

First Sunday of Lent

February 18, 2018



Lent - A Time to Abstain from Indifference

In his Lenten message to the Church, Pope Francis urges us to abstain from indifference.

He said: *"Indifference to our neighbor and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience."*

Describing what he calls the 'globalization of indifference' he wrote, *"whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades. We end up being incapable of feeling compassion at the outcry of the poor, weeping for other people's pain, and feeling a need to help them, as though all this were someone else's responsibility and not our own."*

I am very proud of the work our Parish Ministries do to take seriously our Holy Father's advice as we reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves, from our Guatemalan Mission to our Sister Parish, St. Peter's in Bridgeport, to our regular contributions to Dorothy Day Hospitality House, and so much more. May our offerings of time and effort, of reaching out to those less fortunate than ourselves, enrich this Holy Season for all of us!

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz

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

Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, February 19

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46

9:00 AM Nenay Schultz

TUESDAY, February 20

Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15

7:00 AM Whalen, Fahey & Domeico Families

12:00 PM Francis Ferrara

WEDNESDAY, February 21

Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32

7:00 AM Terrance Murphy

12:00 PM Les DiLisio

THURSDAY, February 22

1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19

7:00 AM Marjorie Remza - 10th Anniversary

12:00 PM Deceased and Living members of the Calise Family

FRIDAY, February 23

Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26

7:00 AM Joseph & Florence Boland

12:00 PM Frank Rowella, Sr.

SATURDAY, February 24

Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48

8:00 AM Jan McGrath

4:30 PM Frances Nola

SUNDAY, February 25

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

Church

7:30 AM Judy Thompson

9:15 AM Jack Maguire

11:15 AM Parishioners of the Parish

Hall

10:30 AM Dante Ligi

12:00 PM Ann Edward and Hugh Coyle

5:00 PM Hannah Morris



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

February 11, 2018	\$24,403	\$138,343
February 12, 2017	\$18,109	\$134,389

Immaculate High School

2018	\$2,762
2017	\$1,915

Prayers for the Sick

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Olivia Avate, Margaret Hughes, Lee and Scott McCoy, 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 and our Parish Family **Tallulah Rose Prandini** who was baptized in our Church last weekend.

CELEBRATING **25** YEARS

WHITE MASS

for Healthcare Professionals and All Who Serve the Sick

celebrated at 8:30 am by

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano

Saint Aloysius Church, *New Canaan*

followed by

Brunch

at Woodway Country Club, *Darien*

Joseph Dutkowsky, MD, KM

will address

“Healing Beyond Healthcare”

Sponsors \$100 (*includes 2 tickets*)

Individuals \$35

Table for 8 \$250

For more information contact Elizabeth Auda: 203.416.1636 or email: 2018whitemass@diobpt.org



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed in our Church every Friday at 12:30pm as well as 7:30pm during Lent. (Good Friday at 12pm.)

MEATLESS LENTEN FRIDAYS

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.

IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL SPRING GALA

The spring gala, “A Spectacular Immaculate Gala Under the Big Top” will be held on Saturday, April 7 at Western Connecticut State University’s O’Neill Center in Danbury. Come one, come all and enjoy a night unlike any other by purchasing tickets at www.immaculatehs.org/gala. NEW for this year: mobile bidding, which will allow guests to bid on auction items right from their mobile devices.



Religious Education

No Religious Ed Sunday, February 18th and Monday, February 19th (Holiday)
IMPORTANT DATES:

- Confirmation Candidate & Sponsor Morning of Prayer, Feb 24th 9-11am Hall
- 2nd Grade Reconciliation Retreat, 2/26 Hall 4:30-6:00
- 2nd Grade Reconciliation Retreat 3/1 Hall 4:30-6:00
- Confirmation Retreat Fri March 2nd at 4:00-10:00 Hall
- Reconciliation Ceremony March 8th (6:00 pm) Church
- Reconciliation Ceremony March 9th (6:00pm) Church
- Reconciliation Ceremony March 10th (10:00) Church



Foreign Language at Saint Mary School

Did you know that research shows that elementary school students who learn a second language have improved test scores, better musical skills, better attention skills, and a higher level of proficiency in reading, writing and speaking compared to those who started in middle school or high school?

