is February 3rd.* We will bless throats after all Masses on the weekend of Feb. 1 & 2.

**Feast of the Presentation - Feb. 2**

We will bless candles on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, on February 1 & 2. Blessed candles will be available after Mass on the Feast Day. A $3.00 donation is requested.

**“Make-Up” Envelopes**

Because the Parish Offertory is falling behind with the winter weather and many people staying home with illness, may I ask you to make up your envelopes when you are not able to be with us!

**Mass Intentions**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25**

4:00 pm Thomas & Carmella Ettorre r/b Michael Ettorre

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26**

8:00 am Our Parishioners
10:00 am Anna Cardellichio 30th Anniversary r/b Family
12:00 pm Richard Galatie r/b Joseph Galatie

**MONDAY, JANUARY 27**

9:00 am John Cozza r/b Daughter

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 28**

9:00 am Luciani Family r/b Linda & Ed Skowronski

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29**

9:00 am Souls in Purgatory

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 30**

9:00 am Kathryne H. Steffany r/b Paul & Dorothy Buglione

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 31**

9:00 am Our Parishioners

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

4:00 pm The Ringarry Family r/b Michael Ettorre

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

8:00 am Kathleen & Elizabeth Grace r/b June Grace
10:00 am Eileen Yablonski r/b Mom & Dad
12:00 pm Our Parishioners

**Sanctuary Lamp Intentions**

January 26, 2020 - February 1, 2020

Lamp I: Our Parishioners
Lamp II: Souls in Purgatory

**Mass Celebrants**

Saturday, February 1st 4:00 p.m. Msgr. Ryan
Sunday, February 2nd 8:00 a.m. Msgr. Ryan
                                  10:00 a.m. Fr. McDonough
                                  Noon Msgr. Ryan

**Funeral Guidelines**

On September 15th, Bishop Caggiano issued “Norms for the Celebration of Funerals” in the Diocese. Our Bereavement Ministry will continue to provide:

1. When contacted by the Funeral Home, we will contact the family of the deceased person. Our Bereavement Team will meet with the family to plan the scriptural readings and the liturgical music for the Funeral Mass.
   We will always encourage the participation of the family in the Mass.
2. Our Lady of Grace Parish will allow, the family to share the “Words of Remembrance” according to Diocesan Guidelines. The Bereavement Team will work with each family to prepare their words to be shared after the Communion Prayer at Mass.
3. The requested donation for the parish will be $200.00, and at the present time the honorarium for the organist/cantor is $200.00.
4. We invite our families to make donations in the name of their loved one through our Parish Memorial Book.
Faith Formation

The 2019-2020 Faith Formation theme this school year is: SOS - Sharing Our Saintliness. Faith Formation classes as you know are focusing on Saints and the important role that Saints have in our lives and in our Faith. Each classroom has adopted a Saint and we have asked each family to adopt a Saint of their own to represent their family. There will be a display up the staircase at the Parish Center in the next few weeks with the classroom choices. We will be sharing the choices and highlighting things about the Saints.

First Reconciliation and First Communion classes
Classes are beginning this weekend for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our 10:00 Mass this weekend is a special family Mass acknowledging these children. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they prepare for this special Sacrament.

If you have a child attending 2nd grade in Catholic school and you belong to Our Lady of Grace please contact our Faith Formation office so we can speak to you about signing your child up for these classes.

Nazareth Program - Baptisms
Last weekend on the Sunday of the Baptism of the Lord at the 10:00 am Mass, Msgr Ryan Baptized 3 children from our Faith Formation programs. We would like to congratulate Emma Feneque, Emilia Goldman and Aaron Goldman. The parishioners were able to witness and participate as we received our newest members into our Parish.

The Friend of Jesus Prayer
Prayer is a powerful tool and I am sure many of you can witness to that, but if you have not been one to turn to prayer this will be a good place to start.

A few months ago at a Family Mass we talked about the importance of prayer. We talked about starting a Prayer Walk and asked families to sign up to be part of our Prayer Walk. With the Prayer Walk we send you an email when we receive special prayer intentions. We have about 35 parishioners at this time signed up. If you would like to participate in this Prayer Walk you can sign up by sending us your name and email. You can email denisebartelson@olgstratford.com. We send out an email about once a month to everyone who signs up and we ask you to pray when we receive special prayer intentions.

Hope you will join us on our Prayer Walk.

