

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 15, 2017



Created in the Image and Likeness of God

Yes, October is a month dedicated to the Mother of God, the Patroness of our Parish - Mary whose vocation was to bring the most important human life, the life of her Son, into our world. During this month of October, Respect Life Month, we Catholics celebrate the gift of human life which begins at the moment of conception.

Let's think back to those Ten Commandments that Moses brought presented to his people, the Commandments we first learned as kids and memorized even before we fully understood them. Think of number 5: "You shall not kill." Number 5 is really God's command to respect all human life. Why? Because human life is the gift of God who created us in his image and likeness. So it's our faith in God on which our respect for human life is built.

1. On what is our right of self-defense based? On the truth of our Catholic faith that our lives are gifts of God who created us in his image and likeness.
2. Why is the taking of another innocent human life morally wrong – born, unborn, young or old? Same reason.
3. Why is taking one's own life morally wrong? Same reason.
4. Why should we take proper care of our own health? Same reason.
5. Why are kidnapping, hostage-taking and terrorism morally wrong? Same reason.
6. Why must we care for the sick and dying? Same reason.
7. Why must we do all we can to preserve peace and avoid unnecessary war? Same reason.
8. Why do we reach out and help those recovering from natural disasters like the recent hurricanes and the Mexican earthquake? Same reason
9. Why are we as a Parish helping to provide clean usable water for a small Guatemalan village? Same reason.
10. Why do places like Dorothy Day House in Danbury exist, providing food and shelter for the homeless? Same reason.

That same reason is the fact that our lives are gifts of God in whose image and likeness we were all created. So human life deserves the utmost respect. In fact, anything less than total respect for the sacred gift of life makes no sense.

At the same time, we realize that we live in a world where everyone does not believe in God, where many do not believe that life is a divine gift and treat it accordingly.

So each year, during this month of October, we celebrate our Catholic respect for the sacred gift of life. In our prayer we also express the anger, anguish and frustration with those segments of our society and world that do not share our convictions.

So what can we do? We just keep preaching and teaching the truth and praying that more and more people in our world will embrace it.

Sincerely,

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz
Pastor

Respect Life Month Prayer Petition: Let us pray for the mothers and children who have been wounded from the effects of abortion or any physical, mental or sexual abuse, that they may seek hope, forgiveness and God's Divine healing.



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, October 16 – Convocation of Priests

Communion Services Rom 1:1-7/Lk 11:29-32

7:00 AM

12:00 PM

TUESDAY, October 17 – Convocation of Priests

Communion Services Rom 1:16-25/Lk 11:37-41

7:00 AM

12:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, October 18 – Convocation of Priests

Communion Services 2 Tm 4:10-17b/Lk 10:1-9

7:00 AM

12:00 PM

THURSDAY, October 19

Rom 3:21-30/Lk 11:47-54

7:00 AM All Suffering from Depression & Addiction

12:00 PM Thomas Ryan, Jr.

FRIDAY, October 20

Rom 4:1-8/Lk 12:1-7

7:00 AM Noel Edman

12:00 PM John Brennan

SATURDAY, October 21

Rom 4:13, 16-18/Lk 12:8-12

8:00 AM Andy Murphy

4:30 PM Mario & Louise Serfilippi

SUNDAY, October 22

Is 45:1, 4-6/1 Thes 1:1-5b/Mt 22:15-21

Church

7:30 AM Parishioners of the Parish

9:15 AM Steven Lancaster

11:15 AM Leslie Marie Parkel

Hall

10:30 AM Ellen & Thomas Flynn

12:00 PM Navio Ligi

5:00 PM Antonio V. Fernandez

Communion Services

Please be aware that there will be Communion Services only at the regularly scheduled Mass times (7am and noon) **October 16, 17, and 18** due to the Priest Convocation. Members of the Jesuit Community at Fairfield University and other religious orders of priests will be available for sacramental emergencies. Thank you for your prayers and support toward this very important event in the lives of our priests and the Diocese.

