



Our Lady of Grace

Roman Catholic Church

Our Mission: We change lives through the Risen Christ

BY Prayer

WE PRAY EVERY DAY FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR PARISH'S MISSION AS WELL AS FOR OUR OWN INTENTIONS.

BY Presence

WE JOIN OUR COMMUNION OF FAITH FOR MASS EVERY SUNDAY FOR MUTUAL SUPPORT AND FOR THE GRACE GOD OFFERS US.



BY Witness

WE LOVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR EACH DAY.

BY Support

WE SHARE OUR GIFTS AND WE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER.

We Celebrate the Eucharist

VIGIL OF SUNDAY: 5:00PM SATURDAY EVENING
SUNDAY: 8:00AM, 10:00AM (CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD),
AND 12:00 NOON (CHOIR)
WEEKDAYS: MONDAY – FRIDAY 8:00AM AND 9:00AM • SATURDAY 8:00AM
HOLY DAYS: SEE INSIDE

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January 21, 2018 • Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Worship This Coming Week

<p>Mon. Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children</p> <p>Jan. 22 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Mk 3:22-30 8:00 Maria Cipollone 9:00 Robert W. Olanick</p> <p>Tue. Weekday</p> <p>Jan. 23 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Mk 3:31-35 8:00 John Graham 9:00 Robert W. Olanick</p> <p>Wed. St. Francis de Sales</p> <p>Jan. 24 2 Sm 7:4-17/Mk 4:1-20 8:00 Robert W. Olanick 9:00 Casima Makowski</p>	<p>Thu. The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle</p> <p>Jan. 25 Acts 22:3-16/Mk 16:15-18 8:00 Stephanie Scheuermann 9:00 Joseph C. Noto, Jr.</p> <p>Fri. Ss. Timothy and Titus</p> <p>Jan. 26 2 Tm 1:1-8/Mk 4:26-34 8:00 Vincenzo and Benjamin Geremia 9:00 Michael V. Sansalone</p> <p>Sat. Weekday</p> <p>Jan. 27 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Mk 4:35-41 8:00</p>
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The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 4:00pm, Presiders: Fr. Gius and Fr. Gabriel

Worship for Sunday, January 28, 2018

The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dt 18:15-20/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

	Presiding	We pray at this Mass especially for
5:00pm (Sat.)	Fr. Vin	Fred Sauer
8:00am	Fr. Vin	Patricia Ciavarella
10:00am	Fr. Gius	Angela Tedesco
12:00pm	Fr. Gius	People of the Parish

The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated throughout the year on most Sundays and occasionally on Saturday. Call the Parish Office for more information or to schedule an appointment for a Baptism interview. This should be done as soon as practicable.

The Sacrament of Matrimony

Arrangements for marriage should be made as soon as possible, but not less than six months prior to the intended wedding date.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

This sacrament is celebrated each Saturday during the 8:00am Mass for those facing surgery or those with major disorders. Other arrangements may be made by calling the Parish Office.

Becoming a Catholic • Completing Initiation as a Catholic

Any adult, teen, or child older than age seven who is interested in becoming a Catholic or in completing the Sacraments of Initiation as a Catholic (Baptism, Confirmation, Communion), is invited to contact the Parish Office.

Regular Devotions:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Mondays from 2pm to 9pm except holidays or when noted.

Miraculous Medal Novena with Rosary: Mondays following the 8am and 9am Masses.

Holy Face of Jesus: Hour of Reparation First Friday after 9am Mass.

Padre Pio Prayer Group: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm.

Scripture Sharing: Every Tuesday at 9:30am (except during July and August).

Our Parish Communion

This week:

Monday, January 22: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 2-9pm.

Tuesday, January 23: Scripture Sharing 9:30am. RCIA 7pm.
Youth Ministry 7:30pm.

Next week:

Monday, January 29: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 2-9pm.

Tuesday, January 30: Scripture Sharing 9:30am.
Youth Ministry 7:30pm.

Upcoming:

Wednesday, February 14: Ash Wednesday, Lent begins.

Weekday Mass Intentions:

The Parish Mass Book through June 30, 2018, is open for Monday through Friday Masses only. All Masses must be requested in person, and the offering must be given at the time of the request.

