



# 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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**December 9, 2018 • Second Sunday of Advent**

## Worship This Coming Week

<p><b>Mon. Advent Weekday</b>                  Dec. 10 <i>Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26</i>                  8:00 Annette McManus (14 Anniv.)                  9:00 Frank Camisso</p> <p><b>Tue. Advent Weekday</b>                  Dec. 11 <i>Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14</i>                  8:00 Antoinette Ognibene                  9:00 Bob Olanick (1 Anniv.)</p> <p><b>Wed. Our Lady of Guadalupe</b>                  Dec. 12 <i>Zec 2:14-17; 12:1-6a, 10ab/                  Lk 1:26-38</i>                  8:00 Joseph Bosco                  9:00 Antonino Bonventre</p>	<p><b>Thu. St. Lucy</b>                  Dec. 13 <i>Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15</i>                  8:00 Virginia Fiorello (6 Anniv.)                  9:00 Vincent Hagan</p> <p><b>Fri. St. John of the Cross</b>                  Dec. 14 <i>Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19</i>                  8:00 Patricia Nolde                  9:00 Joseph Pergola</p> <p><b>Sat. Advent Weekday</b>                  Dec. 15 <i>Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13</i>                  8:00 Ayden Berrios</p>
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### The Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

## Worship for Sunday, December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent

*Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18*

	Presiding	We pray at this Mass especially for
<b>5:00pm (Sat.)</b>	Fr. Gius	Nicolina DiBartolo
<b>8:00am</b>	Fr. Gius	Eileen Calvanico
<b>10:00am</b>	Fr. Vin	People of the Parish
<b>12:00pm</b>	Fr. Gabriel	Carmella Piccano

### The Sacrament of Baptism

*Baptisms are celebrated throughout the year. 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

**First Banns:** Katherine O'Toole – Derek Turoff  
 Brittany Whalley – Sean Brady  
 (St. Isidore – Riverhead, NY)

*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

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## **This week:**

**Monday, December 10:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 2-9pm.

**Tuesday, December 11:** Scripture Sharing 9:30am. Rosary Makers 10am. Padre Pio 7:30pm.

**Saturday, December 15:** Family Life Ministry Christmas Pageant 6:30pm.

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## **Next week:**

**Monday, December 17:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 2-9pm.

**Tuesday, December 18:** Scripture Sharing 9:30am. Youth Ministry 7pm.

**Friday, December 21:** Widows and Widowers 12pm.

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## **Upcoming:**

**Confessions for Christmas:** Saturday, Dec. 15: 4 – 4:45 PM; Wednesday, Dec. 19: 8-9 PM; Friday, Dec. 21: After 9 AM Mass; Saturday, Dec. 22: 4 – 4:45 PM

**Christmas Masses:** Vigil (12/24) 3pm, 4:30pm; Mass at Night, 10pm. Christmas Day 8am, 10am, Noon. (No evening Mass.)

**New Year's Masses:** Vigil (12/31) 5:30pm; New Year's Day 9am, 11am. (No evening Mass.)

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## **Mass Intentions for 2018-2019**

The Parish Mass Book from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, 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. In addition, 9am Masses may, when necessary, be celebrated as a Funeral Mass.

Parishioners should be aware that intentions are available for the Saturday morning collective-intention Mass each week. Intentions for the Sunday Masses are taken not more than one month in advance.

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## **Our Pastoral Council**

Mrs. Lee Abseck  
Mr. Ralph Fiorillo  
Ms. Mary Ellen McEntee  
Mr. James Nevins  
Ms. Maria Russello-Chetti  
Ms. Lucy Sanchez  
Ms. Haydee Santini  
Mrs. Kathleen Scheid  
Mrs. Concetta Whelan

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## **Our Finance Council**

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

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## **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

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By Fr. Vin

## Our Pagan Culture and Its Gods IV: Aphrodite

Aphrodite (Venus in the Roman pantheon) is the goddess of erotic love and sexual desire. This is a good and a necessary, God-created, part of our humanity. As with most instincts, it's a good servant of human flourishing, but it makes a poor master. Are there people around us today who have turned their erotic appetites into an (unconscious) god, to be served above all? Is she one of the gods of our modern pagan culture? To ask the question is to answer it.

