

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ DECEMBER 20TH, 2020 A.D.



Reverend Nicholas Pavia, *Pastor*

Faith Formation

Deacon Thomas Fekete, *Director*

Reverend Michael A. Boccaccio

In Residence

Mr. Michael Petreycik, *Director*

Music Ministry

Mrs. Karen Capozziello, *Cantor*

Mr. Martin Tristine,

Finance Committee Chairperson

Telephone Number 203-732-5575

Mrs. Pia Ramadanovic, *Administration*

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS: By arrangement

RECONCILIATION-CONFESSION-PENANCE:

Saturday: 3:15 to 4:00 p.m.

Other times by appointment

MATRIMONY: Arrangements must be made with the Pastor at least (8) eight months in advance of the date. *Before social plans are made.*

R.C.I.A.: Adults interested in becoming members of the Catholic Church and those who wish to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation are asked to contact the Parish Office.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to Our Parish Family!

Please visit the Parish Office to register and complete a Census Card.

**Our Lady of Peace
Roman Catholic Church**
651 Stratford Road ~ Lordship ~ Stratford

MASS SCHEDULE

DAILY MASS:

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday ~ 8:30 a.m.

Rosary: 8:00 a.m.

No Mass or Rosary Monday and Tuesday

SATURDAY: Vigil ~ 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY: 8:30 a.m. ~ 11:00 a.m. ~ 4:30 p.m.

DEVOTION:

SUNDAY: DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR ~ 3:00-4:00 p.m.

**The Church is open for private prayer
(except during Mass)**

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

FAITH FORMATION: 203-377-4863 ext. 15

Email: dnfekete@diobpt.org or olopreled@sbcglobal.net

PARISH OFFICE: 203-377-4863 ext. 10

Address: 10 Ivy Street, Stratford, CT 06615

Hours: Wednesday and Friday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Email: ourlady@sbcglobal.net

Fax Number: 203-378-5253

Website: www.ourladyofpeacestratfordct.weconnect.com



The Sanctuary Candle
burns this week in memory of
The Parishioners

Gifts and Bequests to Our Lady of Peace Church
are encouraged and gratefully accepted.

A Suggestion: When a loved one dies, advise friends
and relatives to make a donation to the
"Our Lady of Peace Sanctuary Fund"
in memory of the deceased,
and include this wish in the Obituary Notice.

Advent Wreath Prayer for lighting the fourth candle

“Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds, in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for the coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”



**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP -
RECOGNIZE GOD
IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

The Journey

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, “Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?” I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day:

Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE

DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensees*, he says: “What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself.”

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come. ©LPi





WHAT'S DIFFERENT THIS YEAR DUE TO COVID-19

- * Reservations for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses are **highly recommended** for the Church and Chapel. **No reservation will be taken after Tuesday, December 22nd.**
- * There is no standing room.
- * Parishioners with reservations will be admitted first.
- * For those without reservations, if seating is available they will be admitted.
- * Seating Capacity at each Mass: Church 60 people, Chapel 16 people.
- * Please arrive at least 30 minutes and no later than 15 minutes before mass is scheduled to begin. Arrivals later than that risk losing their seat.
- * By reserving a seat, you agree that its occupant will wear a mask and observe six-foot social distancing from others.
- * The Handicapped restroom is the only restroom available.

Beginning December 14th, thru December 22nd,
(Monday-Friday between the hours of 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. only)

please call the contact person listed below for the Mass you wish to attend.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH - CHRISTMAS EVE - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

3:00 p.m. Mass	Janet Benedict - 203-375-9886
6:00 and 10:00 p.m. Masses	Terry Collins - 203-260-0936

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH - CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30 a.m. Mass	Bobbi Vanderhoef - 203-216-2299
11:00 a.m. Mass	Kathy Ropa - 203-378-4275

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



Once again Our Lady of Peace will collect gifts to brighten the holidays for needy families.
We ask for your early unwrapped gifts so they can be distributed in time for Christmas.

The tree is located in the Chapel.