All dates and times are subject to change when a priest cannot be available, and the Mass must be rescheduled.

Our Pastoral Council

Mrs. Karen Elefterion
Mr. Ralph Fiorillo
Ms. Mary Ellen McEntee
Mr. James Nevins
Ms. Maria Russello-Chetti
Ms. Lucy Sanchez
Ms. Haydee Santini
Mrs. Concetta Whelan
Mrs. Annemarie Zaret

Our Finance Council

Mr. Richard Korcz
Mr. Leonardo LoCricchio
Ms. Debra Nicosia
Mr. Joseph Salzone (Trustee)
Mr. Robert Scharf (Trustee)
Mr. Thomas Vilella

Our Ministries

Ministries of Worship

Msgr. Vincent Rush, Pastor
Rev. Gabriel Miah, Associate
Rev. Gius Garcia, Associate
Deacon Brian Miller
Deacon Irwin Saffran
Mr. Terence Purtell, Director of Music

Parish Social Ministry

Mrs. Ann Kristoffersen,
Coordinator

Ministries with Children and Families

Mrs. Peggy Harnisch, Director
Ms. Jeanmarie Florio, Day Care
Director
Mrs. Tischa Stanley, Angel Care
Coordinator
Ms. Doreen Scalise, Kids of the
Kingdom / Summer Fun
Coordinator

Ministries of Administration

Parish Services, Finance
Mr. James Pisano, Facilities
Manager

As I See It

By Fr. Vin

The New Tax Law and its Possible Impact – and a Possible Solution

The new tax law passed in December will have various impacts on parishioners – maybe you were on line late last month to try to prepay 2018 property taxes to claim that deduction, which will become limited this year. My primary concern is the effect of the new law on parishioners' giving to the parish and to the poor. Almost everything I read says to expect that the impact of the law on charitable giving will be negative. But there's one hopeful possibility that I'll get to in just a bit. First, the problem.

The problem is, of course, that the tax benefit of charitable giving will be reduced for many people. That makes it more expensive for them to give, and as a result, people may give less. Experts in charitable giving expect that this will cost charities about 5% of their income in 2018.¹ Let's bring that home. Our parish's budget for FY2018 (which started 9/1/17) anticipates donations of about \$833,000. If we drop 5% from that, it's over \$41,000 we won't receive; and our anticipated surplus for the year is only about \$54,500. If giving should drop any further, we'd have to think about cutting core programs in order to balance our budget.

But things don't have to come to that. Everything will depend on the choices that parishioners make about sacrificial giving. If nothing changes in the face of this new challenge, we're in trouble. If more people choose to give sacrificially, we'll do fine. Where do we stand now?

Here are some numbers to think about. Using the history of calendar year 2017 giving (excluding the 12/30-31 weekend because people talked to me about making their entire 2018 gift in 2017 for tax reasons),² in 2017 728 families made at least one recorded contribution to Our Lady of Grace. (We have 6048 families listed in our census as belonging to the parish – so already that's only 12% of members who donate in a way we can record.) Of the recorded givers, the average (for statisticians: mean) gift was \$738 – which, over 51 Sundays, averages \$14.47 per week. The median amount – half of givers give more, half give less – was \$300 per year, \$5.88 per week. (The mean is “pulled upward” by a few households who give from \$5,000 to over \$20,000 per year; that's why the median is a better measure of what's typical.) That's where we are now.

Now let's do some other math. The median household income in West Babylon is \$83,248. The nationwide average gift Christians make to their churches is about 2.5%. (Interestingly, during the Great Depression of the 1930s it was higher – 3.3%.) Catholics give about 1.5%. Let's take that lowest, Catholic rate for a minute: 1.5% of \$83,000 is \$1,245 - about \$24.40 per week for 51 weeks. How many Our Lady of Grace families contribute at that rate? One hundred forty: one in five of recorded givers, one parish household in fifty overall.

What do we learn? I know that some people are incredibly generous – and that not a few people who struggle to pay the mortgage and put food on the table give sacrificially. But it does seem that there's some room for a lot of parishioners to grow in their commitment to give sacrificially.

