

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 26, 2017



Lenten Encouragement from Pope Francis

Pope Francis has stressed the importance of prayer in our lives. In one of his daily homilies, he stated, "This is what prayer is, opening the door to the Lord, so that he can do something." He also stated, "The first task in life is this: prayer...gazing on the Lord, hearing the Lord, asking the Lord."

Let's also remind ourselves that we meet the Lord in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our Holy Father has called Lent a time for repentance, spiritual renewal, conversion, and transformation. He has urged us to avail ourselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, acknowledging that we are all sinners in need of God's mercy.

Our Holy Father reminds us that Confession is meant to be a sincere time of conversion and spiritual healing, an occasion to demonstrate trust in God's willingness to forgive his children and to help them back on the path of following Jesus. The Sacrament of Reconciliation draws us closer to the Lord who loves us. Pope Francis stated, "Every time we go to confession, God embraces us and celebrates."

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz

Handwritten signature of Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz.

Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, March 27

Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54

7:00 AM Maron and Ronald Bonassar

12:00 PM Kazimer E. Tarnowski

TUESDAY, March 28

Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16

7:00 AM Virginia Kelleher

12:00 PM Denis Bouffard

WEDNESDAY, March 29

Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30

7:00 AM Barbara Ferrandino

12:00 PM Margaret Gillespie

THURSDAY, March 30

Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47

7:00 AM Francis Goode

12:00 PM Intentions of the Marcotte Family

FRIDAY, March 31

Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

7:00 AM Robert Scalzo

12:00 PM Trice Calise

SATURDAY, April 1

Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53

8:00 AM Edward Garrett

4:30 PM Ryan Adams

SUNDAY, April 2

Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Church

7:30 AM Conrad and Mary Sponberg

9:15 AM Parishioners of the Parish

11:15 AM Hawk Reinertsen

Hall

10:30 AM Intentions of the Kirkpatrick Family

12:00 PM Dolores Wagner

5:00 PM Z. Joseph Dragicevich-1st Anniversary

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., May 10th** from 7:30-8:30pm in the Barn. Call the Parish Office to register.



CT STATE COUNCIL

Stations of the Cross and Benediction Sponsored by Knights of Columbus

April 9, 2017, Palm Sunday, Shrine of St. Margaret, 2523 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 2:00 PM.
Main Celebrants: Bishop Caggiano, and Msgr. J. Peter Cullen, State K of C Chaplain, Mass at 11:00 AM (optional).



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

March 19, 2017	\$23,446	\$272,167
March 20, 2016	\$27,426	\$287,705
Lent		
2017	\$5,047	
2016	\$4,946	

*This week's 2nd collection: Catholic Relief Services
Next week's 2nd collection: Easter Flowers*

Prayers for the Sick

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Theresa Avento, Mary Jo Calamai, Bill Casey, Jeanne Mastandrea, Tom McCarthy, Barbara Ortonowska, Madeleine Rothman, and Pat Ruhl**. 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.



Baptisms

We welcome to the Family of God and our Parish Family, **Emilienne Hope Chahine** who was baptized in our Church last weekend.



Stations of the Cross



Stations of the Cross are held every Friday evening during Lent at 7:30pm in our Church.

Lenten Regulations

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat for all those who are 14 and over.

Loaves and Fishes

"Loaves and Fishes" is a Lenten Campaign to help feed the hungry of Fairfield County. We encourage you to put aside the cost of one meal per week and enclose it in the "Loaves and Fishes" envelope for the poor in our area. Envelopes are available at the Church and Parish Hall entrances and at our Parish Office.

Confession in our Church

Every Saturday at 3:30pm

March 28th – 12:30-1:30pm (after the noon Mass)

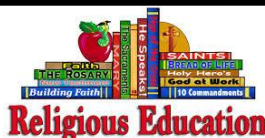
April 4th – 4:30-6:00pm (come while your kids are in CCD!)

Stay Home and Get Better

Out of consideration for other Parishioners, please do not come to Church or the Adoration Chapel if you are sick. Stay home and get better. Coming to Church sick can expose others to illness.



Learning Our Faith



Religious Education

TELL BISHOP FRANK!

If you are between the ages 12 and 29, you are invited to share your thoughts on prayer, faith, and your relationship with Christ @ www.tellbishopfrank.org. The survey is open now through April 15, 2017.

VOICES FOR EASTER!