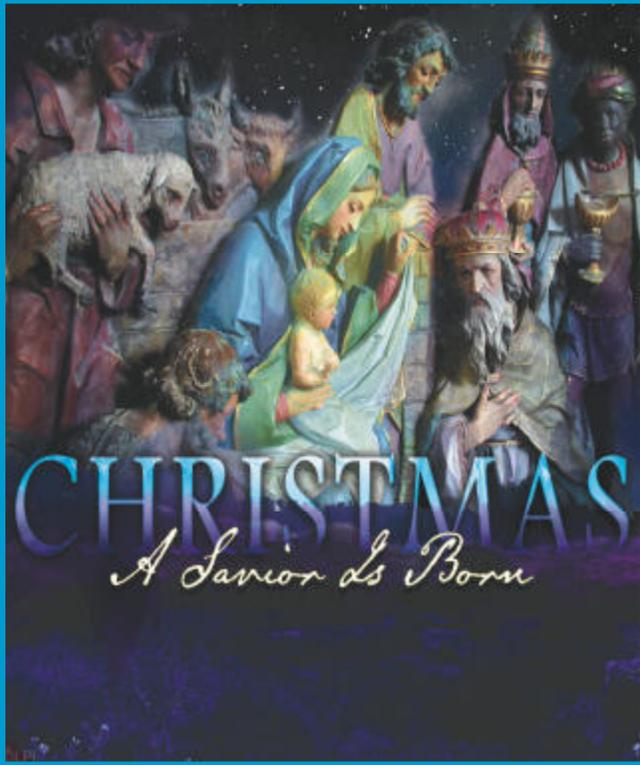
Parishioners in need of our help this year are asked to contact the Parish Office at 203-377-4863 ext. 10 or email ourlady@sbcglobal.net prior to December 15th.

CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to make a donation for Christmas Altar Flowers (*perhaps in memory of a loved one*) envelopes are in your envelope packets.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION In your Christmas gift giving, please remember the needs of your Parish Community. The needs are many and the generous response of each member enables us to meet those needs and strengthens our Community. Christmas Offering Envelopes are in your envelope packets .





*Unto us is born a Savior
Who is Christ the Lord.
May this angle's message,
the good news,
fill your mind and your heart
with the peace
that only Christ can give.*

*You and your loved ones will be
remembered in the Celebration of
the Mass on Christmas.*

*Merry Christmas
Fr. Nicholas Pavia,
the clergy and staff of
Our Lady of Peace*

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Our hearts are aglow with the joy of Christmas! Our senses are alive with the season, from the rich smells of evergreen and gingerbread to the feel of crisp air on our skin and the warmth of a loved one's embrace. At some point in the holiday hustle and bustle, take a few moments of quiet. In the silence, reflect on the other senses of the season. Imagine the cool damp of an animal stable, the earthy smell of hay and feed, and the crisp night air blowing in softly. Imagine kneeling beside an exhausted, joyful mother and a relieved, protective father. Imagine an infant wrapped in cloth scraps held out to your open arms. Imagine holding the infant Jesus. As his eyes meet yours, welcome into your heart the greatest gift of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS

Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. We have lit four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh of our world.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Let us pray...God, you became human through the obedience of a simple young woman named Mary. Mary is our model of faith. May we be faithful to your word as Mary was. Give us the courage to face each day with the yes that Mary gave to you. We ask this through the incarnate God, who comes to us again during this Christmas season. Amen.

MY FIRST CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

*I see the countless Christmas trees around the world
below with tiny lights like Heaven's stars,
reflecting in the snow.
The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away the tears
for I am spending Christmas with
Jesus this year.
I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so
dear but the sounds can't compare with the Christmas
choir up here.
I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices
bring for it is beyond description to hear
the angels sing.
I know how much you miss me; I see the pain inside
your heart but I am not so far away,
we really aren't apart.
So be happy for me, dear ones, you know I hold
you dear and be glad I'm spending His birthday with
Jesus Christ this year.
I send you each a special gift, from my heavenly home
above I send you each a memory
of my dying love.
Please love and keep each other as my Father said to do
for I can't count the blessings or the love He has
for each of you.
So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away the tears
remember, I am happy spending Christmas
with Jesus this year.*

Author Unknown

Financial Blessings

Our Lady of Peace receives no outside financial support. We rely entirely on your generosity to meet our many expenses. Every contribution furthers our Parish's mission of faith, worship, and service, as we seek to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to serve those most in need, and to worship the living God.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 6TH

Offertory Collection \$ 1,086.00

Online Giving \$ 1,745.00

During this difficult time, there are three ways to help the parish:

Drop weekly/monthly contributions at the Parish Center

**Mail weekly/monthly contributions to Our Lady of Peace
10 Ivy Street, Stratford, CT 06615**

Online Giving - visit our parish website or www.osvonlinegiving.com/119

Online Giving provides a secure, time saving solution for weekly offertory and extraordinary collecting giving.

If you need to modify your account contact Donor Support at 1-800-348-2886, ext. Option 2.

As always thank you for your generosity and support. May the Lord reward your generosity.

LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Does the world realize that it is waiting? As we go about all of the busyness of our lives and entertain our distractions, there are many holes and gaps in our lives that need to be filled. We are always wanting more, but not really sure what that "more" needs to be. Fulfillment, happiness, contentment, and true satisfactions are fleeting occurrences and often come to us in illusive ways. What we think is the ultimate fix to our anxious emptiness really is only a fancy trend that we entertain. The world does not realize any more today than it did over two thousand years ago that it is waiting for a Savior. We need a Savior. We need to see and embrace the God who has broken into history and become one with us. It is this union of God and man that sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals, and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. The world does not know how truly lost it is. Do you realize how lost you are and that the One you need most is here among us and within your grasp?©LPi



Class Schedule ~ Sundays 9:40 to 10:45 a.m.
in the Parish Center and
the Msgr. Gilmartin Church Hall

December Calendar
Classes: December 20th

Break December 27th to January 24, 2021

Contact Deacon Tom Fekete at 203-377-4863 ext. 15
if you have any questions.

Social distancing protocol will be followed
for all Faith Formation

Faith Formation is an important part of family life not only in your own family but, in the life of our Parish Family here at Our Lady of Peace-where we grow together towards the Lord.

OLOP DONATION CENTER AND THRIFT SHOP

**Parish Center 10 Ivy Street
Thursday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

The shop will be closed the day before and the day after Christmas. Father Pavia and the OLOP Shop volunteers' thank you for your support and wish you a glorious Christmas. The shop will be open on Thursday, December 31st from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

PLEASE NOTE:

We are in need of large shopping bags and would welcome your donation of them.

We are not accepting clothing until mid-January.

We are unable to accept baby furniture, exercise equipment, construction and renovation materials, electronics, books, CD's and DVD's.

PRAY THE ROSARY EVERYDAY

*THE ROSARY IS A SCHOOL OF FAITH.
POPE FRANCIS*



MASST INTENTIONS

December 19th, 2020 to December 27, 2020

Saturday, December 19th

4:30 P.M. Larry Salerno

Sunday, December 20th

8:30 A.M. Flora Listorti

11:00 A.M. Joan Warner and Jean Ruff

4:30 P.M. Lee P. Gabriel

Monday, December 21st

No Mass

Tuesday, December 22nd

No Mass

Wednesday, December 23rd

8:30 A.M. Dase and Coyne Families

Thursday, December 24th

3:00 P.M. The Parishioners

6:00 P.M. The Parishioners

10:00 P.M. The Parishioners

Friday, December 25th ~ Christmas

8:30 A.M. The Parishioners

11:00 A.M. The Parishioners

Saturday, December 26th

4:30 P.M. Richard J. Keane (5th Anniv.)

Sunday, December 27th

8:30 A.M. Marie Finn

11:00 A.M. Kate Hewitt

4:30 P.M. Vanna DeAngelis

SUNDAY READINGS



First Reading: Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 89

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2020

Monday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
 Wednesday: St. John of Kanty, Priest
 Thursday: Christmas Eve
 Friday: The Nativity of the Lord (holy day of obligation)
 Saturday: St. Stephen, the First Martyr
 Next Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

©LPi

Prayer REQUESTS



Please remember in prayer those who are unable to worship with us-the sick, the hospitalized, the home bound, elderly and nursing home residents and those in need of the comfort of prayer.

Hold especially in your prayers:

**Davidson Alagno, Alicia Bingham,
 Robert Blouin, Todd Burr,
 Frieda Canelli, Jan Cassidy,
 Angela D'Nardo, Robert D'Nardo,
 Frank D'Orio, Anthony Flamini,
 Elena Flamini, Joseph Galatie,
 Guy Gallo, Marc Gangi,
 Robert Gould, Rose Iacomacci,
 John Lisi, Blanche Loparco,
 Gary Normandin, Lynn O'Grady,
 Edith Orlando, Grace Parisi,
 Rocco Parisi, Rees Family,
 Marjorie Rindos, Nancy Roberts,
 Anthony Tucci, Kaiden Velez,
 Sal Vizzio, Dennis White, Susan Yanez**

Please let the Parish Office know if there is a loved one you wish to add to the list. The names of those we are praying for should remain current. Please contact the Parish Office with changes.

In addition, if you would like Deacon Fekete or Father Pavia to visit someone, please let the Parish Office know.

Also remember in your prayers, all caregivers, First Responders, Priests, Deacons and the men and women of our Parish Family who are in the Military.

Ask God's mercy for those who have died from the Coronavirus, His healing for those suffering from it and His protection for all others against it.



**The Parish Office will be closed
 December 24th and 25th
 for the Christmas Holiday**

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The cemetery by-laws, which includes pricing, are posted on our website: www.saintjosephsofstratford.org

You may also contact the pastor to discuss details or to view the grounds. Pastor@saintjosephsofstratford.org

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