Students of all ages are learning languages at SMS! Our Preschool 3's and 4's and TK students take Spanish each week. Students in Kindergarten-Grade 5 take Spanish and French each week, and Middle School students pick either Spanish or French, and take it daily. In addition, the K-8 students participate in a World Language Expo each year, which features songs, food, dress, and booths from Spanish and French speaking countries around the world.

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.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE



All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect. **—Pope Francis**

FAITH FORMATION CORNER



Kindness as Prayer

Every year when Ash Wednesday rolls around, Catholics usually ask one another what they're giving up. This Lent, rather than giving up chocolate, why not do this: be kind. Let me suggest three ways to be kind:

First, don't be a jerk. You may be sick, tired, or upset about some minor catastrophe that happened at work or at home. That doesn't mean you have to pass along your anger or frustration to others.

Second, honor the absent. Stop talking about people behind their backs. Few things are as damaging to our spiritual lives as denigrating other people. It's a serious lack of charity, and needless to say, it makes the other person feel terrible if they discover what you said—which they usually do.

Third, give people the benefit of the doubt about what someone said or did, give him or her the "plus sign."

Being kind may be harder to do than giving up chocolate, but it's a lot more helpful for your spiritual life—and for everyone else's. *In All Seasons For All Reasons, J. Martin, SJ*



DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The original health care federal mandate tried 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 contraception devices that go against our religious beliefs. When changing the mandate, let us pray that the administration safeguards religious freedom.

Best Lent Ever!



Sign up for Best Lent Ever, a free email program (based on *Perfectly Yourself*) that will guide you on a 40-day journey to become the-best-version-of-yourself, hopefully making this a truly life-changing Lent. Visit our Parish website link to Best

Lent Ever is at www.smcr.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Movie Night & Mac 'n' Cheese Pot Luck
 Saturday, March 10th in our Parish Hall.
 Movie: Facing the Giants

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

Food collected in February goes to the Dorothy Day Hospitality House. 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 = permanent or substitute adorer urgently needed. X = there is at least 1 adorer. 2 adorers are desired. Blank boxes= 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	O
5am-6am	X	X	X	X		X	X
6am-7am	X	X	X	X		X	X
7am-8am	X	O	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		X	X
11am-12N	O	X	X	X	X		O
12N-1pm	X	X		X	X	X	X
1pm-2pm	X	X		X	X	X	O
2pm-3pm	X	O	X	X		X	X
3pm-4pm	X	X	X		X	X	X
4pm-5pm	X				X	X	O
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	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10pm-11pm	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11pm-12M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

In one of his sermons, St. Anthony of Padua said, "we seek external peace to live with others, internal peace to live with ourselves & eternal peace to live with God". What better place to find this peace than through prayer. An excellent place to pray is in our Adoration Chapel. Call Bill or Monica at 914-533-2832 to sign up as an adorer or substitute or sign up at our website. 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!



ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY

LENT IS A GREAT TIME TO TRY MEN'S MINISTRY MEETINGS! Lent is an opportunity to deepen our relationship with the Lord. How about spending a weekly hour and half experiencing 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 wake up call!**

Divorce & Separation Support Group meets Sundays at 7:30pm in the Barn, next to our Church. No meetings 2/18 and 4/1. All faiths welcome!



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



The Pilgrim Virgin statue was damaged on her last visit and will not be able to travel for several months until repairs are made. Our Lady's message to all remains the same: Pray the rosary daily for world peace and the conversion of sinners.

RCIA



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, call Pat Postiglione, 203-438-7335 or ppostiglione@smcr.org

Healing, Deliverance & Renewal with Fr. Blount

Fr. James Blount, internationally known for his extraordinary gifts of healing, deliverance and renewal. Thursday, March 8th, 10am-12pm Lenten Mission in Church, 7pm Healing Service. Friday, March 9th, 6pm Holy Hour and Confession, 7pm Lenten Mission with Holy Mass. Don't miss this lifechanging experience! Questions, call or email Gina Fleming, 203-227-8353 or gflaming@stfrancisweston.org St. Francis of Assis Parish, Weston, CT