Immaculate High School's Second Annual Scholarship Breakfast will be on Friday, November 3 at the Amber Room Colonnade in Danbury from 7:30-9:00am. The event raises scholarship funds for area students. Tickets are \$25 a person or \$250 for a table of ten. Register @ www.immaculatehs.org/scholarshipbreakfast or call Debbie Basile, at 203-744-1510 ext. 159.



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

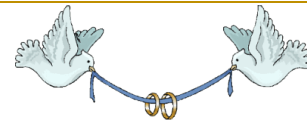
October 8, 2017	\$23,293	\$912,792
October 9, 2016	\$24,965	\$957,192

Hospitality House		
2017	\$5,803	
2016	\$6,335	

Prayers for the Sick

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Josie Connelly, Jeanne Mastandrea, Lee & Scott McCaughey, Fr. Lionel Medeiros, and Jennie Palmieri.**

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.



Marriage Banns

- I. Matthew James Buckheit – Alyssa Rose Petchonka
- I. Stephen Michael Walsh – Nicole Jade Eberhardt
- III. Anthony Laboy – Ondria Jessica Torres



The 30-35 crosses on the hill next to our Church, placed there by the Respect Life and Men's Ministry, signify the number of abortions and memorialize the babies legally killed in the state of CT per day. Let's continue to pray for an end to abortion and respect for all life.

DIVORCED & SEPARATED
Sundays, 7:30-9pm in the Parish Barn

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.** For more information contact Jim Orkin, 914-420-7564, jamesorkin@gmail.com.





20th ANNIVERSARY



Saint Mary School

RIDGEFIELD

OPEN HOUSE DATES

What is so special about Saint Mary School? We are committed to academic excellence, a strong faith based education, and a nurturing community environment where students thrive intellectually, spiritually, and socially. Our award winning school and dynamic preschool provide a challenging curriculum, a vibrant Catholic education, an active parent community.

We invite you to come take a closer look. Saint Mary School will be holding a Kindergarten – Grade 8 Open House on Thursday, October 26th from 9-10 am, and a Preschool Open House on Friday, October 27th 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.

Gifts for All - Liturgy of the Word for Children with Special Needs

We would like to begin the year soon, but we are in need of helpers for this group of children. Volunteers needed: Special Ed teacher, Peer Witnesses, and a Music Minister to gather during the 10:30 Mass in the Parish Hall. This is a group for children who cannot be mainstreamed into classrooms. Our goal is to bring the Love of Jesus to all children.

Catechists and Volunteers Needed! If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a Catechist or volunteering, please call our Religious Education Office at 203 438 7335.

The Grade 3 Family Mass will be the Sunday, October 22, 12 Noon Mass in our Parish Hall. Families of Grade 3 students are invited to attend. Please join us after for refreshments and snacks in our Nancy Bossidy Recreation Center.

Edge Bake Sale – Please support our Edge Students' Bake Sale on Sunday, October 22 from 8:00am to 1:00pm at the Grotto. All proceeds will go toward the Guatemalan Water Fund!!!!

Please “like” and “follow” our St. Mary Faith Formation page on Facebook!!!

FAITH FORMATION CORNER



Our Blessed Mother

We Catholics worship God alone. We venerate Mary, honoring her with great reverence and devotion because she is the Mother of God.

Mary is the model of perfect love and obedience to Christ. God preserved Mary from sin, and she conceived our Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit, bringing Christ into our world. Catholics can't help but honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is full of grace, the Mother of God and our Mother, for her “yes” to God that made the Incarnation possible.

Mary is the most beautiful model of total submission to the will of God. Catholics do not view Mary as equal to Christ, but rather venerate Mary because of her relationship to Christ. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, “Mary’s role in the Church is inseparable from her union with Christ and flows directly from it” (CCC 964).

As Catholics, we pray that we can respond to God’s call to holiness in the way that Mary did. Mother Theresa prayed to emulate Mary’s devotion to Christ: “Mary, Mother of Jesus, give me your heart so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate, so full of love and humility that I may be able to receive Jesus in the Bread of Life, love Him as You loved Him, and serve Him as You served Him....”

www.catholicscomehome.org

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE



This St. Mary Respect Life sponsored billboard will be posted on Elm Street in Danbury for 4 weeks, beginning October 9th. Thank you to all donors who have made this educational message for life possible. www.smcr.org/respect-life

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



Religious freedom is a fundamental right, not a political football. Freedom belongs to us by human nature, not by government dictate. A government that serves its citizens is one that respects the right to religious freedom. Let us pray that in revising the HHS mandate, religious rights of the Catholic Church will be safeguarded.

