

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH ~ DECEMBER 27TH, 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-CONFESSON-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.



The Sanctuary Candle
burns this week in memory of
The Parishioners

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

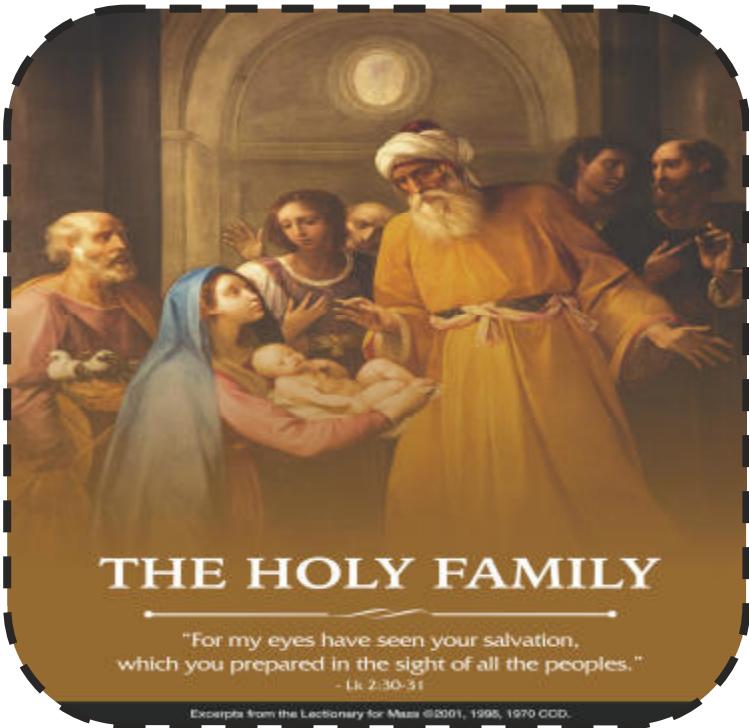
Email: ourlady@sbcglobal.net

Fax Number: 203-378-5253

Website: www.ourladyofpeacestratfordct.weconnect.com

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.



THE HOLY FAMILY

"For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples."
- Lk 2:30-31

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1970 CCCD.

EVERDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Gift of Family

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE

DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

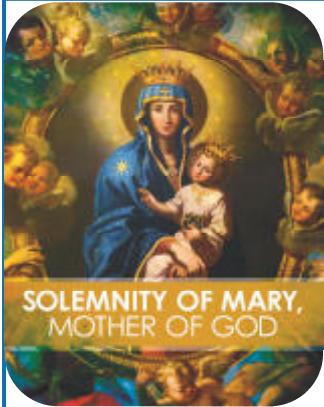
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us! ©LPi





**January 1st is The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
(The Octave Day of The Nativity of The Lord)
All Are Invited to Attend the 8:30 A.M. Mass
on Friday, January 1st
To Celebrate The Holy Mother of God**

Due to COVID-19, the holy day obligation for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God in 2020 has been lifted. However, Our Lady of Peace will celebrate Mass as if it were a Holy Day.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question: If God is eternal and infinite, how can He have a mother?
Why don't we call Mary just the mother of Jesus?

Answer: The title of "Mary, Mother of God" can be confusing. We aren't implying that Mary existed from eternity or that she is divine herself. We aren't promoting some kind of Marian superpowers. The Church has fought for this title throughout the centuries for one simple reason: Christ's identity is at stake.

As the Church grew in the early centuries, theologians wrestled with what it meant for Jesus to be both God and man. Many distortions of his identity began to emerge. One of these was propagated by a man named Nestorius. Nestorius and his followers denied that Jesus' human nature and his divine nature were inseparable. Following that logic, Mary could have only conceived Jesus' human nature. **But people don't give birth to a "nature."** **They give birth to a whole person.** For Jesus, his whole person is both human and divine. In 431 A.D. the Council of Ephesus denounced Nestorius. The bishops affirmed that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine and proclaimed Mary Theotokos. Translating the Greek to English, that means "God-bearer." Note that this isn't "God-generator" or "God-creator." Mary bore Jesus, God and man, in her womb and gave him birth. She is mother to the whole person, the whole Jesus, and therefore Mother of God.



