

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 13, 2016



LENTEN SEASON

Dear Parishioners,

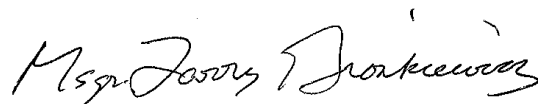
Our Lord Jesus Christ was born into our world, lived a very human life, died a human death and rose again three days later. During the last few years of his earthly life, Jesus told us in word and deed about God's infinite love for us. As a Roman Catholic Family of faith, love and service, we try our best to be Christ in today's world by the way we live our faith and express our love for God and one another in service.

The Season of Lent and especially Holy Week remind us how challenging it is to follow Christ in a society that seems increasingly hostile to religious values. As a Family of Faith we want to support you and every other parishioner as we all try to live Christ in this very complex world of ours. That is the mission of Saint Mary Parish – to encourage and support every member's commitment to Christ.

As we make our way through Lent 2016 and prepare for Holy Week and Easter, know that our priests and deacons, our entire parish staff, and all of our ministries, programs and activities are here for one and only one reason - to help you on your journey of faith. So please take advantage of the special opportunities to be with the Lord during Holy Week – in the Healing Sacrament of Penance, at the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, Good Friday's Celebration of the Lord's Passion, and our Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

We hope our Holy Week Schedule will help you grow in your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ through His Church. God bless.

In Christ Jesus,



Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz
Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, March 14

Dn 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62 or 13:41c-62; Jn8:1-11

7:00 AM Robert A. Law, Jr.

12:00 PM Lorraine Perrotta - 1st Anniversary

TUESDAY, March 15

Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30

7:00 AM Clare Walsh

12:00 PM Adele Colatorti

WEDNESDAY, March 16

Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Jn 8:31-42

7:00 AM Carey Depuy

12:00 PM Cathryn Depuy

THURSDAY, March 17

Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59

7:00 AM Murphy & Fogerty Family

12:00 PM Evo Fronzi

FRIDAY, March 18

Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42

7:00 AM Carey Depuy

12:00 PM Donald Edman

SATURDAY, March 19

2Sm 7:4-5a,12-14a,16; Rom 4:13,16-18,22; Mt 1:16,18-21,24a or Lk 2:41-51a

8:00 AM Aldo Girolmetti - 20th Anniversary

4:00 PM Stephen Shay

5:30 PM Antonina & Joseph Gueci

SUNDAY, March 20

Lk 19:28-40; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14-23:56 or 23:1-49

CHURCH

7:00 AM Mary and Conrad Sponberg

9:15 AM William F. Cirno

11:15 AM Bernice LePorati Sesody

GYM

8:00 AM Bernice Sesody-1st Anniversary

10:30 AM Gabriel DeCristofaro

12:00 PM Alfred Tulipani

5:00 PM Parishioners of the Parish

In addition to our regular Saturday 3:00 – 4:00 pm Confessions **AND** Diocesan Center of Mercy Confessions, **CONFESSIONS** are also heard each Lenten Friday evening from 7:00-7:30 pm, before **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** at 7:30 pm, as well as afterward for as long as necessary.

Please remember our sick in your prayers; especially **Joseph Barone, Mary Jo Calamai, Mary Clark, Scott McCaughey, Kay Michetti and Margaret Mulligan**, (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.)



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

March 6, 2016	\$25,736	\$242,087
March 7, 2015	\$25,783	\$230,440

Catholic Relief Services

March 2016	\$5,062
March 2015	\$4,942

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!"



Commitment Weekend for the Annual Catholic Appeal is this weekend, March 12-13. It is an opportunity for us to come together as a Catholic Family of Faith to support our Diocesan ministries and services which no single parish could provide.

BAPTISMS



We welcome to the Family of God and our Parish Family, **Erin Kerri Austin, Alessia Juliette Hebert, Avery Eugenia Noonan and Avery Haley Savastano**, who were baptized in our Church last weekend.

PILGRIM VIRGIN

The Holy Season of Lent is a time for prayer, sacrifice and penance. Our Lady's request at Fatima was for us to pray the Rosary every day to obtain peace for the world. To help prepare ourselves for Easter, invite the Pilgrim Virgin Statue to your home, a wonderful Marian devotion for your family. To schedule a visit call Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341



Candle Intentions

The Church Altar Candles are Burning in Loving Memory of Carey Depuy

Adoration Tabernacle Candle is Burning in Loving Memory of James J. Cally

Church Sanctuary Candle is Burning in Loving Memory of Robert Law, Jr.





Saint Mary School RIDGEFIELD

The Bishop's Scholarship Fund

Tuition assistance to students in the Diocese of Bridgeport is offered through the Bishop's Scholarship Fund. Thanks to the generosity of donors who believe in the mission of our Catholic schools, over \$2 million in scholarship assistance was awarded to families at the Diocesan elementary schools in Fairfield County in the past year.

The deadline for submitting an application is Tuesday, March 15, 2016. Completed applications received after this date will still be considered but will not be given priority for the 2016-2017 school year. Award notification begins on April 1, 2016.

To complete an application, and for full details on the Bishop's Scholarship Fund, please visit www.bridgeportdiocese.org/scholarship-fund/welcome/.

Saint Mary School is currently enrolling students for the 2016-2017 school year. For more information about SMS, or to set up a tour, please contact Anna O'Rourke at 203-438-7288 or visit www.smsridgefield.org.

SAINT MARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Our grade 6 Seder will be held on Wednesday, March 16, at 6:00 pm in our Parish Hall. Please return your child's registration to their Catechist or the Religious Ed. Office by Monday, March 14.