The Saint Mary Parish Choir warmly welcomes new members who wish to sing for the upcoming Easter season only -- although we would hope you would stay on longer! There is much wonderful music planned, and we would be grateful for your contribution. All ages and levels are welcome, including teens. Please contact our Music Director, Darren Motise, 203-438-6538 x300 or djmotise@aol.com.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

To be actively pro-life is to contribute to the renewal of society through the promotion of the common good. It is impossible to further the common good without acknowledging and defending the right to life, upon which all the other inalienable rights of individuals are founded and from which they develop." - Pope John Paul II, The Gospel of Life, n. 101



40 Days for Life, Danbury Lenten Prayer Vigil
www.40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/danbury/

Join us for the next Respect for Life meeting on April 5th at 7pm in the Day Chapel. www.smcr.org/respect-life

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



On December 7, 1965, the Second Vatican Council approved *Dignitatis Humanae*, the Declaration on Religious Liberty. The Declaration addresses a question that comes up in every generation: how do we understand freedom, truth, and the relationship between church and state?

Visit: usccb.org and search for: Human Dignitatis Humanae for a comprehensive explanation.

20th ANNIVERSARY



Saint Mary School
RIDGEFIELD

Lights! Camera! Action!

Saint Mary School students showcased their talents at the "Lights! Camera! Action!" talent show held March 3. There were dancers, singers, piano players, violinists, piano players, joke tellers, impressionists, the list goes on and on! Grade 7 and 8 students served as emcees and crew, and ensured a very smooth running show. There was even a surprise act – "School Bus Karaoke" performed by our own teachers and staff. All students were invited to submit artwork for the cover of the program, and congratulations to Grade 5 student Katie Hoerdemann, whose work was selected. It was a wonderful celebration of the many talents of the SMS community!

Saint Mary School is currently 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.

Did You Know?

There are an estimated 1.2 billion Roman Catholics in the world, according to Vatican figures. More than 40% live in Latin America - but Africa has seen the biggest growth in Catholic congregations in recent years. Brazil has the highest Catholic population of any country, Italy has the most Catholics in Europe (57 million) and DR Congo has the biggest Catholic population in Africa (almost 36 million).

www.bbc.com

FAITH FORMATION CORNER



Jesus I Trust in You

Recall some of the times that you were fearful. It might be when you were younger and were afraid of the dark. Recall that when a light came on or one of your parents came to comfort you, that you were able to feel better. Remind yourself that Jesus is the light that will take you out of the darkness of fear. Trusting in God will help the fear to go away in every situation. There is a mantra prayer, that is, one that is said over and over again. Try using this prayer throughout your day, most especially when you seem to be fearful; Lord Jesus Christ, I place my trust in you.

Our Homily Survey link is @ www.smcr.org. We appreciate and value your feedback!

CATHOLIC ACTION

DONATE: EASTER FOOD DRIVE!!!

During the month of March, collected food goes to the Easter Food Drive, sponsored by our Knights of Columbus. Collection bins are in the Church and Hall. Thank you for your generosity!



MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

RAFFLE!!!

This month our council is offering an opportunity to win up to **10 separate all-cash prizes!** Raffle tickets are available in the Parish office at a cost of \$10 each and are available throughout the month of March. **Grand prize: \$5,000. 2nd-\$3,500. 3rd-\$2,000. 4th-\$1,500. 5th-\$1,000. 6th-\$600. 7th- \$500. 8th- \$400. 9th- \$300. & 10th prize is \$200.** Drawing is held by the Ernest Wilson KOC Council on Friday May 5th at the Hartford Marriott. Ticket holders **DO NOT** need to be present to win. Proceeds will go to our Knights of Columbus' charitable works.

PILGRIM VIRGIN

Lent is a time for extra prayer, sacrifice and penance. Our Lady of Fatima'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. To better prepare ourselves during Lent, invite the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima Statue into your home. To schedule a visit call Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341.



Love One Another as I have Loved You

In John 15:12, Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Loving and caring for one another is something Jesus has called us all to do. In Stephen Ministry, people with special gifts for caring put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who need it most. 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. Our Ministers are ready to provide focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care—to help that person experience the healing power of Christ's love.

PARISH HANDYMAN!

General handyman needed at St. Mary Parish. Basic carpentry, plumbing, electrical skills, etc. Part time, possibly full time. If interested, please send an email to stmary@smcr.org and tell us about yourself.



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION



Eucharistic Adoration invites us to pray before the exposed Blessed Sacrament. Outside of Mass, we come to Adoration to be with Jesus in the Eucharist, to pray to Him, listen to Him, rest in Him, and keep Him company.

Our Parish Adoration Chapel, 183 High Ridge Avenue, is open 24/7. Stop by anytime or call Bill/Monica @ 914-533-2832 to sign up for a needed 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	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		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
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	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

Patience seems to be an elusive virtue that many of us desperately seek daily. However, we can pray for the grace of patience in our Adoration Chapel.

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

Lent has begun and is an opportunity to deepen our relationship with the Lord. How about spending a weekly hour and half and experience our Men's Ministry on Saturday mornings from 6:30-8:00AM? Think of it as a weekly stop on your Lenten journey - shared with 50 to 60 other like-minded men. 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!**