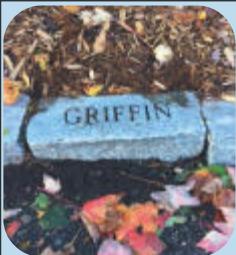
Father Nicholas Pavia, the clergy and staff of
Our Lady of Peace
wish all a Happy New Year

HOPE FOR A NEW YEAR

Gracious God, As a new year begins, we place our trust in you. May the time to come bring us closer to recognizing our need to love and cherish one another. May those in power understand the importance of cultivating peace and bringing an end to war. May those who struggle with disease, loss, poverty, and despair find light in the midst of their struggles and suffering. And may we grow stronger in our desire to imitate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ, your Son, in whom our hope abides. Amen

LIVE THE LITURGY ~ INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

While families come in all shapes and sizes and no two are the same, they all need a common focus and grounding. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with a proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. In addition to all of these things, the axis of every family has to be centered on faith. It is here that we can learn about the virtues and discover the windows to God Himself in His gifts of faith, hope, and love. We can learn, modeling our experience after the Holy Family, how to use these as anchors in our lives so that we can live out the other virtues with greater integrity. Because our human families struggle with weakness and sin, we have to come back to the Holy Family often for inspiration and guidance. In the bond of love that they shared, they clung to the anchor of God Himself and endured challenges far greater than many we will ever face. ©LPI



OLOP GARDEN CLUB BELGIAN BLOCK PROJECT

We are again taking orders to add Belgian Blocks to our Lady of Peace landscape. Memorialize a loved one with an engraved Belgian Block (12x8) installed around the Flag Pole. There are nine blocks available. If interested, please stop by the Parish Office, during regular business hours, to pick up and complete the required form to purchase the Belgian Block. The cost of each block is \$100.00 payable by check to Our Lady of Peace (no cash please).

Now Is The Time!

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION. If your address, email or family situation has changed, your parish membership information needs to be updated and can be done so by contacting the Parish Office at 203-377-4863 or emailing the Parish Office at www.ourlady@sbcglobal.net

SIGN UP FOR FLOCKNOTE our primary method of electronic communication by going to www.Flocknote.com/OLP and follow the prompts. You may also connect via your cell phone: Text **OLOP to 84576** from your cell phone and follow the prompts. We will use Flocknote to supplement the information in our Bulletin, and to provide a means for last minute information; such as meeting changes, inclement weather advisory, updates and reminders.

In addition, it is a two-way communication method. You will be able to respond to any e-mail publicly or privately. Your e-mail address is secure. You will not receive any third party messages nor will your address be shared with other parties.

SIGN UP TO HAVE OUR WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN EMAILED TO YOU at www.parishesonline.com or visit our website at www.ourladyofpeacestratfordct.weconnect.com

Our 2021 Mass Book is Open. There are Weekday and Weekend Masses available. We also have beautiful Mass Intention Cards for the living who are very special to us for their birthday, anniversary, graduation, hospitalization, birth of a child, adoption, etc. Please call the office to request a Mass.

PARISH CALENDARS FOR THE YEAR 2021 are at the entrance to the Parish Center. They were graciously supplied by William R. McDonald Funeral Home. If you would like one, please pick one up at the Parish Center Wednesday and Friday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

PARISH REGISTRATION

Question:

Why is it so important that we register in a parish? Isn't it good enough that we go to Mass

Answer:

Registration is the official way we join a parish community. Many people think that because they attend a particular parish they automatically belong. At times, young adults who have moved away for years think they are still signed up under their parents. But membership requires signing up, formally enrolling yourself in a parish. Registration is a commitment to a community, a way to be included in the religious, social, and ministerial activities of your parish. Your registration affects the parish in many ways. Census numbers can determine how many priests are assigned to a church, what benefits and obligations the community has to the diocese, and how Masses, Confessions, and devotions are planned and scheduled.

Registration shows you belong. It is also necessary for certain benefits, like scheduling sacraments, obtaining sponsor certificates, and getting donation statements for taxes. Most importantly, it lets the parish count on you, to call on you to assist in its mission. Registering in your parish is a statement of faith and confidence in the life and work of your parish.

