

Palm Sunday

March 20, 2016



As We Begin Holy Week

Today we begin the holiest week of our Catholic Church Year. Each sacred event that we will celebrate this week brings us closer to our infinitely loving God in the person of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As the Lord entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the cheers of the onlookers, he realized that the days of His earthly life were quickly coming to an end. By Holy Thursday, the tide had turned dramatically against Jesus. On Thursday evening, he shared the Passover meal with the apostles for the final time. During that meal, our Lord changed the bread and wine into his Body and Blood, and to make it possible for his followers to keep doing that after his death and resurrection, he gave the Apostles the power to do the same.

In the early hours of Good Friday, Jesus was taken into captivity, tried by the Sanhedrin, turned over to the Roman authorities, and sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate. Our Lord walked the path to Calvary where crucifixion and death awaited Him. He lay in the tomb throughout the next day - Holy Saturday, rising gloriously on Easter morning.

Let us follow Our Lord throughout this Holy Week and pray for the grace to open ourselves even more deeply to his love for us.

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz
Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, March 21

Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11

7:00 AM Pete Massagli
12:00 PM Helen Piacquadro

TUESDAY, March 22

Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33,36-38

7:00 AM Dave Sullivan
12:00 PM Margaret Agostino

WEDNESDAY, March 23

Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25

7:00 AM Quinto Carboni
12:00 PM Maria Fronzi

THURSDAY, March 24

Holy Thursday: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

7:30 PM Lord's Supper-Parishioners of the Parish

FRIDAY, March 25

Good Friday: Is 52:13-53:12/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1-19:42

12:00 PM Stations of the Cross
3:00 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion
8:00 PM Tenebrae

SATURDAY, March 26

Holy Saturday: Vigil: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ex 14:15:1/Is 54:5-14/Is 55:1-11/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Rom 6:3-11/Lk 24:1-12

10:30 AM Traditional Easter Food Blessing
8:00 PM Easter Vigil

SUNDAY, March 27

EASTER SUNDAY: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 (42) or Lk 24:1-12 (41)

CHURCH

7:00 AM Parishioners of the Parish
9:00 AM Nenay Schultz
10:15 AM Ryan Adams

GYM

8:00 AM Elsie and Enzo Bartolucci
9:30 AM Intentions of McQuillan Family
11:00 AM Les DiLisio
12:30 PM Carey Deputy

PLEASE NOTE: On Easter Sunday, March 27, **ALL Parish HALL** Masses will be celebrated in our **Nancy Bossidy Recreation Center.**

ALSO: There will be **one Mass at 9 am March 28, Easter Monday.** Our Parish Offices will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

On **HOLY THURSDAY**, following the 7:30 PM Solemn Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament will begin in the Church and proceed to our Parish Hall. Adoration will conclude at 11 PM.



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

March 13, 2016	\$22,835	\$264,922
March 14, 2015	\$23,087	\$253,527

Hospitality

March 2016 \$6,281
March 2015 \$5,500

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!"



2016 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

PARISH GOAL	\$305,000
RAISED TO DATE	\$131,166
% OF GOAL	43.01%

BAPTISMS



We welcome to the Family of God and our Parish Family, **Colin Michael Lisk, Declan Thomas Walsh and Vivienne Morel Walsh**, 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



Please remember our sick in your prayers; especially Joseph Barone, Mary Jo Calamai, Mary Clark, JP Hinson, 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.)



On **Holy Thursday** all are welcome to join scriptural storyteller, Diane Crehan, in our **Church from 4:00-4:45** as she tells the dramatic stories of Jesus' final days in Jerusalem.



SAINT MARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our First Communion Parent informational meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, and Thursday, March 31. The morning meetings will begin at 9:15 am and evening meetings at 7:00 pm, both in our Parish Hall. Parents of First Communion students need to attend one of these important meetings.



We would like to congratulate all of our Grade 2 children who have received the Sacrament of Penance for the first time. A special thank you to all our Catechists, Peer Witnesses and Parent Volunteers who helped make the ceremonies and receptions so beautiful.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



The federal health care mandate violates religious liberty because it forces conscientious objectors to actively go against their moral principles. It also deprives those objectors of the right (a right that others continue to exercise) to do what they see as morally required. 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. Let her know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to 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 elected representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

"It is God who gives life. Let us respect and love human life, especially vulnerable life in a mother's womb." - Pope Francis. For more information visit <http://www.stmarysridgefield.org/respect-life>

We invite you and your entire family to join Matthew 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.



Saint Mary School RIDGEFIELD

Read Across America

Saint Mary School students and staff recently celebrated "Read Across America" and Dr. Seuss' Birthday with a week-long celebration of reading:

- New York Times best-selling children's author Tony Abbott spoke to students in Kindergarten – Grade 8 about the writing process and ways to develop storytelling skills
- PK-Grade 8 students had "Fox in Socks Day" wearing crazy socks, and "Dress as your favorite Character" day
- Community guests, including First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Msgr. Bronkiewicz, Officer Luis, and Ridgefield Library Head of Children's Services Gayle Pulley read to students
- All students took the "Readers' Oath" and read together as a group in a culminating assembly

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.

FAITH FORMATION CORNER



FAITH AND YOUR FAMILY Holy Week

Holy Thursday Mass is the solemn commemoration of the Last Supper. After Mass, take your family on a journey to visit 7 nearby churches and their Altars of Repose for the Blessed Sacrament. This tradition is reminds us of the hours after the Last Supper when Christ went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray; by spending a few minutes at each altar, we are accompanying Christ to the Garden and praying with him, as the apostles did.

Good Friday is the day Jesus was crucified and hung on the cross from noon until 3:00. Try to abstain from social media during these three hours and observe silence, if possible; take this time to reflect on the suffering of Christ, pray, read, or just spend quality time

together. Try to attend the 3 PM Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord to mark this most solemn day.

Holy Saturday is a day of waiting until the 8 PM Easter Vigil, the first celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. Bring your family to experience the beauty and majesty of the Easter Vigil Mass.



Easter decorations are permitted until the week after Easter. Please refer to the posted **Cemetery Decoration Schedule & Regulations**, which can be found on our Parish website or at our Cemetery office.

(<http://stmarysridgefield.org/documents/Cemetery/Decoration%20Regulations.pdf>) If you have any questions, contact Donna Barber, 203-438-3606 or 203-733-4658. Thank you for your understanding.

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)



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

O= permanent or sub urgently needed. X=1 add is needed.

	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	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	O	X
1pm-2pm	X	X	X	X	O	X	X
2pm-3pm	X	X	X	X		X	X
3pm-4pm		X	X	X	X	X	X
4pm-5pm	X	O	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

For a healthy spiritual life, saints, including popes, have encouraged a Eucharistic Holy Hour as a great source of spiritual strength. Please sign up for an hour in our Adoration Chapel by calling Bill or Monica @ (914) 533-2832. God bless us 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.

SAINT MARY CEMETERY SPRING CLEANUP

**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.