



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2010

Saint Mary Parish

LENT - A GREAT TIME TO MAKE A RETREAT

On Ash Wednesday, February 17, we began the Holy Season of Lent – a six week period during which the Church encourages us to take a deeper look at our relationship with God.

Lent is an ideal time to make a retreat, to set aside some time in our busy lives and explore where we are in our relationship with the Lord.

On the weekend of **March 12-14, adult men and women of our Parish will be making another “Disciples 4 Life Parish Retreat” at the Seton-Neumann Center in Danbury.** Our Retreat will focus on discipleship – what it means to be a follower of Jesus in today’s world, and the roles that forgiveness, prayer, trust and the Holy Spirit play in our spiritual lives.

We hope and pray that you will join us for this wonderful opportunity for prayer, including Mass and the Sacrament of Penance, listening to God’s Word, discussion, and much more.

Please consult this Bulletin and call our Parish or Youth Ministry Office to sign up and for more information.

Msgr. Laurence R. Bronkiewicz
Pastor

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, February 22

7:00 AM Intentions of Patsy McManus
12 Noon Florence Dunworth

TUESDAY, February 23

7:00 AM Mary Bunsu
12 Noon Joseph & Florence Boland

WEDNESDAY, February 24

7:00 AM Andrew Nirrengarton
12 Noon Nancy & Frank Ivanisko

THURSDAY, February 25

7:00 AM Antoinette Bellacosa
12 Noon Mario Febbraio

FRIDAY, February 26

7:00 AM Andrew J. Brown, Sr.
12 Noon Manuel Leitao

SATURDAY, February 27

8:00 AM Arun & Santhanam Kumar
4:00 PM Edgardo Ippoliti
5:30 PM Vincent J. Lewis

SUNDAY, February 28

CHURCH

7:00 AM Parishioners of the Parish
9:30 AM Dorothy Walker
11:15 AM Joseph Dobrosky

HALL

8:00 AM Neil Craig
10:00 AM Assunta Solmoni
12 Noon Sister Martinez
5:00 PM Edward Martin

Today's second collection is for our **Diocesan Houses of Hospitality**. Thank you for your continued support.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held each Friday evening in Lent at 7:30 PM in the Church.

Please remember our sick in your prayers;



Cynthia Boas, Allison Donnelly, Drew Glaser, Anne Marie Knox, Robert Murphy, Jr, Joy Puccio, Scott Stoveken, Jack Sullivan and Lisa Talia. (To respect the

individual's privacy, only immediate family members may ask to add someone to our prayer list. Individuals will be removed bi-weekly unless the office is otherwise notified.)

MIDNIGHT RUN

Sincere thanks to all who so generously contributed to our Midnight Run. Working together to provide clothing, food and much needed love and kindness once again helped to make the run a success. Thank you from Elma and Jim Stoveken.

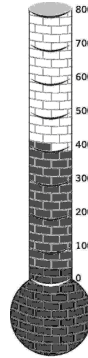
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GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

Last week's regular collection (02/14/10) \$20,925
Last year's regular collection (02/15/09) \$20,123

FROM THE PASTOR: "How do you express your love for God? Some of the ways of expressing love are by giving and by serving joyfully!"



BRICK AND A PRAYER

...A Gift That Will Last

The **THIRD** phase of bricks has been installed! Orders are now being accepted for our next phase. If you haven't done so already and would like to order a brick, order forms can be downloaded from our Parish website.

SAINT MARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The **Grade 7 Commitment Mass** will be held next Sunday, February 28, at the 12 noon Mass in our Parish Hall. All Grade 7 students and their families are invited to attend. This Mass will be crowded.

First Eucharist Parent Meetings will be held at 9:15 am and 7:30 pm on Monday, March 1, and Wednesday, March 10, in our Parish Hall. Parents please attend ONE of these FOUR meetings.

CATHOLIC SUPPORT GROUP MINISTRY FOR THE SEPARATED AND DIVORCED

We would like to establish a **Catholic Support Group Ministry** for those experiencing the trauma of separation and divorce. The intent of this Ministry is to foster the spiritual and emotional recovery of those who are separated or divorced. No one understands the stress of separation and divorce better than someone who has experienced this pain. Caring support for one another is the goal of this group. Some of the topics that will be discussed will include how your relationship with God, Church, family, sacraments, friends, etc. have been impacted. From time to time we hope to have guest speakers and video presentations. Our intention is to meet in the Barn from 6:30 to 8 pm on Sundays. Anyone interested in helping to form this support group please contact our Parish Office. Our first meeting will be announced at Mass and in our Parish Bulletin.