Marriage Moments
“There are rivalries among you...Each of you is saying...” I am a Democrat, or I am a Republican. (adapted from 1 Cor. 1:11-12). Even if both of you have similar political leanings, you certainly know people who have different opinions about religion or politics. Find someone who disagrees with you this week (maybe your spouse) and listen carefully to understand more than to persuade.

Parenting Pointers
Most of us have both friends and enemies (or at least people we dislike). Talk with your child about who each of you dislike and why. Then turn the tables. Can you find it in your hearts to bless even your enemies today? Try.

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EMAIL: SusanVogt1@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.SusanVogt.net

Lord’s Kitchen
The OLG volunteers will serve the meal at the “Lord’s Kitchen” on Monday September 27th. Please keep our volunteers in your prayers.

Hope for the Future Collection
We ask your assistance in building the future of the parish. Your donations in the Hope for the Future Envelope on January 25/26, will keep us current with our bills!

New Parish Altar servers
We want to thank the families of our new altar servers in training. We will meet next Saturday February 1st at 1130am in the Church.

On the Road from Bethlehem
A Sunday Prayer Time for Parents and Infants, Toddlers, and Pre-Schoolers
How can I go to Church with a child who might be noisy! Is there a way to teach my child about Church, while not disturbing others? Are there ways for my child to learn about God? Yes! We invite our young families with young children to come and experience a short prayer, a time for crafts and community, and play time for your child.

On Sunday, February 9th at 9:00am in the Church we will have a short prayer with music, followed by a gathering in Madonna Hall for a craft. Our program will be from 9:00 - 10:30 am. Coffee and juice will be served, please feel free to bring a snack for your child.

For more information please call Melissa Lembo at 203-556-0611 or Denise Bartelson at 203-375-6133.
**Parish Calendar, Collections**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Parish Finances*</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday Offertory</strong></td>
<td><strong>Actual</strong></td>
<td><strong>Budget</strong></td>
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<td>Income for the week of 1/7/2020 - 1/13/20</td>
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<td>$7,800.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Budget Year-to-date</strong></td>
<td>$203,488.</td>
<td>$216,974.</td>
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Second Collection: $0.

*Please note: Due to the printing deadline, the Parish Finance Report will be delayed by one week.

**Meetings & Events**
- Family Mass, Jan. 26, 10:00am
- Choir Practice, Sun., Jan. 26 11:00am - 12:00pm.
- Lord’s Kitchen, Mon., Jan. 27, 5:00pm
- Parish Leaders Meeting, Jan. 27, 7:00pm (MH)
- Bingo, Tues., Jan. 28, Doors open at 4:30 pm/first game 6:30 pm. Food and beverages available for purchase. (PC)
- RCIA, Wed., Jan 29, 7:00pm - 8:15pm
- Cub Scout Pack 272 Meeting, Thurs., Jan. 30, 6:30pm - 8:30pm.
- KofC, Feb. 1 & 2, Food Collection
- Choir Practice, Sun., Feb. 2, 11:00am - 12:00pm.

**Collection for the Church in Latin America**
Many people in Latin America and the Caribbean do not have access to church programs and ministries because of a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministries. Your generosity makes it possible for them to share in the life of the Church and grow closer to Christ. Please be generous to the special collection!

**New Liturgical Ministers Readers and Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion**
We are asking God to call forth new Liturgical Ministers for our parish. If you are interested in joining our parish ministries, Please Contact Msgr. Ryan at 203-377-0928 X12 or msgryan@olgstratford.com

The training process will be through the Diocesan Leadership Institute. Each candidate will need to complete an application, a recommendation from the Pastor, attendance at a Diocesan workshop and an on-line course.

**World Day of Prayer for the Sick**
On February 11th we will join with the Churches around the world to pray for the sick person. Our Lady of Grace parish will have a notebook available on the weekend of February 8/9 for the names of people you wish to remember on February 11th!

**Other News**

**A Stewardship Moment**
In today’s Gospel Jesus begins his ministry of healing, proclaims the kingdom of God and calls his first disciples, Simon and Andrew, and then the sons of Zebedee, James and John. Those first disciples might have preferred to keep their jobs, remain with their families and stay with the life they knew. Remarkably, though, all four of these people, just as they are, follow after this stranger who interrupts their daily routine. When they see Jesus and hear his words to them, they make a different choice. They take a risk, step out in faith, leave behind that which is comfortable and secure. They choose to follow Jesus. How far are we willing to go to leave the comfort and security of the life we know to follow Jesus?

