



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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February 25, 2018 • Second Sunday of Lent

Worship This Coming Week

<p>Mon. Lenten Weekday Feb. 26 <i>Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38</i> 8:00 Tina Marie Cicciari 9:00 Maureen Caruso</p> <p>Tue. Lenten Weekday Feb. 27 <i>Is 1:10, 16-20/Mt 23:1-12</i> Rita Costello and Theresa 8:00 Calcanes 9:00 Maureen Caruso</p> <p>Wed. Lenten Weekday Feb. 28 <i>Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28</i> 8:00 Mike DiMatteo 9:00 Giuseppe Mozzone</p>	<p>Thu. Lenten Weekdy Mar. 1 <i>Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31</i> 8:00 Robert McDade 9:00 Josephine Koehler</p> <p>Fri. Lenten Weekday Mar. 2 <i>Gn37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46</i> 8:00 For the Intentions of the Blessed Virgin Mary 9:00 Devotees of the Holy Face of Jesus – Living and Deceased</p> <p>Sat. Lenten Weekday Mar. 3 <i>Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32</i> 8:00 Dalma Aybar, Ralph Mulvey (B'Day)</p>
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The Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Worship for Sunday, March 4, 2018

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 20:1-17, 7-8, 12-17/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25

	Presiding	We pray at this Mass especially for
5:00pm (Sat.)	Fr. Gius	People of the Parish
8:00am	Fr. Gius	Giovanni Iemma
10:00am	Fr. Vin	Jeanine Paternostro and Edward Mandart
12:00pm	Fr. Gabriel	John McCroary

The Sacrament of Baptism

Sunday, 1:30pm: Presider: Deacon Irwin

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.

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.

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.

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).

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.

Our Parish Communion

This 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 7:30pm.

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

Next week:

Monday, March 5: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 2-7pm. 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)

Tuesday, March 6: Scripture Sharing 9:30am. RCIA 7pm.
Youth Ministry 7pm.

Thursday, March 8: Family Life Ministry 7pm.

Saturday, March 10: Bereavement Class 9am.

Upcoming:

Monday, March 12: Lenten Gospel Study of the *Gospel of Mark* continues, 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

Abraham's Unsettling Choice

Today we hear the story of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac because he hears the voice of God telling him to. (The text is Genesis 22:1-18) This story has been used – as it still is today – as evidence of Abraham's faith in God and as a prefiguring of God's acceptance of Jesus's sacrificial death.

With all due respect, I wish to offer another opinion on how to read this story. It's based on three things:

First, even granting that culture was different in Abraham's day and that children may well have been differently valued, it seems to me that no parent not in the grip of illusion would do this – in Abraham's time or at any time. "Faith" does not equal insanity (despite the two being too often confused).

Second, we see a very different Abraham just a few chapters earlier in Genesis (18:22-33), when Abraham bargains with God about the proposed destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. There is no meek, "Ok, if You say so" in this story. Abraham is no pushover when something matters to him.

Third, We need to remember that this story was told in a culture in which child-sacrifice was a common practice – of the pagan religions that surrounded and threatened the Jewish people. The key to the story is not Abraham's seeming willingness, but rather God's urgent and stern *prohibition* against killing Isaac that comes at the end of the story: "Do not raise your hand against the boy. Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God." (22:12)

Putting the pieces together here's what I think is going on:

First, the story relies on the natural desire of parents to protect their children (whether you prefer the traditional interpretation or the one I'm about to lay out). Abraham's choices are meant to seem horribly unnatural to hearers right from the start. We have made the story too conventional by reading back into it the centuries of interpretation and so we lose the revulsion that was part of the original story's context and impetus. This is only a minor problem in the traditional interpretation but a major one if what I think is going on is true.

Second, the story is meant to illustrate that any supposed "voice of God" commanding child-murder is an illusion that is to be resisted. Of course, the story can't start out saying "Abraham was deceived into thinking God was telling him to kill Isaac" – that ruins the drama and so the lesson. No one wants to follow an illusory command. It's the sense that such a command could be *real* that needs to be opposed. So Abraham is shown, at the start of the story, thinking that God is really telling him to do this.

