

The Solemnity of Mary The Holy Mother of God

January 1, 2017



Happy New Year!

On behalf of our entire Parish Staff, Happy New Year to all in our Parish Family!

May 2017 bring a deeper sense of Christ-centered peace to our hearts, our homes and our world as a whole, especially in the Middle East, the birthplace of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Thank you to all who made our Christmas celebration as joyful as it was: our Clergy, Music Ministry, Altar Guild, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Altar Servers, Ushers and Greeters. We couldn't have done it without you!

Blessings to you all across this year. May prosperity, health, peace and joy be yours in full measure.

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz".

Pastor

HOPE FOR A NEW YEAR

Gracious God,

As a New Year 2017 begins, we place our trust in you.

May it bring us closer to recognizing our need to love and cherish one another.

May those in power understand the importance of cultivating peace and bringing an end to war.
May those who struggle with disease, loss, poverty and despair find light in the midst as they face
their struggles and suffering.

And may we grow stronger in our desire to imitate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ, your
Son, in whom our hope abides. Amen



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, January 2

1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28

9:00 AM Joseph Schmid

TUESDAY, January 3

1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Jn 1:29-34

7:00 AM St. Lucy

12:00 PM Dorothy Cronin

WEDNESDAY, January 4

1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42

7:00 AM St. Jude

12:00 PM Maria Fronzi

THURSDAY, January 5

1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51

7:00 AM St. Christopher

12:00 PM Adriano Cerutti

FRIDAY, January 6

1 Jn 5:5-13/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

7:00 AM St. Anthony

9:00 AM Anthony Faga

12:00 PM Una McCarthy

SATURDAY, January 7

1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 2:1-11

8:00 AM Arlene Doyle

4:30 PM Eric Lucas

SUNDAY, January 8

Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Church

7:30 AM Ellen Flynn

9:15 AM Dorothy Anthony & Bill Anthony Jr.

11:15 AM Mary McRedmond

Hall

10:30 AM Parishioners of the Parish

12:00 PM Deceased Members of the Brennan Family

5:00 PM Lisa Johnson

Contribution Tax Statements

Contribution Tax Statements will be mailed out in January 2017 to all Parishioners who contributed to our Parish Offertory last year. All contributions must have been received by December 31, 2016, in order to be acknowledged for 2016 tax status.

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., January 11th** from 7:30-8:30pm in the Barn. Call our Parish Office to register.



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

December 18, 2016	\$24,763	\$1,223,438
December 20, 2015	\$27,239	\$1,193,939

Hospitality House

December 2016	\$6,770
December 2015	\$5,344

Due to holiday bulletin deadlines, Christmas offertory numbers were unavailable before this Bulletin went to print. Updates will appear in our next Bulletin.

This week's second collection is for Solemnity of Mary. Next week's second collection is for Facilities Repair. Thank you for your continued support.

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially Theresa Avento, Joseph Barone, Mary Jo Calamai, Megyn Caldwell, Patti Capilli, Dina Casavecchia, Bill Casey, Emmy Jane Jones, Jeanne Masgandrea, and Luke Whitbeck. (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.)



Candle Intentions



*A Church Altar Candle
is Burning in Loving Memory of
Helene Cally*

Remember a friend or loved one with a candle lit in their name. Candle Intention options:

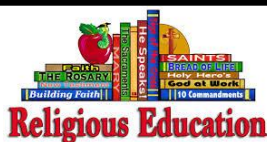
- Adoration Chapel Tabernacle Candle - \$40 donation, for one week
- Church Sanctuary Candle - \$40 donation, for one week
- Church Altar Candles - \$20 donation each, for one week
- Hall Sanctuary Candle - \$20 donation, burns at Sunday Mass

All intentions will be noted in our Bulletin during the week requested and each Candle Intention purchased includes a card with envelope. Please purchase at our Parish Office.

BAPTISMS

We welcome to the Family of God and our Parish Family **Jack Warren Liberta and Benjamin Cole Ioli** who were baptized in our Church last weekend.





Our Catechist and Aide In-Service Event will be held on Sunday, January 15th, beginning with the 10:30am Mass. Brunch will be served after Mass, to be followed by our Guest Speaker, Mr. Patrick Donovan, Director of Strategic and Pastoral Planning of the Diocese of Bridgeport! Patrick will describe the Diocesan plans for the Institute, which is being launched that very week along with the Diocesan Catholic Service Corps, which is already off to a strong start.

GIFTS FOR ALL: Liturgy of the Word for Children with Special Needs is scheduled for January 8 and January 29. Please see our Website for more dates. If you can volunteer to be a Special Ed Teacher, Peer Witness or Music Minister, please call Pat Postiglione, (438-6538) or Sharol Signorelli (438-2302).

