

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 6, 2016



CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Today's second Collection supports the work of Catholic Relief Services -- and its support of refugees in the Middle East. In addition to CRS, the collection supports a few other ministries of the Church including the Holy Father's Relief Fund, which helps to address other pressing needs around the world.

Today throughout the Middle East, millions of people have been forced from their homes by violence. Four million Syrians have fled that country. CRS is there as the heart and hand of the Church in the United States, to give the help that the Gospel asks of us for those in need. The conflict in Syria and throughout the Middle East, which has affected an area sacred to so many faiths including our own, has resulted in the persecution of Christians and other ethnic and religious minorities, including Yazidis, Turkmen, Muslims (Sunni and Shia). Good people of all faiths are involved in the humanitarian response.

From its beginning in 1943 helping refugees during World War II, CRS was directed by the American bishops to deliver aid to those in need, no matter their religion, their nationality, their race, their beliefs. As we like to say, "We do this not because they are Catholics, but because we are Catholics." That is what CRS is doing in this crisis, working with local partners, most of them Catholic, with a special focus on children, trying to counsel them as victims of horrific violence, and educate them so that Syria does not have a "lost generation" of children deprived of the education and skills needed to one day re-build their country when peace returns.

You have probably read about and seen TV coverage of the refugees reaching Europe, and the many who die trying. But this is only a fraction of the total who have left Syria. The vast majority of Syrian refugees are in neighboring countries - Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and even Egypt. CRS has helped many refugees in transit in Europe, but the bulk of its aid has been in those neighboring countries where, working through Church structures, CRS has reached over 900,000 people. Today we ask that through your generosity, your compassion, and your commitment to the Gospel, to help them reach even more.

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz
Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, March 7

Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

7:00 AM Jaxson Fields

12:00 PM Ann Murphy

TUESDAY, March 8

Ez 47:1-9,12 Jn 5:1-16

7:00 AM Anthony Perretti

12:00 PM Julia Sech

WEDNESDAY, March 9

Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

7:00 AM Intentions of Ursula Corbett

12:00 PM John Miltenis

THURSDAY, March 10

Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

7:00 AM Ruth Sullivan - 1st Anniversary

12:00 PM Ruth Sullivan - 1st Anniversary

FRIDAY, March 11

Wis 2:1a,12-22; Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30

7:00 AM Gerry Stoeffel

12:00 PM Carey Deputy

SATURDAY, March 12

Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53

8:00 AM Josef and Anton Klettner

4:00 PM Italo (Pete) Massagli

5:30 PM Carey Deputy

SUNDAY, March 13

Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7,17,20-27,33b-45

CHURCH

7:00 AM Michael Ceponis

9:15 AM Ryan Adams

11:15 AM Riccardo Riccardi

HALL

8:00 AM Neil Glasser

10:30 AM Mildred Alexander

12:00 PM Parishioners of the Parish

5:00 PM Anthony Castoro

In addition to our 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, Scott McCaughey 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

February 28, 2016	\$23,970	\$216,351
March 01, 2015	\$23,659	\$204,657

Hospitality

February 2016	\$6,142
February 2015	\$5,323

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 will take place 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.



Next weekend, daylight savings time begins. Please remember to turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour on Saturday night.

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



JUBILEE MASS OF WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Please join Bishop Caggiano in celebration of your Wedding Anniversary!

Saint Paul Parish, Greenwich
Sunday, April 7 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 to register



SAINT MARY
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Saint Mary School
RIDGEFIELD

Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee

Each year Saint Mary School participates in the Knights of Columbus Catholic School Spelling Bee. Grades 4, 5, and 6 conduct classroom rounds where a grade winner and alternate are determined. This year in grade 4, the winner was Katie Hoerdemann and the alternate is Mikaela Bernard. In the 5th grade, the winner is Matthew Uy and the alternate is Michaela Martin. In the 6th grade, the winner is Patrik Backus and the alternate is Scott Robert. The grade winners will go on to compete in the Knights of Columbus Catholic Spelling Bee Regional competition. Congratulations to all the students!

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.

Immaculate High School
"Golden Gala...Celebrating 50 Years"

Please join us on Saturday, April 2, 6:30–11:30pm at the Amber Room for the "GOLDEN GALA" as we honor **Anthony M. Rizzo, Jr.** – Nancy K. Dolan Leadership Recipient & **George F. Landegger** – Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient **Ticket price:** \$150 per person; **Dress attire:** Black Tie Optional; Live and Silent Auction - proceeds will support IHS's academic and extracurricular programs. Purchase tickets at www.immaculatehs.org/goldengala.

For more info, contact Debbie Basile at 203-744-1510 ext. 159 or dbasile@myimmaculatehs.org.

FAITH FORMATION CORNER

Marriage is a sacramental union of a man and woman signifying and involving a mutual gift of love, which binds the spouses together for life and gives them the graces they need to be faithful to one another and to carry out their special vocations as mothers and fathers.



CATHOLIC ACTION

Your children's confessions will be heard during class time throughout Lent. It would be helpful for you to review the Act of Contrition at home with your child.



Our Grade 6 Seder will be held on Wednesday, March 16, at 6:00pm in our Parish Hall.

Our First Penance Ceremonies are scheduled for Monday, March 7, Wednesday, March 9, and Monday, March 14, at 6:30pm in our Church. A reception will follow in the Barn; we are asking all families to drop off a dessert/beverage to our Religious Ed Office the day before, or the day of your child's scheduled ceremony.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



We are called to advocate for the most fundamental of human goods and rights, in particular, the right to life and the right not only to profess our faith, but to live it out. We are advocating for the freedom to "be Catholic," to go about our lives serving the needs of our brothers and sisters, regardless of their race, creed, or religion, not because they are Catholic but because we are Catholic. 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

"You shall not murder a child by abortion nor kill that which is begotten." Didache AD 70. 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.

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 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.

DIVORCE & SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP

If you are divorced, in the process of divorcing, or separated, come join our friendly, safe, confidential and uplifting support group that focuses on spiritual and emotional healing. While this group is Catholic in practice and nature, **all faiths are welcome**. The group will meet every second and fourth Sunday of each month, 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM in the St. Mary Parish Barn (beige building next to the church). For more information contact Jim Orkin, 914-420-7564, jamesorkin@gmail.com.

**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.

EUCHARISTIC 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

St. Francis de Sales once said "Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself." Acquiring patience is a challenge, and praying in our Adoration Chapel can help. Call Bill or Monica @ (914) 533-2832 to sign up. Scheduled & substitutes adorers always welcome. 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.

**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.