

# Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2016



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## Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God

This Thursday we will celebrate the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. It is a holy day of obligation as we honor the Virgin Mary, our Parish's Patroness, who was preserved from all stain of original sin.

As the Mother of God, the Virgin Mary has a unique position among the saints, indeed, among all creatures. She is exalted, yet still one of us.

Redeemed by reason of the merits of her Son and united to Him by a close and indissoluble tie, she is endowed with the high office and dignity of being the Mother of the Son of God, by which account she is also the beloved daughter of the Father and the temple of the Holy Spirit. Because of this gift of sublime grace she far surpasses all creatures, both in heaven and on earth. At the same time, however, because she belongs to the offspring of Adam she is one with all those who are to be saved. (Vatican II's Document on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, no. 53)

Mary embraces God's will and freely chooses to cooperate with God's grace, thereby fulfilling a crucial role in God's plan of salvation. Throughout the centuries, the Church has turned to the Blessed Virgin in order to come closer to Christ. Many forms of piety toward the Mother of God developed that help bring us closer to her Son. In these devotions to Mary, "while the Mother is honored, the Son, through whom all things have their being and in whom it has pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell, is rightly known, loved and glorified and . . . all His commands are observed." The Church honors her as the Mother of God, looks to her as a model of perfect discipleship, and asks for her prayers to God on our behalf. – *United States Conference of Bishops*

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz



Pastor



## MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

### MONDAY, December 5

Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26

7:00 AM George Stalega

12:00 PM Ryan Adams

### TUESDAY, December 6

Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14

7:00 AM Primo Baldaserini

12:00 PM Margaret Cerulli

### WEDNESDAY, December 7

Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30

7:00 AM Joseph Egan

12:00 PM Erin Bridget Vick

7:30 PM Roman Sierpina

### THURSDAY, December 8

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

7:00 AM Richard J. Cirulli - 4th Anniversary

9:00 AM Blanche Nirrengarten

12:00 PM Parishioners of the Parish

7:30 PM John Wagner

### FRIDAY, December 9

Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19

7:00 AM Ryan Adams

12:00 PM Carey Depuy

### SATURDAY, December 10

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

8:00 AM Paul Murphy

4:30 PM Jack Hanney

### SUNDAY, December 11

Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

#### **Church**

7:30 AM Walter Krysiwich

9:15 AM Ryan Adams

11:15 AM Parishioners of the Parish

#### **Hall**

10:30 AM Marjorie D. Dardenne

12:00 PM Joy Puccio - 5th Anniversary

5:00 PM Patricia E. Giorgio - 1st Anniversary

### **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

This Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception -- a holy day of obligation. We will follow our Holy Day Mass Schedule.

Our next Pre-Baptism Class (required for parents who have not had a class within five years and wish to have their child baptized) will be held **Wed., Dec 14<sup>th</sup>** from 7:30-8:30pm in the Barn. Call our Parish Office to register.



**Advent Healing Mass** Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm with Fr. Larry Carew at St. Marguerite, 138 Candlewood Lake Road, Brookfield, CT. Mass will be followed by individual healing/intercessory prayer.



## GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

### WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

November 20, 2016 \$25,752

November 22, 2015 \$27,239

### **Campaign for Human Development**

November 2016 \$3,824

November 2015 \$4,776

November 28, 2016 \$26,856 \$1,145,449

November 30, 2015 \$23,459 \$1,111,636

### **Hospitality House**

November 2016 \$7,196

November 2015 \$6,382

*This week's second collection, Christmas Flowers*

*Next week's second collection, Retired Religious Fund*



**Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially Joseph Barone, Mary Jo Calamai, Megyn Caldwell, Patti Capilli, Dina Casavecchia, Bill Casey, Virginia DeSerio**

**Emmy Jane Jones, and Pat Ruhl.** (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.)



### **SAINT MARY PARISH FAMILY**

**CALENDARS** for 2017 are now

available. You may take one after you

leave Mass today or pick one up at our Parish Office. One per family please.

### *Candle Intentions*

*Church Sanctuary Candle*

*is Burning for the Intentions of*

*Veronica Campbell*



### **Senior Citizen Christmas Luncheon**

Our **Senior Citizen Christmas Luncheon** will be held on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in our Parish Hall. The Noon Mass will be celebrated in the Church, not the Parish Hall that day. **The MacDonald-Pin Dancers** will perform their Christmas show. Donations are very much appreciated. Please phone Saint Mary School Office at 203-438-7288 to make your reservation. The deadline for reservations is Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.



**Our Annual Religious Education Kindergarten and 1st Grade Nativity Pageant** will take place on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in our Parish Hall. All Parishioners are welcome!

**Liturgy of the Word for Children with Special Needs** began Sunday, November 13, at our 10:30am Mass in our Parish Hall and will continue **every other Sunday**. Children with special needs, which prevent them from attending regular Religious Formation classes, are invited to come and celebrate Jesus in music and movement! Before the readings of the Mass begin, the children proceed to their accessible classroom, #223, on the main floor and will be dismissed at 11:30am. Interactive materials, music and movement all play a part in their experience! Peer Witnesses, who have been confirmed or are preparing for Confirmation are encouraged to become a part of this spiritual journey. Please call Pat Postiglione, Director of Religious Education (438-6538), or Sharol Signorelli (438-2302) for more information.



**RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE**

Join us for our next Respect Life meeting, Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in our School Library. *And where were all the "Christians" in abortion's deadly war? Did we enlist? Demur? Insist? Debate the tallied score? We talked about the problem; perhaps we even prayed. We formed countless committees; in droves we stayed away. Can you not see we ignored to death the apples of God's eye. Stand alone, before God's throne and try to tell him why.* --Kay Trudell [www.smcr.org/respect-life](http://www.smcr.org/respect-life)



**DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

Those who say that the Catholic Church is discriminating against poor women by opposing the health care mandate are completely misinformed. The Catholic Church is against requirements contained in the mandate that would force it to pay for surgical procedures such as: sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs, and contraception that go against the Church's moral convictions, and therefore, impede religious freedom.

If you haven't done so already, please voice your opposition to the federal health care mandate by calling U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell at 202-205-5445, and your newly elected representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

**20th ANNIVERSARY**



**Saint Mary School**  
RIDGEFIELD

**STEM Club Students**

SMS Middle School STEM Club students just finished a unit on Rube Goldberg Machines. Not familiar with that term? Rube Goldberg was an American cartoonist best known for a series of popular cartoons depicting complicated gadgets that perform simple tasks in indirect, convoluted ways, giving rise to the term Rube Goldberg machines for any similar gadget or process. Our students embraced the challenge, and used their STEM skills to create ingenious contraptions.

*Saint Mary School is currently enrolling students in select grades of Preschool through Grade 8 for the 2016-2017 school year, as well as accepting applications for the 2017-2018 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).*

**Refugee Resettlement Update: Looking for Interpreters**

Thanks to the support of this parish and many local residents, the Refugee Resettlement Committee—Ridgefield (RRCR), in partnership with co-sponsoring agency I.R.I.S., is almost ready to help a refugee family start a new life in Connecticut. However, we recently learned from I.R.I.S. that our chance of getting assigned a family from a place other than Syria is higher than we originally expected. The family may now come from a different country such as Afghanistan, The Congo or Eritrea. As a result, **we may need interpreters for the following languages: Pashto, Farsi, Urdu, Swahili, Tigrinya.** Do you know of people with any of these language skills who may be able to help family members as they transition to a new life here? Translators are needed for visits to social service, medical and school appointments, grocery shopping and more. We will need translators at varying times of the day and evenings. Ideally, these volunteers would live nearby, although smartphones and Skype are options. The need for translators will be great through March and will gradually decrease as the adults learn English. If you have suggestions of individuals or resources for possible translators in the above languages, please email us at [RRCRidgefield@gmail.com](mailto:RRCRidgefield@gmail.com). We will then follow up with them to explain what we need in more detail and see if they are able to help. Thank you for your interest in this humanitarian initiative.

**FAITH FORMATION CORNER**



**Eucharistic Adoration**

Eucharistic Adoration is an extension of the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which occurs in every Mass: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb." Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament flows from the sacrifice of the Mass and serves to deepen our hunger for Communion with Christ and the rest of the Church.

**CATHOLIC ACTION**

**ONGOING**

**St. Peter's Run**



This is a wonderful group activity! Please join our Catholic Action Team prepare and deliver lunches to the children of our Sister Parish, St. Peter's, Bridgeport on Saturdays. As there are no soup kitchens open in Bridgeport on the weekends, food support is greatly needed for the families of our Sister parish, especially during the winter months. We ask that you consider providing a bag lunch meal to about 200 children of St. Peter's who are enrolled in their Religious Ed program. Reimbursement for the cost is available. Thank you for considering serving Christ through the poor. Please go to this link to signup <http://bit.ly/2eZYCtf> or go to [www.smcr.org](http://www.smcr.org).

**SMMC GIVING TREE**



If you haven't done so already, please be sure to pick up an ornament from our **Giving Tree**. Gifts are due back this Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**ST. MARY PHONE-A-THON**

We will blitz our Parish Family with Christmas invitation postcards. Our Evangelization Committee will conduct a phone-a-thon to contact every home to make sure everyone received our Christmas Schedule and knows feels welcome to join us for Christmas Mass. Our next phone-a-thon will be this Wed., Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in our Parish Hall. Refreshments will be served. Bring your cell phone, get a list, make some phone calls and enjoy the Advent evening with your fellow Parishioners. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations." Matthew 28:19. "Let us become bold in exploring new ways with which our communities can be homes where the door is always open." ~ Pope Francis.



**PILGRIM VIRGIN**



The Advent Season is here. To honor the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, consider inviting the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima to your home to pray the Rosary daily, a wonderful Marian devotion. The message from heaven for us is more urgent than ever to pray for world peace and the conversion of sinners. To invite the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima to your home contact Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

O = permanent or substitute adorer urgently needed.  
X = 1 additional adorer needed.

Empty boxes = there are 2 or more adorers.

	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
12M-1am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1am-2am	X	O	O	X	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	O	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
5pm-6pm	X		X	X	X		X
6pm-7pm	X			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

Advent gives us an opportunity to reflect on what we should strive to accomplish before Christmas. This is the time to enhance our spiritual lives & lessen our materialistic views. Keep in mind this is Jesus' birthday & the true reason for the season. Come to the Chapel & fill an empty hour as a permanent Adorer or as a substitute. Please call Bill/Monica @ 914-533-2832 to sign up. God bless you all!

**EVERY Thursday evening, 7-9pm, 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.