



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

666 ALBIN AVENUE, WEST BABYLON, NEW YORK 11704

PARISH OFFICE (631) 587-5185 || FAX (631) 587-1427

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE (631) 661-9353

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY OFFICE (631) 661-9354

DAY CARE OFFICE (631) 422-4681

WWW.OURLADYOFGRACE.NET • PARISH@OURLADYOFGRACE.NET

December 16, 2018 • Third Sunday of Advent

Worship This Coming Week

Mon. Late Advent Weekday
Dec. 17 *Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17*
8:00 Antonio and Domenica Iemma
9:00 Michael Sansalone (1 Anniv.)
Tue. Late Advent Weekday
Dec. 18 *Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25*
8:00 William A. Thiel (3 Anniv.)
9:00 The Kirk Family
Wed. Late Advent Weekday
Dec. 19 *Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25*
8:00 Harold and Elmy Rusana
9:00 Gary Breda

Thu. Late Advent Weekday
Dec. 20 *Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38*
8:00 Angela and Rosa Chiodi
9:00 Anthony Cicero, Jr.
Fri. Late Advent Weekday
Dec. 21 *Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45*
8:00 Tom Petersen
9:00 Adela Diatlovich
Sat. Late Advent Weekday
Dec. 22 *1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56*
8:00

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Worship for Sunday, December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

	Presiding	We pray at this Mass especially for
5:00pm (Sat.)	Fr. Vin	Elwood Gunther
8:00am	Fr. Vin	People of the Parish
10:00am	Fr. Gabriel	Veronica Preiss
12:00pm	Fr. Gius	Theresa Calcanes and Rita Constello

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

Second 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

This 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.

Next week:

Monday, December 24: No Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Christmas and New Year's:

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 and New Year's Schedules: See page 9 of this *Bulletin*.

Mass Intentions for 2018-2019

The Parish Mass Book 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.

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

Our Finance Council

Mr. Richard Korcz (Trustee)
Mr. Leonardo LoCricchio
Ms. Debra Nicosia
Mr. Joseph Salzone
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

Our Pagan Culture and Its Gods V: Bacchus

Bacchus is the Roman god of wine, of abandon, and of freedom from restraint. (His Greek counterpart is Dionysius.) Traditionally, Bacchus was presented as offering wine, music, and ecstatic dance that freed his followers from the limits of daily life. Is this sounding familiar?

Our name for the worship of Bacchus is *addiction* – to substances (wine and other forms of alcohol, certainly but also to drugs and tobacco and even food) and also in what are called *behavioral* or *process addictions* that consume those in their grip with shopping, exercise, computer gaming, social media, or gambling. Just as there's nothing wrong with alcohol in itself, so exercise, gambling, and shopping can be good servants of human flourishing – but each also can be a deceptive master when partaking in it overtakes proportion and good sense. This overtaking of good judgment is the worship of Bacchus. Good judgment – and even a large degree of freedom of choice – disappear when someone is in the god's service. And like every idolatry, worship of Bacchus has its shrines and rituals.

Take gambling. From its “holy city” of Las Vegas through the cathedral-like casinos down to today's version of roadside shrines (we call them lotto terminals), gambling has its sacred sites. And its rituals: (Watch compulsive gamblers enter a trance before a slot-machine, if you dare.) Gambling, those caught up in it admit, doesn't really give the desired “high” without some ritual, be it idiosyncratic and personal (picking a “number” for the day in a particular way) or shared (March Madness, anyone?)

As a confessor, I hear about the desperation and the ruined lives and families of compulsive gamblers. And it makes me both sick and furious how our governments – which are supposed to work for the common good – now feed gambling addictions with lotteries. This is the worship of Bacchus by the state. (Or, perhaps, the state uses its citizens' worship of Bacchus in order to feed its true clientele's worship of Mammon.)

(Again, I have nothing against gambling when it's a simple entertainment; I'm talking here about lives oriented around gambling as too many lives are, and which the government shamefully encourages.)

Or consider drug addiction, alcohol included. Again, the issue of (unconscious) idolatry arises when a drug – legal or illegal – becomes the orienting center of a person's life, something that promises happiness (or at least relief from sadness) and an opportunity to step away from a depressing normality. (I'm old enough to remember when “Better living through chemistry” was a non-ironic advertising slogan; the advertisers may as well have named Bacchus as their inspiration.)

To return to my larger point: Idolatry is always our central temptation – we humans are expert in making things that are not God into “god” for ourselves and for our societies. It is useful for us, as disciples of Christ, to learn to recognize that the culture in which we live is no longer (if it ever was) “Christian” in its guiding principles. Our culture worships not God in Christ, but Mammon, Mars, Moloch, Aphrodite, Bacchus, and others. We live among pagans – which is not a condemnation, but a clear-eyed recognition that many of our contemporaries are lost “like sheep without a shepherd” as Christ described them.

