

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 29, 2017



Fr. Sean's Ethiopian Mission Trip Reflection

Dear Parishioners,

Now that I am back from my mission trip, Msgr. Bronkiewicz asked me to write a reflection on my trip to Ethiopia. This was my second mission trip, the first being when I was in college and had an opportunity to go to Mexico. However, by far going to Ethiopia opened my eyes much more.

One take away is how easy it is for me to take for granted necessities that we have here, such as clean water without having to worry about it. Also being thankful for what I have! Not being jealous or even envious of what I do not have. Seeing joy in eyes and the excitement that the villagers had knowing that one of the basic things in life i.e. clean water was now finally at their grasp. Now they do not need to be concerned about the many sicknesses that the villagers suffered from.

During this trip, we had an opportunity on the last day to visit the Missionaries of Charity (Mother Theresa of Calcutta's order) in Addis Ababa (the Capitol); they run a hospice and hospital. This site brought tears to my eyes and my heart went out to the patients. They have a children's wing, pre and post-natal care, tuberculosis (TB) wing and a cancer wing, plus a lab. This hospital had electricity, but the transformer that brought the power in from the street had burnt out and the government has not yet replaced it. The only part of the hospital that had a generator was the lab.

When we visited the children's wing, one little toddler jumped into my arms out of nowhere and wanted to play; that was one of the joyful occasions of this visit. Another was with a young boy between 4 and 6 years who suffered a spinal injury where his disks had collapsed. Now he walks bent over with a bump on his back. I asked the sisters if he was in pain, they said not anymore. The doctors are helping to rehabilitate him. Even with his spinal cord issue, he also was playful and had a glow in his eyes. After being with him for a little while he jumped in my arms and had me carry him around. When we left all the kids kept saying bye to us. As I reflect back, all I can say is thank you Lord for giving me this opportunity just to be there with these children.

We visited the TB wing which was also heart wrenching because for them this can be a death sentence unlike here in the United States. Sister explained to us if they are able to catch it right away, the drugs can cure it, providing they stay in the hospital for 6 months. Otherwise, if they leave, the TB will come back and the drugs will have no effect.

In the weeks and months to come I will share more experiences in my homilies as they connect to the Gospel. If any of you are interested in seeing pictures and videos I will be more than happy to share them with you.

Fr. Sean



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, October 30

Rom 8:12-17/Lk 13:10-17
 7:00 AM Frances Oakley
 12:00 PM Luigi Patrono

TUESDAY, October 31

Rom 8:18-25/Lk 13:18-21
 7:00 AM Frances Oakley
 12:00 PM Dante Ligi
 7:30 PM Santina Perich Stroligo

WEDNESDAY, November 1 – ALL SAINTS' DAY

Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a
 7:00 AM Dante Ligi
 9:00 AM Parishioners of the Parish
 12:00 PM Kathrene Houlihan
 7:30 PM Mary Jo Calamai

THURSDAY, November 2- ALL SOULS' DAY

Wis 3:1-9/Rom 5:5-11 or Rom 6:3-9/Jn 6:37-40
 7:00 AM Sheila Hefferon
 12:00 PM Anthony & Rose Barbaro

FRIDAY, November 3

Rom 9:1-5/Lk 14:1-6
 7:00 AM Anna Salvestrini
 9:00 AM Francis Dolen
 12:00 PM Dante Ligi

SATURDAY, November 4

Rom 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29/Lk 14:1, 7-11
 8:00 AM Camille Coraci
 4:30 PM Peter Myers

SUNDAY, November 5

Mal 1:14b—2:2b, 8-10/1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13/Mt 23:1-12

Church

7:30 AM Conrad and Mary Sponberg
 9:15 AM Joseph Sorgie
 11:15 AM Angela Nassaur

Hall

10:30 AM Parishioners of the Parish
 12:00 PM Patti Capilli
 5:00 PM William Hunt

DIVORCED & SEPARATED

Sundays, 7:30-9pm in the Parish Barn

Come join our friendly, safe, confidential and uplifting support group that focuses on spiritual and emotional healing. **All faiths are welcome.** For more information contact Jim Orkin, 914-420-7564, jamesorkin@gmail.com.



