

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 11, 2018



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### Encouraging Words from Pope Francis!

The Lord in His mercy gives us the grace and time to seek renewal and conversion. He gives us the great Sacrament of Reconciliation and He gives us this season of Lent as a time of spiritual cleansing. Pope Francis has challenged us to keep our focus clearly on the Lord. He stated:

**“Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his Word, in the Sacraments and in our neighbor. The Lord, who overcame the deception of the Tempter during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take. May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion so that we can rediscover the gift of God’s Word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need.”**

**He also reminded us “...to pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and the poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full joy of Easter.”**

As we reflect on the words of Pope Francis, as disciples we are challenged to use this time wisely as we continue and persevere on our Lenten journey of faith.

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz

Pastor



**MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS**

**MONDAY, March 12**

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

7:00 AM Josephine Connelly  
12:00 PM Doris and Hank Sikorski

**TUESDAY, March 13**

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

7:00 AM Josephine Connelly  
12:00 PM Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gucci

**WEDNESDAY, March 14**

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

7:00 AM Robert A. Law Jr.  
12:00 PM Robert P. Galvin

**THURSDAY, March 15**

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

7:00 AM Patricia Bonpietro  
12:00 PM Claire Walsh

**FRIDAY, March 16**

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

7:00 AM Patti Capilli  
12:00 PM Patti Capilli

**SATURDAY, March 17**

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

8:00 AM Patti Capilli  
4:30 PM Carey Depuy

**SUNDAY, March 18**

Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33or, for Year A, 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 Donald Edman  
9:15 AM Parishioners of the Parish  
11:15 AM John Esposito

**Hall**

10:30 AM Dr. Robert E. Martin  
12:00 PM Otto Pambianchi  
5:00 PM Anthony Castor



**Candle Intentions**

**Church Sanctuary Candle**

is Burning in Loving Memory of  
**Robert A. Law Jr.**

**A Church Altar Candle**

is Burning in Loving Memory of  
**Carey Depuy**

**A Church Altar Candle**

is Burning in Loving Memory of  
**James John Cally**



**GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING**

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

March 4, 2018	\$22,446	\$205,143
March 5, 2017	\$24,573	\$204,687

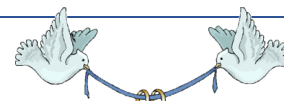
**Facilities & Repairs**

2018	\$4,233
2017	\$4,961

*Prayers for the Sick*

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Mike DeSerio, Margaret Hughes, Lee & Scott McCaughey Jennie Palmieri and Vincent Ryan:**

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**

*Il. Michael Steven Chavez & Christine Eileen Magill*



**BAPTISMS**

We welcome to the Family of God **Caia June Keating** and **Robert Reed Kralik** who were baptized in our Church last week.



**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.



**LENTEN FISH FRY DINNER!**

Friday, March 16



Important update: 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal

The 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal will not be conducted this year in our Parish. It will be included as part of our major Diocesan Campaign in which we are now preparing to participate. Parishioners will not receive a separate ACA solicitation this year. Please pray for our Parish as we begin this important endeavor.

**RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE**

We cannot diminish the value of one category of human life - the unborn - without diminishing the value of all human life.  
*Ronald Regan, former U.S. President*



**DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

Recently, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has actively defended religious liberty in court. For example, the solicitor general supported Jack Phillips, the custom-cake baker, by arguing that freedom of expression for ourselves requires freedom of expression for others. Also, when the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority (WMATA) rejected a bus advertisement from the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., because it was religious, DOJ attorneys filed a brief objecting to WMATA's religious discrimination. Legal motions like these are much-needed steps toward safeguarding religious liberty.

**DIVORCE & SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP** meets Sundays at 7:30pm in the Barn, next to our Church. No meeting 4/1. All faiths welcome!



Religious Ed Administrative Assistant. Full time. Some evenings and Sundays required. Email Pat

Postiglione, ppostiglione@smcr.org.

Lent is a time to step back and reflect on what is really important. It is a time to think and live according to the reality that "less is more." May this Lent be an experience of a "new springtime," a time of renewal. May we grow in our love, enjoy the gifts we have, nurture the Spirit within, and accept the transformation that will be ours. *Catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com*

20th ANNIVERSARY



Saint Mary School  
RIDGEFIELD

**Substitute Teachers Needed**

Saint Mary School is seeking Substitute Teachers for all grade levels, Preschool, Elementary, and Middle School. Candidates must have a college degree. Teaching certification is preferred. Openings are available for all levels, Preschool – Grade 8. Come experience teaching in an environment where the focus truly is the **whole** child. For more information, contact our Main Office.

*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](http://www.smsridgefield.org).*

**SPRING GALA**

For Catholic Education

Thursday, April 19, 6-9:30pm

Woodway Country Club, Darien, CT

Join Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano in **celebration and support of Catholic education**. Proceeds support the mission of Foundations in Education to provide hundreds of children from low-income families quality education focused on Catholic values and character formation at our Diocesan schools. Proceeds from the gala also support and promote innovation and leadership initiatives in our Catholic schools, thus benefiting our students further. For more info, contact Karen Sportini at [ksportini@foundationineducation.org](mailto:ksportini@foundationineducation.org) or 203-416-1671.

**FAITH FORMATION CORNER**

**Do You Want to Fast This Lent?**



- Fast from hurting words – say kind things
- Fast from sadness – be filled with gratitude
- Fast from anger – be filled with patience
- Fast from pessimism – be filled with hope
- Fast from worries and have trust in God
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy
- Fast from selfishness – be compassionate to others
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen

--Pope Francis

**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](mailto:sdmacavoy@hotmail.com)



**DONATE: FOOD PANTRY**

Food collected in March goes to the Knights of Columbus Easter Food Drive. 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

*Spend some time in prayer in our Adoration Chapel this Lent. It's time with the Lord who is waiting for you and welcomes you with open arms. Please 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!**



**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](http://www.KOFC.org) or contact Phil Del Giudice, Grand Knight, [Compass\\_grp@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:ppostiglione@smcr.org)



**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 wakeup call!**

**Clergy Hospital Visits:** Until further notice, please contact our Parish Office directly in the event of an admission to Danbury hospital.

**Calling All Senior Citizens!**

Please join us at our next Senior Luncheon this Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> in our Parish Hall! Rosary begins at 11:30am with Mass at 12:00 followed by lunch. Come enjoy good food and good company. Please RSVP to our Saint Mary School Office, [203-438-7288](tel:203-438-7288) by Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. (In case of inclement weather, the luncheon will be cancelled and not rescheduled.) Suggested donation \$6.