

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 10, 2017



Refugee Update

I'd like to share with you the latest update (below) from the Refugee Resettlement Committee, Ridgefield, regarding the refugee family we have been helping since December.

Last December, a young refugee couple and their two boys, who had been forced to flee the civil war in Syria, arrived here in Ridgefield after two years in Turkey. Thanks to your support, the Suleman family has experienced many positive changes as they adapt to the challenges of a new life and a new country.

In celebration of their first six months in the U.S., some members of the Refugee Resettlement Committee presented the family with an American flag, which you may have seen hanging from their front porch this summer.

To keep you informed of their progress, here are some updates on their recent activities:

Language: Dad and Mom, have taken English classes four times a week at the LVA School in Danbury. They have completed their second semester in the LVA program. Those classes, combined with their dedication to practice and homework, have rapidly strengthened their English language skills, which are critical to obtaining jobs in their fields.

Employment: Hussein had been working full-time in maintenance and landscaping for a local developer and recently started a new job at a wholesale distribution company in Bedford Hills. Khadiga also works part-time in the produce area at Stop & Shop. They are glad to be working, but both hope to eventually resume careers in health care for which they are trained. As with any job search, networking is invaluable. If you have connections or know of openings in health-related jobs, please pass them along.

Their Boys: Six-year-old Taem and four-year-old Qaes enjoyed spending the summer in local day camps. In addition to continuing acculturation for the boys, these sessions provided child care while their parents worked and attended ESL school. It is remarkable how quickly the boys are picking up English from their peers. Taem will soon begin first grade and Qaes is enrolled in a transition-to-kindergarten preschool program.

Housing: Saint Mary Parish has extended the family's rental property lease through the end of this year. The in-town location has been invaluable. The family will need to find new housing after December. If you have a lead on a two-bedroom apartment in the Veterans Park school district, and ideally at a low or below market rate, please pass that information along so we can provide it to the Sulemans.

Driving: With an eye to the future, a small team of volunteers has been tutoring Hussein and Khadiga to take the written exam for a CT driver's permit. Hussein just passed his test and will now begin on-road practice.

The Sulemans have been able to accomplish so much because of their determination and resilience, but also because of the support of volunteers and donors throughout our Community. A core of over 40 dedicated volunteers serves as drivers, babysitters and interpreters, interacts with IRIS (our co-sponsoring agency) and social service agencies, helps with health care appointments, and provides many more areas of everyday support. The Sulemans are very grateful.

*Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz
Pastor*



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, September 11

Col 1:24—2:3/Lk 6:6-11

7:00 AM Joseph Heller

12:00 PM Ty Ugolyn

TUESDAY, September 12

Col 2:6-15/Lk 6:12-19

7:00 AM John Wagner

12:00 PM Richard Ligi, Sr.

WEDNESDAY, September 13

Col 3:1-11/Lk 6:20-26

7:00 AM Ryan Adams

12:00 PM George J. Kerestes

THURSDAY, September 14

Nm 21:4b-9/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

7:00 AM Arlene Doyle

12:00 PM Edmond Murphy

FRIDAY, September 15

1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

7:00 AM Ada and Jack Leary

12:00 PM William Mannhaupt

SATURDAY, September 16

1 Tm 1:15-17/Lk 6:43-49

8:00 AM Rudolph & Frances Schmitt

4:30 PM Ryan Adams

SUNDAY, September 17

Sir 27:30—28:7/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35

Church

7:30 AM Thomas Carey

9:15 AM Raymond Donahue

11:15 AM Dorothy Esseks

Hall

10:30 AM Parishioners of the Parish

12:00 PM Armando Ledergerber

5:00 PM Joseph Quigley



Online Suggestion Boxes!

Thank you for your ideas for our **Church Refurbish** and our **Parish!** We are making the following changes in response to Parishioner feedback:

--**LISTING ON OUR WEBSITE FUNERAL AND WAKE INFORMATION** (that is available to us) for recently deceased Parishioners.

--**ADDING CONFESSION TIMES: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30-1:00pm**, after our Noon Mass **and Sundays from 4-4:45pm**, before our 5pm Mass. These new times are in addition to our regular Saturday Confessions from 3:30 to 4:30pm.

Please go to our website www.smcr.org for links to our Suggestion Boxes.



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

September 3, 2017	\$22,492	\$790,722
September 4, 2016	\$22,552	\$838,161

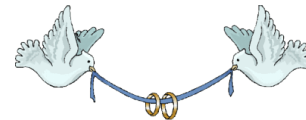
Catholic University		
2017	\$3,124	
2016	\$2,819	



Today's special second collection will be for Catholic Charities of Galveston-Houston & Corpus Christi, Texas, in its efforts to help those affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Prayers for the Sick

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Josie Connelly, Conor McLaughlin, Fr. Lionel Medeiros, and Thomas Mendez.** 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

III. Sean Dennis Haddid & Stephanie Ann Sheldon

BAPTISMS

We welcome to the Family of God and our Parish Family **Henry Griffin Kingman and Valentina Nicole Rivadeneira** who were recently baptized in our Church.



