

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2018



The Epiphany Celebrates Perseverance!

On the Solemnity of the Epiphany, God is sending us a message or piece of advice. Let's think for a moment about this story focusing on a small group of men who followed a star. They followed it and followed it and followed it over a great distance. We don't know how far, but Bethlehem was not around the corner! And travel was a tremendous challenge in the 1st century.

What stands out, at least for me, about today's Gospel is one very important virtue – PERSEVERANCE! They didn't throw their hands up in the air and give up and give in to the challenges of long distance travel. They remained steadfast, sticking to their goal – following that star to the place it led them, and we know where that was.

As we celebrate the Epiphany and begin this New Year of 2018, maybe, just maybe God is saying something to all of us about perseverance, not giving up or giving in to discouragement in the face of challenges. And we all face so many in the course of our lives.

Praying for the grace of perseverance might make an excellent New Year's Resolution! Maybe there's something we're facing right now in our lives, and we may be feeling the temptation to say – I can't do it, it's too hard, it will never work, I will never succeed, it seems impossible.

If you are, you may want to re-read today's Gospel!

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

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz
Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, January 8

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

7:00 AM Frances Oakley
12:00 PM Michael Kearney

TUESDAY, January 9

1 Sm 1:9-20/Mk 1:21-28

7:00 AM Frances Oakley
12:00 PM Ellen Flynn

WEDNESDAY, January 10

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Mk 1:29-39

7:00 AM Frances Oakley
12:00 PM Stella Ferrara

THURSDAY, January 11

1 Sm 4:1-11/Mk 1:40-45

7:00 AM Frances Oakley
12:00 PM Elizabeth Hance

FRIDAY, January 12

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Mk 2:1-12

7:00 AM Dina Casavecchia
12:00 PM Dante Ligi

SATURDAY, January 13

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Mk 2:13-17

8:00 AM The Intentions of the Falotico Family
4:30 PM Marion Rohrer

SUNDAY, January 14

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

Church

7:30 AM Intentions of Jim and Elma Stoveken
9:15 AM Elizabeth Ann O'Neill
11:15 AM Madeline Jones

Hall

10:30 AM Parishioners of the Parish
12:00 PM Bill Fitzgerald
5:00 PM Elsie Nappo



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

December 24, 2017	\$29,511	\$1,194,522
December 25, 2017	\$38,449	\$1,232,971
December 25, 2016	\$55,122	
Facilities and Repair		
December 25, 2017	\$10,701	
December 25, 2016	\$9,137	
December 31, 2017	\$23,888	\$1,256,859
Solemnity of Mary		
December 31, 2017	\$5,231	
January 1, 2017	\$4,215	

Contribution Tax Statements

Contribution Tax Statements will be mailed out in January to all Parishioners who contributed to our Parish Offertory this year. All contributions must have been 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 **Olivia Avate,**

Fr. John Baran, Pat Ruhl and Jane Ventrella.

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 **Ruby Jo Murchison** and **Beckett Daniel Rescigno** who were baptized in our Church last week.

RCIA



RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - is meeting in January. This group is open to anyone who would like to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation and/or Holy Eucharist. All are welcome to join and learn more about the Catholic Faith. For more info and dates, call Pat Postiglione, 203-438-7335 or ppostiglione@smcr.org

REGISTER

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

Confessions Cancelled: January 9th, 13th, and 14th.

December 2018 Mass Intentions are now available in our Parish Office.

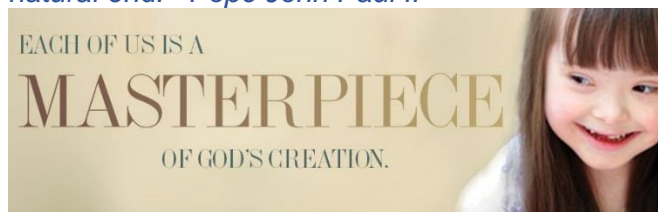
Religious Education



Religious Ed classes resume January 7th. We wish all our Families a Happy and Blessed New Year!

