

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ FEBRUARY 7TH, 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.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP ~

RECOGNIZING GOD IN ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Audacity of Holiness

Do you know a holy person? I'm not talking about piety — that's important, too, in its own way. But right now, I'm speaking of holiness.

St. Therese of Lisieux called holiness “a disposition of the heart that makes us humble and little in the arms of God, aware of our weakness, and confident - in the most audacious way - in His Fatherly goodness.”

The holy person sees a storm on the horizon of life, and rather than give themselves over to fear and despair (natural and understandable reactions), regards the gathering winds as an opportunity to rely more fully on God. The holy person takes a bad situation and sanctifies it with charity and understanding that defies our fallen human nature.

Peter's mother-in-law was still in the throes of a fever when Jesus grasped her hand. It wasn't until she took his hand and allowed him to help her up that “the fever left her and she waited on them.” Before the fever could leave her, she had to commit to holiness - to put her trust in him in a most audacious way. She had to find it within herself to lift her weakened hand to grasp his - and as soon as she did, she was rewarded. Her bodily health restored, she gave thanks, and attended to his needs.

God's hand is always outstretched to us. Will we take it, even if the fever of sin and pride and worldly concerns rages in our souls? Will we muster the strength? Will we be audacious enough to have confidence in His Fatherly goodness? — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi*

PRAY THE ROSARY EVERYDAY



Sunday Family Rosary

Looking for a way to grow in faith as a family for 2021?

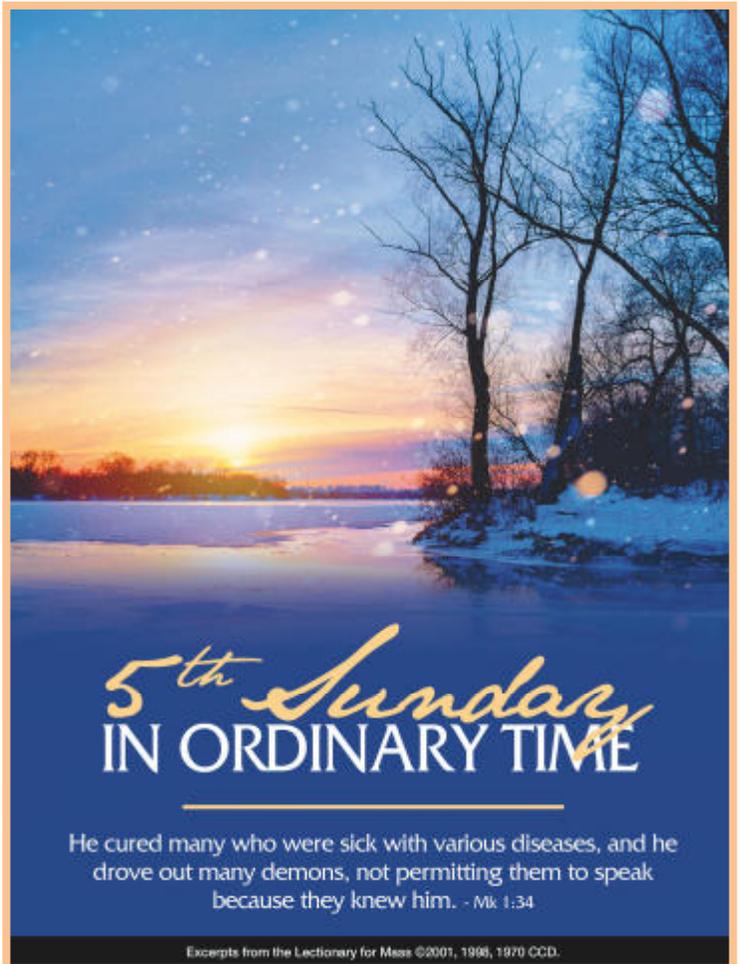
Join hundreds of other families from around the Diocese every Sunday at 7:30 p.m. for the Sunday Family Rosary.

Visit either the Diocesan website (bridgeportdiocese.org)

or The Leadership Institute (Formationreimagined.org)

and look for the praying hands at the top of the home page.

If you and your family would like to volunteer to lead, follow the prompts to sign up for any Sunday you choose.



LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Have you ever wondered what life would be like if you could see the future and know how things turn out? While it's intriguing to ponder what life would be like if we possessed this knowledge, actually knowing could easily rob us of the thrill, adventure, and soul-searching graces of our journey. Like Job, life does not always leave us on a happy note. Life experience can bring us face-to-face with our mortality and leave us with a profound sense of helplessness. We do not see the wholeness and fulfillment that will one day come and cannot grasp the certainty that a resolution to our plight will come our way. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet. Living a life of faith means realizing that we are not here to figure out life on our own. In order to drink deeply of what life presents us, we have to wrestle in the depths of our souls, agonize and search, possibly reach the lowest point of desperation, and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. It is no wonder that those who are touched by God's healing power want to then serve others and show them the deeper waters that can be explored. Knowing too much can rob us of joyful surprises. ©LPi

