



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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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 23, 2018 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship This Coming Week

<p>Mon. Advent Weekday Dec. 24 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16/Lk1:67-79 8:00 Vincenzo Bonomo and Thomas Walsh 9:00 Edward Kavanaugh 3:00 Christmas Mass Remembrance 4:30 Christmas Mass Remembrance 10:00pm People of the Parish</p> <p>Tue. The Nativity of the Lord Dec. 25 <i>Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18</i> 8:00 Christmas Mass Remembrance 10:00 Christmas Mass Remembrance 12:00 Christmas Mass Remembrance</p> <p>Wed. St. Stephen Dec. 26 <i>Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22</i> 8:00 Carmela Carbone 9:00 Patricia Nolde</p>	<p>Thu. St. John Dec. 27 <i>1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8</i> 8:00 Vincent and Rose Capiello 9:00 Dominick Pisani</p> <p>Fri. The Holy Innocents Dec. 28 <i>1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Mt 2:13-18</i> 8:00 Giuseppe Mozzone 9:00 Raymond Wadsworth</p> <p>Sat. Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity Dec. 29 <i>1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35</i> 8:00 Anthony Zito, Cathy and Mark Whittaker</p>
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The Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Worship for Sunday, December 30, 2018

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

	Presiding	We pray at this Mass especially for
<p>5:00pm (Sat.) 8:00am 10:00am 12:00pm</p>	<p>Fr. Gabriel Fr. Gabriel Fr. Gius Fr. Vin</p>	<p>Thomas and Mary Stanley Joseph Spinella John DeLuca People of the Parish</p>

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: Lisa Marie Corbett – Hugo Alexander Molina Marcony

Third 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:

Saturday – Sunday, December 22 and 23: Sewing Group selling tickets in the lobby after all the Masses.

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

Next week:

Monday, December 31: 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

Welcome at Christmas!

Christmas is, for Christians, the central sign of God's closeness to us. In Christ, God took on our flesh to show us how much we are loved and accepted even with our confusions, muddles, and sin. Christ's Church exists to carry on that message of God's loving acceptance. And that is the heart of my message to all who read this on this pre-Christmas weekend. Welcome, in the name of Christ who comes to be with us!

Some of you are regular members of our parish and assist at Mass here week after week, perhaps every day. Yet the closeness of Christ is something you may need to be reminded of; for a life of regular devotion can make one even more aware of sin and weakness than others may feel. Self-knowledge is a burden as well as the pearl of great price, so you might take this day to recall that God is greater than our hearts and accepts in us even what we cannot. These days, especially, relax into the embrace of God's love.

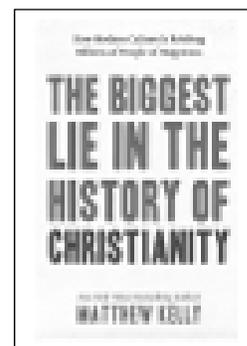
Others of you are local residents who do not worship regularly; but for whom, Christmas without Mass would be missing something. Know that you too are wholeheartedly welcome here and that we hope our prayer together helps you to take to heart the closeness of Christ not just today but in the life you live each day. Join with gratitude thanking God that you have this place and congregation in which to experience the true meaning of Christmas.

Some of you are visitors returning to be with family for the holiday. For believers, the presence of Christ is made visible through all who love us: "God is love, and whoever lives in love lives in God and God in him" [1 Jn 4:16]. The bonds of human affection go as deep as the very life of God, and we hope that your time of prayer here will illuminate the welcome you receive from friends and family.

And some of you may come here feeling, in the depth of your heart, that there is little to celebrate this Christmas. Holidays can be especially hard for those who have recently lost a loved one or who face family disruption due to tension, violence, or divorce or whose future looks dark because of unemployment, addiction, or any profound sadness. For you, it is most important to remember that Christ's coming means that no one need ever be completely alone. The Christ we welcome these days is the Christ who left the ninety-nine sheep to search out the lost one, whose ministry was not to the self-sufficient but to those who were in need. It may be that you come to Mass this Christmas out of habit or out of a sense of nowhere else to go or even out of despair. Know that your presence here is valued even if you cannot share the joy of the multitude. Each life is a mixture of light and shadow, and Christ is often closer to us when we feel He is distant. Christ honors your sadness, your pain, your discouragement. Trust that He is with you in your suffering making no demands for false good cheer. Come, be nourished.

Each week this assembly gathers to remember the message of Christ; today I repeat it to all in His name: Welcome! And until next week, Peace. Have a blessed Christmas.

(PS: We have a Christmas present for everyone who comes to Christmas Mass. Please take a copy of Matthew Kelly's *The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity* (one per household); and after the hectic stuff of Christmas is over, take a look at it. It could change your life!)



Faith Formation

Faith Formation Office Hours – Christmas Week

The Faith Formation Office will be open December 26, 27, 28 and Dec. 31 from 9:00am until 2:00pm. Regular hours return January 2, 2019.

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!

Catechists

We are always looking for people who may be able to help our students as catechists (teachers) in our Faith Formation Program. No experience needed! We will train and prepare you with everything you need. Please consider and pray about this important ministry. Our catechists are wonderful people, and we always need more. We are already thinking ahead for next year. Call the Faith Formation office and ask for Peggy or email mharnisch@ourladyofgrace.net.

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.

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.

Parish Social Ministry

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

A Reading from the Good News as told by Luke

“Mary set out and traveled to the hill country
in haste to a town of Judah,
where she entered the house of Zechariah
and greeted Elizabeth her cousin.”