Third, the turnaround at the end is not that "God changes his mind" or "God is satisfied Abraham is dutifully obedient"; it's that *Abraham discovers that God does not want child murder*. His initial sense of "what God wanted" was deceptive and illusory (as, implicitly then, is the teaching of the pagan religions around the Jews that "their god wants child murder").

The story's point is that *child-murder is the result of a horrific illusion and is utterly condemned by God*. And the corollary is, *It is possible to be deceived by this illusion and to think it is genuinely what one must do*.

"God wills it!" has been the battle-cry of too many people through history. The wisdom of a community (plus the tradition of our church) can be a guard against self-deception. This story, read correctly, is part of that. Until next week, peace.

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 raised \$1173 at our Walk-A-Thon and made over \$500 at our bake sale!

Our students have been gathering to make sandwiches for a local soup kitchen. So far they have made 1401 sandwiches!

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 **today**, 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! Dinner includes pasta with meatballs, salad, bread and dessert. We will have several raffle baskets as well. Please support our students in this fundraiser!

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

New Resources for Catholics to Address Poverty in the U.S.

Catholics can encounter, learn and act to address poverty in the United States through two new websites from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

PovertyUSA.org and its Spanish mirror site, PobrezaUSA.org. The sites offer tools and resources to help Catholics put faith in action by working to address poverty. Resources include an interactive map with state and county poverty statistics, learning activities about poverty, prayer materials, and multimedia. The sites also feature stories of hope about how communities are working to address poverty locally, and an interactive map to find organizations funded by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

“As Disciples of Christ, we are invited to encounter those in our communities who experience poverty,” said Bishop David P. Talley of Alexandria, chair of the CCHD Subcommittee of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. “Poverty in the United States is a reality. We must work together to put faith in action to work towards policies in our local communities, and nationally, that can help address it.”

Nearly 41 million people live in poverty in the U.S., including 15 million children. The poverty threshold is \$24,600 for a family of four and \$12,200 for a single person.

Lenten Projects

Help our needy families and do a Lenten sacrifice for our community.

Please consider shopping for the following necessities because paper goods and toiletries cannot be purchased with the benefit cards (EBT-Food Stamps):

Toothpaste	Deodorant	Face Soap & Shower Gel
Toothbrushes	Toilet Paper	Laundry & Dish Detergent
Shampoo	Baby Diapers (always needed)	Paper Towels

REMINDER:

Did you apply for your Earned Income Tax Credit (EIC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC)?

According to IRS, each year millions of eligible workers do not claim their credit missing out on millions of dollars they have earned. Even if workers don't earn enough to owe income tax (although they pay federal excise and payroll taxes as well as state and local taxes) they can qualify for these tax credits but may not realize it. Child qualifications for workers with children are: son, daughter, grandchild, stepchild or adopted child, foster child placed with the worker by a government agency. Check it out before it's too late!

Response of Suffolk County, Inc.—Hotline 631-751-7500

A 24-hour crisis intervention hotline open every day of the year, day and night, including holidays. Professionally trained and supervised volunteers offer callers telephone support and help them to explore options that might lead to eventual crisis resolution. The calls cover a huge range of life struggles – unemployment, health problems, relationship difficulties, mental illness, loneliness, the challenges of new parenthood, the death of a pet, among many others. Counselors also provide referrals for support groups, clinicians, mental health clinics, other hotlines and a host of community programs.

Crisis counseling is also offered online through the hotline Heat2Help – available Monday through Friday, 7-11pm at www.ResponseHotline.org.

Parish News

Please Pray for Those Who Have Died This Week

Josephine Montalbano

Raymond Jean-Jacques

Bread and Wine Donation

The bread and the wine have been donated in loving memory of Maureen Caruso for the week of February 25 through March 3, 2018.

