



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

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January 28, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This year we celebrate 51 years of solidarity with the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean with the Collection for the Church in Latin America the weekend of January 28-29. The Church there faces many challenges. Often, there are too few priests to meet the needs of the many communities they serve, or the communities themselves are simply too isolated to have access to other important resources for the faith.

Strategies to train and support evangelization leaders are vital to reach those who are disconnected from the life and mission of the Church. For the past 51 years, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops through its Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America has helped 25 countries in Central and South America as well as the Caribbean confront challenges to the faith. With your support, they have been able to develop catechetical programs and youth and young adult ministries, train lay leaders and catechists, and expand religious and seminary formation.

Please be generous in this collection, and take this opportunity to share your faith with families in Latin America and the Caribbean. Your support will truly make a difference.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Frank J. Caggiano

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, January 23

Heb 9:15, 24-28/Mk 3:22-30

- 7:00 AM Hope Hughes
- 12:00 PM Albert Schmitt

TUESDAY, January 24

Heb 10:1-10/Mk 3:31-35

- 7:00 AM Irene Mackin
- 12:00 PM Hawk Reinertsen

WEDNESDAY, January 25

Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Mk 16:15-18

- 7:00 AM Rev. Andrew Nirrengarten
- 12:00 PM Chester Augustine

THURSDAY, January 26

2 Tm 1:1-8 or Tit 1:1-5/Mk 4:21-25

- 7:00 AM Burnett & Fogerty Family
- 12:00 PM Rick Ligi, Jr.

FRIDAY, January 27

Heb 10:32-39/Mk 4:26-34

- 7:00 AM Kathleen Howard
- 12:00 PM Chester Augustine

SATURDAY, January 28

Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Mk 4:35-41

- 8:00 AM Robert Linnon
- 4:30 PM Sophie, Lee & Harry O'Brien

SUNDAY, January 29

Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

Church

- 7:30 AM Marjorie Tarsi
- 9:15 AM Kathleen Agostino
- 11:15 AM Renata DeGiovanni

Hall

- 10:30 AM Christopher Carroll, Sr.
- 12:00 PM Elizabeth Haughney
- 5:00 PM Parishioners of the Parish

Contribution Tax Statements

Contribution Tax Statements will be mailed out in January 2017 to all Parishioners who contributed to our Parish Offertory in 2016.

NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Please note: As of February 1st, our new Parish Office hours will be 10:00am-4:00pm, Monday - Friday.

Birthright Needs Volunteers

Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service offering free pregnancy tests, friendship counseling and practical support. If you would like to help, please call 1-800-550-4900 for the Birthright nearest you. Training is provided. Thank you.



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

January 15, 2017	\$23,618	\$63,038
January 17, 2016	\$22,157	\$69,432

Hospitality House

January 2017	\$5,829
January 2016	\$5,767

Next week's second collection is for the Church in Latin America. Thank you for your support!

Prayers for the Sick



Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Thersa Avento, Mary Jo Calamai, Patti Capilli, Bill Casey, Pat Gotimer, Jeanne Mastandrea, Pat Ruhl 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.



Altar Decorating Help Needed

Do you like flowers and plants? Anita Barrios needs help with the week-to-week altar flowers as well as with planning and ordering for Easter. Can you help? Call Anita for more details at 203-431-6705.

MASS INTENTION REMINDER

We are now scheduling Announced Mass Intentions on a rolling basis. As a result, Announced Mass Intentions may be scheduled for the month of January 2018 as of Wednesday, February 1, 2017.

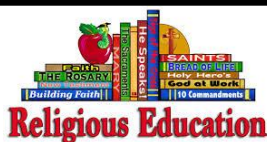


Church Sanctuary Candle Burning in Loving Memory of William J. Sheridan

DIVORCED & SEPARATED

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. **All faiths are welcome.** The group meets the 2nd and 4th week of the month with the next meeting tentatively scheduled for January 22nd in our St. Mary Parish Barn. For more information and confirmation of dates, contact Jim Orkin, 914-420-7564, jamesorkin@gmail.com.





GIFTS FOR ALL: Liturgy of the Word for Children with Special Needs is scheduled for January 29th at the 10:30am Mass. All school age children with special needs are invited to join us for a wonderful sharing of God's love and Word.