The traditional target from the Bible for sacrificial giving is 10% of gross income. Catholics are often encouraged to split that as 5% to the parish, the other 5% to other charities. If more households came even close to doing that, the new tax law wouldn't affect our mission or our ministries. In fact, we could do more – for the poor, for young people, for faith formation, and perhaps entirely new ministries. But it all depends on the choices parishioners make. To make up our expected loss every household now giving would have to increase its weekly contribution by about \$1.25. If everyone who can gave an extra \$2 a week, it would help make up for those who can't give more.

It seems clear that the new tax law is likely to hurt the poor and the churches (even if that wasn't its intent) – but it doesn't have to. The ultimate result is not up to the legislators or the president, but up to each of us. . Until next week, peace.

¹ “Charitable giving to take a hit from the new tax law.” CBS News, 12/28/17.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/charitable-giving-to-take-a-hit-from-the-tax-law/>. “Charitable giving could drop by \$21 billion a year because of the tax changes.” MarketWatch, 12/26/17, <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/charitable-giving-could-drop-by-21-billion-a-year-because-of-the-tax-changes-2017-12-23>.

² A few Christmas donations might have been missed since I used 12/29 as the cutoff date for these figures, but otherwise this includes all recorded giving in 2017 except the final weekend.

Faith Formation

Ordinary Time

For the next month, we will be back in ordinary time. Our students are learning about the Church year. When you come to Mass, you'll notice the color is green for Ordinary Time. Remember, it's not called Ordinary Time because it's unimportant! These are the numbered weeks. This is the time we learn so much about Jesus life and works.

Workbooks and Mass Coupons Due

Remember, for students in Levels 6, 7 and 8 – you're Workbook A is due at the end of the month. Your book must be signed in at our office during office hours, and you will receive the B Workbook. Both must be completed to advance to the next Level of Faith Formation.

Mass Coupons are due when the Mass is attended. Please do not hold them until the end of the school year!

Christian Service

Our students in Confirmation Prep 8 have begun their Christian Service for the year. In this year of their Faith Formation, they will participate in service projects to reach out to the community and the world.

So far our students have made 672 sandwiches for the soup kitchen and raised \$1173 at our Walk-A-Thon and made over \$500 at our bake sale!

Our students in Confirmation Prep 7 have begun their Christian Service around our parish. They have been helping in the community garden, and each week they help clean and set up PES Hall as well as setting up our classes for the year.

I think we're off to a great start!

Faith Formation Office Hours

The Faith Formation Office is open each day from 9:00am to 4:00pm from Monday to Friday. Evenings available by appointment!

Clothing Drive

Our Confirmation students will be fundraising this year to raise money to donate to a worthy charity that they choose. One of the things they will do is have a fundraising clothing drive. Please bring any gently used clothing to our Faith Formation Office Monday through Friday between 9am and 5pm or to the Parish Office during weekend hours. Last year our students loaded a truck for St. Vincent DePaul with 5,000 pounds of clothing to help the needy in the Long Island area. We hope to surpass that this year!



Parish Social Ministry

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

The Immorality of Nuclear Arms

In a speech on the global effort to eradicate nuclear arms, Pope Francis called them immoral and said they should be made illegal in war, but he also voiced hope that despite pessimism, things are moving in the right direction. The Pope said “a healthy realism continues to shine a light of hope on our unruly world,” particularly on the nuclear front.

Pointing to the international treaty passed at the United Nations in July, Francis called the treaty “a historic vote,” in which the majority of the international community “determined that nuclear weapons are not only immoral, but must also be considered an illegal means of warfare.”

Francis said the escalation of the arms race and the expense it requires means money is taken away from what should be the real priorities: “the fight against poverty, the promotion of peace and the undertaking of educational, ecological and healthcare projects.”

(Catholic News Agency, 11/10)

Taxes

Enhanced Star is a program for seniors that provides an exemption from school taxes for owner-occupied primary residences. All applications must be filed by March 1, 2018. Go to the website at www.townofbabylon.com or the Assessor's Office for the application.

