

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 2, 2016



Respect Life Sunday

October is Respect Life month, and this weekend we celebrate **Respect Life Sunday**. As Christians, we are called to promote the Gospel of Life. All human life is created in God's image and likeness and is precious in God's sight—not just the lives of those who are impressive by our world's standards. In the Kingdom of God, even the poorest, the smallest, and the most forgotten are truly important. In our own community, we know that the elderly, the physically and mentally challenged, and the unborn are not impersonal statistics; they are flesh and blood human beings and deserve our love and support. That is why we are encouraged to promote respect for all human life from conception until natural death.

Pope Francis has spoken about the dignity of all human life and strongly criticized a “throwaway culture” that places too little value on human life. “Unfortunately what is thrown away is not only food and disposable objects, but often human beings themselves, who are discarded as unnecessary.” He stressed the need to respect the dignity of the most vulnerable and marginalized in society.

This Sunday there will be a pro-life prayer vigil called Life Chain on Main Street in Danbury from 2:30-3:30pm. The Life Chain is a peaceful, public witness to the sanctity of human life, especially the lives of the unborn - 54 million lost through abortion alone. The Life Chain speaks for those who cannot speak for themselves. If you cannot join the Life Chain, please offer a silent prayer.

If you would like to join our Parish Respect Life Ministry, to help bring others to a greater understanding of the sanctity of human life, please see our website for contacts and details. And please join us for other Respect Life events taking place this month, especially the viewing of the film, “40,” this Friday night at 7:00pm in our Parish Hall – it is an informative and inspiring documentary about the pro-life vs. pro-choice debate. Maureen Ciardiello, Coordinator of Respect Life Ministry, Diocese of Bridgeport will offer commentary.

May God bless you and your families for all you do to embrace a culture of life.

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz

Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, October 3

Gal 1:6-12/Lk 10:25-37

7:00 AM Deceased Members of the Regan Family

12:00 PM John R. Massie

TUESDAY, October 4

Gal 1:13-24/Lk 10:38-42

7:00 AM Frances Oakley

12:00 PM Paul Haley

WEDNESDAY, October 5

Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/Lk 11:1-4

7:00 AM Winefred & John McNicholas

12:00 PM Mario & Louise Serfilippi

THURSDAY, October 6

Gal 3:1-5/Lk 11:5-13

7:00 AM Z. Joseph Dragicevich

12:00 PM James Quain

FRIDAY, October 7

Gal 3:7-14/Lk 11:15-26

7:00 AM Ryan Adams

9:00 AM James Gallagher

12:00 PM Angelia Coscio - 47th Anniversary

SATURDAY, October 8

Gal 3:22-29/Lk 11:27-28

8:00 AM Russell Schupmann

4:30 PM Lisa Cataldo

SUNDAY, October 9

2 Kgs 5:14-17/2 Tm 2:8-13/Lk 17:11-19

Church

7:30 AM Alice & George Besse

9:15 AM James Hyland

11:15 AM Leslie Marie Parkel

Hall

10:30 AM Jenny, Betty & Lena Gueci

12:00 PM Anna Arcuri

5:00 PM Marie McBride

Birthright Needs Volunteers!

Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service offering the alternative to abortion—LIFE! Our guiding principle: It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born. Birthright has served in CT since 1972 and has 10 locations. We help any pregnant girl or woman who calls us. We offer free pregnancy tests, friendship counseling, and practical support. If you would like to help, please call 1-800-550-4900 for the Birthright nearest you. Training is provided. Thank you.



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

September 25, 2016	\$24,770	\$916,626
September 27, 2015	\$22,576	\$893,399

LA Flood Relief

September 2016 \$2,389

*This week's 2nd collection, Facilities Repair
Next week's 2nd collection, Dorothy Day Hospitality Hse*



2016 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

PARISH GOAL	\$305,000
RAISED TO DATE	\$486,367
% OF GOAL	159.46%

Please remember our sick in your prayers, Especially Chester Augustine, Theresa Avento, Mary Jo Calamai and Donald Drislane (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.)



