

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD ~ JANUARY 10TH, 2021 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.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER

UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

We need history. We need it in order to understand ourselves, personally and collectively. The pieces of our histories may not have always been the most positive, honest, exemplary, dignified, proud and best moments of our lives, but they are ours. We have to acknowledge, remember, accept, and often heal them. We cannot forget them or pretend that they never existed. As horrible as the atrocities of events like Auschwitz, brutal injustices committed throughout the human journey, or personal painful experiences in our own stories, we need to remember. These times when humanity in general or people in particular have lost their way are times that need to be reconciled and redeemed.

If we lose the memories, we will make the same mistakes again. The human soul needs a strong sense of affirmation, direction, and clear purpose. Without these essentials, we will easily run amuck and repeat the sins of our past. God's voice throughout history has spoken precisely about this! We are reminded through the voices and example of many prophets and witnesses not to make the same mistakes again, come back to center, discover the purpose given to us by God, maintain a sense of proper direction, seek healing for wounds and be reconciled to our Creator.

Baptism is so incredibly important for the salvation of humankind, not only eternally but here and now. Our existence depends upon it. It gives us the affirmation we need from God by gifting us with the same intimate relationship Jesus had with the Father. We are blessed with the direction and clear purpose we need in order to be productive stewards and faithful Christians. Baptism calls us to remember, accept, and deal with the sins and inequities of our past regardless of how hurtful and serious. We consciously choose to turn away from them and put on the new life of Christ. To do this well, we must look hard and long at our sins and failings, listen to what they are saying and learn from them. If we ignore the past, collectively or personally, or pretend that it never happened, we will never grow. We will surely die.

People need to hear the message, lived and spoken, delivered by the baptized members of the Body of Christ. It is an essential message of hope that is layered with visions of justice, peace, reconciliation, redemption, blessing, and healing. It is a message that helps us remember what has gone before, the graces and the sins, and bring ourselves by God's help where we need to be. We are called to do much more than sit home behind our closed doors. We have a message to deliver. Are we ready to do so? ©LPi



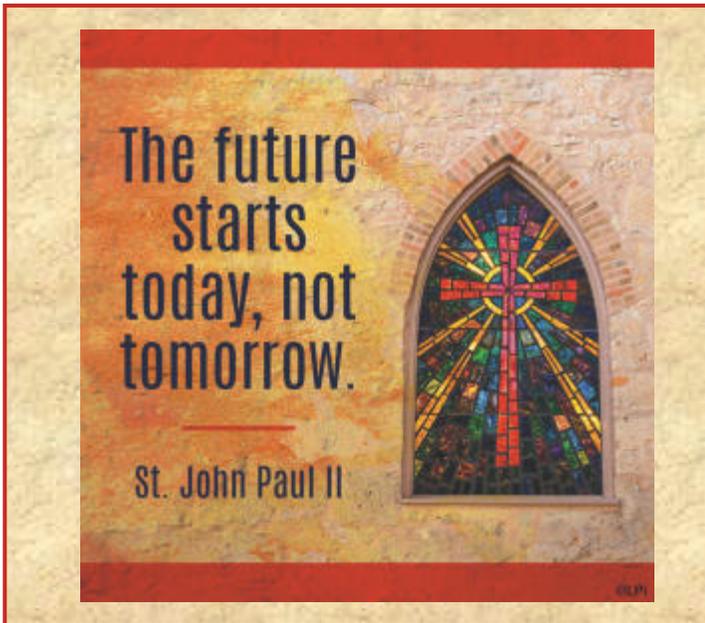
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." - Mk 1:7-8

© The Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1975 CCD

LIVE THE LITURGY ~ INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

We carry a greater depth of self-confidence and chance of succeeding when we have affirmation, a sense of direction and clear purpose in life. Each of these serve to provide our lives with meaning, allowing us to clearly establish priorities and goals. They also are necessary for integrity, which is the conviction and single mindedness that keeps us grounded in the truth of who we are. "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Jesus' baptism provides him with exactly what he needs to get about the business of his mission as the Son of God. He is given what he needs to be successful in fulfilling the purpose for which he was sent. Our baptisms give us these same gifts. We receive the affirmation we need from God, knowing that we are one of his beloved daughters and sons. We are gifted with the direction and clear purpose we need in order to be productive stewards and faithful Christians. Are we ready and willing to answer the call? ©LPi



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP ~
RECOGNIZING GOD
IN ORDINARY MOMENTS

When God Whispers

“You don’t need to shout. My hearing works just fine.”

Are you a parent that has used that one on your kids? I’m not sure at what age they realize that the volume of their voice doesn’t correlate to the likelihood of receiving a favorable reply — it might be sometime in the teenage years, when the talking slows down altogether.

But I’ve got to admit, it would be nice if God always gave us a loud and dramatic sign when He wanted something — the booming voice and the torn-open heavens (“This is my beloved Son!”) really get the message across. Sometimes I find myself envious of the Apostles, who were able to witness such things in person.