Luke 1:39

Have we arrived at a deeper appreciation of the relationships in our lives after the trauma of the fires, storms the senseless shootings and suffering that we have witness these past weeks? Will you?

- Repair relationships especially within the family? – Life is too short!
- Is your house a real home filled with compassion, love?
- Is there an elder to visit? A person who is alone? Sick?

Today’s reading reminds us of how important family is in our lives and in society. When healthy and secure, family is a place where forgiveness, compassion and love can be found. Family is the place where we can learn the essential connectedness of all life.

PAX CHRISTI, U.S.A.

Which One Are You?

Cultural vs. Christian Consumers

Cultural Consumers	Christian Consumers
Buy according to want	Buy according to need
Evaluate success on image and possessions	Evaluate success on relationship with God and humans
Identity is closely linked with possessions (I am what I have)	Identity is based on the true self-created by God (I am who I am)
Treasure the new and novel	Treasure the old and familiar
Enjoy shopping as a leisure – time activity	Shop only when necessary
Find it difficult to donate unused possessions	Find freedom in donating unused possessions
Focus on what they don’t have and can’t afford	Focus on relationships, nature, faith and sharing
Always have in mind an item that will make them happier	Seek happiness in inner peace rather than external goods

The holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas are an exciting and exhausting time in most Parish Outreaches. Through the generosity of parishioners and networking efforts in the community, resources were obtained. Many families were able to be assisted.

Thank you for all your generous response to the varied efforts of the Social Ministry Office throughout the year and especially during the holiday season when so many families are experiencing hardship. You have brought Christ in Christmas to our parish.

Thank You

Thank you to the many volunteer ministers who serve in the Social Ministry Office and in the Pantry Services. Without your behind the scene labors, none of the varied works serving those in need would have been accomplished. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

The Social Ministry Office will be closed the week after Christmas and will re-open on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

Parish News

Let Us Welcome Our Newly Baptized Into Our Parish Communion

Lily Rose Sciame
Hailey Ruth Schweyher

Chloe Elizabeth Campana
James Tyler McKee

Addalyn Anne Schweyher
Skylar Grace Brielmeier

Please Pray for Those Who Have Died This Week

Julia La Cascia

Maria Zimini

Jean Nittolo

Theresa De Meri

Donation of Bread and Wine

The bread and the wine have been donated in loving memory of Carmen Costantino for the week of December 23 through December 29, 2018.



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!

Our Youth Ministry raised \$617 over last weekend with their bake sale. Thank you to all who supported this group. The money raised will be used for Teen to Teen, a group that takes underprivileged youths out shopping for Christmas.

Sewing Group News

The Our Lady of Grace Sewing Group will raffle off the annual American Girl Doll this weekend 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!

12/17/18	12/18/18	12/19/18	12/20/18	12/21/18	12/22/18	12/23/18
363	172	194	103	73	298	348



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

Family Life ministry wishes all families a very blessed fourth Week of Advent and a very Merry Christmas! We feel blessed to know so many of our families and parishioners through this ministry, we hope you will join us in the new year!

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!

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?

Day Care News

Please come in to visit us. New for this year 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

All of us from Angel Care wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year.

2018 Christmas Schedule

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



Christmas 2018

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

Merry Christmas to you and your families! Christmas is a powerful time of unity and communion for our families, and every Christmas is a time for our families to open even more deeply to the healing and transforming power of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of the Holy Family.

The Holy Family not only transformed but revolutionized the world and history through humility, poverty, adoration, and trust in the plan of God, and a complete dedication to the Glory of God.

Mary's silent adoration and awe teaches us to see through everyday human events and appearances to the presence of Christ in every situation. Joseph teaches us rock solid trust and bold docility in the shifting terrain and unexpected events of daily life. The shepherds teach us simplicity, humility and reverent adoration. The Infant Prince of Peace teaches us that God's Mercy is the beating heart of the Gospel and the beating heart of the Crèche scene. Mercy is the Foundation of the Church's mission to the world.

We approach the Prince of Peace this Christmas for special gifts of peace in our families, special gifts of peace for the World.

In the Mystery of the Nativity, we marvel and give Glory to God with the Shepherds and the Wise Men. We realize in the image of a poor, homeless family and the image of a poor, vulnerable baby that God's logic in the Incarnation overturns and confounds the narrow logic of human power and calculation. "Families transform the world and history."

The Holy Family continues to transform our marriages and our families – right in our daily experiences of the joys, crosses, crises and the unresolved issues of every marriage and every family in a fallen world. In the midst of the weaknesses and failures of daily family life, we remember the Glory of God that radiates from the manger lifting our families, despite their daily imperfections, to transform the world and history through faith, holiness and a missionary spirit.

When we pray and meditate on the Crèche at Christmas, we experience a spiritual rebirth and fresh insights into our daily family routine and our daily family spiritual, emotional and relational patterns. We allow the ruts of sin and selfishness in our families to be purified with daily patterns of prayer, grace and conversion. We remember that personal conversion sends ripple effects throughout a family.

The Crèche leads us to a deep experience of Mercy and Forgiveness in our families. And we remember that the confessionals in our churches are "Doors of Mercy" and forgiveness for our families. I invite you to take advantage of the gift of reconciliation by participating in the confessions offered at your parish during this holy season.

During this Christmas season, I want to thank you and your families for transforming the world and history with Christ's love.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre