

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 17, 2016



Congratulations to our young Parishioners who received the Sacrament of Confirmation

(My letter to those receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation)

Believe it or not, Jesus was a young teenager at one time, and there is a Gospel story of Him at about your age. Remember the story about Joseph and Mary on the caravan home at the end of the Passover Feast in Jerusalem – no Jesus! The worried couple went back to Jerusalem to search for Him and found Him in the Temple with the rabbis – which was fine except for the fact that He had not told His parents about His plan! I suspect that the Son of God had to listen to a brief or maybe not so brief lecture by Joseph and Mary, warning Him not to do it again!

I love that story because it reminds me of growing up, those years when we sometimes wander away from the caravan to do our own thing. It's an age of discovery – of finding out more about yourself, of making friends as you learn more about true friendship, and it can certainly be a time of strong feelings and opinions. As we see in Jesus' own life, it can be time for asserting one's independence. It can also be a very private time - a time for keeping a lot of things to yourself and not sharing them with Mom and Dad.

To each of you, Confirmation is a gift of the Holy Spirit at this stage of your lives. You're growing into young men and women with all that that means. Confirmation reminds you that you're not doing it alone but with God's help. Will it prevent you from making mistakes in the future? No, it won't, but it will help you to know right from wrong when temptation comes your way, and to do the right thing.

Think of Confirmation as God saying, "I'm with you, let me help you with all of the daily choices and decisions." Remember, the very best way you can witness to your Catholic faith is by doing the right thing.

May the Lord bless you always,

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz
Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, April 18

Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:1-10

7:00 AM Donald Charles Stanley

12:00 PM James Gallagher

TUESDAY, April 19

Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30

7:00 AM Lucille Sacca

12:00 PM Intentions of Mary Jo Calamai

WEDNESDAY, April 20

Acts 12:24-13:5a; Jn 12:44-50

7:00 AM Richard J. Cirulli

12:00 PM Carol and Edmund O'Donnell

THURSDAY, April 21

Acts 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20

7:00 AM Christopher Manno

12:00 PM Alexander Navarra, Sr.

FRIDAY, April 22

Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6

7:00 AM Deceased Members of the Boratyn

Family

12:00 PM Marie McQuillan

SATURDAY, April 23

Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14

8:00 AM Mary S. Sullivan

4:00 PM Maria R. Elias

5:30 PM Ryan Adams

SUNDAY, April 24

Acts 14:21-27; Rv 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a,34-35

CHURCH

7:00 AM Andrew Murphy

9:15 AM Anthony & Mora Smith

11:15 AM Diane May

HALL

8:00 AM Allegrina & Alcide Ligi

10:30 AM Parishioners of the Parish

12:00 PM Victoria Gage

5:00 PM Mike Ventrella

Please remember our sick in your prayers; especially Joseph Barone, Mary Jo Calamai, Patti Capilli, Bill Casey, George Hefferon JP Hinson and Beverly Scott. (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.)



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

April 10, 2016	\$25,629	\$368,803
April 12, 2015	\$22,239	\$356,211

Hospitality

April 2016	\$6,372
April 2015	\$5,834

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!"



2016 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

PARISH GOAL	\$305,000
RAISED TO DATE	\$198,836
% OF GOAL	65.19%

PILGRIM VIRGIN

The Easter Season is a time for prayer, sacrifice and penance. Our Lady's request at Fatima was for us to pray the Rosary every day to obtain peace for the world. Invite 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



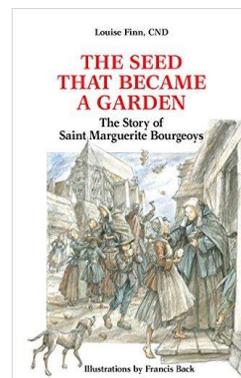
BAPTISMS



We welcome to the Family of God and our Parish Family, **Leena Dorothy Burns, Liam James Clark and Mae Olivia King**, who were baptized in our Church last weekend.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE CND SISTERS

A new and delightful biography of the CND founder is now available. *The Seed that Became a Garden: The Story of Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys* by Louise Finn, CND and illustrated by Francis Back. Geared to young adults and older, it tells how Marguerite left her home in France as a young lay woman to travel



to 17th century Canada. Available at Amazon as a paperback or Kindle and at B&N as a Nook.

SAINT MARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Please join us this year for a fun adventure in Christ

**2016 Vacation Bible School
CAVE QUEST!!!!**
WHEN: July 18-22, 2016
TIME: 8:45-12:45

We are currently looking for Adult and Youth Volunteers to help us! Please use the sign up below if you are interested in helping out with this awesome mission!



<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d49a5ac2eafb6-20161W>

When you are signing up, please pay close attention to the dates and hours of availability. We will coordinate your interests with our needs. Thank You!

****PLEASE NOTE - THIS IS NOT THE REGISTRATION FORM FOR VBS. INFORMATION ON REGISTRATION WILL FOLLOW IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. ****

(Sponsored by: Religious Education and The Mother's Club)

Defending Our Religious Liberty



Critics who say the Catholic Church is against universal health care are misinformed. The Catholic Church is founded on the Corporal Works of Mercy and helping others. The United States

Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has always advocated for health care. The Catholic Church is opposing the health care mandate, because it violates the First Amendment, which is supposed to safeguard freedom of religion.

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

SMS Annual Golf Scramble and Spring Fling Dinner

On Monday, May 23rd Saint Mary School will be hosting our annual Golf Scramble and Spring Fling Dinner. We invite all parishioners to join us in supporting and celebrating Catholic Education. The events will be hosted at Silver Spring Golf Club. There is a dinner only option as well as the golf plus dinner option. Sponsorship and registration forms are located via the SMS website at www.smsridgefield.org/parents_golf.html.

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.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

Did you know that there are innocent lives being lost due to abortions in Stamford each week? Would you like to learn how to help women in unplanned, crisis pregnancies choose life at the abortion center? Sidewalk Advocates for Life offers a peaceful, prayerful, law-abiding sidewalk advocacy method that seeks to reach that woman's heart and fill her needs so she can confidently choose life! Our next training will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at St. John the Evangelist Rectory in Stamford, CT. There is a fee of \$25 to attend. If you would like to learn this method and check out our program, please contact the Program Co-Director Noelle at [857-345-0808](tel:857-345-0808) or ornoelle.gross@gmail.com to RSVP. More information at www.sidewalkadvocates.org

FAITH FORMATION CORNER

FAITH AND YOUR FAMILY: Creating Good Soil

Many of us are preparing the soil in our gardens for the beautiful flowers of spring to grow and flourish. But how are we preparing the soil for our children to grow in? Consider the parable of the sower and the seed in Matthew's Gospel, where the good soil was essential for the seed to grow into what God intended. This is also true of our children. We must cultivate the very best soil for our children to grow in. Without strong roots in rich soil, they will not have the



foundation to become the wonderful people that God intended. Eating family meals together, encouraging conversation in the car, sharing recreation time together, all make for good soil and allow the roots of communication and trust to grow deep and strong.

CATHOLIC ACTION

DONATE: Midnight Run **Date: Friday April 22**

Items needed: medium to lightweight jackets, hooded sweatshirts, jeans, lightly used sneakers and shoes, baseball caps, new underwear (M-XL). Socks, blankets, backpacks, toothbrushes and travel sized toiletries including mouthwash and toothpaste. Drop off items at the Barn April 15 thru April 21 from 7:30 to 3:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to sort and fold clothing, pick up and return the van and to go on the run. For more info call Elma or Jim Stoveken at 203-894-1341.

DONATE: Food Pantries **On-going**

During the month of April all food collected will go to **St. Joseph Parenting Center**. SJPC's mission is to strengthen families that are at risk of child abuse and neglect. The following are some suggested food items: cereal, pasta, rice, canned foods, vegetable oil, and baby food. Also needed: full-size toiletries. Thank you!

SUPPORT FOR THE DIVORCED & SEPARATED

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, **all faiths are welcome**. The group meets 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 info contact Jim Orkin, 914-420-7564, jamesorkin@gmail.com.

Please Join Bishop Caggiano and the Catholic Charities Leadership for Catholic Charities' 100th Anniversary Mass & Family-friendly Reception Saturday, May 7th 5:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Church, 216 Scribner Ave., Norwalk Reception immediately following Mass.

While not required, it would help if you register at www.100thanniversarymass.eventbrite.com or call (203) 416 – 1333.



ST. MARY PARISH FAIR IS SEPTEMBER 10th!

Please look through your closets, drawers, and boxes for any **unwanted jewelry, jewelry boxes, accessories, etc.** The Jewelry Boutique for the Fair needs your help with these donations. All donations can be brought to our Parish Office to

Marcia Giorgio or to Ruth VDN at 52 Ramapoo Road (1/2 mile from church). All proceeds from the sale go to funding the Fair expenses as well as other Parish activities. Thank you in advance for your help and donations!!!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

We all have someone in our lives who has become "disconnected" from God for one reason or another. May we be the instruments that "connect" that someone to the Lord again with His unconditional love. Spend an hour with Jesus in our Adoration Chapel. Please call Bill or Monica Brown @ 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, 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 at 6:30 am 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.