The fact of the matter is, in the year 2021, God is more likely to speak in a whisper than in a shout. The prophet Isaiah forewarns that Christ himself will not be a noisemaker — for all his preaching, he will not cry out or shout to bring forth justice to the nations. His way is altogether different than that.

We are not the Apostles, and we do not have the privilege of seeing the Holy Spirit descend on Christ like a dove. But here’s the good news: God doesn’t need to shout. Our spiritual hearing works just fine. We just have to be listening.

Let’s wake up each morning ready to hear God’s whispers throughout the day. Let’s make a conscious effort to invite those whispers into our hearts, where they can become a catalyst for grace in this world.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

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.*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR.....

Dear Parish Family:

Two thousand and twenty will go in the history books for so many reasons. We are grateful for so much. I want to thank every one of you for your generosity and support during this difficult time. Our staff and volunteers have been amazing at bringing together a safe environment for our parish. You are all heroes in your own way and I truly appreciate everyone's efforts.

Your donations for the Giving Tree helped to make someone else's Christmas bright; the presents were delivered to Blessed Sacrament Church for distribution. Volunteers decorated the church from your donations for Christmas flowers.

Again, thank you to all who contributed in so many ways to a beautiful Christmas parish celebration.

I am sorry to have had to say goodbye to some of our parish family. My thoughts and prayers go to their families.

I know that 2021 will be a GREAT YEAR. I will remember you and your family in my prayers and continue to keep our parish safe.

God Bless

Father Nicholas Pavia



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 eight 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).

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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION

Our Lady of Peace will follow the Stratford Public School closing policy in the event of snow. When the schools are closed or delayed or the Town or State has advised against travel, Daily Mass will be cancelled for that day. All Mass intentions will be rescheduled.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS will be mailed to all parishioners who have contributed \$250 or more to the parish in 2020. Statements will be ready by January 31, 2021. If you do not receive a statement, please contact the Parish Office and a copy will be provided.

Calendar of **EVENTS**

Monday, January 11th

The Lord's Kitchen

Friday, January 22nd

Prayer Shawl Ministry

January 23rd and 24th

Second Collection-
Church in Latin America

Sunday, January 24th

Faith Formation Classes Resume

Thursday, February 4th

OLOP Shop Reopens

Monday, February 8th

The Lord's Kitchen

Friday, February 26th

Prayer Shawl Ministry

IS YOUR INFORMATION UP TO DATE?

If your address, email or family information has changed, your parish information needs to be updated and can be done by contacting the Parish Office at 203-377-4863, ext. 10. **Thank you!**

Janet Lengel, Coordinator of Stratford's Dolly Parton Imagination Library, is excited to announce that the program is the recipient of Stop & Shop's Community Bag program for the month of January. If you purchase a reusable bag for \$2.50 at the Stop & Shop at the Dock, the organization will receive \$1. The Imagination Library is a book-gifting program that mails a free book each month from Dolly to children from birth to age five.

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.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Week of December 20, 2020

Offertory	\$2,317.00
Online giving	\$2,461.00

Christmas Collection

\$6,156.00

Week of December 27, 2020

Offertory	\$4,558.00
Online Giving	\$1,998.00-includes
Christmas online giving	

January 1, 2021

Solemnity of Mary	\$ 410.00
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Week of January 3, 2021

Offertory	\$1,827.00
Capital Improvements	\$2,000.00
Online Giving	\$1,820.00

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.



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**

Although the shop is closed, we continue to accept your generous donations. Please hold off on clothing donations until January 18th when we will again have storage space. Many thanks for your continued support.

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

PRAY THE ROSARY EVERYDAY

"Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother. Love the Madonna and pray the rosary, for her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother."-St Padre Pio



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!**

MASST INTENTIONS

January 9, 2021 to January 17, 2021

Saturday, January 9th

4:30 P.M. Dan and Emma Riccio

Sunday, January 10th

8:30 A.M. Janet Memoli

11:00 A.M. Louise Dobos (11th Anniv.)

4:30 P.M. The Parishioners

Monday, January 11th

No Mass

Tuesday, January 12th

No Mass

Wednesday, January 13th

8:30 A.M. Helen Onkey

Thursday, January 14th

8:30 A.M. Helen Wilson

Friday, January 15th

8:30 A.M. Sister Mary Kathleen and Malarky

Saturday, January 16th

4:30 P.M. The Parishioners

Sunday, January 17th

8:30 A.M. Ann Cole

11:00 A.M. Rose Porto

4:30 P.M. Tom Castlelot

SUNDAY READINGS



First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 (11b)

Second Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

Observances for the week of January 10, 2021

Wednesday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time ©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,
Condolina Vincenzi, Joseph Vincenzi,
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.



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National Catholic Church

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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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