

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

### January 24, 2016



### March for Life

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Just a few days ago, on Friday, tens of thousands of believers participated in the annual "March for Life," on the Capitol Mall, marking the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of a very important but tragic decision of our nation's highest court: the 1973 decision that made abortion legal in our country. Not moral, not ethical, just legal. The decision called "Roe v. Wade."

The "March for Life" is an act of faith. It was a gathering of people who believe that life is a gift breathed into us by God. The God we worship at Mass this weekend. Faith makes the difference. Because of our faith, you and I know that life is a gift to be cherished and protected in a world where it is so often attacked and destroyed.

Of course we are also aware that many do not share our faith. For them, life is not a gift of God. When life has no connection to God, it becomes a possession, something we have the right to control, manipulate, or choose to terminate. Not only in terms of the beginning of physical life, but also in terms of its end.

If, however, we believe that life is a God-given gift, and we do, then it is not our possession, to be controlled or manipulated by ourselves; or terminated by our own choice. Our decisions and our choices must flow from our faith and must be deeply rooted in its rich soil. If life is a gift, then we must treat it as a gift and a sacred gift from our loving God. And we must respect it as a gift.

How we understand human life determines our attitude toward life and our treatment of the living. In today's world there is a broad spectrum of life issues – from abortion, to euthanasia, war and peace and terrorism, the environment, genetic manipulation and stem cell research.

Thursday's March in Washington helped to remind us that human life is sacred from the moment of conception to the moment of physical death. Doing everything we can to convince our world that life is a gift of God is a responsibility of every follower of Jesus Christ. His Gospel, after all, is a Gospel of Life. Our God, the God we worship again today, is a life-giving God. The life God gives us is not ours to possess, control, or manipulate.

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

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz  
Pastor



### MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

**MONDAY, January 25**

*Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Mk 16:15-18*

7:00 AM Fogerty & Burnett Family

12:00 PM Giuseppe Sgarlata

**TUESDAY, January 26**

*2 Tm 1:1- or Ti 1:1-5; Mk 3:31-35*

7:00 AM Georgine Tulipani

12:00 PM Rev. Andrew Nirrengarten

**WEDNESDAY, January 27**

*2 Sm 7:4-17; Mk 4:1-20*

7:00 AM Ryan Meegan

12:00 PM William F. Bongiorno

**THURSDAY, January 28**

*2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Mk 4:21-25*

7:00 AM Ryan Meegan

12:00 PM Robert Linnon

**FRIDAY, January 29**

*2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mk 4:26-34*

7:00 AM Marge Tarsi

12:00 PM Intentions of John Hyland

**SATURDAY, January 30**

*2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mk 4:35-41*

8:00 AM Carmine Esposito

4:00 PM Ryan Adams

5:30 PM Louis Remza – 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

**SUNDAY, January 31**

*Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; 1 Cor 12:31-13:13 or*

*13:4-13; Lk 4:21-30*

**Church**

7:00 AM Bernice Sesody

9:15 AM Catherine Harte

11:15 AM Salvatore Vitale

**Hall**

8:00 AM Michael Ceponis

10:30 AM Ryan Adams

12:00 PM Deceased Members of the Rusinak Family

5:00 PM Parishioners of the Parish

Candle Intentions

*Church Sanctuary Candle  
is Burning in Loving Memory of  
William J. Sheridan*



**Please remember our sick in your prayers; especially, Joseph Barone, MaryJo Calamai, Patty Capilli and Margaret Mulligan.**

(To respect individual privacy, only immediate family members may add someone to our prayer list. Individuals will be removed monthly unless otherwise notified.)



### GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

January 17, 2016	\$22,157	\$72,775
January 18, 2015	\$17,514	\$70,190

Hospitality

January, 2016	\$5,767
January, 2015	\$4,565

*FROM THE PASTOR: "How do you express your love for God? Some of the ways of expressing love are by giving and by serving joyfully!"*

CONTRIBUTION TAX STATEMENTS

2015 Contribution Tax Statements will be mailed in January 2016 to all Parishioners who contributed to our Parish offertory this year. All contributions must be received by December 31, 2015 to be acknowledged for 2015 contribution status.

PRE-BAPTISM CLASS

A Pre-Baptism Class is required for parents who have not had a class within five years and wish to have their child baptized. Class is offered on the **second** Wednesday of every **other** month from 7:30-8:30 pm in the Barn. However, our next class will be held on **Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> (Ash Wednesday is Feb. 10)**. Please call the Parish Office to register.



PILGRIM VIRGIN

On May 12, 1982 Pope John Paul II arrived at Fatima to give thanks to Our Lady of Fatima for sparing his life from an attempted assassination on May 13, 1981. In his evening homily he said: "Pray, pray much. Say the rosary every day as our Lady had requested at Fatima." Continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus by inviting the Pilgrim Virgin Statue to your home--a wonderful Marian devotion for your family. To schedule a visit call Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341.



**SAINT MARY  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Our 12 Noon Mass on January 31 will be our Grade 5 Liturgy. We warmly invite all Grade 5 students and their families to attend.



**DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**



Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our democracy. The federal health care mandate fundamentally alters the fragile balance between government and religious groups created by the framers of our Constitution. The same First Amendment that protects religious freedom protects freedom of the press. We wouldn't stand for the government telling news programs whom to interview or what articles to write.

If you haven't done so already, please voice your opposition to the federal health care mandate by calling U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell at 202-205-5445, and your elected representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

**Married Couples:** One way to make your marriage even more special than it already is; a positive, simple, common sense private experience between husband and wife that revitalizes marriage. A weekend away renews the romance and excitement you experienced during your dating days. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will help you enjoy life with a new closeness to each other and God.

