

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 29, 2017



Welcome Home!

Dear friends in Christ:

Most of us have friends, relatives, siblings, co-workers, or neighbors who have drifted away from the Church. But no matter how long they have been away, they are always welcome home! Our prayerful encouragement, guidance and support can make a difference.

The Catholic periodical, *Our Sunday Visitor*, has cited many reasons that draw people back to the practice of our Catholic faith:

- seeking forgiveness and spiritual healing
- looking for a sound spiritual and moral foundation for their children
- wanting to be part of a faith community and to have a sense of belonging
- looking to help others and realize that the Catholic Church offers many opportunities to touch the lives of others
- believing the Catholic Church has the fullness of truth and grace

But the reason *most* return is because they feel an intense longing for the opportunity to encounter Christ in the Eucharist. They yearn for the spiritual nourishment that comes when they receive the Body and Blood of Christ. The Eucharist has been cited as the number one reason people come back to the Church. What a gift we receive at Mass!

As we begin this new year, let's gently invite and encourage loved ones and friends who have fallen away to return to the practice of our Catholic faith. We can pray for them, reach out to them, and help to welcome them back to the Church we love. Here at Saint Mary Parish, we extend a warm invitation to all, and sincerely say, "Welcome Home!"

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz

Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, January 30

Heb 11:32-40/Mk 5:1-20

7:00 AM Louise & Elmer Waltz

12:00 PM Louis Remza - 3rd Anniversary

TUESDAY, January 31

Heb 12:1-4/Mk 5:21-43

7:00 AM Dominick Protomastro

12:00 PM Joan Izzi

WEDNESDAY, February 1

Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Mk 6:1-6

7:00 AM Edward Murphy

12:00 PM Daniella Michelli

THURSDAY, February 2

Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

7:00 AM Georgine Tulipani

12:00 PM Florence Szilagyi

FRIDAY, February 3

Heb 13:1-8/Mk 6:14-29

7:00 AM Arlene Doyle

9:00 AM James O'Toole

12:00 PM Les DiLisio

SATURDAY, February 4

Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Mk 6:30-34

8:00 AM Hawk Reinertsen

4:30 PM Parishioners of the Parish

SUNDAY, February 5

Is 58:7-10/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

Church

7:30 AM Conrad and Mary Sponberg

9:15 AM Robert Walsh

11:15 AM David A. Stephens

Hall

10:30 AM Sister Mary Dorena, C.S.J.

12:00 PM Jean McGuire

5:00 PM Fred DePhillips

PARKING REMINDER

We remind those who park behind the Church to use only designated regular or handicapped spaces. Please be sure that your car does not prevent access for emergency vehicles.

NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Please note: As of February 1st, our new Parish Office hours will be 10:00am-4:00pm, Monday - Friday.

Birthright Needs Volunteers

Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service offering 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

January 22, 2017	TK	TK
January 24, 2016	TK	TK

This week's second collection is for the Church in Latin America. Thank you for your support!

Next week's second collection is for Facilities Repair.

Prayers for the Sick



Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Thersa Avento, Mary Jo Calamai, Patti Capilli, Bill Casey, Pat Gotimer, Jeanne Mastandrea, Pat Ruhl and Luke Whitbeck.** 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.



Altar Decorating Help Needed

Do you like flowers and plants? Anita Barrios needs help with the week-to-week altar flowers as well as with planning and ordering for Easter. Can you help? Call Anita for more details at 203-431-6705.

MASS INTENTION REMINDER

We are now scheduling announced Mass intentions on a rolling basis. As a result, announced Mass intentions may be scheduled for the month of January 2018 as of Wednesday, February 1, 2017.

Candle Intentions

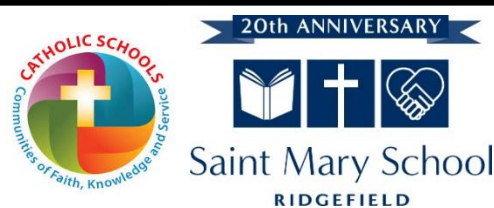
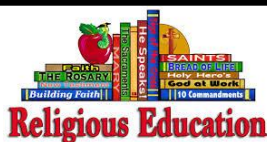
Church Sanctuary Candle is Burning in Loving Memory of Virginia Kelleher



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. **All faiths are welcome.** The group will meet the 2nd and 4th week of the month in our St. Mary Parish Barn. For more information and confirmation of meeting dates, contact Jim Orkin, 914-420-7564, jamesorkin@gmail.com.





GIFTS FOR ALL: Liturgy of the Word for Children with Special Needs is scheduled for January 29th at the 10:30am Mass in our Parish Hall. All school age children with special needs are invited to join us for a wonderful sharing of God's love and Word. Additional dates: February 12, February 26, March 12, March 26, April 9 (Palm Sunday), April 23 (Divine Mercy Sunday).

Reconciliation: Our Grade 2 children have begun preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Retreat is on February 7th, 8th or 9th. Reception of the Sacrament will be on March 7th, 8th or 9th. Please call our Religious Ed Office, 203-438-7335 for more information.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE



Join us for the next St. Mary Respect Life Ministry meeting this Wed., Feb. 1 at 7pm in the Day Chapel. All are welcome, including the Youth!