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE



If I only knew then what I know now, how different life would be. This sentiment, expressed in myriad ways, is found on every human being's lips at one point or another. Life may have brought us to a vulnerable place where we see some of the poor choices we made and the effects they are having. Perhaps we fell into some destructive and dysfunctional relationships or behaviors and are finding how they held us captive. Our zeal and passion for life may have drifted away and we are waking up to the reasons apathy has taken hold. Life can be hard. In fact, some would describe their lives as a drudgery. They walk through each day with an anxious unsettledness, wondering when their restlessness will cease. There is a temptation to believe that what I see is all I will get. Mortality and hopelessness await the dawn. If I could only have known what would come in the future, I could have made better choices and avoided all of this misery!

Really? While we can certainly give into weakness, sin, impulsiveness, and idiosyncrasies that cause us to stumble over ourselves, life is really a journey. If we don't make the mistake of wallowing in the mire of self-pity and realize the new life God is calling us to, then there are thrills, adventures, surprises, and soul-searching graces we can surely miss. We are not tethered to our past nor are we bound to the ills life can bring upon us. We are never hopeless or helpless. The problem is that our myopic vision only allows us to see the misery and misfortune that is before us, not the potential that can come from choosing healthier and more life-giving options. Jesus came that we might have fullness of life. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet.

We need to allow God into our pain and heal our past. We have to wrestle with our histories, agonize and search and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. Job could not see how his story would end or trust the guidance of the God who called him. We live in that same blindness and suffer from the same lack of confidence. Once we allow ourselves to be touched by God's healing power, we begin to see that all of the pieces of our lives are necessary parts of a greater whole. Along the way of our lives, God uses our omissions and failures to create new things and possibilities. When doors close, others open and we can be amazed by the joyful and unexpected surprises we receive. Once we know the power of God's creative, healing, life-giving, forgiving, and dynamic presence, it is no wonder we want to put ourselves at the service of others and show them what life can be. ©LPi.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? ~ CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

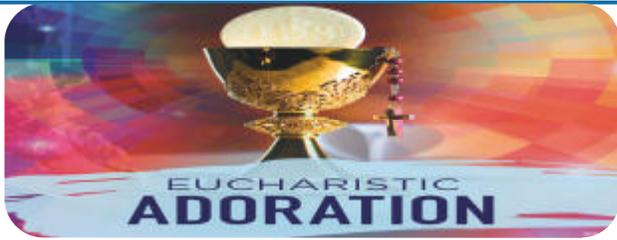
Question: Is it ever Ok to leave Mass before it ends?

Answer:

This is an interesting question because beneath the surface there seems to be an assumption that if it's okay, then why do we have to stay after we receive communion? The short answer is "no," but we definitely want to go a bit deeper as we consider why.

First, when we think about questions like this, we must consider this in adult terms. If there is something gravely important that we need to do, then we must attend to that. However, if it is a matter of convenience or preference, then we really have to stop and think again. First, while we always want to recognize the importance of sacramental communion in the Mass, we also need to understand how important the time of thanksgiving and prayer after communion is. This is summarized in the Prayer After Communion offered by the celebrant and then we are also commissioned to "Go forth" during the Dismissal of the Mass, reminding us that we have been entrusted with a gift - the Word of God and the Presence of Christ in the sacrament - and that we are to share that gift with others.

If we simply leave after we receive communion, we risk two things. First, there is the possibility that we will turn our reception of communion into a purely personal, individual experience that is separated from our common experience of worship- and communion in the fullest sense - and, second, we lose an opportunity for gratitude and serious reflection if we simply leave after communion. This time of thanksgiving, reflection, and, ultimately, missioning, are important and, in the end, an essential part of the celebration of the Mass. ©LPi



Starting Tuesday, February 16th

**Tuesdays and Saturdays
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
in the Chapel**

Eucharistic Adoration is a personal invitation to you from Jesus. It is you and God reaching out for each other. We remain silent in His presence and open ourselves to His graces and overflowing love for us. Adoration is our unique opportunity to have a one on one conversation with our God the Father, talk to Him, listen to Him and build a relationship with Him.

Adorers are always welcome. Please consider volunteering a half hour or an hour of your time. Contact the Parish Office at 203-377-4863 ext. 10 or sign up on our parish website www.ourladyofpeacestratfordct.weconnect.com

Eucharistic Adoration Schedule

Tuesdays: February - 16th, 23rd
Saturdays: February - 20th, 27th

Tuesdays: March - 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
Saturdays: March - 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION

Daily Mass will be cancelled on any day that the Stratford Schools are cancelled. However, when there is only a delayed opening for the Stratford Schools, Mass will take place at the usual scheduled time. School closing will be announced over radio stations

WELI-960 AM; WEBE-108 FM; WICC-600 AM; WEZN-99.9 FM and the following websites
<http://www.ctweather.com/>; <http://wtnh.com/>

