

First Sunday of Lent

February 14, 2016



SAINT VALENTINE

The Hallmark Card Company may or may not be aware of the fact that their favorite saint – Valentine – was not a married man. The little information that we have about Valentine indicates that he was probably a priest serving in the Diocese of Rome during one of the great 3rd century Christian persecutions and died a martyr's death. Why a priest should be associated with romantic love, the love of lovers and husbands and wives, we do not know. But he is, and February 14 is Valentine's traditional feast day although he no longer appears in the Church's official feast day calendar.

As I wish all of our parishioners who are falling in love and/or celebrating married love a very happy Saint Valentine's Day, I offer for your reflection the words of another unmarried priest by the name of Paul who, in a letter, reflected deeply on the virtue of love:

"Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.
 But I shall show you a still more excellent way.
 If I speak in human and angelic tongues
 but do not have love,
 I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.
 And if I have the gift of prophecy
 and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;
 if I have all faith so as to move mountains,
 but do not have love, I am nothing.
 If I give away everything I own,
 and if I hand my body over so that I may boast
 but do not have love, I gain nothing.
 Love is patient, love is kind.
 It is not jealous, is not pompous,
 it is not inflated, it is not rude,
 it does not seek its own interests,
 it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing
 but rejoices with the truth.
 It bears all things, believes all things,
 hopes all things, endures all things.
 Love never fails."

(I Corinthians 12:31-13:8a)

Msgr. Larry R. Bronkiewicz

Msgr. Larry R. Bronkiewicz
Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, February 15

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

9:00 AM J. Brayton Fogerty

TUESDAY, February 16

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

7:00 AM Richard M. Stebbins

12:00 PM Frances Volpi

WEDNESDAY, February 17

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

7:00 AM Theresa Zywczyński

12:00 PM Donald Ligos

THURSDAY, February 18

Est C:12,14-16,23-25; Mt 7:7-12

7:00 AM Repose of the Soul of Francis Dabrowski

12:00 PM Mary G. Paterniani

FRIDAY, February 19

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

7:00 AM Nenay Schultz

12:00 PM Mary C. Riley

SATURDAY, February 20

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

8:00 AM Whalen, Fahey & Domeico Families

4:00 PM George Zahakos

5:30 PM Catherine & Denis Sullivan

SUNDAY, February 21

Gn 15:5-12,17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1; Lk 9:28b-36

CHURCH

7:00 AM Ryan Adams

9:15 AM Carey Depuy

11:15 AM Parishioners of the Parish

HALL

8:00 AM Michael Ceponis

10:30 AM Emily Muscat

12:00 PM Francis J. Healey

5:00 PM Desmond Gallagher

PLEASE NOTE: On President's Day, Monday, February 15, there will be only **one Mass at 9:00 am**. Our Parish Offices and St. Mary School will be closed.

In addition to our Saturday 3:00 – 4:00 pm Confessions **AND** Diocesan Center of Mercy Confessions, **CONFESSIONS** will also be heard from 7:00-7:30 pm, as well as after **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** (which will begin at 7:30 pm) each Friday evening in our Church.



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

February 7, 2016	\$24,902	\$143,918
February 8, 2015	\$23,821	\$141,421

Repairs & Maintenance

February 7, 2016	\$ 5,127
February 8, 2015	\$ 4,141

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!"

BAPTISMS

We welcome to our Saint Mary Parish Family of Catholic Faith **Hadley Aria Guski**, who was baptized in our Church last weekend.



Please remember our sick in your prayers; especially, Joseph Barone, Mary Jo Calamai, Patti Capilli, Joseph Fenton 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.)

Candle Intentions

Hall Sanctuary Candle is Burning in Loving Memory of Thomas Goodwin



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

There will be NO Religious Education classes on Monday, February 15, & Tuesday, February 16, in observance of Presidents' Day.



Saint Mary School RIDGEFIELD

Father Daughter Dance

Girls in Transitional Kindergarten through Eighth Grade and their fathers or special guests enjoyed themselves at the annual Saint Mary School Father Daughter Dance! This beloved event is greatly anticipated. Each year, SMS Alumni return to help with this magical evening. The girls and their guests danced the night away in the hall which was transformed into an "Under the Sea" wonderland. A special thanks to SMS Parents Stephanie Prezioso and Shannon Dickson who co-chaired the event, and their army of volunteers who transformed the Hall and gave everyone a night to remember!

Saint Mary School is currently enrolling students for the 2016-2017 school year. 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

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



In the Diocese of Bridgeport, confessions will be heard in each Vicariate on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7pm to 8:30 pm from Lent through Advent. Prepare yourself for the coming of Christ by giving yourself the gift of forgiveness and continue to pray for our religious freedom that it will remain our most cherished and inalienable right.

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.

BEST LENT EVER

We invite you and your entire family to join Mathew Kelly for Best Lent Ever: *Rediscover Jesus*, a 40-day spiritual journey to encounter Jesus—and yourselves—in a deeply personal way. Go to <http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever/> to sign up to receive a daily e-mail with a short video from Matthew Kelly and a member of the Dynamic Catholic team.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

"We are not some casual or meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary."

Pope Benedict XVI

For more information visit

<http://www.stmaryrespectlife.org>

FAITH FORMATION CORNER

A jealous heart is an ugly and tormented heart. Each one has their sins, each one has their virtues; they are specific to each one. Look for the good and do not "kill" others with gossip out of envy or jealousy. --Pope Francis



Sharing Our Faith

CATHOLIC ACTION

DONATE: Food Pantries **On-going**

During the month of February all food collected will go to Ridgefield Food Pantry. The following are some suggested food items: Canned fruit, hearty soups (like Progresso), cereal, coffee, rice mixes (like Rice a Roni) canned tuna or Salmon, canned meats (chicken or spam), jelly but not grape. Please no green beans or pasta at this time.

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, if interested.

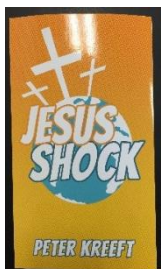
VOLUNTEER: Laurel Ridge **On-going**

Weekly Bingo volunteers needed at laurel Ridge to assist residents as they play Bingo; Tuesday or Saturday afternoon – 2:15 to 3:30pm. Please call Thora Perkins at 203 438 8226; Many thanks from our Volunteer Team!"

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	O	X	X	X
2am-3am	O	X	X	X	O	X	X
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			X	X
11am-12N	X		X	X	X		X
12N-1pm	X				X	X	X
1pm-2pm	X	X		X	X	X	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 you're thinking about doing that extra special something for Jesus this Lent, consider taking your own scheduled hour in our Adoration Chapel especially when you are most needed. eg: Sun 2-3am, Mon 1-2am, Wed 1-2am, Thurs 2-3am. Or you can always sub for those hours when you are available. Please call Bill or Monica @ (914)533-2832 to sign up. God bless us all.



"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 for two **Monday evenings, February 15 and 29 in our Barn, next to our Church, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.** Attendance at all three sessions is not necessary. 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.**

EVERY Thursday evening, 7-9:00 pm, 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

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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