

# 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 25, 2016



## Reflections of Our Youth—World Youth Day

*World Youth Day Poland 2016 was a grace-filled time for countless young people from all over the planet. I'd like to share with you some of the comments from AJ Vitiello and Veronica Galban, two young Catholics who were part of our Ridgefield contingent, led by our Youth Minister, Brenner LeCompte, and our Faith Formation Director, Patricia Postiglione.*

"It's just impossible to describe the feeling of World Youth Day! Every single part of the trip was a blast, but I especially enjoyed a morning when my group explored the main square of Krakow. There were hundreds of pilgrims there speaking so many different languages, but they were all smiling (after all, we all smile in the same language). Lots of Spanish-speaking pilgrims climbed up on a statue and began to sing all sorts of songs. Another group would walk by, recognize the song, and join in. With this background, my group met all sorts of new people. We made friends with a group from Wales, some pilgrims from Germany, and travelers from Scotland. No one cared that we had never seen each other before; hugs were in abundance anyways!

I can't describe to you how much I loved Poland. I am seriously considering studying there at some point in my college career. Poland (especially Krakow) was so welcoming and generous. They prepared so well for the whole event. Banners were made, phrases translated, food made, and tents pitched. Not to mention the super-friendly policemen and women every ten feet!

My favorite site was Jasna Gora, home of the Black Madonna icon. The icon and setting made the experience totally life changing for me. I would recommend a WYD trip to other youth in the Parish in a second! It really helped strengthen my faith and shatter my boundaries. I made so many great friends. It was so life changing that I may start breaking my life into pre-Poland and post-Poland."

-- Veronica Galban

"I learned a lot about crosses at WYD. Each person is given their own cross by Jesus, and they will always carry this cross. On this trip, I realized what my personal cross is. Through this realization, it's easier to ask Jesus for His divine mercy. I can use what I learned about crosses to help other people carry their crosses. I can show people His mercy through my actions. The visit to Auschwitz touched me the most. It was very powerful to see such a godless and merciless place during the Year of Mercy. The place is a warning to humankind to never lose sight of God. My favorite memory was meeting people from other countries in the square. I talked to three Polish boys and I felt like I'd been friends with them for 100 years. The connections I made are something I'll never forget.

When I saw the Pope's face as he passed by on the tram, I was very shocked to realize he was real! He looked just like he does in photos! Our eyes met and he had the biggest smile. It was very moving. Poland is a great country that I would go back to in a second. I am Polish, so it was very cool to see this part of my heritage. My favorite site was the main square because the architecture was so beautiful and European. I would certainly recommend WYD to others! The connections you'll make with people from all over the world are so special. God will inspire you in a way you never thought could happen. See you in Panama!"

-- AJ Vitiello

*Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz*

*Pastor*



**MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS**

**MONDAY, September 26**

*Jb 1:6-22/Lk 9:46-50*

7:00 AM Charles Harry

12:00 PM Gunter Roller

**TUESDAY, September 27**

*Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23/Lk 9:51-56*

7:00 AM Z. Joseph Dragicevich

12:00 PM Vivienne Dalton

**WEDNESDAY, September 28**

*Jb 9:1-12, 14-16/Lk 9:57-62*

7:00 AM Michael Chelednik

12:00 PM Michelena Manto

**THURSDAY, September 29**

*Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/Jn 1:47-51*

7:00 AM Ryan Adams

12:00 PM Mary Paterniani

**FRIDAY, September 30**

*Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5/Lk 10:13-16*

7:00 AM Ryan Adams

12:00 PM Carey Depuy

**SATURDAY, October 1**

*Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17/Lk 10:17-24*

8:00 AM Donald Stanley

4:30 PM Henrietta & Pat Quaranta

**SUNDAY, October 2**

*Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/Lk 17:5-10*

**Church**

7:30 AM Dorothy Nitsos

9:15 AM Helen Loudan Pelland

11:15 AM Eugene Vulcano

**Hall**

10:30 AM Fr. Robert Pierce Morrissey

12:00 PM Joseph & Frances Cali

5:00 PM Parishioners of the Parish

**Birthright Needs Volunteers!**

Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service offering the alternative to abortion—LIFE! Our guiding principle: It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born. Birthright has served in CT since 1972 and has 10 locations. We help any pregnant girl or woman who calls us. We offer free pregnancy tests, friendship counseling, and practical support. If you would like to help, please call 1-800-550-4900 for the Birthright nearest you. Training is provided. Thank you.



**GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING**

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

September 18, 2016	\$22,196	\$891,856
September 20, 2015	\$23,016	\$870,823

**Hospitality House**

September 2016	\$5,857
September 2015	\$6,098

*This week's second collection: LA flood victims  
Next week: 2<sup>nd</sup> collection, Facilities Repair  
After Mass collection, Catholic Veterans' Cross of Peace*



**2016 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

PARISH GOAL	\$305,000
RAISED TO DATE	\$486,267
% OF GOAL	159.43%

*Please remember our sick in your prayers, Especially Theresa Avento, Mary Jo Calamai, Mary Clark, Donald Drislane, Ken Fleming, Jean Mastandrea and Thomas Mendez. (For the sake of privacy, only immediate family members may add someone to our prayer list. Individuals will be removed monthly unless we are otherwise notified.)*



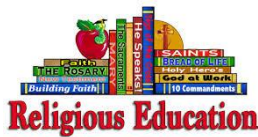
**10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ROSARY RALLY  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 NOON**

ST. MARY CHURCH at the FOOT of the CROSS on the hill. Please come and pray through the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary, Patroness of the United States of America, for our nation, a just and lasting peace in our troubled world and any other intentions you have. Bring a chair. For further info call: Barb Costello 203-297-2371/Erica Kiss 203-894-1017/Monica Brown 914-533-2832.

**BAPTISMS**

We welcome to the Family of God and our Parish Family **Nicholas Rudolph Marciano** who was baptized in our Church last weekend.





## Religious Education Classes Begin!

It was wonderful to see all our children as Religious Education classes began, with Commissioning of our Catechists and Blessing of our Parents, last weekend. Parents and children attended orientation during the regularly scheduled class time. We pray for a blessed and fruitful year as we share with our children our Catholic faith.

## RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

**MEN'S DAY OF HEALING** - Men suffer from abortion too! If you know someone who is carrying the pain and sorrow of losing a child to abortion, share with them the hope filled message of God's merciful love and forgiveness. Entering Canaan Men's Day of Prayer and Healing is being held on **Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**.



## OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH!

COME JOIN US SHOW OUR LOVE FOR LIFE BY VOLUNTEERING AND/OR EARNING SERVICE HOURS:

**-40 Days for Life** - Sept 28 – Nov 26 [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com)  
**-Life Chain** - October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3:00 PM – Main Street in Danbury  
**-40 - The Movie** - October 7th at 7:00 pm in Hall  
**-Catholic Scouting Diaper Drive** – October 8, 9, 16 and 17.  
 For more details on any of the volunteer opportunities please email [jenmitchell@comcast.net](mailto:jenmitchell@comcast.net)

*I've noticed that everyone who is for abortion has already been born. –Ronald Reagan*

[www.smcr.org/respect-life](http://www.smcr.org/respect-life)



## DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The Catholic Church invests in the common good. It runs and operates schools, hospitals, universities, charities and social services. Our government and society have long relied on our Church for help and taken advantage of the vast network that our Church and religious institutions provide to aid people in need and to help form good citizens. But, when we are told we've got to stop being who we are, to put aside our beliefs, or plainly go against our conscience in order to be allowed to contribute to the common good, we must speak out.



## Saint Mary School

RIDGEFIELD

While it is just September, SMS 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have begun the process of evaluating their options for High School. Representatives from Catholic High Schools have hosted information sessions for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families. Our Assistant Principal, Mrs. Liz Manno, helps guide our families through the process.

Success is best measured by results, and students who have graduated from SMS have made very successful transitions into high school. SMS alumni are enrolled in both public and private high schools including:

- Academy of Our Lady of Mercy - Lauralton Hall
- Brunswick School
- Convent of the Sacred Heart
- Fairfield College Preparatory School
- The Hopkins School
- Immaculate High School
- Iona Preparatory School
- Kennedy Catholic High School
- North Salem High School
- Joel Barlow (Redding) High School
- Ridgefield High School

*Saint Mary School is currently enrolling students in select grades of Preschool through Grade 8 for the 2016-2017 school year. For more information, or to set up a tour, please contact Anna O'Rourke at (203) 438-7288, or visit [www.smsridgefield.org](http://www.smsridgefield.org).*

## SMMC

Join us! The St. Mary Mothers' Club Welcome Back "Toddler Tea" will be held on September 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:00am in the Day Chapel.