**Assistance in Receiving Holy Communion**
Recently, we have had a number of parishioners ask to receive Holy Communion at their seats in the side alcoves. Our Parish Ushers have been alerted to assist people requesting Holy Communion. Please ask the usher to have the Eucharist brought to you.

**Diocese of Bridgeport**
**Catholic Business Forum - Mass Brunch**
February 9, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.
Prinicipal Celebrant & Homilist
Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Fairfield University - Mass in Egan Chapel
Followed by Brunch in Oak Room
Guest Speaker Robert A. Nalewajek
Topic: “Let’s Change the World: Catholic Social Teaching is the Way”
Register at: www.bridgeportdiocese.org/CBF

**Senior Housing—Diocese owned and managed**
2 bedroom/1.5 bathroom cottage for rent in Carmel Ridge, Trumbull, CT for ages 60+
Please call (203) 261-2229 for information

**Growing up Catholic**
If you are planning to have your child baptized at Our Lady of Grace Parish, we ask you to attend our “Growing Up Catholic” class. The GUC class will give you a chance to center your faith journey with your child and take advantage of a time to meet other young parents in the parish. The next GUC class will be held on Sunday, March 8th, 2020 at 1:30 pm in the Madonna Hall. For further information contact Melissa at 203-556-0611 or email BaptismProgram@olgstratford.com.
Knights Corner
Msgr. Mooney Council #13228 at Our Lady of Grace Parish

What's not to love about pasta?

Come join us for Valentine Day Knight Dinner Saturday, February 15 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Menu includes pasta, chicken, salad and garlic bread. Coffee, tea and dessert are also included. Come dine to a wonderful meal with music playing softly in the background!

Cost is $9.00 for adults and $5.00 for children 4 - 12, children 3 and under are FREE. All proceeds from the Valentine's Day Knight Dinner go to our charitable giving.

THANK YOU! to all those who donated items to the CT State Council Pro-Life Mass and Baby Shower for Unwed Mothers which was held Sunday, January 19 beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Hartford. Items will be distributed throughout the Diocese.

What's not to love about the Knights of Columbus whose first principle is charity? It’s the basis of all we do. Why not take this opportunity to join us? Learn more about the Knights here at "Our Little Church" by contacting Terry Morgan at paxterry@gmail.com or Pat O'Keefe (203) 400-8712 for more information.

Parish Website
www.olgstratford.com
Have you visited the website! Look at the pictures of Parish events!
We are always looking for good information and parish pictures. If you have a picture to share, contact Sue Zello at suzannazello@olgstratford.com

Parish Nurses
The Parish Nurses will be conducting blood pressure screenings on Sunday, February 16th from 9:30-11:30am in Madonna Hall!

**Blood Pressure screening is canceled if Mass is canceled.

“How Do I Register?”
How do I register? Please stop by the Parish Office! Office hours are Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Handicapped Parking
The four spaces directly in front of the Church on Second Hill Lane are handicapped parking spaces. These spaces are for our parishioners who have a handicap parking sticker.

Parish Ministry to the Sick
Sick and Shut Ins
George Zamary and our ministers to the sick and home-bound are currently visiting more than 60 parishioners. Our parishioners are visited and receive Holy Communion on a regular schedule.
If you have a loved one who is homebound or in a nursing facility, please contact George Zamary at 203-377-0928 x9. George will arrange for a friendly visit or a Communion call!

Winter Weather Policy
We have developed a policy that safe-guards our parishioners and will allow time for our parish contractors to clear the property during storms.

Weekdays: When the schools are closed or delayed or the Town or State has advised against travel, Daily Mass will be cancelled for that day. The parish will notify channel 8, channel 3 and the radio stations of the cancellation.

Weekends: When severe weather occurs during weekend Mass times, please check the local TV and Radio stations and our parish website for cancellations. It becomes very difficult to keep the sidewalks, driveways, and parking area clear if it snows during Mass time. Your safety is important to us!

Any Mass intention effected by the cancellation will be said during the next week.

Interested in becoming a parishioner of Our Lady of Grace?
Please complete the following and place it in the offertory basket.
Name________________________________________
Address______________________________________
City_________________________________________
State_______ Phone __________________________
Email________________________________________
We look forward to hearing from you!