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

Human life is precious from its beginning to its natural end. –Pope John Paul II



www.smcr.org/respect-life



DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The Catholic Church is asking that lawmakers safeguard the rights afforded to us in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, so that we will have the freedom to serve the needy and most vulnerable without violating our moral principles and without being penalized with fines.

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." Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to others. If you know of someone going through a difficult time, talk to one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders, Mary Ann O'Grady – 203-438-5610 or Jack Hughes – 203-665-0054. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They help bring the healing power of Christ's love.



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 Wednesday, Jan 17th (it was recently re-

scheduled from 1/10) from 7:30-8:30pm in the Barn. Please call our Parish Office to register.

20th ANNIVERSARY



Saint Mary School

RIDGEFIELD

Open Houses

Work Hard. Be Kind. Smile. This is the student version of the Saint Mary School mission statement, and is heard every day at the end of morning prayers and announcements. It is visible on the walls of our classrooms and in the behaviors of our students and staff. It is what makes SMS such a special community.

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

FAITH FORMATION CORNER



The Epiphany of Our Lord

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord is observed this Sunday, January 7. The traditional date of the Epiphany is January 6th, but in the United States it is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2nd and January 8th. The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek *epiphainen*, a verb that means "to shine upon," "to manifest," or "to make known." Thus, the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made Himself known to our world, especially through the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12). Of course Jesus also manifested himself in his baptism in the Jordan which is celebrated on the following day this year, Monday, January 8.

DISCIPLES 4 LIFE RETREAT



LUKE 5:1-11

Save the Date

St. Mary Parish Retreat
March 2 ~ 4, 2018

Seton-Neumann Center
Danbury, CT

CATHOLIC ACTION

MIDNIGHT RUN

The next scheduled Midnight Run is January 26th. Needed items: medium to lightweight jackets, hooded sweatshirts, jeans, new underwear (M-XL), socks, blankets, backpacks, lightly used sneakers & shoes, and travel size toiletries, including toothpaste and mouthwash.



Drop off donations at the Barn from 7:30am to 3:30pm, January 19-25. Volunteers are needed to sort and fold clothing, pick up and return the van and to go on the Run. To volunteer, call Bob Wendel, 914-325-6860.

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 January, collected food goes to the Saint Joseph Parenting Center. 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		X	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	X
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

In his dream Joseph listened to the voice of God. The Lord has a dream for all of us. Come to our Parish Adoration Chapel and listen. To sign up for an hour at chapel either go to our website or call Bill or Monica Brown @ 914-533-2832. Thank you & may 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!



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.**



All Senior Citizens are invited to our next luncheon on Tues., January 9th. Rosary begins in the Hall at 11:30am, Mass will be at noon, with lunch to follow. Come enjoy good food and good company. Please RSVP to Saint Mary School's Office by Mon, Jan 8. In case of inclement weather, the luncheon will be cancelled and not rescheduled. Suggested donation \$6.

MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



The Knights kick off 2018 with heartfelt thanks for all of the support we have received this past year from the St. Mary Parish community. Aided by your assistance, our works of charity this past year included:

- Memorial Day Mass and flag placements at our Cemetery
- Catholic citizenship essay contests at our school
- Support for the Special Olympics and those with Intellectual Disabilities here in Ridgefield
- Open House social events at Keeler Tavern
- Financial support for outreach activities in Latin America
- Conducting Holiday Food Drives for our local residents
- Hosting Parish Teaching Mass, Breakfast with Santa, Crèche Building and Christmas Caroling events

We appreciate being a part of such a vibrant Parish community and extend an open invitation to ALL families who are interested in exploring what Knighthood can offer.

Learn more at www.KOFC.org or contact Phil Del Giudice, Grand Knight, at Compass_grp@yahoo.com.

PILGRIM VIRGIN



As we start the new year, let us be reminded of Our Lady's 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 in 2018. To schedule a visit call Elma Stoveken, 203-894-1341.