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE



Join us for our next Respect Life meeting, Monday, January 9th at 7pm in the Day Chapel (behind the Altar in the Parish Hall).

When you look over at the person next to you and see someone who is 35 or younger, remember that in between you stands the ghost of a missing generation. About a third of your generation is gone, lost in the holocaust of abortion." Congressman Steve King of Iowa: 1-22-08

www.smcr.org/respect-life



DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our democracy. The federal health care mandate fundamentally alters the fragile balance between government and religious groups created by the framers of our Constitution. The same First Amendment that protects religious freedom protects freedom of the press. We wouldn't stand for the government telling news programs whom to interview or what articles to write.

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.

20th ANNIVERSARY



Saint Mary School

RIDGEFIELD

Open Houses

Work Hard. Be Kind. Smile. This is the student version of the Saint Mary School mission statement, and is heard every day at the end of morning prayers and announcements. It is visible on the walls of our classrooms and in the behaviors of our students and staff. It is what makes SMS such a special community.

We invite you to come take a closer look. Saint Mary School will be holding a Kindergarten – Grade 8 Open House on Thursday, February 9th from 9-10 am, and a Preschool Open House on Friday, February 10th from 9:30-10:30 am. Meet with other parents, speak with faculty and staff, and see classes in session. To register, 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



Reading the Bible (cont'd)

Today's Catholic is called to take an intelligent, spiritual approach to God's Word in the Bible.

Additional pointers for more fruitful Scripture reading:

You do not read alone. By reading and reflecting on Sacred Scripture, Catholics join those faithful men and women who have taken God's Word to heart and put it into practice in their lives. We read the Bible within the tradition of the Church to benefit from the holiness and wisdom of all the faithful.

What is God saying to me? The Bible is not addressed only to long-dead people in a faraway land. It is addressed to each of us in our own unique situations. When we read, we need to understand what the text says and how the faithful have understood its meaning in the past. In light of this understanding, we then ask: What is God saying to me?

Reading isn't enough. If Scripture remains just words on a page, our work is not done. We need to meditate on the message and put it into action in our lives. Only then can the word be "living and effective."(Hebrews 4:12).

(Go to www.smcr.org under the Faith Formation tab for the full list of pointers to make Scripture reading more fruitful). www.usccb.org

CATHOLIC ACTION

Volunteers Needed



Elders in our community need YOUR help. We need the following at Congregate Housing, Prospect Ridge:

1. **BINGO CALLERS** - 1 (or 2) needed. Wednesdays 1-2:30pm, once a month.
2. **LUNCH SERVERS** - 3 or 4 needed. Weekdays 11:45am-1:00pm, 2x/month. You can choose the days to volunteer.

CONTACT: Suzanne MacAvoy for info and to volunteer, sdmacavoy@hotmail.com H 203 438-7056

DONATE: Midnight Run

Midnight Run: Friday January 27. Items needed: heavy jackets, hooded sweatshirts, jeans, hats, gloves, scarves, new underwear (M-XXL), socks, lightly used sneakers, thermal underwear, blankets, sleeping bags, backpacks & travel sized toiletries & toothbrushes. Drop off items at the Barn between 7:30am and 3:30pm on Jan 20 to 26. Volunteers are needed to sort and fold clothing, pick up and return the van and to go on the run. Any questions or for more info call Elma or Jim Stoveken at 203-894-1341.

DONATE: Food Pantries

During the month of January, all food collected goes to Dorothy Day Hospitality House. Suggested food items include cereal, pasta, canned food, vegetable oil and baby food. Also needed: full-size toiletries. Thank you!

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	X
11pm-12M	X		X		X	X	X

Happy New Year 2017! A wonderful way to begin the new year – take a scheduled hour in our Parish Adoration Chapel as one of your New Year's resolutions, one of which, I'm sure, you would not cancel. Consider an hour where there is an "o" or an "x" in the chart. What better blessings from Jesus for 2017. Please sign up by calling Bill or Monica @ 914-533-2832. God bless us all.



You Can Play an Important Role in Our Ministry

Do you know someone going through a difficult time who could benefit from the focused care, encouragement and support of a Stephen Minister? If you know of someone who is hurting, talk to one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders, Mary Ann O'Grady – 203-438-5610 or Jack Hughes – 203-665-0054. They can talk with you about how we can connect the person you know with one of our Stephen Ministers. Reach out and show you care.

PILGRIM VIRGIN



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.

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

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.