Do you ever wonder? Does God see me? Does God love me?

Friday, September 15th, 6pm Mass at Our Lady of Fatima, Wilton. Come hear the electrifying spiritual journal of Frank Kelly. Bring your family, friends and children. You will leave with peace and joy in your heart! Frank Kelly's Witness & Healing Service to follow. Learn more at frankkelly.org. Questions? Call Our Lady of Fatima Parish office, 203-762-3928.

National Rosary Rally

Washington, DC, October 7th, Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. US Capitol Reflecting Pool – 12 noon to 2:30pm Join the faithful from around the country! Pray the Rosary for this Nation's conversion. Registration info NovenaForOurNation.com Sponsor: The Holy League



Fall Schedules! Go to www.smcr.org for the 2017-2018 Religious Ed Calendars. Registration is now online. Visit our Parish Website to learn about our new Family Formation Program.

20th ANNIVERSARY



Saint Mary School
RIDGEFIELD

Back to School

There was so much excitement and enthusiasm as our Kindergarten – Grade 8 students came back to school last week. The 2017-2018 school year is off to a great start, and there are many new enhancements, both big and small, including a new interactive Middle School Spanish program, an additional PK 4 year old class, a new Before Care program for preschoolers, and an 8th Grade Capstone project to name just a few. Our youngest learners, our Preschool friends join us this week.

Saint Mary School is currently enrolling students in select grades for the 2017-2018 school year. 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.



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., Sept 13th** from 7:30-8:30pm in the Barn. Please call our Parish Office to register.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

Project Rachel—Upcoming Siblings Retreat

Have you or someone you know lost a sibling to abortion? You are not alone! There are countless people who have lost a sibling to abortion. The Diocese of Bridgeport is hosting a retreat weekend specifically for siblings from September 22 – 24, 2017. To find out more information call the Project Rachel confidential phone line at 203.895.3554 or contact Entering Canaan at enteringcanaan17@gmail.com.

Project Rachel/Entering Canaan Healing Events:

- Siblings Weekend Retreat – September 22-24, 2017
- Afternoon of Prayerful Remembrance and Intercession – September 30, 2017
- Men's Day of Healing – October 7, 2017
- Women's Day of Healing – October 7, 2017
- Women's Hope and Healing Weekend* - November 10-12, 2017 (Closed group for those who attended a Women's Day of Healing, October 7, 2017.)

Please contact Project Rachel at 203.895.3554 or 203.416.1619 or email at projectrachel@diobpt.org for help or more information.



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 ways that 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."

PILGRIMAGE - WASHINGTON D.C.

Join Bishop Caggiano September 23rd, 2017 for a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Details at www.thefaceofprayer.com or email institute@diobpt.org or call 203-416-1670.

FAITH FORMATION CORNER



Back to School...with Faith!

What kind of experience do you want your children to have this school year? We all know that a consistent routine and bedtime significantly impacts our children's ability to handle their day effectively and appropriately.

The same reasoning applies to the role of faith in our children's lives. When something is not consistent and routine, it is not learned or retained effectively. How can faith be incorporated into your home this school year?

- Attend your place of worship weekly.
- Involve your children in the youth activities offered by your church.
- Eat together, as a family, at least five days a week.
- Pray a meal blessing — every day.
- Encourage daily prayer.
- Read the Bible.
- Share your faith with your children.
- Pray for your children.
- Start a family gratitude journal.

The new school year is the perfect time to start a new, faith-based practice in your home. www.postbulletin.com

VIRTUS® Excellence Builds Trust
VIRTUS TRAINING will be offered at St. Mary Parish on September 28th from 7 - 9pm in the Day Chapel. Please register at VIRTUSonline.org.

CATHOLIC ACTION

DONATE: FOOD PANTRY

In the month of September, collected food will go to the Saint Joseph Parenting Center. 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.



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.



SAVE THE DATE: Movie Night!

Oct. 21 - Miracle Hour & Horton Hears a Who



Thank you for your feedback on our homilies. Go to www.smcr.org for a link to our HOMILY SURVEY.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION



Praise the Lord! This Corpus Christi we celebrated 23 years of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration here at St. Mary Parish! 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

Since we were children we have been told to love our neighbor as ourselves. Please keep our Texas brothers and sisters in your prayer in our Adoration Chapel. To sign up for an hour, please call Bill & 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 sung and prayed. Please join us!

The TEACHING MASS has been rescheduled to November 18th. RSVP on our Parish website.



ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY

2 Social Events in September

SEPT 10: After Mass Coffee, Tea and Pastries from 9 'til Noon just outside the Parish Hall.

SEPT 18: MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL Giants vs Detroit Lions 8pm to 11pm. Parish Hall.

We hope you can join us for both!