Welcome So glad you're here.....

Interested in becoming a Parishioner
of Our Lady of Peace?

Please complete the following and deposit in the Offertory Basket or drop it off at the Parish Office.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Telephone No. _____

Comments _____

We look forward to hearing from you!

Our Lady of Peace welcomes anyone who is new to our area, anyone who is searching for the truth, or anyone who is looking for a spiritual home. We are joyfully and faithfully Roman Catholic in belief and practice, a community of faith, worship, service, and formation, and with open hearts we invite all our brothers and sisters into a living and saving friendship with the Lord Jesus Christ, in the communion of His One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

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 13, 2020

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Offertory Collection | \$ 2,232.00 |
| Online Giving | \$ 1,178.00 |
| Capital Improvements | \$ 462.00 |
| Retirement Fund for Religious | \$ 337.00 |
| Christmas Flowers | \$ 102.00 |

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.

PLASTIC BOTTLE/CAN COLLECTION AND REDEMPTION PROGRAM

On an ongoing basis, we collect clean, returnable cans and bottles large quantities can be left any time at the new drop-off location rear of the Parish Center along side of the garage. Please use plastic bags as paper bags tear apart in the inclement weather.

Small bags of bottles and cans can still be left any time on the front porch of the Parish Center.

Thank you to all who participate.

The program proceeds help to support the parish.

Please Note: we cannot accept glass bottles.
Plastic and cans only.

Our Out Reach Ministry volunteers, on a weekly basis, deliver donated non-perishable food items to Blessed Sacrament Church Food Bank. The food bank serves many families to feed their families. We appreciate all donations, however we cannot accept expired, opened or re-packaged food items.

Food Pantry Needs - Toilet Tissue, Soap, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Fruit, Canned Meats, Chef Boyardee. Our "Share Baskets" are located at the entrances to the church. **Thank you to all who help on a regular basis!**



Class Schedule ~ Sundays 9:40 to 10:45 a.m.

in the Parish Center and
the Msgr. Gilmartin Church Hall

Classes: Resume 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

On Thursday, December 31st, the shop will have a blowout sale. Bring your own shopping bag(s) and fill each with any remaining items for \$3.00. You may be asked to limit your shopping time if others are waiting. Jewelry in the case will not be included. The shop will close at noon on December 31st and remain closed the month of January. The plan is to reopen on Thursday, February 4th at 10:00 a.m.

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 Prayer.

-Pope Francis



MASS INTENTIONS

December 26, 2020 to January 3, 2021

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*

Monday, December 28th

No Mass

Tuesday, December 29th

No Mass

Wednesday, December 30th

8:30 A.M. *Louis Salig*

Thursday, December 31st

8:30 A.M. *William Carroll*

Friday, January 1st ~ New Years Day

8:30 A.M. *Louise Robichaud*

Saturday, January 2nd

4:30 P.M. *The Parishioners*

Sunday, January 3rd

8:30 A.M. *Karen Newall*
11:00 A.M. *The Parishioners*
4:30 P.M. *Manuel Pedreira*

SUNDAY READINGS



First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or
Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 128 or Psalm 105

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40 or Luke 2:22,
39-40

Observances for the week of December 27, 2020

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Tuesday: | St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr |
| Thursday: | St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve |
| Friday: | Mary, The Holy Mother of God; New Year's Day; World Day of Peace |
| Saturday: | Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church |
| Sunday: | The Epiphany of the Lord; National Migration Week |



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 31st and January 1st, 2021
for New Years

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St. Joseph of Stratford
National Catholic Church

Cemetery



Our cemetery is located in the beautiful
Lordship section of Stratford.

St. Joseph cemetery is consecrated ground blessed to receive
the mortal remains of the faithful departed. The cemetery is open
to residents of Stratford, and those residents who may presently
reside in a long-term care facility outside of Stratford.

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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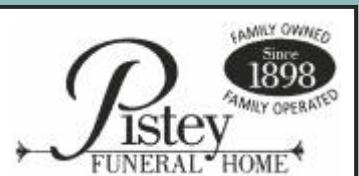

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