## FAITH FORMATION CORNER

### 7 Ways to Strengthen Your Catholic Faith

**3. Join a Church Ministry** God gives us all unique gifts. Sharing them with our fellow Parishioners in service of God, the Church and our neighbors are excellent ways to show God our appreciation. Our parishes are also a great place to nurture our gifts, so we can share them with our communities and our world.

**4. Go to Eucharistic Adoration** What better gift can we give Jesus (and ourselves) than to spend quiet time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament? Pope John Paul II used to spend hours there. [Beliefnet.com](http://Beliefnet.com)  
**Continued next week...**

**CATHOLIC ACTION**

**COMING UP!**

**Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive**

Our Knights of Columbus council members will once again be collecting non-perishable food donations to support their **Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive**. Donation bins will be placed at the front & rear entrances of our Church & Parish Hall on October 22nd. The Knights, and those they serve, appreciate your continued support.

**St. Mary Parish Midnight Run**

The next scheduled Midnight Run is Oct. 28. Needed items: hooded sweatshirts, jeans, medium and lightweight jackets, new underwear(M-XL), socks, backpacks, sleeping bags, lightly used sneakers and shoes, toothbrushes, and travel size toiletries. Drop off your donation at the barn from 7:30am to 3:00pm Oct 21-27. **Volunteers are needed** to sort and fold clothing, pick up and return the van and to go on the run.

To volunteer, call Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341 or Bob Wendel at 203-431-4031.

**ONGOING**

**DONATE: Food Pantries**

During the month of **September**, all food collected goes to **The Ridgefield Food Pantry**. The following are some suggested food items: cereal, pasta, rice, canned foods, vegetable oil, and baby food. Also needed: full-size toiletries. Thank you!

**"Sell Your Old Gold" Fundraiser**



Friday September 30<sup>th</sup> 12 NOON to 5 PM  
 Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup> 10 AM to 4 PM  
 Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup> 8 AM to 4 PM

60% of profits donated in your name to ST. MARY CHURCH  
 Mention Monsignor's name to receive an additional 15%.

St. Mary School conference room Questions? [bob@libertygoldct.com](mailto:bob@libertygoldct.com)

**WINE TASTING!**



Looking for a way to serve our Parish & this community? On Thursday, October 13th our Knights of Columbus council is hosting a complimentary wine tasting for current & prospective Knights in the Garden Room at the Keeler Tavern. The Knights invite you to attend & hear more about an international organization whose principal work is to help others in need. The wine tasting will run from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and will be curated by Cellar15. The event is open to all men and their spouses 21 years and older. RSVP at: <http://bit.ly/KoC-WineTasting> or contact Brian Martin at 203-894-5617.



**PILGRIM VIRGIN**

The Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima will remain in the Church Sanctuary for the month of October to remind us of our Lady's request to pray the Rosary daily for world peace. To invite Our Lady into your home or for more info contact Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341.



**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

O = permanent or substitute adorer urgently needed.

X = 1 additional adorer needed.

Blank boxes = there are 2 or more adorers.

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

*Our journey through life passes very quickly. In one brief moment, things we worry about & seem so important to us, disappear. Reflecting on this, we must become cherish our relationship with God. Spending some time in our Adoration Chapel. Please sign up by calling Bill/Monica @ 914-533-2832.*

**EVERY Thursday evening, 7:00-9:00pm, in our 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**

Membership in the STMMM is a lifetime invitation to come whenever you can! Once a member always a member. Come join us any Saturday @ 6:30AM for bagels, coffee and fellowship. Perhaps your spiritual life needs a tune-up. Come and see how Jesus' teachings can enrich your life and the life of your loved ones. [stmmm.org](http://stmmm.org)

**MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**



Don't you want to be the best role model for your child? The easiest way is to share the faith with your children by spending time with them and "walking the talk." Connect the words to action! Join the Knights of Columbus for the opportunity to serve our church and community together WITH your children. We are looking for Dads and their kids to help us throughout the year. Contact John McNicholas at [jmpmcnich@yahoo.com](mailto:jmpmcnich@yahoo.com) or visit [www.kofc245.org](http://www.kofc245.org) for more info.