Warming Shelters – Suffolk County

The Suffolk County Department of Social Services has opened the Emergency Safe Beds Shelter Program that is in effect when the air temperature is at or below 32 degrees, including the wind chill. Sheltering assistance and a food pantry are available at the following centers.

- 2 S. 2nd Street, Deer Park 631-854-6600
- 80 Middle Country Road, Coram 631-854-2300
- 200 Wireless Blvd., Hauppauge 631-853-8714
- 893 E. Main Street, Riverhead 631-852-3500

Apprenticeship and Training for Plumbers – Local Union #200

The Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee for Plumbers, Local Union #200 will be conducting recruitment starting January 10 for 20 plumber apprentices.

Applications must be completed, in person only at Local Union #200, 375 Central Avenue, Bohemia, NY, between the hours of 10am and 5pm every Wednesday excluding legal holidays during the recruitment period. All applications must be received by March 28, 2018.

For further information, applicants should contact their nearest New York State Department of Labor Office or Local Union #200 at 631-567-3083.

Parish News

Please Pray for Those Who Have Died This Week

Michael J. Torio, Sr.

Gloria R. Mizesak

Registration for Angel Care Is Here

Angel CARE is our before- and after-school program. We offer a safe and friendly environment for children in kindergarten through sixth grade for West Babylon schools and kindergarten through fifth grade for Daniel Street and Wm. Rall in Lindenhurst.

The before care is for West Babylon schools only. It opens at 7am and is \$9 for each morning you need. The aftercare includes all the schools and is until 6pm and is \$12 each day that you need. We are a state certified program. Our staff is CPR/First Aid certified and has 15 hours of yearly training. We have two MAT certified employees on site.

For further information, please contact us at 631-893-6564 or email pstanley@ourladyofgrace.net.

Calendar Raffle Winners

Tickets for the Calendar Raffle from January through June are available in the Parish Office.

*The Gift you have
received
Give as a
Gift*
Matthew 10:8

Financial Stewardship Report September 1 through December 31, 2017

Sunday offering target: \$13,300 per week

Target to date: \$239,400

Collections to date: \$239,782

Over target by \$382

Christmas Offerings, 2017

(Through 12/31/17)

Target: \$51,000

Collections to date: \$47,490

(We expect Christmas offerings to continue to arrive)

Many thanks to our generous sacrificial givers!

Your sacrificial giving makes our ministries and our mission from Christ possible. Please be generous.

Ministries with Children and Families

What is Family Life Ministry?

Family Life Ministry hopes to address the needs of families of all ages and sizes. From those in single person families or multi-generational families, we are all part of the parish family of Our Lady of Grace.

We would love to hear your ideas for this ministry! What would you like to see happen in our parish?

Contact Maria at mrchetti4olog@gmail.com, or call our Faith Formation Office at 631-661-9353 for more information.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 7:30pm! Join us!

Coming Soon!

Catholic Family Bible Experience

This Lent season we are teaming up with over 10 other parishes in the Diocese of Rockville Centre to offer the Catholic Family Bible Experience.

The Catholic Family Bible Experience allows your whole family to read the books of the New Testament in eight weeks through an innovative book approved by Pope Francis himself.

The Books of the New Testament, presents the New Testament Scriptures in a simplified format - much like a letter from God about God. No chapters, no verses!

Your family members will read approximately 60 pages a week and once a week practice the ancient Catholic prayer method of praying with the Bible called *Lectio Divina*.

We will give each interested family copies of *The Books of The New Testament*, so that there is no cost to participate.

The Diocese of Rockville Centre is excited about the Catholic Family Bible Experience and invites you to participate at no cost whatsoever.

Individuals are invited to participate in this experience as well!

More information next week!!

Save the Date!!

Please join us!

Stations of the Cross!!

Come learn what the Stations of the Cross are and how we celebrate and remember them each year especially during Lent.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20 - anyone in grades 3 – 12 is welcome to come down to Our Lady of Grace at **7:30pm** to get their part and rehearse for the Live Stations of the Cross which will be presented on Good Friday, 3/30/18 at 5:30pm (no experience).

If you have any questions call: 631-661-9353.