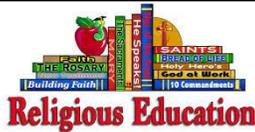
PRE-BAPTISM CLASS

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. Our next class will be held on Wednesday, **October 12th**. Please call our Parish Office to register.

BAPTISMS

We welcome to the Family of God and our Parish Family **Maximus Tiberius Callahan, Aoife Lyn Glennan and Ryder Flynn Vaccaro** who were baptized in our Church last weekend.





GRADE 3 LITURGY

Our Grade 3 Mass will be our Sunday, October 16, 12 noon Mass in our Parish Hall. All Grade 3 students and their families are asked to attend. Our Sunday Grade 3 classes will not meet on that day. Refreshments will follow in our Nancy Bossidy Recreation Center.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

MEN'S DAY OF HEALING - Men suffer from abortion too! Entering Canaan Men's Day of Prayer and Healing is being held on **Saturday, October 29th**. For more info, contact 877-586-4621 or lumina@postabortionhelp.org.



OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH!

COME JOIN US SHOW OUR LOVE FOR LIFE BY VOLUNTEERING AND/OR EARNING SERVICE HOURS:

-40 Days for Life - Sept 28 – Nov 26 www.40daysforlife.com

-Life Chain - October 2nd, 2:30pm – Main Street in Danbury

-40 - The Movie - October 7th at 7:00pm in Hall

-Catholic Scouting Diaper Drive – October 8, 9, 16 and 17.

For more details on any of the volunteer opportunities email jenmitchell@comcast.net.

Join us for our monthly Respect Life meeting Oct 6th at 7pm in the school library.

"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."

www.smcr.org/respect-life

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



According to Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the USCCB's Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, comments made by Martin Castro, chairman of the U.S.

Commission on Civil Rights, saying that religious liberty is reduced to "nothing except hypocrisy," and religion is being used as a "weapon... by those seeking to deny others equality" are shocking. It suggests that Catholic, evangelical, orthodox Jewish, Mormon, and Muslim communities are comparable to fringe segregationists from the civil rights era. These statements, said Lori, painting those who support religious freedom with the broad brush of bigotry are reckless and reveal a profound disregard for the religious foundations of his own work.

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 state representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.



Saint Mary School

RIDGEFIELD

Saint Mary School is once again participating in the Stop & Shop A+ Program. From October 7, 2016 through March 16, 2017, you can help SMS earn cash by simply using your Stop & Shop card every time you shop. Last year, we earned over \$2,000, which went into the Annual Fund.

For those of you registered last year, you DO NOT need to re-register this year, but please visit the A-Plus website to verify your enrollment and check your store receipts after October 7th to make sure you're earning points for SMS. For new registrants, log on to <http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus/register-card/> to register online. Please register your card to benefit ST MARY SCHOOL with the ID number 08386.

You can track the points you earn for our school either on your grocery receipt or online. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Lopes at dawnymarie@aol.com. Thank you for supporting SMS!

Saint Mary School is currently enrolling students in select grades of Preschool through Grade 8 for the 2016-2017 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.

Open Houses: Fairfield Prep Oct 2nd, 2-4pm, fairfieldprep.org;
Immaculate High School: Oct 16th, 11-1pm, immaculatehs.org,
Sacred Heart Greenwich, Oct. 13, 6pm, www.cshgreenwich.org

9th Annual Catholic Men's Conference

Saturday, October 22, 8:30am-5pm on the grounds of Goodwin College in East Hartford. \$40 includes lunch and parking. Meet other brothers in Christ! www.ctcatholicmen.org

FAITH FORMATION CORNER

7 Ways to Strengthen Your Catholic Faith



5. Participate in a Retreat or Workshop

Christian retreats, seminars and workshops can enrich our faith in various ways. They can reignite our passion for God's Word and our love for Jesus. They can also inspire us by giving us new ways to pray to, praise and serve God. The blessings of fellowship and friendship also enhance our lives in amazing ways.

