



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017



A Merry and Blessed Christmas!

At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, who came not only to save us but also to teach us. Jesus teaches us how to live, how to serve, and how to love. Christ came into our world and our lives as the greatest sign of God's love for us.

As a vibrant Community of Catholic faith, with a strong spiritual foundation, we thank God for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us, our families, and our nation. We especially thank Him for the gift of His Son.

I am truly grateful for your enthusiastic support of our Parish, whose Patroness is the Mother of our Lord, and for your active participation in our Parish life and worship. I am also deeply grateful for your generosity which, in so many ways, has enhanced and strengthened the many programs, ministries, and activities which sustain our Parish Family.

May the Light of Jesus Christ shine through the darkness of our world. On behalf of Fr. Sean, our Deacons and Staff, I wish you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy, and holy New Year of 2018. May we experience the wonder of God's peace and joy in many profound and mysterious ways. It is our privilege to serve you.

Christ's peace and blessings,

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

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz
Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, December 25

Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18
or 1:1-5, 9-14

7:30 AM - CHURCH
8:45 AM - CHURCH
10:00 AM - NBRC
11:30 AM - NBRC



TUESDAY, December 26

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

9:00 AM Elizabeth & James Ryan

WEDNESDAY, December 27

1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

7:00 AM Vanda Inez Lien
12:00 PM Carey Depuy

THURSDAY, December 28

1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Mt 2:13-18

7:00 AM David Lavatori
12:00 PM Joseph Ferrara

FRIDAY, December 29

1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35

7:00 AM Geno Tarsi
12:00 PM Anthony Michael Meyers

SATURDAY, December 30

1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40

8:00 AM Thomas Paul Rajenayagam - 5th Anniversary
4:30 PM Henrietta & Pat Quaranta

SUNDAY, December 31

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

CHURCH

7:30 AM Bill Holze, Sr.
9:15 AM Jean Esposito
11:15 AM Lorraine Perrotta

HALL

10:30 AM Parishioners of the Parish
12:00 PM Sarah Michetti Newby
5:00 PM Frances Pambianchi



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

December 17, 2017	\$25,406	\$1,165,001
December 18, 2016	\$24,762	\$1,215,722
Dorothy Day Hospitality House		
2017	\$7,483	
2016	\$6,770	

2017 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

PARISH GOAL	\$305,000
RAISED TO DATE	\$363,234
% OF GOAL	119.09%

Contribution Tax Statements

Contribution Tax Statements will be mailed out in January 2018 to all Parishioners who contributed to our Parish Offertory this year. All contributions must be received by December 31, 2017, in order to be acknowledged for 2017 tax status.

Prayers for the Sick

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Fr. John Baran, 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.



Candle Intentions

Church Sanctuary Candle
is Burning in Loving Memory of
John and Dolores Wagner

A Church Altar Candle
is Burning in Loving Memory of
Ellen & Thomas Flynn

A Church Altar Candle
is Burning in Loving Memory of
Robert H. DeSpirito

Hall Sanctuary Candle
is Burning in Loving Memory of
Margaret Gillespie & Jason Wagner



PRE-BAPTISM CLASS

Pre-Baptism instruction is required for parents who have not had any within five years and wish to have their child baptized.

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

2017 DONATIONS

Remember St. Mary Parish this Christmas!

Religious Education



There will be no RE classes the weeks of Christmas and New Year's. Classes resume January 7th. We wish all our Families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

Join us for our next Respect Life meeting Thursday morning, January 6, at 10:00 AM, in the Day Chapel. www.smcr.org/respect-life



DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The HHS federal mandate tries to force faith-based employers — including religious charities, schools and pro-life advocacy organizations such as the March for Life — to facilitate the coverage of drugs and devices that go against our moral mandate to respect the dignity of every human person, born and unborn. If a solution is not reached, these nonprofit organizations could face millions of dollars in fines from the federal government for non-compliance with the HHS mandate.

REGISTER >

Registering at our Parish is an expression of your desire to be part of our Roman Catholic Family of Faith and a commitment to the life and support of our Parish. We invite and encourage you to officially register as a Parishioner. It's easy. Stop by or office or go to our website. We welcome you!



Do you know someone going through a difficult time who could benefit from the focused care, encouragement and support of a Stephen Minister? Call 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.



Blessed Mother, Queen of Heaven, Patroness of our Parish, pray for us. Thank you for answering the call to bring a savior into our world. You are forever blessed and honored.

20th ANNIVERSARY



Saint Mary School
RIDGEFIELD

It's Not Too Late

Saint Mary School is once again participating in the Stop & Shop A+ Program. Until March 15, 2018, you can help SMS earn cash by simply using your Stop & Shop card every time you shop. Last year, we earned over \$2,000.

To register, go to <https://stopandshop.com/school-rewards>. Please register your card to benefit ST MARY SCHOOL with the ID number 08386. You can track the points you earn for our school either on your grocery receipt or online. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Lopes at dawnymarie@aol.com. Thank you for supporting 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.

FAITH FORMATION CORNER



Christmas Traditions

The Christmas tree and the Nativity scene are popular symbols of the season. The **Christmas wreath** was originally hung as a symbol of Jesus. The holly represents his crown of thorns and the red berries the blood he shed. The **three traditional colors of most Christmas decorations** are red, green and gold. Red symbolizes the blood of Christ, green symbolizes life, hope and rebirth, and gold represents light, royalty and wealth.

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world 20 centuries ago, and his role in our lives. We reflect on the gift of salvation won us by our Lord. The gifts we exchange with family and friends reminds us of God the Father's gift of his only Son to our world. Having received the gift of Christ, we naturally want to pass that gift along to our loved ones. www.usccb.com

Do you attend Mass on holidays or special occasions only?

Start the new year off right and join us for Mass every Sunday. We welcome you and your family! Faith in God is the most precious gift you can give your children. It begins by your example. Life can get hard. A solid spiritual foundation helps us navigate this crazy world. Find strength & spiritual nourishment each Sunday to face the week ahead. Don't think you have time? Call on God's grace to show you the way. Put Him first, and His blessings will chase you down. God bless you and Merry Christmas!

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



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	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
10am-11am	X	X		X		X	X
11am-12N	X	X	O	X	X		X
12N-1pm	X	X		X	X	X	X
1pm-2pm	O	X		O	X	X	O
2pm-3pm	X	X	X	X		X	X
3pm-4pm		X	X		X	X	X
4pm-5pm	X			X	X	X	X
5pm-6pm	X			X	X		X
6pm-7pm	X	X	X		X	X	O
7pm-8pm	X	X				X	X
8pm-9pm		X	X	X		X	X
9pm-10pm	O	X	X	X		X	X
10pm-11pm		X	X	X	X	X	X
11pm-12M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Happy, happy birthday Jesus! We have all journeyed through four weeks of Advent in preparation for the celebration of your birth, reflecting on our relationship with you & hope we have strengthened & improved it. We must all find hope in the ordinary moments in life in which Jesus accompanies us continuously blessing us. To sign up for an hour, either call Bill or Monica Brown @914-533-2832 or go to our website. Merry Christmas!

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 or contact Phil Del Giudice, Grand Knight, Compass_grp@yahoo.com.

PILGRIM VIRGIN

This year is rapidly approaching the end of the Centennial of the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. During this Christmas season, let us be reminded of Her message to us: *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.



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.**

RCIA



RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will continue this year, leading to the Easter Vigil and Feast of Pentecost! 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

NO CONFESSIONS: 12/26, 12/30