



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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FAITH FORMATION OFFICE (631) 661-9353
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February 18, 2018 • First Sunday of Lent

Worship This Coming Week

Mon. Lenten Weekday	Thu. The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
Feb. 19 <i>Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46</i>	Feb. 22 <i>1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19</i>
8:00 Jeanine Paternostro	8:00 Michael V. Sansalone
9:00 Michael V. Sansalone	9:00 Pasqua Assalone
Tue. Lenten Weekday	Fri. Lenten Weekday
Feb. 20 <i>Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15</i>	Feb. 23 <i>Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26</i>
8:00 Jack Cannizzaro	8:00 Virginia Fiorello (B'day)
9:00 Maureen Caruso	9:00 Vincenzo and Giacomo Amato
Wed. Lenten Weekday	Sat. Lenten Weekday
Feb. 21 <i>Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32</i>	Feb. 24 <i>Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48</i>
8:00 The Blessed Mother's Intentions	8:00 Anastasia Gilmore, Howard Sullivan, Peggy Lydon, James McKeon, Mark DeGray
9:00 Lee, Murray, Tommy and Larry Gordon	

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Worship for Sunday, February 25, 2018

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

Presiding

We pray at this Mass especially for

5:00pm (Sat.)

Fr. Gabriel

Maryann Levin

8:00am

Fr. Gabriel

People of the Parish

10:00am

Fr. Gius

Geraldine Rentz

12:00pm

Fr. Vin

Maria Gucciardo

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, February 19: President's Day. All Parish Offices closed. No Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Tuesday, February 20: Scripture Sharing 9:30am. RCIA 7pm. Mass of the Bereaved 7:30pm.

Wednesday, February 21: Rosary Makers 4:30pm.

Saturday, February 24: Bereavement Class 9am.

Sunday, February 25: Faith Formation Pasta Dinner 1pm.

Next week:

Monday, February 26: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 2-9pm.

Tuesday, February 27: Scripture Sharing 9:30am. RCIA 7pm. Youth Ministry 7pm.

Thursday, March 1: Family Life Ministry 7pm.

Saturday, March 3: Bereavement Class 9am. Monthly concert 'Crowns and Thrones' 6pm.

Upcoming:

Monday, March 5: Lenten Gospel Study of the *Gospel of Mark* begins, presented by Msgr. Donald Hanson. 7:30 – 9pm. No registration required. (Dates are March 5, 12, 19, and 26)

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

Do We Love Our Demons?

A few weeks ago at daily Mass, the Gospel was the story of the possessed man in Gerasa from whom Jesus drives a “legion” of demons who then enter (and kill) a nearby herd of swine. The people of the neighborhood, rather than being delighted at the man’s recovery, ask Jesus to leave – he’s threatened their livelihood and they can’t abide that. I encourage you to read the whole story and to think about it for Lent. (The passage is Mark 5:1-17, also in Matthew 8:28-34 and Luke 8:26-37.)¹

There’s a saying among psychotherapists that “Most people want to get better, but they don’t want to get well.” Getting well costs too much – lessening the pain a little is a more comfortable goal. Finding a rough equilibrium between the pain caused by our vices and addictions and the pleasures those same vices bring – that’s a not-uncommon strategy. Get better, but not well. Heal the possessed man, but let us keep the swine for our profit.

Lent is a time for facing the possibility – perhaps the likelihood – that we do that. Lent is a time to discover why and how we love our demons. The traditional tools for this self-discovery during Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; each is a way to uncover in ourselves what possesses us and why we make a home for these forces – what they do for us that we can’t quite reconcile ourselves to letting go.

Prayer undercuts our self-satisfaction; it reminds us of our dependence on God. Prayer requires disciplining our attention away from what we might prefer to concentrate on and probably shows us just how unable we are to do that with any consistency; trying and failing at prayer reveals our addictions to what preoccupies and binds us.

Fasting confronts our instinctual preference for what pleases us. Fasting from food is traditional and still important; but in our world, fasting from media might be even more important. Shut off the smartphone for an hour a day; for God’s sake, don’t bring it to the table when you eat!

Almsgiving draws our attention to our attraction to money and to our ability to ignore the needs of others, especially the poor. It can show us our readiness to judge others as “worthy” or not of our charity. And it can reveal our fear of not having “enough” for ourselves. It can likewise reveal what we think “enough for ourselves” means. Money often means (under the surface) a way we measure our security or power or success or something else. Our hesitation to give alms might show us those motives.

Together, these disciplines will change us; not all at once and dramatically, but over time. They are, to use the traditional word, *practices*. We do them regularly – every Lent or every week or even every day – over and over, until they become part of our character and thus windows into our souls.

It’s not hard to see the conflicts in our society illuminated by the conflict those Gerasene people felt in the presence of Jesus: We want contradictory things, some of which can only be provided by making peace with (at least metaphorical) demons. We want peace *and* the “security” provided by overwhelming weaponry. We want civility *and* the “right” never to be shamed or contradicted for our own uncivil behavior. We want a society free from addictive drugs *and* a pain-free life. (There’s wonderful essay by a woman who had major surgery in Germany and was prescribed for her healing rest, ibuprofen, and herbal tea.² It worked.)