But as a pastor I see almost every day that Aphrodite is a lying god. Speaking from his own pastoral experience (and echoing my own), Anglican Bishop N.T. Wright says,

Those who worship Aphrodite may sacrifice many things at her altar: time, money, deep or lasting relationships, unborn children, emotional maturity, secure jobs, health and even life itself. [Still,] she remains inscrutable, holding out glittering promises which turn out to be mirages. And yet her worshippers come back for more.<sup>1</sup>

Under what name does Aphrodite go today? We can discover this by starting with something most modern Americans find odd: For the Sacrament of Matrimony our church doesn't really care how partners for a marriage are selected (so long as there's no coercion involved); cultures in which parents choose their children's future spouses, cultures with strict rules about who may/must marry whom according to genealogy, free choice of the spouses...the church doesn't care much about that. It cares very much only about what the spouses make of their relationship together after the ceremony. Our sense that this is odd is the clue to where Aphrodite lives today: She lives in what our culture calls *romantic love*.

The human experience of romantic love seems pretty much always to have existed; but in former times it wasn't seen, as it is today, as a motive for marriage. It was seen rather as a bit of adolescent foolishness that was a threat to marriage, a bit of dangerous madness that occasionally overcame people and led them to do dangerous and crazy things. (The great poets of the Languedoc who effectively created the modern western ideal of romantic love usually celebrated the romance between a knight and his lady – who happened to be married to someone else.) We see this in dramatic form in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, in which the romance between the title characters is opposed by the parents as a threat to their family allegiances, and which of course leads to the deaths of the lovers.

Psychologists (in the psychoanalytic tradition) see romantic attraction as based on the mechanism of *projection*: I believe I am lacking in some quality (which in fact exists not-yet-discovered within me), and to become "complete" I project that quality onto another person and find it in him/her – with whom I then form a bond that "completes" me. (If you need a further explanation, consult almost any teenage music favorite from the 1940s until at least the 1980s: "You are my everything" / "I can't live without you" pretty much sums up the genre.) Relationships built on romantic projection are doomed to fail because who is "seen" through projection isn't the actual person, with his/her own distinctive personality, but rather *who I need him/her to be for me*. This is Aphrodite's fundamental deception.

Relationships that start in romantic attraction can, and often do, mature into genuine love and/or friendship as the people involved discover what is truly lovable in each other. Aphrodite can be a good servant, since she urges us to overcome the fear of vulnerability that comes with starting any relationship. But when we make her a god, trying to build a lasting relationship on her, she leads us astray. Look around for the evidence. You won't have to look far.

Another cultural "god" next week. Until then, peace.

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<sup>1</sup> *Spiritual and Religious: The Gospel in an Age of Paganism* [SPCK, rev. ed. 2017; p. 124.]

# Faith Formation

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## Faith Formation Office Hours

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

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## Christian Service

Thank you to everyone who supported our Confirmation Bake Sale! Our students raised over \$600.00 toward their fundraising goal! They made the baked goods and worked at the Bake Sale.

Our Faith Formation Students in Levels 6, 7 and 8, as part of preparation for Confirmation, complete several service projects at home and in the parish as part of their discipleship journey! Our first group of Level 8 students made 342 sandwiches for the soup kitchen.

Our Walk-A-Thon was held in PES Hall due to weather conditions, but they walked and raised over \$1200.00! I am always so happy to go through this journey with them, and the students work so hard.

Our Level 7 students have started in the Community Garden even working in the rain to get things done! We talk about Jesus as our model of service and how he calls us to serve each other!

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## FORMED for Advent!

### Prepare the Way – An Advent Journey for Our Parish

#### Week Three: The Paschal Mystery

By His Death, Jesus liberates us from sin. By His Resurrection, we're able to become sons and daughters of God and have eternal life. By His Ascension into Heaven, He precedes us into His Father's glorious kingdom in Heaven. How should this reality impact our daily life?