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------------|
| October 22, 2017 | \$28,461 | \$965,045 |
| October 23, 2016 | \$26,081 | \$1,010,074 |
| World Mission Sunday | | |
| 2017 | \$5,238 | |
| 2016 | \$4,502 | |

Prayers for the Sick

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Josie Connelly, Jeanne Mastandrea, Lee & Scott McCaughey, Fr. Lionel Medeiros, and Jennie Palmieri.**

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.



Marriage Banns

- I. Andrew Gregory Boratenski – Elise Marie Fernandez
- II. Christopher Vladimir Nisler – Samantha DiFalco
- III. Matthew James Buckheit – Alyssa Rose Petchonka
- III. Stephen Michael Walsh – Nicole Jade Eberhardt



BAPTISMS

We welcome to the Family of God and our Parish Family **Kayla Rose Simon** who was baptized in our Church last weekend.

CEMETERY CLEAN UP!

Fall cleanup of our Saint Mary Cemetery is scheduled from November 1- 15. This is the time in which we prepare for the holiday season. Any remaining spring/summer/fall decorations will be discarded. If you wish to retrieve any decorations, please do so before November 1st. As a reminder, no grave blankets/sprays are permitted, and all decorations must adhere to the current regulations.

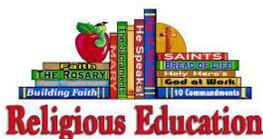
Please refer to the posted **Cemetery Decoration Schedule and Regulations**, which can be found on either the Parish website or at our Cemetery Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Donna Barber at our Cemetery Office 438-3606 or on her cell phone 203-733-4658. Thank you for your understanding.

Mass Intentions for October 2018 open Thursday, November 2, 2017

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Wednesday, November 1st is All Saints' Day!
Parish Offices Closed



Religious Education

Gifts for All - Liturgy of the Word for Children with Special Needs

We would like to begin the year soon, but we are in need of helpers for this group of children. Volunteers needed: Special Ed teacher, Peer Witnesses, and a Music Minister to gather during the 10:30 Mass in our Parish Hall. This is a Liturgy for children who cannot be mainstreamed into classrooms. Our goal is to bring the Love of Jesus to all children.

Catechists and Volunteers Needed! If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a Catechist or volunteering, please call our Religious Education Office at 203 438 7335.



LifeTeen and Edge: Don't miss the Haunted School, Sunday, October 29th, 6pm-8pm, in the Nancy Bossidy Center.

LifeTeen Fall Retreat will take place Nov 17th-19th. Registration link at www.smcr.org/life-teen-1.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

Our next Respect Life meeting will take place this Thursday, November 2nd at 10am in the Day Chapel.

www.smcr.org/respect-life

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) says the Trump administration's decision to provide a broad religious and moral exemption to the HHS mandate recognizes that the full range of faith-based and mission-driven organizations, as well as the people who run them, have deeply held religious and moral beliefs that the law must respect. Such an exemption is no innovation, but instead a return to common sense, long-standing federal practice, and peaceful coexistence between church and state. It corrects an anomalous failure by federal regulators that should never have occurred and should never be repeated.

Pre-purchase St. Mary Cemetery Space

"I felt good knowing I was sparing my family the burden of making this decision at a difficult time in their lives."

Secure your family heritage at St. Mary Parish. Visit www.smcr.org for more info and FAQs or call Donna Barber at the cemetery office, 203-438-3606.



Thank you for your feedback. Go to www.smcr.org for links to our HOMILY SURVEY as well as our Church Refurbish and General SUGGESTION BOXES.