Lent is a time for getting to know the demons we’ve made friends with over the years. Only when we discover our attraction to what they do for us, can we imagine asking Jesus to rid us of them. Until next week, peace.

¹ If you can, start thinking about the story by reading a short poem by the late Richard Wilbur (he was the Poet Laureate of the U.S. 1987-88, and died this past November). I can’t quote it here because of copyright, but you can find it on the web at <https://www.poemhunter.com/best-poems/richard-wilbur/matthew-viii-28-ff/>

² https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/27/opinion/sunday/surgery-germany-ivcodin.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fopinion&action=click&contentCollection=opinion®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=search&contentPlacement=3&pgtype=sectionfront

Faith Formation

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.

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!



Pasta Dinner – A Great Afternoon Out!



Pasta Dinner

Our Level 8 Students will be holding their annual Pasta Dinner on Sunday, February 25, 2018, from 1:00 to 4:00pm. This is a new and earlier time! Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for the family! We are selling tickets whenever the Faith Formation Office is open. Dinner includes pasta with meatballs, salad, bread and

dessert. We will have several raffle baskets as well. Please support our students in this fundraiser!

Buying tickets in advance helps us plan better!

Buy Your
Raffle Tickets
Here

Lent

During this season of Lent, our students are reflecting on ways they can get more out of the season by prayers, fasting and giving. We are supporting CRS with Lenten Rice Bowls, praying a little more each day and trying to help others. We talk about ways we are 'fasting' each week. Upstairs in the building you may notice purple paper chains forming. These are our Lenten practices each week. We hope to fill the hallway by Holy Week!

We hope you will also consider some of the prayer opportunities the parish has to offer during Lent. These include the Family Bible Experience, The Gospel of Mark with Fr. Don Hansen and the Youth Stations of the Cross. Call the Parish Office for information!

Parish Social Ministry

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

God Takes the Side of the Poor – So Must We

“Today’s first reading presents us with the ‘Lazarus’ of the Old Testament: Job. If Lazarus suffered because he remained ‘invisible’ to the rich man who was indifferent to his plight, Job suffered an even greater indignity – for his friends blame him for his miseries.

Today, in a world of increasing inequality, as Catholics we must struggle against what Pope Francis termed the ‘globalization of indifference’ as well as that tendency in American society – seen especially these days in the debate over immigration reform – ‘to blame the victim’ for his or her ills.

As St. John Paul II said, ‘in the stark contrast between the insensitive rich man and the poor in need of everything, God is on the latter’s side. We too must be on this same side.’ This conviction is born of our Catholic faith – and that conviction leads us to engagement in the public square where as ‘faithful citizens’ we claim our rightful place.”

-Archbishop Thomas Wenski, Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, 2/7/15

Thank You for the Souper Bowl Success!

Thank you for the wonderful support for the Soup-er Bowl Collection. Because of your generosity, Parish Social Ministry was able to donate at total of \$952. To the following soup kitchens:

Mercy INN, Wyandanch
St. John’s Lutheran, Lindenhurst
First Presbyterian, Babylon
United Methodist, Babylon

More than 100 cans of soup filled our Food Pantry shelves. Thank you to the Confirmation students for their enthusiastic help.

Bereavement Mass

On Tuesday, February 20, at 7:30 pm, we will celebrate the lives of those who were buried from Our Lady of Grace since October 2017. Parishioners are invited to attend and support these families as they remember their loved ones.

Senior Advocates

Help in applying for SCAT transportation, SNAP (food stamps). Medigap Insurance, Relief and other senior programs is available through Senior Advocates at:

Lindenhurst Library	Monday, February 26	10am -11:30am
Wyandanch Nutrition	Friday, March 2	8:30am -12:30pm
Spangle Drive Nutrition	Monday, March 5	8:30am -11am
Rainbow Center	Wednesday, March 7	8:30am -11am
Tanner Park	Wednesday, March 21	8:30am -1pm
West Babylon Library	Thursday, March 22	10am -1pm

Free Tax Help – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

The VITA Program offers free tax help to low-to-moderate income (less than \$54,000) individuals and families.

Wednesdays beginning March 21 through March 28 -- 9:30am to 1:15pm
Lindenhurst Memorial Library, Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst
Appointment necessary – call 631-957-7755

Parish News

Let Us Welcome Our Newly Baptized Into Our Parish Communion

Patrick William Summers

Please Pray for Those Who Have Died This Week

Sheila Schoelles

John R. Intorcica

Margaret Gimello

Bereavement Class Start-Up

A 'Bereavement Class' has begun at Our Lady of Grace on Saturdays at 9am. All are welcome to come and join us. For more information, please call Fran at 631-587-1578.

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.