Parish News

Day Care News

Day Care is in for a fun-filled winter! Our curriculum includes the ABCs, science, math, music and art for toddlers and preschoolers. We have a few openings available at each level. Please feel free to call or email me to set up a tour or ask questions at 631-422-4681 or Jflorio@ourladyofgrace.net.



Youth Ministry Meeting



Youth Ministry, 7:30pm, Tuesdays in Room 212/214. Teens 9th – 12th grade. Nothing to do Tuesday nights? Our fall session began September 19 at 7:30pm, Room 212. Join us for faith, fun and fellowship!

Seating in Church - *From Fr. Vin*

Sometimes some people need a particular sort of seat in the church – notably ministers like EMHCs, persons with disabilities (whether the disability is visible or not), and people with small children. Please accommodate requests if you're asked to change your seat to allow someone with a particular need to sit where you are. As Saint Paul writes, "Humbly regard others as more important than yourselves; each looking out not for his own interests, but everyone for those of others." [Phl 2:3]

From the Diocese – IRCP Deadline Extended

The Diocese of Rockville Centre announced that the deadline to file for Phase I of the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program (IRCP) for survivors of sexual abuse by clergy of the Diocese of Rockville Centre has been extended to January 31, 2018. The first phase of the IRCP was originally scheduled to end on December 31, 2017.

Any person wishing to file a new claim alleging sexual abuse not previously reported to the diocese may be eligible to participate in Phase II of the program when it is implemented in early 2018. These reports will be turned over to the local district attorney and investigated fully prior to a determination by the IRCP.

To learn more about the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program, please visit the diocesan website – www.drvc.org and click on "Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program" to access full program information.

Contribution Statements for 2017

Contribution statements for 2017 will be mailed out on request. Please contact the Parish Office (631-587-5185) or e-mail parish@ourladyofgrace.net. If you have your envelope number, that would be helpful. We will send letters as soon as they can be prepared. Thank you for your generosity to Our Lady of Grace!

The Last Good Word

Retreat in Assisi and visit to Rome - June 15 – 25, 2018

Fr. Jim McNamara wishes to invite you to a special retreat in the footsteps of St. Francis and St. Clare in Assisi June 15 – 25, 2018. He will give two conferences a day for six days in Assisi with Mass each day in the various churches. There is ample time for prayer and visiting the holy places. The entire city of Assisi becomes the retreat house. You will be staying at the Hotel Posta in Assisi. You will then spend three days in Rome at Domus Carmelitana not far from St. Peter's. For further information, you can access the brochure at: www.pilgrimimages.com/frmcnamara

All arrangements are being made by 206 Tours, and you register through them. You can call Chris at 206 Tours: 800-206-8687 or email him at: Chris@206tours.com.

A Word about Memorial Donations



Our Lady of Grace is frequently given donations of vestments or altar vessels that people have received as memorials when a person dies. While we appreciate the thought behind such memorials, we have so many of the items most frequently given that the donations end up stored away in sacristy closets. To provide an alternative, Our Lady of Grace has established an *Altar Fund* to receive money donations as memorials on the occasion of a death. Donors will receive a formal acknowledgement card that can be presented to the family at the wake; memorials will be noted in the parish *Bulletin*; and donations will be used to purchase items for our public worship when needed, such as liturgical books, altar cloths, and the like. Memorial cards for donations to the *Altar Fund* are available at the Parish Office. Please encourage people to use this method of giving memorials rather than purchasing items that may never be used.

World Meeting of Families 2018

The Office of Faith Formation of the Diocese of Rockville Centre is pleased to be working with Bishop Barres and Bishop Brennan in participating in the World Meeting of Families 2018 to be held in Ireland from August 21 – 26, 2018.

The Office of Faith Formation will be providing opportunities for those participating in the pilgrimage and for those who are unable to participate to gather in advance in order to prepare for the event with catechesis and prayer. For further information, contact us by email: mapill@drvc.org or call 631-678-5800 ext. 505.



DRVC School of Missionary Disciples

To find out more...attend an information session which will provide prospective participants information on how they can become part of dramatic missionary growth here on Long Island. Learn more at: drvc-faith.org.

If you have any questions, please contact Maria Elaina Barbieri 516-678-5800 ext. 540 or mbarbieri@drvc.org.