CATHOLIC ACTION

"I distribute the virtues quite diversely; I do not give all of them to each person, but some to one, some to others... I have willed that people should *need each other* and that all should be my ministers in distributing the graces and gifts they have received from me." -God

DONATE: Sample Size Toiletry Items

BY Feb 21

Mr. Belfanti's One:Eight Confirmation Class will be doing a Morning Run (a Sunday morning version of the Midnight Run) on 2/21/2010. Sample/Travel Size toiletry items are needed for the homeless served by this program. Sample/Travel Size shampoos, soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand/ body lotion and razors can be placed in a marked box in the Religious Education Office. Thank you for remembering the homeless during these cold winter months!

DONATE: Food for Needy Families

On-going

The Knights of Columbus will collect non-perishable food items every Sunday and take it to needy families in our sister parish, St. Peter's in Bridgeport. Please place canned or boxed food in collection bins in the back of the Church or Parish Hall. The food donations will be brought up in Fair Trade baskets during the Offertory. Thank you for your generosity.

DONATE: Support for Jacmel, Haiti

On-going

If you wish to donate you may do so via www.ridgefieldresponds.org; click on RSS feed to receive automatic email updates; click on DONATE to donate via PayPal; click on Continue Reading for more information. If you wish to donate by check, make check payable to Friends of Ridgefield (tax deductible): Haiti Relief or Friends of Ridgefield: Hope for Jacmel, Haiti. Mail checks to Ridgefield Responds: Hope for Jacmel, Haiti Town of Ridgefield - Town Hall 400 Main St. Ridgefield, CT 06877. Right now, donations received are being used for food, as that is the most immediate need. If you have questions, contact Suzanne MacAvoy, liaison with Ridgefield Responds at sdmacavoy@hotmail.com.

PRAY: Dorothy Day Hospitality House

On-going

Dorothy Day Hospitality House is located in Danbury and serves hot meals and sandwiches in a restaurant setting to those in need. St. Mary's Parish volunteers work at the kitchen on the third Sunday of every month and typically serve over 160 hot meals and distribute more than 60 bag lunches to the hungry.

St. Thomas More Church invites you to a lively evening with **Fr. James Martin, SJ on Thursday, February 25 at 7:00pm.** In his talk, "**BECOME A SAINT (in Less Than an Hour!)**", Fr. Martin will show us how to discover both holiness and happiness in our daily lives. Fr. Martin is a Jesuit priest and author of the bestseller *My Life with the Saints*. Don't miss this inspiring presentation! Come at 7pm for refreshments, 7:30 for talk in the STM Parish Ed. Center, 374 Middlesex Rd., Darien. Snow date is Thurs. March 4 at 7pm. There is no charge for this event, but donations are welcome. For more information, go to www.stmdarienct.org.



9th graders—it's doesn't end at Confirmation! You're invited to join Life Teen for the **Confirmation Celebration** at 6pm in the Hall on Sunday, March 7th. Ask an upperclassman you know for details!

PARENT LIFE- ALL parents of high schoolers are invited to a **Meet & Greet THIS Sunday, Feb 21st** from 3-5pm @ the Parish Barn. It'll be right before LT Mass— and there's a Parent Life night that night too, so hopefully you can plan to block the evening out to be spent here! See our Bulletin insert for details.

The **Disciples 4 Life adult retreat** is coming up in March (12-14). This is a great energizer for anyone's spiritual life, a great community builder, and coming as it does in the mist of Lent, a great preparation for Easter! Forms are in the bulletin this weekend. Hope you'll consider it!

CALENDAR

Sun, Feb 21st - **Parent Meet & Greet** 3-5pm @ Barn
Sun, Feb 21st - **Parent Life: Prayer Night** 6pm @ Hall
Tues, Feb 23rd - **St Peter after school** 3pm @ parking lot
Tues, Feb 23rd - **WordOut** 7:30pm @ LT Lounge
Wed, Feb 24th - **Morning Prayer** 7:10am @ RHS Choir Rm
Sun, Feb 28th - **Life Night: Echo/hierarchy** 6pm @ Hall

CURSILLO RETREAT

"Cursillos in Christianity" literally translated means a short course in Christianity. It lasts 3 days and takes place at the Seton Neumann Retreat House on the campus of Immaculate High School, Danbury. Any sponsored adult over the age of 21 may make a Cursillo. In addition to hearing speakers, the Cursillo candidate will celebrate the sacraments throughout the weekend. Upcoming retreat: Men's weekend: March 18-21.

What does the Cursillo do?

- Helps people discover & fulfill their personal vocations.
- Enables individuals to understand the power of God's grace in their lives.
- Is focused to help each of us live our baptismal responsibility.
- The Cursillo Movement provides the individual with the tools necessary for living a fully Christian life.

For more info, contact: Jerry Lilore at 203-837-6327 or George Schuster at 203-438-3280.

Saint Mary School
Preschool through Grade Eight
Faith in Every Student



Saint Mary Preschool will be holding an Open House on Saturday, March 13th from 10-12pm. We invite you to visit and learn about our half-day and full-day programs. We provide exciting learning programs and techniques in state-of-the-art classrooms for three, four, and five year- olds. Our Lunch Bunch is program is available for all ages!