From Fr. Vin: Calendar Raffle

We are unable to run the calendar raffles for the first half of the 2018 year. I hope we can count on your support in the second half of this year when we hope to resume the raffles. You should hear from us about that no later than June 1. Let me express my sincere apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

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

Financial Stewardship Report September 1, 2017, through January 29, 2018

Sunday offering target: \$13,300 per week

Target to date: \$292,600

Collections to date: \$294,046

Over target by \$1,446

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.

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

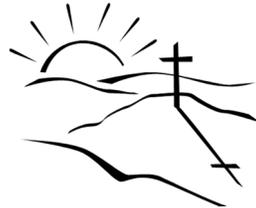
Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 5, 2018, at 7:30pm! Join us!

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 his/her part and rehearse for the Live Stations of the Cross which will be presented on Good Friday, March 30, 2018, at 5:30pm (no experience).

Rehearsal dates are:



Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Tuesday March 27, 2018 –Rehearsal in Church (in case of rain)

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

Adult Confirmation

It just happened again. I received a call from a woman who was asked to be a Godmother for her newborn niece. Unfortunately, she never confirmed as a child and now needs to do so by early April. I had to tell her the confirmation of adults would be taking place on May 26 well after the baby's christening. Not much I could do to help her. Understandably, I never heard from her again.

Don't let this happen to you or someone you know. Our Lady of Grace is here to help. An Adult Confirmation Program is being offered to those ages 18 and older who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The program entails attending seven classes being held on the following Wednesdays from 7:15 to 9pm:

April 4, 11, 18, 26, May 2, 9 and 16, 2018

Confirmation will be conferred during the 5pm Mass on Saturday, May 19.

There is no fee for the program. Parishioners from Our Lady of Grace and from any other parish are welcome. If interested, please leave your name, telephone number and email address in the Parish Office or email Joe Salzone directly at jsalzone@ourladyofgrace.net.

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!

“Youth Ministry is an organization at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. Its purpose is to support the moral and personal growth of teenagers while also offering fun experiences. While based inside of a Catholic church, the Youth Ministry welcomes those of all faiths to show tolerance and respect of others. We hold meetings on the second floor on Tuesdays as well as other events during the weekends. If you are interested, check it out!” Aiden O’Sullivan 11th Grade

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!

From Fr. Vin:

Because of the flu epidemic in line with recommendations from the diocesan Office of Worship, we will discontinue the offering of the Eucharistic Cup to the assembly at Mass until the flu threat passes. Parishioners should also feel free to smile, nod, or make another gesture rather than shaking hands at the sign of peace.

From Mother Teresa Center of the Missionaries of Charity

To Gladys and the Rosary Makers of Our Lady of Grace,

Thank you for the beautiful gift of religious articles and 250 rosaries for our poor, for carefully made and packaged. Gladys, without putting any pressure on you and the Rosary Makers of Our Lady of Grace Church, let us say that all rosaries sent to us end up in the hand of the poor somewhere in the world. We accept all gifts of rosaries and religious materials for our poor. What a profound tribute you have made to Our Lady of the Rosary on the 100th anniversary of her appearances in Fatima.

God bless you,

Sr. M. Elisabeth, MC

Lent 2018

Entering the Word and World of Mark: a Lenten Series

Presenter: Msgr. Donald Hanson

Mondays, March 5, 12, 19, 26, 7:30 – 9:00pm, Center Room 110



This year we are reading the gospel of Mark at Sunday Mass. Mark is the earliest written and the shortest of the gospels. Similar in structure to Matthew and Luke's gospels, it is very different from John's gospel. Mark's gospel presents an important and distinctive view of Jesus, its subject. In four sessions we will come to know Mark a little better, as well as becoming acquainted with the methods modern scripture scholars use to study the gospels, who their original audience was, and the literary forms in which the message was expressed. Participants will have the chance to examine key passages up close and ask questions of the text in order to understand it better.

The first two sessions will focus on how the Gospels came to be, and how we now study them. The final two sessions will have more to do with reading the Gospels for spiritual benefit.

No advance registration is required. Get to know Jesus better this Lent through study of his word. Again, the sessions will meet on Monday evenings, 7:30 to 9 PM., in the Parish Center, Room 110. Dates are March 5, 12, 19, and 26.

Msgr. Donald Hanson is the recently retired pastor of Most Holy Trinity Church in East Hampton. Fr. Don has had a varied career as a priest: from parish service to a time as assistant chancellor of the diocese, and to several years on the faculty of the American College of the University of Louvain in Belgium. (He keeps up his facility with Dutch and Flemish; so if you speak one of those languages, I'm sure he'd be delighted to chat with you in them.)

Lenten Fast and Abstinence Regulations:

- ≡ Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.
 - ≡ Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. (The obligation of fasting ceases with the celebration of one's 59th birthday.)
 - ≡ The fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday means this: Only one full (meatless) meal is allowed; two other smaller meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. Again, the obligation to fast ceases with one's 59th birthday, but the obligation to abstain from eating meat does not.
 - ≡ Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed minimal penitential practices.
-