The National March for Life will take place on January 27th in Washington DC. All high school teens interested in attending the youth rally at the Washington DC Verizon Center and the March, please call Pat Postiglione or Youth Minister, Brenner LeCompte at 203-438-7335. The permission slips for this event are in the Religious Education Office.

Reconciliation: Our Grade 2 children have begun preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Retreat is on February 7th, 8th or 9th. Reception of the Sacrament will be on March 7th, 8th or 9th. Please call our Religious Ed Office, 203-438-7335 for more info.

Family Mass for Grade 6 is the 12 Noon Mass on January 22nd in our Parish Hall. Reception will follow for children and their families.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE



"I ran the largest abortion clinic in the world for 2 years. I had no conflicts whatsoever at the time I was doing the abortions. I changed my mind because the new scientific data which we were getting from advanced technology persuaded me that we could not indiscriminately continue to slaughter what was demonstrably a human being."

Interview with Bernard Nathanson, M.D., 1986 (the most famous abortionist in history)

www.smcr.org/respect-life



DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

With the swearing in of the new president this past week, comes the promise that the federal health care

mandate will be revised to reinstate our right to religious freedom. Let us pray that our new leaders will honor our cherished First Amendment.

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

Middle School Midterms

Students in Grade 6-8 recently completed midterm exams. SMS believes that having midterm and final exams in middle school better prepares students for high school, improves study skills, cultivates organizational skills, and develops the skill of retaining material. Our alumni agree with us, often citing these tests as one of the ways SMS prepared them for high school. The best part of exams – the annual Middle School Breakfast held at the completion of exam week!

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.

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 to your home contact Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341.

FAITH FORMATION CORNER



More New Year's Resolutions

Why not tie your faith to some of your New Year's resolutions/goals? Below are more ideas (continued from the last two weeks) to implement doing just that.

Go to Confession Every Month

Yes, it's difficult to face your sins and need for God's forgiveness. Regular reception of the Sacrament of Penance helps you to resist the sinful patterns in your life. If our Parish's Confession Schedule, Saturday at 3:30 PM, doesn't work for you, call our Parish Office to make an appointment.

Read the Bible

If you don't own a Catholic Bible, invest in one and keep it out where you will see it every day. Attend one of our many Bible studies throughout the year. You'll also find helpful guides online or in a Catholic bookstore.

Get Involved with your Parish

Volunteering as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Choir Member or Usher/Greeter, requires a very small time commitment and gives you the opportunity to put your faith into action. For other volunteering ideas, look at our website or call our Parish Office and ask for volunteer opportunities that will fit your schedule.

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. Thank you for your help!!

DONATE: Food Pantries

During January, collected food goes to the Ridgefield Food Pantry. Collection bins are in the Church and Hall.

Important Notice - Cemetery Clean-up

The period from February 1st through March 1st, weather-permitting, is traditionally used by the Cemetery to clean up the grounds for the coming spring. All fall and winter decorations will be removed during this period. If at all possible, we request that you refrain from placing any new decorations during this clean up period. If you wish to save your decorations, please remove them before February 1st.

Homily Survey

Thank you to all who have been utilizing our Homily Survey. Your feedback is valued and appreciated! The survey link is on our website, www.smcr.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.

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	O	X		X	O	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	O	X	O	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	O	X	X
11pm-12M	X		X		X	X	X

Looking back on the Christmas season we realize how lucky the magi were in having a star to guide them in their quest. We have many opportunities to meet Jesus Christ, and one of them is to spend some time in private prayer in our Adoration Chapel. Please sign up for an hour by calling Bill or Monica @ 914-533-2832. God bless us 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

Here is a resolution which is sure to bring you joy. How many of you men have made New Year's resolutions? How many of you are (like me) still looking for meaningful resolutions or have already broken your resolutions? Why not make a resolution to join us once a week or once a month or whenever you feel in need of a pick me up. Christ "jump-started" his public life with His Baptism. Why not jump-start your year with God by joining us for coffee, OJ, and bagels, and learn strategies to meet life's challenges joyfully. Come get to know some other fathers, grandfathers, sons and like-minded men of St. Mary Parish. STMMM meets on Saturdays at 6:30am in the Parish Hall. stmmm.org