

## Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017



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### Thank You for Helping Our Refugee Family

On behalf of our Ridgefield Refugee Resettlement Committee, thank you to all in our Parish for all you have done to warmly welcome our Syrian refugee family to Ridgefield.

The Suleman Family is celebrating the first anniversary of their arrival in our nation and is so very grateful to everyone who has helped them in the successful transition to life in United States.

As our Refuge Resettlement Committee has recognized, "The significant financial support provided by direct donors, by St. Mary's Parish as landlord, and by Ridgefield Apartments and Stop & Shop as employers, for helping to enable the Sulemans to bridge the transition toward substantial self-sufficiency as new immigrants to the US.....It is not often that we get to make direct and tangible differences in the lives of others, but you [we] have all achieved that with your [our] time and your efforts." (Mike Rettger/Ann O'Brien, Co-Chairs, Ridgefield Refugee Resettlement Committee)

As we prepare to celebrate the Birth of the Jesus Christ, who asked all of us to "love one another as he has loved us," let us rejoice with the Sulemans whose lives have been touched by the goodness and kindness of so many here in our Community!

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz

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

Pastor



**MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS**

**MONDAY, December 11**

Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26

7:00 AM Bernabella Hu  
12:00 PM Julia Yannone

**TUESDAY, December 12**

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Lectionary for Mass (vol. IV), the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

7:00 AM Catherine McGavin  
12:00 PM David Kulo

**WEDNESDAY, December 13**

Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30

7:00 AM Lucy Rodhouse  
12:00 PM Laura Sierpina

**THURSDAY, December 14**

Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15

7:00 AM Lois Davis  
12:00 PM Mary Sherlach

**FRIDAY, December 15**

Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19

7:00 AM Lillian Sturz  
12:00 PM Nancy and John Kearns

**SATURDAY, December 16**

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

8:00 AM Maureen Hyland  
4:30 PM Sophie, Lee & Harry O'Brien

**SUNDAY, December 17**

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

**Church**

7:30 AM Ryan Adams  
9:15 AM Parishioners of the Parish  
11:15 AM Leslie Marie Parkel

**Hall**

10:30 AM Mary Reilly  
12:00 PM David Walker Lambert  
5:00 PM Eugene Barrios



**GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING**

**WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE**

December 3, 2017	\$29,298	\$1,115,615
December 4, 2016	\$28,041	\$1,165,774
<b>Christmas Flowers</b>		
2017	\$4,939	
2016	\$5,376	

*Prayers for the Sick*

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Fr. John Baran, Josie Connelly, Jean Mastandrea, Lee & Scott McCaughey, Jennie Palmieri, Pat Ruhl and Anna Sorgie.**

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.



II. Norman Joseph Roos – Tiffany Marie Whitney



**BAPTISMS**

We welcome to the Family of God and our Parish Family **Lily Nika** who was baptized in our Church last weekend.

**Our Senior Citizen Christmas Luncheon**



will be held on Tuesday, December 12th at 12 noon in our Parish Hall. **The MacDonald-Pin Dancers** will perform their Christmas show. Donations are appreciated. Please call our School office at **203-438-7288** to reserve by Monday, December 11th.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be no confessions Dec 12th and Noon Mass will take place in our Church.



*Mary, Mother of God, Patroness of our Parish, pray for us. Thank you for your motherly protection and love.*



**PRE-BAPTISM CLASS**

A Pre-Baptism class is required for parents who have not had a class within five years and wish to have their child baptized. Class is offered

on the **second** Wednesday of every **other** month from 7:30-8:30 pm in the Barn. Our next class will be held on Wednesday, **January 10th**. Please call our Parish Office to register.

**NO Confessions: Dec 12th and Dec 14th.**

## Religious Education



### RELIGIOUS ED NATIVITY PAGEANT!

Sunday, December 17, at 2 pm in the Hall.



### 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  
[www.smcr.org/respect-life](http://www.smcr.org/respect-life)

20th ANNIVERSARY



Saint Mary School  
RIDGEFIELD

### Our Amazing Alumni

One thing that makes Saint Mary School special is the dedication of our Alumni. Whether they return to SMS to attend the Christmas Pageant, to volunteer at the Father Daughter Dance, to play basketball in the Catholic Schools Week Middle School vs. Teachers and Alumni Basketball Game, or to volunteer when they are home from college on break or have a day off from High School, our Alumni continue to be a part of our family long after they graduate from SMS.

*Saint Mary School is currently enrolling students in select grades of Preschool through Grade 8 for the 2017-2018 school year, as well as accepting applications for the 2018-2019 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](http://www.smsridgefield.org).*

### DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



In a letter to the U.S. Senate, the United States Conference for Catholic Bishops (USCCB) stated that it stands ready to work with Congress to address problems with the Affordable Care Act in order to protect the most vulnerable among us. They said, "The Catholic Church remains committed to ensuring the fundamental right to medical care, a right which is in keeping with the God-given dignity of every person, and the corresponding obligation as a country to provide for this right. Health care debates must not be reduced to only those elements which appear most politically expedient; those without a strong voice in the process must not bear the brunt of attempts to cut costs."



### The Holidays Can Be a Tough Time for Many

Not everyone is jolly around the holidays. 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. It's a great way to show how much you care.



We will be accepting new, unwrapped toys (\$10 and above) until Friday, Dec 15<sup>th</sup>. Please no military themed toys or ones with weapons, chemicals or candy. Collection bins will be located outside of the RE Office. Please consider sending a gift in with your child during their Religious Ed session. Thank you so much for your generosity and spirit in helping make a child's Christmas special this year!!!



### CHRISTMAS PHONE-A-THON

Invitations to our Christmas liturgical celebrations are being sent to our Parishioners via postcards. As a welcoming spiritual home, we are following up with a call and a personal invitation to attend. The Phone-a-Thon is a community based activity where some of our Parishioners will come together, have refreshments, celebrate the season, while reaching out to our members. In addition, this year some of the listings will be available to take home to make calls on your own time. The Phone-a-Thon will be held in the Hall on Tues, Dec. 12 and Wed, December 13 from 6:30 – 8:30pm. You make pick up a few sheets to make calls on your own at the Men's Ministry or Women's Walking with Purpose meetings or in the Parish office. We request all sheets be returned to the Men's or Women's meetings or the Parish office by December 20. *"Let us become bold in exploring new ways with which our communities can be homes where the door is always open."* --Pope Francis

### FAITH FORMATION CORNER

#### Be Ready & Watchful

"Prepare the way of the Lord" serves as the main theme of this Advent season. As we get ready for Christmas, we should not neglect to prepare our lives for the celebration of our Lord's Birth. Jesus came as "the light of the world." His light penetrated a dark world with the strength of hope.

And our Catholic faith teaches us that Christ will return again at some point in the future.

Be ready and watchful, for the light of the world has come and will surely come again. [www.cbn.com](http://www.cbn.com)

**CATHOLIC ACTION**

**VOLUNTEERS: LUNCH & BINGO**

Two or three volunteers needed to serve lunch. Commitment is appx 2x/month, weekdays of your choosing, Mon-Fri. Hours: 11:45am-1:00pm. ALSO needed: 2 Bingo Callers. Wednesdays 1-2:30. Commitment - 1 hour a month. Where: Congregate Housing, 51 Prospect Ridge. For more info or questions, contact Suzanne MacAvoy, 203 438-7056, [sdmacavoy@hotmail.com](mailto:sdmacavoy@hotmail.com)



**DONATE: FOOD PANTRY**

In the month of December, collected food goes to the Ridgefield Food Pantry. Collection bins are in the Church and Hall. Thank you for your generosity!



**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	O	X	X	X
3am-4am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4am-5am	X	X	X	X	X	X	O
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	X
9am-10am	X	X		X	X	X	X
10am-11am	X					X	X
11am-12N	X		O				X
12N-1pm	X				X	X	X
1pm-2pm	O	X	X	O	X	X	O
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	O
7pm-8pm	X					X	X
8pm-9pm		X				X	X
9pm-10pm	O	X			X	X	X
10pm-11pm			X	X	X	X	X
11pm-12M	X		X	X	X	X	X

*In need of understanding, peace or just plain quiet? Follow the path to our Adoration Chapel where we can pray in silence and connect with Jesus intimately. You will leave filled with hope and joy. Call Bill or Monica Brown @ 914-533-2832 or go to our website to fill in a much needed hour or to become a substitute. Thank you and God bless.*

**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!**

**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](http://www.KOFC.org) or contact Phil Del Giudice, Grand Knight, [Compass\\_grp@yahoo.com](mailto: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.



**RCIA**



RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will continue this year, leading to the Easter Vigil and Feast of Pentecost! **Upcoming gatherings are on December 12 and December 19.** If you are a Baptized Catholic who has

not received the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Holy Eucharist, or if you are someone curious about the Catholic faith, **Come and See** what our Catholic faith has to offer! All are invited, bring a friend! For more info, call Pat Postiglione, 203-438-7335 or [ppostiglione@smcr.org](mailto:ppostiglione@smcr.org)



**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 wake up call.**