"...Jesus calls each of us to be a leaven in society, and we will be judged by our actions. No one, least of all someone who exercises leadership in society, can rightfully claim to share fully and practically the Catholic faith and yet act publicly in a way contrary to that faith." --US Bishops, *Living the Gospel of Life*, 1998, n. 14. www.smcr.org/respect-life

January 29-February 4 is Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week is a time dedicated to the enduring value of Catholic education. It honors the long-term benefits Catholic education has provided countless young people and society at-large. Building community awareness and announcing the success of Catholic education, Catholic Schools Week commemorates the effort and continued support of students, families, faculty, staff and stakeholders of Catholic education for the 21st century.

We invite you to come take a closer look. Saint Mary School will be holding a Kindergarten – Grade 8 Open House on Thursday, February 9th from 9-10 am, and a Preschool Open House on Friday, February 10th from 9:30-10:30 am. Meet with other parents, speak with faculty and staff, and see classes in session. To register, 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.

PILGRIM VIRGIN



To honor the Mother of Jesus, consider inviting the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima to your home to pray the Rosary daily, a wonderful Marian devotion. The message from heaven for us is more urgent than ever to pray for world peace and the conversion of sinners. To invite the Pilgrim Virgin to your home contact Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341.

FAITH FORMATION CORNER



More New Year's Resolutions

Why not tie your faith to some of your New Year's resolutions/goals? Below are ideas (continued from the last few weeks) to implement doing just that.

Pray the Rosary

The Rosary has been hailed by saints and popes alike as a powerful help in facing the challenges of life and a beautiful way to meditate on the gospels. .

Check out Catholic Radio

Catholic radio stations are popping up all over America and you need not live near one to listen in. Most stations broadcast online or offer smartphone apps. Try different stations and programs to find one that interests you.

Read about your Faith

If all you do is go to Mass every Sunday, you're missing out on many wonderful resources for your faith. This year, resolve to read at least five books on Catholic topics. Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance.

Spend some time in front of the Blessed Sacrament

Our Parish offers Eucharistic Adoration, but you can stop by a Catholic church any time the doors are open and spend a little quality time in prayer. Even just 10-15 minutes on a regular basis will strengthen your spiritual life.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



With the swearing in of the new president this past week, comes the promise that the federal health care mandate will be revised to reinstate our right to religious freedom. Let us pray that our new leaders will honor our cherished First Amendment.

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.

CATHOLIC ACTION

Volunteers Needed



Elders in our community need YOUR help. We need the following at Congregate Housing, Prospect Ridge:

1. **BINGO CALLERS** - 1 (or 2) needed. Wednesdays 1-2:30pm, once a month.
2. **LUNCH SERVERS** - 3 or 4 needed. Weekdays 11:45am-1:00pm, 2x/month. You can choose the days to volunteer.

CONTACT: Suzanne MacAvoy for info and to volunteer, sdmacavoy@hotmail.com H 203 438-7056

DONATE: Food Pantries

During January, collected food goes to the Ridgefield Food Pantry. Collection bins are in the Church and Hall.

Important Notice - Cemetery Clean-up

The period from February 1st through March 1st, weather-permitting, is traditionally used by the Cemetery to clean up the grounds for the coming spring. All fall and winter decorations will be removed during this period. If at all possible, we request that you refrain from placing any new decorations during this clean up period. If you wish to save your decorations, please remove them before February 1st.

World Day of Prayer for the Sick & Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

All, especially the sick, the frail and the handicapped are invited to celebrate. Saturday, February 11th at 2:30pm. Mass and Sacrament of the Sick will be offered. Refreshments will follow. Welcome begins at 1:30pm; Mass celebrated at 2pm. St. Aloysius Church, Cherry Street, New Canaan. Info: Margie Doran 203-966-9873.



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.

CONGRATULATIONS to the WINNERS of the Basketball Free Throw Tournament on January 18th! G10 - Kendall Mosley, G11 - Savannah Reyes, G12 - Nina Gatje, G13 - Bridgette Hogan, G14 - None, B10 - Ian Pecson, B11 - Jacob Voelmicke, B12 - Aiden Bogursky, B13 - Sean O'Hara, B14 - Shreyas Nandan. There were 43 participants and the kids had a great time! Thank you to our Knights of Columbus brothers who worked hard to help make this a big success!

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	X	X	X	X
1am-2am	X	O	O	X	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	O	X		X	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	O	O	X	O	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
5pm-6pm	X		X	X	X		X
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	O	X	X
11pm-12M	X		X		X	X	X

Jesus loves each & every one of us with His unconditional love. He patiently awaits with anticipation for our next visit. Please sign up for an hour by calling Bill or Monica @ 914-533-2832. God bless us all.

EVERY Thursday evening, 7-9pm, 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!

Homily Survey

Thank you to all who have been utilizing our Homily Survey. Your feedback is valued and appreciated! The survey link is on our website, www.smcr.org.



ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY

Here is a resolution which is sure to bring you joy. How many of you men have made New Year's resolutions? How many of you are (like me) still looking for meaningful resolutions or have already broken your resolutions? Why not make a resolution to join us once a week or once a month or whenever you feel in need of a pick me up. Christ "jump-started" his public life with His Baptism. Why not jump-start your year with God by joining us for coffee, OJ, and bagels, and learn strategies to meet life's challenges joyfully. Come get to know some other fathers, grandfathers, sons and like-minded men of St. Mary Parish. STMMM meets on Saturdays at 6:30am