Stratford Parochial Schools follow the public school decisions. Parishioners should use good judgement regarding their own ability and the actual conditions of roads and sidewalks

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

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!**

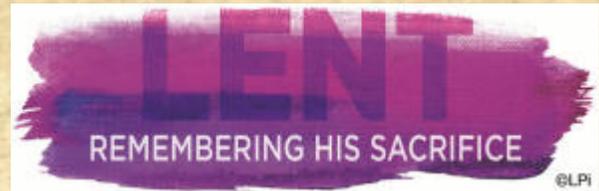
FEBRUARY 17TH

Blessed Ashes will be distributed during the
8:30 morning Mass
and
3:45 p.m. Prayer Service

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence

Abstinence means not eating meat, for those 14 years of age and older all Fridays in Lent.

Fast means limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals each day for those ages 18 until age 59. (One is not bound to fast if health or the ability to work is affected.)



Lenten Schedule

Daily: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Rosary ~ 8:00 a.m.

Mass ~ 8:30 a.m.

No Rosary or Mass on Monday and Tuesday

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m.

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

Eucharistic Adoration ~ Chapel

Tuesday and Saturday ~ 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Confession

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

Stations of the Cross - Church

Friday, March 5 and Friday, April 2 ~ 7:30 p.m.

Lent is a season of Preparation, Reflection and Renewal. During this Lenten season, ask yourself - What is the Lord asking me to do?

Loaves and Fishes - during the season of Lent, families are asked to offer the cost of one meal each week to support the feeding program of Catholic Charities. In doing so you help feed the working poor, the homeless and elderly of the Diocese.

The Special Intentions of Pope Francis

Throughout the season of Lent, we pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded. We also pray throughout Lent, that each of us may experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

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.

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.

Thank You for Make-up Donations



Monday, February 8th

The Lord's Kitchen

Sunday, February 14th

St. Valentine's Day

Tuesday, February 16th

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, February 17th

Ash Wednesday

Saturday, February 20

Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, February 26th

Prayer Shawl Ministr

Friday, March 5th

Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, March 10th

The Lord's Kitchen

Sunday, March 14th

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Wednesday, March 17th

St. Patrick's Day

Friday, March 26th

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Sunday, March 28th

Palm Sunday



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

February Schedule

Classes February 7th, 21st, 28th

No classes February 14th

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.

LEARNING ~ LOVING ~ LIVING ~CHRIST

FOUNDATIONS IN EDUCATION is pleased to announce that applications to the Bishop's Scholarship Fund is now open. The mission of the fund is to help families afford a Catholic education at Diocesan elementary schools in Fairfield County. Families who need financial assistance are encouraged to apply.

Deadline: March 15th-currently enrolled families, April 15th-new families.

Visit www.foundationsineducation.org for more information.

OLOP DONATION CENTER AND THRIFT SHOP

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

Have you seen the shop yet? Loads of wonderful things! Great reopening week with record sales. Your donations very much loved, keep up the good work! See you soon! All clean and gently used items welcome as we now have space.

Thank you for your continuing support.

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

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.

MASST INTENTIONS

February 6, 2021 to February 14, 2021

Saturday, February 6th

4:30 P.M. Geraldine (Gerri) Novak

Sunday, February 7th

8:30 A.M. Geraldine (Gerri) Novak

11:00 A.M. Jean Hendrickson

4:30 P.M. Sick of the Parish

Monday, February 8th

No Mass

Tuesday, February 9th

No Mass

Wednesday, February 10th

8:30 A.M. Alexander Ashuk

Thursday, February 11th

8:30 A.M. Hendrickson Family

Friday, February 12th

8:30 A.M. The Parishioners

Saturday, February 13th

4:30 P.M. Charlotte Pivarnik

Sunday, February 14th

8:30 A.M. Geraldine (Gerri) Novak

11:00 A.M. Soch Family

4:30 P.M. William M. Weaver

SUNDAY READINGS

WORD OF GOD

First Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 147

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Observances for the week of February 7, 2021

Monday: St. Jerome Emiliani;
St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin

Wednesday: St. Scholastica, Virgin

Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

Next Sunday: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
World Marriage Day; Valentine's Day

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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, Lois Burritt,
Frieda Canelli, Jan Cassidy,
Angela D'Nardo, Robert D'Nardo,
Frank D'Orio, Anthony Flamini,
Elena Flamini, Deacon Joe Gagne,
Joseph Galatie, Guy Gallo,
Marc Gangi, Rose Iacomacci,
John Lisi, Blanche Loparco,
Gary Normandin, Lynn O'Grady,
Edith Orlando, Marilyn Owen,
Grace Parisi, Rocco Parisi,
Rees Family, Marjorie Rindos,
Nancy Roberts, Anthony Tucci,
Kaiden Velez, Condolina Vincenzi,
Joseph Vincenzi,
Sal Vizzio, Dennis White

Sister Carolyn Stoe and the Sisters of Notre Dame

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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**Our cemetery is located in the beautiful
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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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