Saint Mary Middle School will be holding an Open House on Saturday, March 27th, from 10-12pm. Come learn about the programs available to students entering our Middle School (grades 6-8). We are committed to meeting the specific needs of all middle school students by offering a challenging curriculum that is designed to promote intellectual and spiritual growth, while building confidence.

To learn more, please contact Paula King, Director of Admissions, at 203.438.7288 extension 239 or, visit our website at: www.smsridgefield.org

Coordinated by our Student Council, Saint Mary School held "Penny Wars" to encourage donations for Haiti. According to the Student Council advisor, Colleen Sexton, "It is really amazing that a small community like ours can raise about \$3,750 for people who truly need all of our help."

Saint Mary students once again participated in the **American Heart Association Jump Rope for Heart Program**, held on January 27th and 28th. Our students raised over \$5,000! Great job SMS!

\$25,000 TUITION RAFFLE FOR ANY SCHOOL
 Fairfield College Preparatory School announces a \$25,000 Tuition Raffle. The prize can be used for any K-12 schools, colleges or universities, located and accredited in the U.S. Only 1,000 tickets are available for sale at \$100 per ticket. (500 tickets must be sold, or buyers will receive a full refund.) Proceeds from the raffle will benefit the Scholarship and Student Enrichment Programs at Fairfield Prep. The drawing will be held at the Spring Event on Saturday, May 1, 2010 promptly at 11:00 p.m. at the Italian Center of Stamford, 1620 Newfield Ave, Stamford, CT. Winning ticket holder does not need to be present to win. For more information please contact the Development Office at (203) 254-4237 or development@fairfieldprep.org.

IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL will hold its 5th Annual Gala Dinner-Dance and Silent Auction on Sat., March 6th beginning at 6:30 PM at the Danbury Plaza Hotel, 18 Old Ridgebury Road in Danbury. This year's honorees are **Anthony Rizzo, Sr.** (Nancy K. Dolan Leadership Award), **David R. Couch** (Lifetime Achievement Award - posthumous) and **Robert Gerwien, Sr.** (Distinguished Service Award). For more information and online ticket sales and sponsorships, visit www.immaculatehs.org



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

X means 1 or 2 adorers are needed.

Blank boxes mean there are 2 or more adorers.

	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
12M-1am		X	X	X	X	X	X
1am-2am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2am-3am	X	X		X	X	X	X
3am-4am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4am-5am	X	X	X	X	X		X
5am-6am	X	X					X
6am-7am	X	X	X		X		X
7am-8am	X		X		X	X	X
8am-9am							
9am-10am	X	X		X	X	X	X
10am-11am	X	X				X	
11am-12N	X	X			X		X
12N-1pm	X		X	X	X	X	X
1pm-2pm	X	X				X	X
2pm-3pm	X	X	X	X		X	
3pm-4pm	X	X			X	X	X
4pm-5pm	X					X	X
5pm-6pm	X			X	X		X
6pm-7pm	X				X	X	X
7pm-8pm	X			X		X	X
8pm-9pm				X		X	X
9pm-10pm	X					X	X
10pm-11pm		X	X	X		X	X
11pm-12M			X		X	X	

As we begin the Lenten Season let us resolve that this will be our most productive Lent by taking a much needed hour in the Adoration Chapel. To sign up for an hour as a regular or substitute adorers, please call Bill or Monica @ 914-533-2832. God bless you all.

Tuesday 1-2 am
 Wednesday 3-4 am, 9-10 am, 7-8 pm
 Thursday 1-2 am
 Friday 9-10 am, 2-3 pm, 10-11 pm

EVERY Thursday evening, 7-9:00 pm, in the Adoration Chapel, the Chaplet of Mercy, 7 Sorrows of Our Blessed Mother and 15 decades of the Rosary are sung and prayed. Please join us!

ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY

Gain strength from sharing thoughts, prayers, experiences, and fellowship with other men of our Parish. Do a good thing for Lent and try out our Men's Ministry for 6 weeks. A more peaceful and thoughtful life could be the result. Join the roughly 70 men who gather together on Saturday mornings in our Parish Hall from 6:30-8am (a time slot that works and doesn't interfere with other family activities). You will be spiritually nourished. There is no further obligation. Put us on your schedule and come again when you can. Visit StMMM.org to find out more.



THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS is the largest Catholic lay organization in the world. The Order enables Catholic men, 18 years and older to become closer to their family, strengthen their faith, and give back to their community. All adult men are invited to join us. For more information please contact Tim O'Connell at 203-545-3027 or Tony Saia at 431-0203. www.KofC245.org

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

"We are afraid of being branded, afraid of being ridiculed. So we devise ways to avoid having to say what we believe-that God is life and all life comes from Him, that a culture of death is simply a culture without God, who is life." Cardinal John J. O'Connor, New York



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