

# Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 3, 2016



## HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!

A well-known American author and former resident of Hartford, CT, once said:

“It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either of them.”

A little humor from the wit and wisdom of Samuel Clemens, better known to us as Mark Twain. I think he had something to say about almost anything you can think of, freedom being one of them.

This year, we are celebrating the 240<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of our independence as a nation. The beginning of our journey toward those freedoms of which Twain spoke.

It is so important to remember 1776 each year. Because those freedoms won for us so long ago were won by the blood, sweat and tears of our American forefathers and foremothers. The red stripes of our flag represent the price that many paid so that Mr. Clemens could speak his mind freely and so that we can gather in our church and worship God as Catholics. About a week and half ago I happened to be visiting Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland; the flag which still flies proudly over the Fort could not help but remind me of the freedoms we cherish as Americans.

There is, however, another kind of freedom that we don't always think of during July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks displays, barbecues and parades. Mark Twain alluded to it when he used the phrase, “freedom of conscience.” What is freedom of conscience? Many think of it as simply the right to choose – to choose between alternatives. I choose to do this rather than that; you choose to do that rather than this.

There seems to be something missing, doesn't there? What's missing is what brings us to Church on Sundays. “For freedom Christ set us free,” Saint Paul wrote to the Christian people of Galatia - “so stand firm and do not submit again to slavery.” When we come to Mass we celebrate the freedom won for us by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The freedom which Paul describes is not the kind of freedom that our Declaration of Independence describes. Nor is it identical to Mark Twain's freedom of conscience - the freedom to choose to do anything I want. Paul reminds us of a different and deeper freedom and a conscience rooted in faith – the moral and spiritual freedom that we experience through our life in Jesus Christ, the freedom to make the right moral choices.

The freedom we celebrate as a nation this week are our political freedoms. The freedom we celebrate every day of our Catholic lives is our freedom to follow Jesus Christ.

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz  
Pastor



**MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS**

**MONDAY, July 4**

Hos 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22/Mt 9:18-26

9:00 AM Ronald Porazzo

**TUESDAY, July 5**

Hos 8:4-7, 11-13/Mt 9:32-38

7:00 AM Sara Mulvaney

12:00 PM Thomas Flynn

**WEDNESDAY, July 6**

Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12/Mt 10:1-7

7:00 AM Patricia Turrini

12:00 PM Michael Tavella

**THURSDAY, July 7**

Hos 11:1-4, 8c-9/Mt 10:7-15

7:00 AM Ruth Rogers

12:00 PM Ida Tomassini

**FRIDAY, July 8**

Hos 14:2-10/Mt 10:16-23

7:00 AM Adam Max Fiorello

12:00 PM Donald Healey

**SATURDAY, July 9**

Is 6:1-8/Mt 10:24-33

8:00 AM Patricia E. Murphy

4:30 PM George Morena

**SUNDAY, July 10**

Dt 30:10-14/Col 1:15-20/Lk 10:25-37

**CHURCH**

7:30 AM William Hunt

9:15 AM Parishioners of the Parish

11:15 AM Donald Smith

**HALL**

10:30 AM Fred White

12:00 PM Sal and Joy Puccio

5:00 PM Mulvihill, Marge



**GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING**

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

June 26, 2016	\$21,462	\$625,097
June 28, 2015	\$21,463	\$603,792

**Peter's Pence**

June 2016	\$4,445
June 2015	\$4,768

*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	\$453,312
% OF GOAL	148.63%

**PILGRIM VIRGIN**

Summer vacation is here! Why not take the opportunity to spend some family time in prayer. Teach our children the Rosary and pray together as our Lady of Fatima has requested for world peace and the conversion of sinners. To arrange for a visit call Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341.



**PLEASE NOTE:** In observance of Independence Day, there will be **only one Mass at 9:00 am on Monday, July 4.** Our Parish and Religious Education Offices will be closed.

**Please remember our sick in your prayers; especially Theresa Avento, Mary Jo Calamai, and Rita Comas.** (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.)



**BAPTISMS**

We welcome to the Roman Catholic Family of our Parish, **Evelyn Rose Formoso and Gerard Francis Mulvihill**, who were baptized in our Church last weekend.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

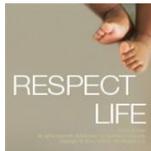


It is time to register for Religious Education classes for the 2016-2017 program year! Registration forms are in our office. **You may come in to register during the following office hours: June 27 to June 30 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; July 5 to July 7 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Sunday, August 28 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.**

You may also register by email at [religioused@smcr.org](mailto:religioused@smcr.org) or [jbove@smcr.org](mailto:jbove@smcr.org) Please let us know if you are planning to remain in the same day of the week and session time.

## RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

The next monthly Respect Life Committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, July 7 at 7:00 pm** in the School Library. For more information go to <http://www.stmarysridgefield.org/respect-life>



## Defending Our Religious Liberty



Pope Francis has stated that religious freedom is a fundamental human right. Each individual must be free, alone or in association with others, to seek the truth, and to openly express his or her religious convictions, free from intimidation and external compulsion. Genuine worship of God bears fruit not in discrimination, hatred and violence, but in respect for the sacredness of life, respect for the dignity and freedom of others, and loving commitment to the welfare of all. It is protected in the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights of our U.S. Constitution.

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. If you have called, call again, our representatives need to pay attention.



Saint Mary School  
RIDGEFIELD

- ❖ A heartfelt thank you to all Parishioners who supported Saint Mary School by enrolling in the Stop and Shop A+ program! The program ended in March. Saint Mary School has earned \$1,832. The proceeds will be used to furnish a new preschool classroom being constructed this summer. The A+ program will return again in the fall.
- ❖ Thank you to our Preschool students who participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Muscular Dystrophy Association Hop-a-Thon, a disability awareness, acceptance and education program that teaches children three core values of awareness, acceptance and assistance. The entire SMS Preschool participated in this event, and raised close to \$2,400 for the MDA.

*Saint Mary School is currently enrolling students in select grades 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](http://www.smsridgefield.org).*

## Midnight Run Backpack Project



Attention all students needing service hours or a project to do. The Midnight Run is always in need of backpacks. Collect used ones from your friends and classmates for donation. If interested contact Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341 or [jstoveken@comcast.net](mailto:jstoveken@comcast.net)



On **Thursday, July 7, from 1:00-6:00 pm** in the Parish Hall, the American Red Cross will be having their annual Blood Drive. In the summer months, the blood supply levels drop, so our St. Mary's Blood Drive becomes even more important. If you are a regular donor, someone that hasn't donated in a while or a new donor ALL are welcomed. Each blood donation will help to save up to 3 patients lives right here in CT! Please take the time to give the gift of life saving blood this summer. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to schedule an appointment. Thank You!

**CATHOLIC ACTION**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Congregate Housing On-going**

Congregate Housing, Prospect Ridge is looking for:

**A. BINGO CALLERS:** 1 volunteer needed. Wednesdays 1-2:30. Commitment - 1x/month appx

**B. LUNCH SERVING:** 3 or 4 volunteers needed. Weekdays 11:45-1:00 pm. Commitment - 2x/month appx.

Contact Suzanne MacAvoy with questions and/or to volunteer. [sdmacavoy@hotmail.com](mailto:sdmacavoy@hotmail.com) or 203 438-7056

**DONATE: Food Pantries On-going**

During the month of July 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!

**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, **all faiths are welcome**. The next meeting will be on July 10, 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM in our 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).



**~Fall Fair Bulletin Board~**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE ST. MARY PARISH FAIR SEPTEMBER 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**

- **VOLUNTEER** sign ups still going on! See flyer in bulletin or pick one up in our Parish Office.
- **Cake Walk Baked Goods Donations Needed** Calling all bakers in the parish to bake your prize cake, pie, cookies, brownies or sweets for the annual **Fall Fair Cake Walk!** Bake any item and drop it off the weekend of the fair...every game played wins a different delicious baked treat! Please email Jillian Savoca at [jesavoca@gmail.com](mailto:jesavoca@gmail.com) or Danielle Trant at [danielletrant1@gmail.com](mailto:danielletrant1@gmail.com) with your name and item you think you will make and we will confirm back and provide final details the week prior to the fair. Thank you!

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Empty Hours: Sun - 2:00, 3:00, 4:00 am; Mon - 1:00 am, 2:00 pm; Tues, Wed, Thurs - 1:00 am; Fri - 1:00 pm**

**O** means permanent or substitute adorer **urgently** needed. **X** means **1 additional** adorer is needed.

**Blank boxes** mean **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	O	O	O	X	X
2am-3am	O	X	X	X	X	X	X
3am-4am	O	X	X	X	X	X	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	O	X
2pm-3pm	X	O	X	X		X	X
3pm-4pm		X	X	X	X	X	X
4pm-5pm	X	O	X	X	X	X	X
5pm-6pm	X		X	X	X		O
6pm-7pm	X			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

Spending time in prayer is important for all of us, and so many have found our Parish Adoration Chapel a very good place to spend some time with the Lord in silence, listening and speaking. Sign up for an hour. Please sign up for an hour by calling Bill or Monica @ 914-533-2832. God bless you.

**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**

No invitation necessary. COME ONE COME ALL. It will put a smile above your chin. New members invigorate our 150-strong group as we support each other and our families. Experienced men and thoughtful presentations provide us the advice to meet challenges we all face as Catholic husbands, fathers and businessmen. A little sleep time is the only sacrifice- but rewards will be 10-fold. Ask about us. Meetings on Saturdays in Hall 6:30am. [Stmmm.org](http://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 [jmpmcnch@yahoo.com](mailto:jmpmcnch@yahoo.com) or visit [www.kofc245.org](http://www.kofc245.org) for more info.