Bereavement Class

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.

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.

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!

*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 needed to participate).

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.

Hospitality Breakfast

Our next Hospitality Breakfast will be on Sunday March 18, 2018. Come join us after the 10am Mass between the Feasts of St. Joseph and St. Patrick for a nice time and good food! Even if you attend a different Mass, come down at 11:00 and join us. Everyone welcome!

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.



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.

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

Parish News

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.

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.

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.
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Opportunities to Serve Our Parish

- ≡ **Wedding Rehearsal Couples:** Rehearsal for the bride and groom, their families, and the wedding party to prepare them for the Sacramental celebration that will take place in the church. From entrance to exit will take approximately 45 minutes. Contact: Deacon Brian through the parish office: 631-587-5815.
- ≡ **Usher Ministry:** Arrive at church before mass starts to greet parishioners. Then, assist during mass by collecting church offerings, directing parishioners to communion, and handing out church bulletins at the end of mass. Contact Anthony Colletti by leaving your name and contact number with the parish office.
- ≡ **Lectors:** Become the voice of God when reading the sacred scriptures in church while fulfilling a spiritual service to the parish. They also learn an extensive amount about scripture which enriches their own spiritual lives. A workbook is provided with all the guidance needed to prepare the readings. No special skills are required and training is provided by the diocese and by the parish. Contact Claire Kraemer at 631 422-2666.
- ≡ **Parish Choirs:** Sing Sunday Masses and holy days, Adults and Children rehearse weekly, Youth (teens) every other week. Season runs from September till May or June, new member placement over the summer for the 2018-2019 year. Contact: Terence Purtell, 631-587-5185 or tpurtell@ourladyofgrace.net.
- ≡ **Ministry of Consolation:** Help bereaved families to prepare for the Funeral Liturgy by helping them choose the readings and music. Collect information about the departed to help guide the priest presider prepare the homily. Assist the priest and coordinate with assigned family members who have parts in the actual Funeral Mass. Training is provided. Contact the parish office at 631-587-5815.
- ≡ **Baptism Hosting:** Set-up the materials needed during the baptism. Make sure the information about the child and the family in the intake sheet is correct and all other requirements have been submitted. Assists the priest in the actual celebration of the sacrament. Training is provided. Contact the parish office.
- ≡ **Daycare:** We care for children 6 weeks to 5 years old, all year long. We have open registration, if you are interested in Daycare for your child. Please call 631-422-4681 for a tour. Also: We are always looking to hire kind, loving people as assistant and/or lead teachers. If you are a “kid” person and would like to apply please email a resume to Jeanmarie Florio at jflorio@ourladyofgrace.net.
- ≡ **Faith Formation Catechist:** People who wish to share their faith with small groups of students as Catechists weekly or monthly from October to April. We will train you and give all materials needed. Contact Peggy Harnisch, 631-661-9353, mharnisch@ourladyofgrace.net
- ≡ **Family Life Ministry:** Help in planning and running events such as Hospitality, Advent Wreath Making etc. We can do so much more if we have hands! Contact Maria Russello-Chetti at mrchetti4olog@gmail.com.
- ≡ **Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:** Do you feel deeply about the Mass and the Holy Eucharist? Have you ever had thoughts about being the one to serve Holy Communion to others? Do you wish you could do something for the elderly and the homebound? Our Eucharistic Ministers bring Holy Communion to the homebound and to our parishioners of Little East Neck Nursing Home. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Haydee Santini at hsantini@ourladyofgrace.net.
- ≡ **Liturgical Environment (a/k/a Church Decorating):** Do you take pride in decorating your home? Preparing for the seasons? Are you organized? Maybe you just like to iron? Or, do you love to garden and care for plants? God needs us to do the same for His house! Would you like to help decorate and take care of our church? If you are interested in using your hands and your talents, and would like more information, please contact Haydee Santini at hsantini@ourladyofgrace.net.