

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturdays:

8:00am, 5:00pm - Vigil

Sundays:

7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

Weekdays: 8:00am (Monday through Saturday)

Holy Days: 5:30pm - Vigil;

8:00am, 12:00 Noon & 7:00pm

Confession Schedule:

Saturday 3:30pm - 4:30pm

NEW PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME!

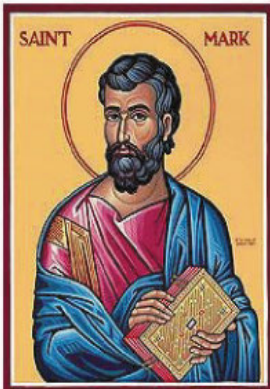
To be registered, please ask an Usher for a Census Card, fill it out, and return it in person, or by mail to the rectory office.



SAINT MARK ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 500 Wigwam Lane, Stratford, Connecticut 06614

Rectory Phone: 203-377-0444 / Fax 203-386-8071 - Parish Website: www.stmarkstfd.org
Religious Education Phone: 203-257-8342 - School Phone 203-375-4291

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 1, 2024



PASTOR

Rev. Birendra Soreng

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Emmet O'Hara

DEACONS

Deacon Andrew Dzujna

Deacon F. Paul Kurmay

Deacon T. Emmet Murray

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr. Donald Brelsford (203-414-9253)

CANTOR

Ms. Maggie Walsh (203-377-0444)

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Mrs. Patricia Nettleton (203 257 8342)
email: prnettleton@yahoo.com

YOUTH MINISTRY

Mr. Jared Forcier (203-876-1621)
www.stmarkyouthgroup.org

PARISH BUSINESS MANAGER

Mrs. Joan Hurley (203-377-0444)

PARISH SECRETARY

Mrs. Laura Robertson (203-377-0444)
email: lrobertson@stmarkstfd.org

ST. MARK SCHOOL

Mrs. Melissa Warner, Principal (203-375-4291)

PARISH TRUSTEES

Mr. Frank Bevacqua
Mr. Kevin Huben

PARISH COUNCIL

Michael Mollica, President (203-449-9536)

PARISH FINANCE OFFICER

Mr. Ryan Tayman (203-377-0444)

MATRIMONY

Arrangements must be made with one of the priests at least 8 months in advance of the date before social plans are made. If either party has gone through any form of civil or religious marriage with another person the priest is not permitted to set a date for the wedding until the Bishop's office has been consulted.

PREBAPTISMAL CLASS

For those anticipating the birth and subsequent Baptism of their first child, class is held on the second Tuesday every other month. January, March, May, July, September, and November at 6:00 p.m. in the Upper Room.

ROSARY

Daily following the 8:00 a.m. Mass/Upper Room

CHOIR

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

ADORATION CHAPEL

Divine Mercy is open 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Additional Eucharistic Adorers are always welcome. Please consider volunteering an hour of your time and contact R. Scott Goodfellow at 203-394-2248 and email adorationchapel@stmarkstfd.org.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Closed daily for lunch from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

Mr. Colin Petramale
203-375-5887 ext. 108
Colin.Petramale@setoncollaborative.org



Bequests to St. Mark are strongly encouraged and gratefully accepted. Suggestion: When a loved one dies, advise relatives & friends to make a donation to "St. Mark Bldg. Fund" in memory of the deceased, and include this wish in the obituary notice.

Mass Intentions for the Week

**Saturday, November 30, 2024 through
Sunday, December 8, 2024
First Sunday of Advent**

Saturday

8:00 John Burns
RB Family
5:00 Stanley R. Milas
RB Marty and Denise Gross

Sunday

7:30 Dorothy Carroll
RB Chuck Carroll
9:30 Irene, Joseph, and Robert Zdrodowski
RB Sadowski Family
11:30 Anne Durica and Anna Marticek
RB Tom and Joanne Marticek

Monday

8:00 Dorothy Carroll
RB Husband

Tuesday

8:00 Genevieve Romanosky
RB Family

Wednesday

8:00 Bob Marchetti
RB Bob and Jane Catapano

Thursday

8:00 Dominik Vercellone
RB Justine Scherback

Friday

8:00 Maryan Ramik
RB Rossana and Louis Picarazzi

Saturday

8:00 All Parishioners Living and Deceased
5:00 James and Elizabeth Mooney
RB Terry and Pat Mooney