**This week we'll meet in room 109 at 7:00pm for study and reflection! All welcome!**

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## Child Abuse Reporting and Standards of Conduct for Church Personnel

There is a special diocesan phone line for reporting allegations of sexual abuse by church personnel and volunteers: 1-516-594-9063. The New York State abuse hotline for all allegations of child abuse can be reached at 1-800-342-3720.

Our parish complies with a diocesan child protection policy. The text of the policy can be found on the diocesan website at [http://www.drvc.org/policy\\_procedure\\_forms](http://www.drvc.org/policy_procedure_forms) and is also available through the Parish Office.

A code of conduct to which all parish clergy, employees, and volunteers must comply can be found at [http://www.drvc.org/pdf/protecting\\_children/policy/pastoralconduct.pdf](http://www.drvc.org/pdf/protecting_children/policy/pastoralconduct.pdf) and is also available from the parish.

Further information, including information on the diocesan child protection and safe environment programs to which our parish subscribes can be found on the diocesan website at <http://www.drvc.org/efforts-to-protect-children-and-young-people/diocesan-efforts-to-protect-children-and-young-people.html>

# Parish Social Ministry

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## CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

### Pope Francis: More Than Christian “Service Stations”

(Vatican News) To love God is to live by Him and for Him, for what He is and for what He does. It means, the Pope continued, “to invest one’s energies every day to be his collaborators in serving our neighbor without reserve, in trying to forgive without limits and in cultivating relationships of communion and fraternity.” Pope Francis pointed out that Mark the Evangelist, “does not bother to specify who the neighbor is...” as it is “not a question of pre-selecting my neighbor, but of having eyes to see him and a heart to love him.”

Today’s Gospel, he went on to say, “invites all of us to be projected not only towards the urgencies of our poorest brothers and sisters, but above all to be attentive to their need for fraternal closeness, for a sense of life and for tenderness. This challenges our Christian communities: it is a question of avoiding the risk of being communities that live by many initiatives but with few relationships: “service stations” but with little company, in the full and Christian sense of the term.” The Pope underlined that “God, who is love, created us out of love, so that we can love others while remaining united to Him. The two dimensions of love, for God and for our neighbor, in their unity, characterize the disciple of Christ.”

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### Project Warmth – Opens December 3

Project Warmth provides one-time grants for heating and/or fuel related electricity emergencies. The program opened December 3 and continues until funds are exhausted. Project Warmth assists with any type of heating source, (oil, gas, propane, coal, etc.) and an electric bill if needed to operate the heat source. If income eligible for HEAP you must apply for HEAP first. Call the Social Ministry Office for information 631-669-9354.

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### H.E.A.P. – Home Energy Assistance Program Season

HEAP is a federally funded energy program intended to provide financial assistance to low income households to meet their immediate home energy needs. HEAP is comprised of several different benefits including the HEAP heating equipment clean and tune program which provides assistance to a HEAP eligible homeowner to have their primary heating system cleaned and tuned.

The 2018-2019 HEAP season opened on November 13, 2018. Applications are available on line at [www.otda.state.ny.us/main/heap/application.asp](http://www.otda.state.ny.us/main/heap/application.asp).

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### The Christmas Spirit is upon us! – The Giving Tree

This is the last weekend for our Giving Tree in our lobby! Please pick up a card and return the unwrapped gift by Monday, December 10 so that we have time to sort and package them. We would appreciate gifts only for young children up to age 12.

However, gift cards for teens and adults will always be welcome. Perhaps you could get together with other members of your family or friends to help. For instance, a gift card to Target, Old Navy, Panera Bread, Marshalls, Applebee’s, McDonalds, Burger King or the movies – just to name a few suggestions. Wrapping paper, cookies and candy are also welcome. We would like to support our local merchants who have been so generous to their neighbors in need.