Our second Confirmation Retreat is Friday, March 18, in the Parish Hall from 4:00 to 9:00 pm for last names L-Z. Catechist, peer witness and parent volunteers are needed to help with our Retreat. Please contact our Religious Ed. Office to volunteer, or email us at religioused@smcr.org.

Sports Equipment Drive: Help our sister Parish, St. Peter's in Bridgeport. They are in need of sports equipment for their afterschool sports program. Please bring your gently used sports equipment to donate. Red donation bins are located by the Parish Hall and our Religious Education Office. Any extra donations will be used for our Vacation Bible School, or the Fair.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



When evaluating the presidential candidates, keep in mind their position on preserving the Constitution of the United States and our First Amendment right to religious liberty.

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 elected representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

Who "owns" the unborn child? The mother? The parents? The state? Scripture supplies the answer: we belong to God. "Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." Romans 14:8b. For more info visit <http://www.stmarysridgefield.org/respect-life>

BEST LENT EVER

We invite you and your entire family to join Mathew Kelly for Best Lent Ever: **Rediscover Jesus**, a 40-day spiritual journey to encounter Jesus—and yourselves—in a deeply personal way. Go to <http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever/> to sign up to receive a daily e-mail with a short video from Matthew Kelly and a member of the Dynamic Catholic team.

ST. MARY 'DISCIPLES 4 LIFE' PARISH RETREAT

Date: Friday, April 8th - Sunday, April 10th
Location: Seton-Neumann Center, Danbury

Come and be part of our Disciples 4 Life Parish Retreat! A personal retreat, open to all adult men and women, focused on discipleship. It is an opportunity for you to spend some time away with God and to explore why we are called and how to live out our discipleship.

We'll talk about:

- *Discipleship
- *Control
- *Forgiveness
- *Prayer
- *Trust
- *The Holy Spirit

Reservations are limited. Cost is \$150 per person. Applications are available on the Parish website, in our Parish Office and in our Adoration Chapel. For more information or to request an application via email, please call or email: Marilyn Kain (203-994-7808) kainm@wcsu.edu

FAITH FORMATION CORNER

Jealousy is the tribute mediocrity pays to genius. –Archbishop Fulton Sheen



CATHOLIC ACTION

DONATE: Midnight Run **Date: Friday April 22**
 Items needed: medium to lightweight jackets, hooded sweatshirts, jeans, lightly used sneakers and shoes, baseball caps, new underwear (M-XL). Socks, blankets, backpacks, toothbrushes and travel sized toiletries including mouthwash and toothpaste. Drop off items at the Barn April 15 thru April 21 from 7:30 to 3:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to sort and fold clothing, pick up and return the van and to go on the run. For more info call Elma or Jim Stoveken at 203-894-1341.

DONATE: Food Pantries **On-going**
 During the month of March, through Good Friday, all food collected will go to the Knights of Columbus Food Drive. Your *monetary & non-perishable donations make an immediate & local impact. *Monetary donations to help defray the costs of the Easter food baskets are accepted at the Parish offices. Please make checks payable to "Knights of Columbus" & put "Easter basket donations" in memo line.

VOLUNTEER: Congregate Housing **On-going**
 Bingo Calling - 1 or 2 volunteers needed; Wednesdays, 1-2:30 - once a month. Responsibility - set up, call numbers, collect/distribute cards etc. Contact: Suzanne MacAvoy for more information and/or details, at 203 438-7056, sdmacavoy@hotmail.com, if interested.

JUBILEE MASS OF WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Please join Bishop Caggiano in celebration of your Wedding Anniversary!

Saint Paul Parish, Greenwich
Sunday, April 17 at 3:00 P.M.

For those celebrating
25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50+
 Years of Marriage.

Please contact Maria Arena at 203-438-6538 ext. 110 by April 1 to register. **(NOTE: This will be the only Wedding Jubilee for 2016**



FALL FAIR ANNOUNCEMENT BOARD

SAVE THE DATE

ST. MARY PARISH FAIR
SAT., SEPTEMBER 10
10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

Planning for this year's Fair has already begun. There will be a **KICK OFF MEETING** in our **Parish Barn on TUESDAY, MARCH 15, at 7 pm** for those past Committee heads and assistants as well as any Parishioners who want to help with the Planning of the Fair. RSVP to John Spera at johnspera57@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

O= permanent or sub urgently needed. X=1 add is needed. Blank 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	X	O	X	X	X
2am-3am	O	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			X
6am-7am	X		X	X	X		X
7am-8am	X		X	X	X	X	
8am-9am			X		X		X
9am-10am	X	X		X	X	X	X
10am-11am	X	X	X			X	X
11am-12N	X		X	X	X		X
12N-1pm	X				X	X	X
1pm-2pm	X	X		X	X	X	X
2pm-3pm			X	X		X	X
3pm-4pm	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4pm-5pm	X	X	X	X	O		X
5pm-6pm	X		X		X		X
6pm-7pm	O		X		X		X
7pm-8pm	X			X		X	X
8pm-9pm			X			X	X
9pm-10pm	X	X				X	X
10pm-11pm		X			X	X	X
11pm-12M	X	X	X		X	X	X

When life with its many daily ups & downs becomes too hard to stand, try kneeling. What better & more quiet & peaceful place to do so than in our Adoration Chapel where Jesus welcomes us with open arms. Please sign up for an hour by calling Bill or Monica @ (914)533-2832. God bless you all.

EVERY Thursday evening, 7-9:00 pm, 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

To paraphrase Paul, one of our founders: *We come to MM to be fed in our faith. We come to build fellowship. We strive to be better fathers, friends and coworkers. We have each other's back in good times and in bad; and we always leave our egos at the door.* Come any Saturday@6:30 in the Hall and check it out for yourself. Go to Stmmm.org for more info.

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 or visit www.kofc245.org for more info.