Sunday

7:30 Dan and Jozef Cylwik
RB Theresa Cylwik
9:30 Bob Marchetti
RB Bob and Jane Catapano
11:30 Joe DiPronio
RB The St. Mark Family of Faith

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 23-Dec 7: Giving Tree
Nov 24-Dec 7: Boy Scout Wreath Sale
Dec 1-Jan 1: K of C Advent Food Drive
Dec 4: CCS Advent Evening of Reflection
Dec 6: Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony 5:30 pm
Dec 6: Youth Friday Fun Night at St. James 6:30 pm
Dec 9: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(Holy Day of Obligation)
Dec 10: Ladies Guild Christmas Party
Dec 31: New Year's Eve Party, St. Raphael Parish

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY is a Holy Day of Obligation and is being celebrated this year on Monday, December 9, 2024. The Holy Day Mass Schedule will be: Monday, December 9 at 8:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 7:00 p.m. There will be no Vigil Mass on Sunday, December 8.

READER SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 7, 2024

5:00 p.m. Maria Giudice

Sunday, December 8, 2024

7:30 a.m. Patricia Nettleton
9:30 a.m. Kelly Coble
11:30 a.m. Bridget McMahon

Readings for the First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024, can be found in the Breaking Bread Missal - Page 31

**FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR DECEMBER 6, 2024
AT 3:00 P.M.**

Weekly Eucharistic Quote:

"For One in such a lofty position to stoop so low is a marvel that is staggering. What sublime humility and humble sublimeness, that the Lord of the Universe, the Divine Son of God, should stoop as to hide Himself under the appearance of bread for our salvation! Behold the humble way of God, my brothers. Therefore, do not hold yourselves to be anything of yourselves, so that you may be entirely acceptable to One, Who gives Himself entirely to you."

– St. Francis of Assisi.



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT COLLECTION: There are two collections this weekend: Stewardship and Retired Religious Fund



Week Ending November 17, 2024

Saturday/Sunday Mass Offerings:	\$ 5,766.00
Mass Offerings mailed to the Office:	\$ 1,340.00
On-Line Giving:	\$ 2,057.00
Seminarians Drive	\$ 4,307.00*

*The Seminarians Drive total reflects only cash and checks made out to St. Mark Church. Checks made out to the Diocese and Credit Card pledges will be recorded by the Diocesan Accountants and are not reflected in the total above.

DECEMBER 2024 COLLECTION ENVELOPES:

December 2024	Christmas Flowers
December 1:	Retired Religious Fund
December 1:	Stewardship
December 8:	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
December 8:	Stewardship
December 15:	Extraordinary Expenses
December 22:	Stewardship
December 25:	Christmas
December 29:	Stewardship

The First Sunday of Advent:

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." (LUKE 21:28)

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation for the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await His second coming. What will you do differently this Advent season to grow in friendship and love with Jesus? How will you inspire others to do the same? Start by sharing your God story with others, especially those that are closest to you. Invite and accompany them on their faith journey this Advent.

DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

SUNDAY: Accountability Sunday is this Sunday, December 1, for all the parishes of the Diocese of Bridgeport. Accountability Sunday ensures financial transparency and provides a standardized template for report issued by parishes and school. The design of the reports allows parishioners to understand the financial details of the parish or school. The St. Mark reports are available for review on the St. Mark website only. There will not be hard copies printed or placed in the bulletin. Please visit www.stmarkstfd.org/about-us/financial-information/accountability-sunday to view this year's statement.

**Catholic Community of Stratford
Advent Evening of Reflection**

Wednesday, December 4
5:30-7:00 PM

Our Lady of Peace Parish Hall

An evening of Food, Reflection, and Fellowship
Free will offering to attend, [RSVP lmelgar@setoncollaborative.org](mailto:RSVP@setoncollaborative.org)



ST. MARK GIVING TREE



The Giving Tree will be up in the church vestibule this weekend. Please take a tag or two and let the Holy Spirit guide you to a suitable gift for the recipient. The gender and sizes for the recipient will be listed on the tag. The wrapped gift, with the tag attached, is due back in the church no later than Sunday, December 8, so that the gifts can be distributed by the various churches and organizations in time for Christmas.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Boy Scout
Pack 177 & Troop 76

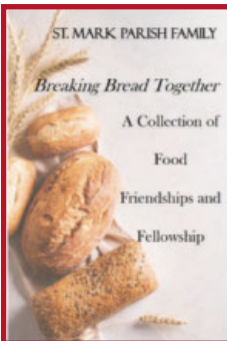
**Annual
Wreath Sale**

Beginning on Sunday,
November 24
after all Masses



ST. MARK PARISH FAMILY

Breaking Bread Together
A Collection of
Food
Friendships and
Fellowship



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA? The St. Mark Parish Family Cookbook would make a wonderful hostess or Christmas gift! We have a few copies available in the parish office and will be doing a limited second run. The cookbooks cost \$10.00 each. Stop in the office during regular business hours and pick one up, or email Joyce at jbaran@stmarkstfd.org to reserve a copy from the next printing!