**Upcoming dates:** February 26-28, 2016.

For more information about Worldwide Marriage Encounter or to register for an upcoming weekend, please contact Paul and Kim Gilbert at (860) 376-0440 or [meweekend@gmail.com](mailto:meweekend@gmail.com) or visit [www.wwmect.org](http://www.wwmect.org).

**Save the Date  
FORE...**

**SMS Annual  
SCRAMBLE**

The St. Mary School  
Scramble  
Monday, May 23, 2016

11:30 am for Lunch  
1:00 pm for Golf  
5:00 pm Cocktails and Fall Dinner\*  
Silver Spring Country Club  
Ridgefield, CT

*\*If you are not a golfer we have added a "dinner only" option so you can still be part of the fun!*

Start thinking warm thoughts and **SAVE THE DATE** for the **2016 St. Mary School Scramble** Monday, May 23 (rain date is June 6th)

To register: [www.smsridgefield.org/parents\\_golf.html](http://www.smsridgefield.org/parents_golf.html)

**RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE**

"No appeal to policy, procedure, majority will or pluralism ever excuses a public official from defending life to the greatest extent possible. As is true of leaders in all walks of life, no political leader can evade accountability for his or her exercise of power." U.S. Bishops: Living the Gospel of Life, 1998. For more info, visit [www.stmaryrespectlife.org](http://www.stmaryrespectlife.org)

**FAITH FORMATION CORNER**



It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal."

— Pope John Paul II

**CATHOLIC ACTION**

**DONATE: Food Pantries**

**On-going**

Our Parish food collections for the needy will continue throughout the year, rotating monthly through several local charities, including the Ridgefield Food Pantry, Dorothy Day Hospitality House in Danbury, and the Saint Joseph Parenting Center in Stamford. The basket of food brought up during the offertory symbolizes our gifts of food to those in need. Please consider bringing a nonperishable item of food with you to Sunday Mass. Bins are located outside the Hall and the Church.

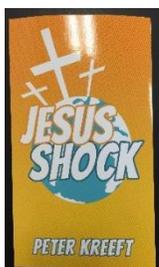
**VOLUNTEER: Congregate Housing**

**On-going**

1. Afternoon teas - One volunteer needed; 2nd Thurs, 3:30-4:30 - once every 3rd month. Responsibility - provide baked goods, serve and socialize.  
 2. Bingo Calling - 1 or 2 volunteers needed; Wednesdays, 1-2:30 - once a month. Responsibility - set up, call numbers, collect/distribute cards etc.  
 Contact: Suzanne MacAvoy for more information and/or details, at 203 438-7056, [sdmacavoy@hotmail.com](mailto:sdmacavoy@hotmail.com), if interested.

**MIDNIGHT RUN THANK YOU**

Sincere thanks to all who so generously contributed to our Midnight Run. Once again, working together to provide clothing, food and much needed love and kindness helped make the run a success. Thank you from Elma and Jim Stoveken.



“Jesus Shock” by Dr. Peter Kreeft was our Christmas gift to you. We hope you are enjoying it. To explore the ideas presented in the book in more depth, please join our casual book club on either of two **Monday evenings, February 8 and 29, in our Barn, next to our Church, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.** Please invite family and friends who may have attended Christmas Mass with you to come also. **Dr. Kreeft will be at St. Mary on Saturday, March 19, from 1:00–3:00 pm for discussion and Q&A.**

**DIVORCE & SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP**

If you are divorced, in the process of divorcing, or separated, come join our friendly, safe, confidential and uplifting support group that focuses on spiritual and emotional healing. While this group is Catholic in practice and nature, persons of **all faiths are welcome**. The group will meet every second and fourth Sunday of each month, 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM in the St. Mary Parish Barn (beige building next to the church). For more information contact Jim Orkin, 914-420-7564, [jamesorkin@gmail.com](mailto:jamesorkin@gmail.com).

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

O= permanent or sub urgently needed. X=1 add is needed.

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	X	X	X	X	X	X
2am-3am	O	X	X	X	O	X	O
3am-4am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4am-5am	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	
8am-9am			X		X		X
9am-10am	X	X		X	X	X	X
10am-11am	X	X	X			O	X
11am-12N	X		X	X	X		X
12N-1pm	X				X	X	X
1pm-2pm	X	X		O	X	O	X
2pm-3pm			X	X		X	X
3pm-4pm	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4pm-5pm	X	X	X	X	X		X
5pm-6pm	X		X		X		X
6pm-7pm	O		X		X		X
7pm-8pm	X			X		X	X
8pm-9pm			X			X	X
9pm-10pm	X	X				X	X
10pm-11pm		X			X	X	X
11pm-12M	X	X	X		X	X	X

*If we trust the Lord in all things, we will find daily living much easier and will be able to more fully experience God’s love and constant presence within us. Please call Bill or Monica @ (914)533-2832 to sign up for an hour. God bless us all.*

**EVERY** Thursday evening, 7-9:00 pm, in our Adoration Chapel, the Chaplet of Mercy, the 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**

To paraphrase Paul, one of our founders: *We come to MM to be fed in our faith. We come to build fellowship. We strive to be better fathers, friends and coworkers. We have each other's back in good times and in bad; and we always leave our egos at the door .Come any Saturday@6:30 in the Hall and check it out for yourself. Go to Stmmm.org for more info.*

**MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**



Don't you want to be the best role model for your child? The easiest way is to share the faith with your children by spending time with them and “walking the talk.” Connect the words to action! Join the Knights of Columbus for the opportunity to serve our church and community together WITH your children. **We are looking for Dads and their kids to help us throughout the year.** Contact Thad Belfanti at [gk@kofc245.org](mailto:gk@kofc245.org) or visit [www.kofc245.org](http://www.kofc245.org) for more info.