MEAL ON WHEELS

Know someone homebound, ill, disabled or recovering from surgery? Contact Meals on Wheels of Ridgefield at mealsonwheelsofridefield.org or 203-438-8788 to learn about our delicious, low cost program to help those unable to cook for themselves.



We need your support. Please have compassion on parents who bring kids to Church, and give them a big smile and a thumbs up – it makes a world of difference!

CATHOLIC ACTION

VOLUNTEER: SERVING LUNCH

Two or three volunteers needed. Commitment: appx 2x/month, weekdays of your choosing, Mon-Fri. Hours: 11:45am-1:00pm. Where: Congregate Housing, 51 Prospect Ridge. For more info or questions, contact Suzanne MacAvoy, 203 438-7056, sdmacavoy@hotmail.com

DONATE: FOOD PANTRY

In the month of October, collected food will go to Dorothy Day Hospitality House. Collection bins are in the Church and Hall. Thank you for your generosity!



MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Our order was founded in 1882 on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity. The Marquette Council's activities started here at St. Mary Parish in 1894 and have continued uninterrupted for over 120 years. Our goal is to offer our members and their families an opportunity to share God's love through service to our Priests, Parish and community. Want to enrich your faith & model strong values for your family? Learn more at www.KOFC.org or contact Phil Del Giudice, Grand Knight, Compass_grp@yahoo.com.

PILGRIM VIRGIN

This year we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. Our Lady's message to the world: Do penance, amend your life, offend God no more and pray the Rosary daily for world peace and the conversion of sinners. Invite the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima Statue into your home. To schedule a visit call Elma Stoveken, 203-894-1341.



10th Annual Holiday Craft Fair & Tag Sale Oct 21, 10am-3pm. St. Thomas Center (Gym), 1719 Post Road, Fairfield.



RCIA

RCIA is the Church's way of helping people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. It is concerned with the formation of a person into a fuller understanding of our Catholic faith, so that he or she can comfortably pray and serve within our Church. Contact DRE, Pat Postiglione, 203-438-7335.



Thank you for your feedback. Go to www.smcr.org for links to our HOMILY SURVEY as well as our Church Refurbish and General SUGGESTION BOXES.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Our Adoration Chapel, the oldest one in Connecticut, is open 24/7. The entrance is near our Religious Ed Office. Stop by anytime or sign up for an hour:

O means permanent or substitute adorer urgently needed. **X** means 1 **additional** adorer is needed. **Blank boxes** mean **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	X	O	X	X
2am-3am	X	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	X		X	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	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
5pm-6pm	X		X	X	X		X
6pm-7pm	X			X	X	X	X
7pm-8pm	X					X	X
8pm-9pm						X	X
9pm-10pm	X	X			X	X	X
10pm-11pm			X	X	X	X	X
11pm-12M	X		O		X	X	X

Stressed, concerned, or just plain tired of being tired? Come get refreshed. How blessed are we to be able to spend time with Jesus in our Adoration Chapel in spiritual conversation in His Sacramental Presence. Show your love by signing up or by substituting for difficult hours. To do so, please call Bill & Monica @ (914)-533-2832.

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 sung and prayed. Please join us!



ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY

Take an opportunity to deepen your relationship with the Lord - along with 50 to 60 other like-minded men. How about spending a weekly hour and half experiencing our Men's Ministry on Saturday mornings from 6:30-8:00AM? Besides having a great and welcoming community, we also serve bagels, coffee & OJ each week to ease the pain of a **very worthwhile wakeup call!**



ST. MARY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

is looking for new members and adults who would like to help! We welcome all children who are in second grade or older. Contact Manette Hutchings at mejch226@hotmail.com