WE ARE HAPPY TO WELCOME into our parish family of faith Leo Anthony D'Ambrosio who was recently baptized into the community of the Church and a new, loving relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ. Congratulations!

**LADIES' GUILD
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON BUFFET**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024, 12:00 P.M.,
BLACK HAWK COUNTRY CLUB

complimentary
raffle

\$35
per person

Salad, Rolls/Butter, Top round of beef au jus with horseradish cream, Chicken piccata with lemon caper butter sauce, Yukon gold mashed potatoes, Seasonal vegetable medley, Dessert, Coffee/Tea/Soft drinks, (Vegetarian option available upon request when making reservation. Pasta primavera with local vegetables, parmesan cream sauce)

ALL LADIES OF THE PARISH ARE INVITED

Donations of hats, gloves, socks, and scarves for "Under the Bridge" are greatly appreciated

RESERVATIONS: GERRI SZABO - 203-378-2552 OR
NANCY LOU MACO - 203-522-6359
RSVP BY DECEMBER 4



**Christmas
in
Africa**

Blessed Michael
McGivney
Pilgrimage Center

Nov. 9 - Feb. 2



CHRISTMAS IN AFRICA: The Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center (formerly the Knights of Columbus Museum) in New Haven has a special exhibit on Christmas in Africa running until February 2, 2025. The exhibit features more than 50 works representing 23 countries across the African continent. This exhibit also explores some of the traditions and festivities that have developed throughout Africa to celebrate the season. Please visit www.michaelmcgivneycenter.org for details

welcome, 2025!

RING IN THE NEW YEAR! St. Raphael Parish is hosting a New Year's Eve party at St. Ann Hall, 501 Naugatuck Avenue in Milford, from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 31. They will provide a buffet supper, music, and party favors. BYOB. RSVP by December 22 to 203 260 4750 or 203 874 3848, the cost is \$45.00 per person, Adults only, no walk-ins.

DIVINE MERCY: Diary 386

I understand souls who are suffering against hope.

I feel that God will let me draw aside the veils of Heaven so that the earth will not doubt His goodness. God is not subject to eclipse or change. He is forever one and the same: nothing can contradict His will. I feel within myself a power greater than human. I feel courage and strength thanks to the grace that dwells in me. I understand souls who are suffering against hope, for I have gone through that fire myself. But God will not give us anything beyond our strength. Often have I loved hoping against hope, and have advanced my hope to complete trust in God. Let that which He has ordained from all ages happen to me.

BOTTLES AND CANS: The next collection is December 7 in front of the Parish Center, 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

Readings for the Week of December 1, 2024

Readings for the week of December 1, 2024

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 (1b)/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6



Cookies and Carols

**St. Mark Family
2nd Annual
Tree Lighting**

**Friday, December 6
5:30 p.m. in the parking lot**

*Join us to light our way
into the Season of Advent
All are Welcome!*

Questions? contact Jbaran@stmarkstfd.org



ADORATION

Pray for: Ava Christine Gallant, Peter Kiman, Jr., Linda Bates, Jason Swarbrick, John Hoffman, Eleanor Somma, Abigail Feehan, Lillian Koegler, Michael Petro, Rose Kovach, Christopher Rascoll, Mark Klizas, Jenna Strickland, Julia, Leo, JoAnn Battistoni, Glenn Derbyshire, Liana Lowman, Richard Smith, Maurizio Marchese, Thomas Foley, Kina Silva, Nicholas Genga, Robert Noonan, Will McKelvey, Samuel Mulford, Bill and Carolyn Novotny, Blaise Vitale, Dayna Reed, Ethan Ortega, Debbie Smelagino, Shirley Burr, Dolores Larracuenta, Richard Silva, Robert Ligouri, Rosalina Staltaro, Carolyn