6. Pray the Rosary In St. John Paul II's "Rosarium Virginis Mariae," the beloved pope stated "With the Rosary, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of His love." With information available on many Catholic websites, at religious bookstores, in churches and on Catholic cable channels, it is easy to learn how to pray the Mysteries of the Rosary. It's a beautiful way to draw closer to Jesus. (We say it every Thursday night at 7pm in our Adoration Chapel! Join us!) Beliefnet.com *Continued next week...*

CATHOLIC ACTION

COMING UP!

Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive

Our Knights of Columbus council members will once again be collecting non-perishable food donations to support their **Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive**. Donation bins will be placed at the front & rear entrances of our Church & Parish Hall on October 22nd. The Knights, and those they serve, appreciate your continued support.

St. Mary Parish Midnight Run

The next scheduled Midnight Run is Oct. 28. Needed items: hooded sweatshirts, jeans, medium and lightweight jackets, new underwear(M-XL), socks, backpacks, sleeping bags, lightly used sneakers and shoes, toothbrushes, and travel size toiletries. Drop off your donation at the barn from 7:30am to 3:00pm Oct 21-27. Volunteers are needed to sort and fold clothing, pick up and return the van and to go on the run. To volunteer, call Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341 or Bob Wendel at 203-431-4031.

ONGOING

DONATE: Food Pantries

During the month of **October**, all food collected goes to **St. Joseph Parenting Center**. The following are some suggested food items: cereal, pasta, rice, canned foods, vegetable oil, and baby food. Also needed: full-size toiletries. Thank you!



"Sell Your Old Gold" Fundraiser

Sunday October 2nd 8 AM to 4 PM
60% of profits donated in your name to ST. MARY CHURCH
 Mention Monsignor's name to receive an additional 15%.
St. Mary School conference room Questions? bob@libertygoldct.com



ST. MARY CHILDREN'S CHOIR is looking for new members and adults who would like to help!

We welcome all children who are in second grade or older. We are also looking for a drummer, violinist and flutist for our children's choir. Contact Manette Hutchings at mejch226@hotmail.com

LIFE CHAIN THIS WEEKEND!

The Life Chain is a nationwide silent witness to the sanctity of life and will take place at 44 Main St., Danbury, in front of Planned Parenthood on Sunday, Oct. 2, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., rain or shine. A rosary will be prayed. Please join us. Questions? Call 438-6123.

PILGRIM VIRGIN

The Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima will remain in the Church Sanctuary for the month of October to remind us of our Lady's request to pray the Rosary daily for world peace. To invite Our Lady into your home or for more info contact Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341.



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

O = permanent or substitute adorer urgently needed.
 X = 1 additional adorer needed.
 Empty boxes = there are 2 or more adorers.

	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
12M-1am	X	X	X	O	X	X	X
1am-2am	X	O	O	O	O	X	X
2am-3am	O	X	X	X	X	X	X
3am-4am	O	X	X	X	X	O	X
4am-5am	O	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
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	X	X	X	X	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	X	X	X
5pm-6pm	X		X	X	X		X
6pm-7pm	O			X	X	X	X
7pm-8pm	X						X
8pm-9pm						X	X
9pm-10pm	X	X			X	X	X
10pm-11pm			X	X		X	X
11pm-12M	X		X		X	X	X

Faith, love & hope along with forgiveness, form the foundation of our Catholic faith. How many times do we ask forgiveness for current sins or for sins long past? Our faith & hope keep us centered on the love of Jesus & His forgiveness. Jesus' forgiveness & His love permeate our Adoration Chapel. Come & partake by signing up for an hour or as a substitute. Please call Bill/Monica @ 914-533-2832. God bless us all!

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

Membership in the STMMM is a lifetime invitation to come whenever you can! Once a member always a member. Come join us any Saturday @ 6:30AM for bagels, coffee and fellowship. Perhaps your spiritual life needs a tune-up. Come and see how Jesus' teachings can enrich your life and the life of your loved ones. stmmm.org

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 John McNicholas at jmpmcnich@yahoo.com or visit www.kofc245.org for more info.