What are we to do? First, to recognize that a disciplined life is necessary so that we ourselves are not seduced into this false worship that surrounds us. And second, to be confident: the Christian message has found a ready hearing among pagans over and over in its history. We are in place to do it again.

I'll talk about that next week. Until then, peace.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Office Hours

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

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!

FORMED for Advent!

Prepare the Way – An Advent Journey for Our Parish

Week Four: The Last Things

Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell are not necessarily topics that people like to think of or discuss. However, at the end of time, Christ will come again in glory, our bodies will be resurrected, and all humanity will face the Last Judgment, in which the truth of each man's relationship with God will be made known and the consequences of each person's actions will be revealed. Are we preparing ourselves for this moment?

This week, login to formed.org, go to the "Study" section and watch *Prepare the Way*, Session 10.

(You need to create an account to get access to Formed; it's free! Follow the link from our website, ourladyofgrace.net. If you have trouble, try this link instead: <https://formed.org/custom-register?url=ourladyofgrace> .)

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.



Beginning the New Year

A bereavement group will form after the New Year. We now will have both a woman and a man facilitator. We encourage men who have lost their spouse to join us. If you are interested or want to know more about the group, call John at 631-874-0210 or Fran at 631-587-1578.

Parish Social Ministry

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Pope Francis: The Cry of the Poor

Jesus heard the cry of Peter. Let us ask for the grace to hear the cry of all those tossed by the waves of life. The *cry of the poor*: it is the stifled cry of the unborn, of starving children, of young people more used to the explosion of bombs than happy shouts of the playground. It is the cry of the elderly, cast off and abandoned to themselves. It is the cry of all those who face the storms of life without the presence of a friend. It is the cry of all those forced to flee their homes and native land for an uncertain future. It is the cry of entire peoples, deprived even of the great natural resources at their disposal. It is the cry of every Lazarus who weeps while the wealthy few feast on what, in justice, belongs to all. Injustice is the perverse root of poverty. The cry of the poor daily grows louder but is heard less and less. Every day that cry gets louder, but every day heard less, drowned out by the din of the rich few, who grow ever fewer and more rich.

“Christ himself appeals to the charity of his disciples in the person of the poor: (Gaudium et Spes). He asks us to recognize him in all those who are hungry and thirsty, in the stranger and those stripped of dignity, in the sick and those in prison (Mt 25:35-36).

(Homily, World Day of the Poor, 2018)

Gifts from the Heart

Inspiring Christmas gifts don't cost a lot of money. Let your heart do the talking:

- Give a coupon to a senior for your help with the computer
- A coupon for yard work, snow removal or to fix things around the house for someone in need
- Write a letter or poem to a veteran thanking him/her for your freedom
- Load music or an app on the phone of IPOD for someone who needs cheering up
- Take a child out for the day to a park, museum, play or sport event
- Bake cookies for a lonely relative or senior



The gifts from the heart will warm your heart as well as theirs.

The Christmas Spirit – at Our Lady of Grace

The Christmas Spirit is present in our Confirmation Prep 7 students who are volunteering to help sort and pack the Christmas gifts for our Outreach families. The Youth Group is spreading God's love to the teens in our parish adopting ten of them for Christmas gifts.



Christmas Giving!

Parish Social Ministry is continuing to accept gift cards to make our families Christmas brighter and happier. Please bring all gift cards to the Parish Office.

We are so grateful for the continuing support that this community gives to the needy in our midst.

Parish News

Please Pray for Those Who Have Died This Week

Patricia A. Boehringer



Youth Ministry Update

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

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.

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.

12/10/18	12/11/18	12/12/18	12/13/18	12/14/18	12/15/18	12/16/18
571	467	374	429	166	599	233



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.

Many thanks to our generous sacrificial givers!

Ministries with Children and Families

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!

Save the Date - 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 – you'll be happy you did!

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.

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?

2018 Christmas Schedule

Confessions for Christmas:

Saturday, December 15: 4 – 4:45 PM

Wednesday, December 19: 8-9 PM

Friday, December 21: After 9 AM Mass

Saturday, December 22: 4 – 4:45 PM

Masses for Christmas

Vigil of Christmas: Monday, December 24

3 PM

4:30 PM

Christmas Mass at Night: Monday, December 24

10 PM

Christmas Day: Tuesday, December 25

8 AM

10 AM

Noon

No evening Mass on Christmas Day

New Year's Eve: Monday, December 31, 2018

5:30PM Vigil

New Year's Day: Tuesday, January 1, 2019

9:00 AM

11:00 AM

No evening Mass on New Year's Day

Parish News

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.

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.



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.

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.

A Special Thank You

The Life Center of Long Island sincerely thanks Our Lady of Grace Parish for their donation to the baby bottle campaign. Your generosity raised \$2,654.30! May God bless you for your support of life!