Purchowicz, Christopher Hayes, John Pacheco, Danny, Antonia, Mark Casagrande, Jr., Stephanie Galaburri, Roselyn Bagley, Daniel Krekoska, Robin Florio, Sandra Carpenter, Audrey Pepin, Ronnie Christiano, Jimmy Bortnick, David Goldstein, Kristen Broedlin, Michael Hostetter, Jr., Ana Bordieri, Michael Rotunno, Cassie Roux, Julie Bellitto, Ramon Garcia, Daniel O'Brien, the Golchin Family, Joe Luroso, Marian Rabel, Ralph DeLuca, Carlos Rosado, Elaine Kera, Jo Peschell, Robbie Carpenter, Shawn Rice, Caragh Dougherty, Lauren Miller, James Caporaso, Bob Spada, Vivian Batista, Robert Balog, Pat Lenahan, Timmy Hohl, Gerry L, Marie Orlowe, Nicholas, Fatima Santos, Betty Corona., Larry Bedrosian, James Leko, Joy Xhudo & Family, Judy, Ron Clough, Shaun Stefanko, Kim Golias, Joseph Trovarelli, Jr., Germaine Lang, James Lang, Gaetano Mazzella, Robert Zych, Lauren Bitterman, Christopher Maslowski, Chris & James Muller, Robert Mastroni, Sandra Bogen, Donna Martire Miller, Linda Ickowitz, John Enright, Kate Iverson, David Kennedy, William Figlar, Debbie Hawley, Joseph Ambrose, Jr., Carol Nicoles, Anne Kelly, Caryl Besescheck, Peter Lodge, Ernie Hulse, Marge Bednarz.

JoAnn Supan

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
12am	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1am	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2am	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3am	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4am	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5am	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
6am	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
7am	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
8am	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
9am	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
10am	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
11am	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12pm	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
1pm	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
2pm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3pm	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
4pm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5pm	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
6pm	2	1	1	1	1	0	1
7pm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8pm	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
9pm	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
10pm	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
11pm	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

ADORERS NEEDED FOR ALL "O" HOURS!

O = Chapel Open, NO Adores Scheduled

(1 = One Adorer Scheduled) (2 = 2 scheduled)

PLEASE call Scott Goodfellow @ 203-394-2248 or

Email adorationchapel@stmarkstfd.org if you wish to

Volunteer, change your hour, see errors, or

have any Questions or concerns.

Now Open 24-7 Complete Update: Nov 15, 2024

**ST. MARK
CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2024**

Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24, 2024
4:00 p.m. – Church (livestream)
4:00 p.m. – Parish Center
10:00 p.m. – Church

Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25, 2024
8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (livestream), and 12:00 noon - Church

Holy Family Sunday
Saturday, December 28, 2024, 5:00 p.m. (vigil)
Sunday, December 29, 2024
7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
(A Holy Day of Obligation)
Tuesday, December 31, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon



For the week of December 1 through December 7, 2024
the Sanctuary Candle Glows for
Peter Baldyga
Remembered by Family

BLESSED SACRAMENT FOOD BINS: Father Skip is seeing an increase of individuals who need help from the Blessed Sacrament food pantry. "Protein" foods, such as canned tuna, salmon, chicken, beef, pork, peanut butter and jelly, juice boxes, cereal, and snack packs would be greatly appreciated. Beans (especially lentils and split pea) are a good, nutritious source of protein as well. Thank you as always for helping the needy of our community.

Advent Food Drive

The Knights will be holding their annual Advent food drive from December 1, 2024 through January 1, 2025.

Collection boxes will be placed at each of the church entrances. Any non-perishable food or other items are greatly appreciated.

Let's Fill the Plate!

Thank you for supporting the needy in our community.

Knights of Columbus



PROJECT FROM THE HEART: Project From The Heart (donations for the military) has been collecting donations for the military for a number of years. However, since the donations have slowed, the group has decided to remove the boxes from the entrance of the church, only to be put out on military holidays (Memorial Day, Veterans Day, 4th of July). We thank you, and our military thanks you, for your continued support. Checks may continue to be made payable to: **Holy Family Church**, with the name **Project From The Heart** in the memo line, and dropped in the collection basket. An acknowledgement will be mailed to you if a return address is included with your donation. Thank you for your support. **Checks or Monetary donations are gladly accepted. Checks may be made payable to Holy Family Church with the reference Project From The Heart in the memo line.** Holy Family Church has agreed to accept donations on our behalf and will forward the checks onto the "Project" in order to comply with IRS rules.