# Parish News

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## Let Us Welcome Our Newly Baptized Into Our Parish Communion

Skylar Jenna Rocha

Jakob Ethan Torres

Lylyanna Marie Walsh

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### Youth Ministry Update

Youth Ministry, 7:30pm, Tuesdays in Room 212/214. Teens 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Nothing to do Tuesday nights? Room 212. Join us for faith, fun and fellowship! Don't forget our Bake Sale the weekend of December 8 and 9. We will have many holiday treats made especially for you!

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### Sewing Group News

The Our Lady of Grace Sewing Group will raffle off the annual American Girl Doll the weekend before Christmas, December 22 and 23, after all the Masses. The doll was donated by Nina Weinsteia, daughter of Mary Dowling. We wish a blessing on her family for being so generous. The dolls clothes were made by Marie Rizzi and Marge Rosner. Thank you for supporting our group. Last year we made warm hats and mittens for aged nuns and carrier bags for their walkers and wheelchairs.

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### Calendar Raffle Winners

The Calendar Raffle tickets for January through June of 2019 are in the mail. If you do not receive these tickets, please come into the Parish Office and pick them up. Remember, you got to be in it to win it.

12/3/18	12/4/18	12/5/18	12/6/18	12/7/18	12/8/18	12/9/18
147	28	571	467	298	599	575

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

### Financial Stewardship Report September 1, 2018, through November 26 2018

**Sunday offering target: \$13,195 per week**

Target: \$171,535

Collections: \$173,715

**Over target by \$2,180**

A complete financial report for FY2018 is on the parish website,  
[www.ourladyofgrace.net](http://www.ourladyofgrace.net).

*Many thanks to our generous sacrificial givers!*

# Ministries with Children and Families

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## What is Family Life Ministry?

Family Life Ministry came out of the need and desire we all have for community. Would you like to get to know the people you worship with each week? We host a monthly breakfast after the 10am Mass where we gather for a light breakfast and can sit and meet some new people or bring the family for a nice break before we get busy for the day! If you attend another Mass, we would still love you to join us. Everyone is welcome, whether you are a family of many or a family of one!

We also offer several events during the year that are both spiritual and social. In addition, we meet monthly to plan these events. We meet on Monday evenings; but if you'd like to help and can't be at our meetings, contact us – we still want you involved! Our next meeting will be January 7 at 7:30pm!

Our next hospitality breakfast will be Sunday, January 27, after the 10am Mass. Please join us! We will have coffee, tea and juice plus bagels, quiche and muffins. This is a great way to get together with our worship community!

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## This Week - Christmas Pageant

Our students have been practicing for our annual Christmas Pageant which will be held on Saturday night December 15, 2018, at 7pm in the church. This is a beautiful version of the Nativity. Please come down and see this pageant! It's a great way to focus on the seasons of Advent and Christmas and support the children of our parish!

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## Coming Soon!

### Journey

#### The Our Lady of Grace Middle School Youth Ministry

Where: Our Lady of Grace R. C. Church

When: Second and fourth Wednesday of every month.

Who: All Middle Schoolers in Grades 6, 7, and 8

Please join us for our Kickoff Meeting and Pizza on January 9, 2019.

For more information, please contact Colleen or Joe Pidel at [JourneyOLOG@gmail.com](mailto:JourneyOLOG@gmail.com).

For our first meeting (and to plan pizza) we would like to get an idea of how many are attending. If you can please email Colleen and Joe to let them know. If you forget, no problem come anyway!

What is Middle School Youth Ministry?

It's games, music, food and talking about our faith in a fun way and talking about the issues important to you. You come when you can!

Why not give it a try?

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## Parish News

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### Day Care News

September is upon us and day care is in full swing. We are looking for a lead teacher and assistant teachers. We have a few openings for September in our classrooms. Please come in to visit us. New, starting September, is our enrichment program. We hired a teacher to visit the classrooms to teach extra special lessons in math, language arts, science, music and movement. For a tour or interview, please call 631-422-4681.



### Angel Care Is Here

Our Angel Care Program is gearing up for the winter. Come and join us as we prepare to celebrate the holidays. If you would like information about our program or would like to register your child, come down and pick up a registration packet and join us for a wonderful new year. All of us from Angel Care wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year.