HANDS TO HEARTS: The December meeting schedule is as follows: Wednesday, December 4, and Wednesday, December 18 in the Upper Room at 1:00 p.m.

If you knit or crochet or would like to learn, please join us in making baby blankets for St. Mark baptisms, as well as comfort lap blankets and prayer shawls for the sick.

Our supply of yarn has dwindled. We gladly accept contributions of any yarn, which can be left in the donation bin in the Upper Room.



GROCERY GIFT CARDS NEEDED: Deacon Paul thanks you all for your generosity in purchasing grocery cards for the poor. The need is overwhelming, especially as we approach the cold weather. Please consider purchasing one or more \$25.00 cards to Stop and Shop or Shop Rite and dropping them off at the Rectory or giving them directly to Deacon Paul. Thank you so much and may the good Lord continue to bless you for your generosity and compassion. Peace, Deacon Paul +



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Youth Group Calendar:

All SYG Meetings Include Dinner!

Sunday Nov 24

6:00-7:30pm—SYG Meeting (YG Room)

Sunday Dec 1

6:00-7:30pm—SYG Meeting (YG Room)

Christmas Tree Decorating!

Saturday Dec 7

7:00am-12:00pm—Al's Angels Meal Bin Assembly (Hartford Healthcare Amphitheater, Bridgeport)

Friday Dec 13

6:30-8:30pm: Sarah Kroger concert

(Our Lady of Peace, Stratford—Cost: \$25)

JOIN YOUTH GROUP TODAY!

Youth Group meets Sunday nights and is open to all youth in Stratford and surrounding areas in grades 7-12 - join any time!



This past Saturday, we joined hundreds of volunteers packing 1300 bins of food for families in need for Al's Angels! Join us on December 7 as we do it again!

Email jared@stmarkyouthgroup.org for info.



Join Our Team!

Are you an adult who enjoys spending time with teens and sharing your faith? We're looking to expand our youth group

Core Team in the new year, so contact Jared now at jared@stmarkyouthgroup.org to apply. Must be available Sunday evenings, be a confirmed, practicing Catholic, enjoy working with youth, and compliant with Safe Environment requirements (Virtus training).



CCS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

The Catholic Community of Stratford, rich in tradition and united in its mission to foster meaningful encounters with Jesus Christ, INVITES, WELCOMES, ACCOMPANIES, PRAYS WITH, AND EDUCATES DISCIPLES TO MINISTER, AND SERVE.

TOGETHER, we are vibrant.

TOGETHER, we grow in our faith in new and exciting ways.

TOGETHER, as the Catholic Community of Stratford (CCS) we serve the needs of our community more effectively.

How are you entering more deeply into the season of Advent? Please join us this Wednesday, December 4th from 5:30-7:00 pm at Our Lady of Peace Parish Hall for our Catholic Community of Stratford **Advent Evening of Reflection**. This event is open to all parishioners in Stratford and beyond. There will be food, reflection, and fellowship. Free will offering to attend. Please RSVP to lmelgar@setoncollaborative.org



We are excited to announce **Together:** our Catholic Community of Stratford Community Building Series beginning in January of 2025. Once per month from January through May, we will hold community building evenings with prayer, food, and fellowship. Our goal is to bring together parishioners from each Stratford parish and learn about one another in a faithful environment. We pray that the collaboration which we have begun in Stratford may be a beacon of light and fellowship in a divided and isolated world. Any and all parishioners of any age are welcome. Dates will be released soon. We look forward to seeing you!



We are looking for feedback on our newsletter! After our first few editions, we are wondering how you like the newsletter. Is it useful/good? What would you like to see in it? Please send any feedback to stratford@setoncollaborative.org



The sacraments remind us that God is always with us, upholding and encouraging us to grow in deeper relationship with Christ and with our communities of faith. **If you are an adult looking to make your sacraments** (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation), we have a place for you to connect and grow deeper in faith. Reach out



Counsel for Your Lifetime

Kurt M. Ahlberg - Kurt@ahlbergandglad.com Carl A. Glad - Carl@ahlbergandglad.com
2885 Main Street | Stratford, Connecticut 06614 | (203) 377-1311

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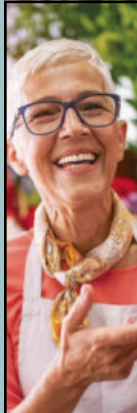
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