### Reminder to All Staff and Ministers – I.D. Tags Required

As part of our safe environment policy, all staff and ministers wear I.D. tags when acting in any official capacity on parish property (with the exception of presiders, deacons, lectors, musicians, and EMHCs during Mass). This is especially important with the start of the new year of Faith Formation. Please get into the habit of wearing your I.D. If you don't do so now, please do so now and (gently) challenge other ministers you see who may have neglected to wear theirs.



### Religious Article Counter

The Religious Article Counter is open with new merchandise from the Holy Land. We have olive wood rosaries, Jerusalem crosses, bracelets and Christmas ornaments. All items have been blessed.

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) news

Do you want to become a Catholic Christian? Do you know someone who does? The RCIA Program here at Our Lady of Grace will be starting a new session in September, and we look forward to hearing from all interested persons. The RCIA is for those who have **not** been baptized (or for those baptized in another Christian tradition). We meet regularly to pray, read the Bible and learn more about Catholic Christian faith and traditions and prepare to receive the sacraments at the Easter Vigil. If you want to learn more about the RCIA process or if you are ready to participate this September, please call the Parish Office at 631-587-5185 or Will Whelan at 631-957-0518 or e-mail: [wfwwhelan@aol.com](mailto:wfwwhelan@aol.com).

The RCIA team is looking to expand! Do you want to put your PFI certificate to good use? Do you like to share your faith with others? Are you being called to spread the faith? Then the RCIA team maybe the right ministry for you. The commitment is only a few hours each month, but the reward is helping others develop a lifelong loving relationship with Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven. No experience is necessary, just a desire to help others on their faith journey. Call or e-mail Will for more info or to join the team. 631-957-0518 ([wfwwhelan@aol.com](mailto:wfwwhelan@aol.com))

## Parish News

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### **St. Padre Pio Prayer Group**

This special group meets every second Tuesday of the month here at Our Lady of Grace Church at 7:30pm to recite the Rosary and special prayers to St. Padre Pio. Come and join us and see what they are all about.

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### **St. Agnes Medal of Service Award**

The annual St. Agnes Medal of Service for 2018 has been awarded to Will and Concetta Whelan. Bishop Barres will present the medal in a ceremony at St. Agnes Cathedral this afternoon. The medal is given to one person or couple in each parish each year in recognition of exemplary generosity to the parish community. We thank and congratulate Concetta and Will for their service to Our Lady of Grace!

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### **Youth Choir Registration**

All teenagers are invited to register as choir members. Brief training sessions will be held after 5:00 Mass starting January 20.



### **Rosary Makers Needed**

If you have time on your hands or need to relax in the evening, please consider joining Our Lady of Grace Rosary Makers. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month to ship and send out rosaries to our local hospitals, nursing homes and missions all over the states. Some of our members have been making rosaries for over 20 years, and we continue to do so each month. However, our group is in need of additional rosary makers to keep up with the demand for rosaries.

To join the rosary makers, all you need are two capable hands, good eyes and two hours of your time once a month. We will teach you how to make the knots to make the rosaries, and then once you have mastered them, you are given a supply kit to make 50 rosaries that you will make at home, and bring back the finished product at the next month's meeting. If you feel that you can help us out, please leave your name and phone number in the Parish Office; and someone will get back to you.

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### **Volunteers Are Needed For The Nursing Home**

As in the past, we have always relied on our parish members to come to the aid of needy people around us. Today is no different. We are in need especially of ministers for the East Neck Nursing Home. This ministry is very important to our parish and especially our parish communion. For more information, please call the Parish Office at 631-587-5185.

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### **Children's Liturgy of the Word**

Our Children's Liturgy is up and running. All children in kindergarten through eighth grade are welcome to attend this inspiring liturgy experience. Come to the 10am Mass on Sunday and see what it is all about. The schedule for this liturgy is on our web site [www.ourladyofgrace.net](http://www.ourladyofgrace.net).

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