20th ANNIVERSARY



Saint Mary School
RIDGEFIELD

BUDDY PROGRAM

One of the programs at SMS that really exemplifies what our school stands for is the Buddy Program. Older students are paired with younger students, and meet monthly for activities. For example, Transitional Kindergarten is paired with Grade 3, Kindergarten is paired with Grade 4, and Grade 1 is paired with Grade 5. Older students also sit with younger grades during First Friday Mass to model appropriate behavior. Less formally, younger students are invited to watch plays, and tour special events like science fairs and language expos. Our older students take their responsibility as role models quite seriously, and enjoy the positive impact they make on the lives of the younger children. And our younger students love the opportunity to interact with "the big kids".

Saint Mary School is currently enrolling students in select grades of Preschool through Grade 8 for the 2017-2018 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.

FAITH FORMATION CORNER



Patron Saints

All Saints' Day is a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually on November 1. The day is dedicated to the official saints of our Church, all holy men and women who have attained heaven. All Souls' Day, which is observed on November 2, is dedicated to all those who have died, not just our official saints.

Most Catholics have numerous "favorites" or go-to saints for a variety of life events and circumstances. They often are connected to a name, vocation, occupation, special interests, or current experience such as sickness.

Pray asking the Holy Spirit to guide you as you consider your Patron Saints. You may be surprised and amazed at the ways in which you will find each other. Remain open, aware and waiting, so that you will recognize the promptings.

Once you establish relationships with special saints, your spiritual life will take on a depth and richness you have not experienced before. The Communion of Saints is a treasure trove of the Church. Open it, and you will be under the protection of the heavenly court. Your family in heaven awaits you! catholiccompany.com

CATHOLIC ACTION

GUATEMALAN MISSION THANK YOU!!!!



Thank you to all who supported the Guatemalan Mission Project by attending the Fiesta September 30 and/or donating to the project. **The Fiesta was a huge success and we exceeded our goal of \$15,000 with proceeds of \$18,628!** This means that we are able to fully fund the Water Catchment System to provide clean water to the village of Santa Maria de Jesus, provide 73 students scholarships to Angelitos de Dios School, and make the necessary repairs to the school's water pump, septic, cistern, sinks and roof. In addition, with the extra funds, we are able to provide 100 water filters to families in the neighboring village of San Tomas.

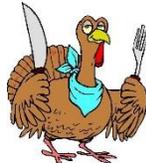
Thank you to Grupos Quetzal, who provided the food, music and dancing, and all the volunteers who helped make this project a success. We hope to share the mission experiences with the Parish when we return after our trip November 10-18.

VOLUNTEER: SERVING LUNCH

Two or three volunteers needed. Commitment: appx 2x/month, weekdays of your choosing, Mon-Fri. Hours: 11:45am-1:00pm. Where: Congregate Housing, 51 Prospect Ridge. For more info or questions, contact Suzanne MacAvoy, 203 438-7056, sdmacavoy@hotmail.com

DONATE: FOOD PANTRY

In the month of November, collected food will go to the Knights of Columbus Thanksgiving Food Drive. Collection bins are in the Church and Hall. Thank you for your generosity!



MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Our order was founded in 1882 on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity. The Marquette Council's activities started here at St. Mary Parish in 1894 and have continued uninterrupted for over 120 years. Our goal is to offer our members and their families an opportunity to share God's love through service to our Priests, Parish and community. Want to enrich your faith & model strong values for your family? Learn more at www.KOFC.org or contact Phil Del Giudice, Grand Knight, Compass_grp@yahoo.com.

PILGRIM VIRGIN

This year we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. Our Lady's message to the world: Do penance, amend your life, offend God no more and pray the Rosary daily for world peace and the conversion of sinners. Invite the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima Statue into your home. To schedule a visit call Elma Stoveken, 203-894-1341.



VIRTUS® Excellence Builds Trust **NEXT VIRTUS TRAINING** November 2nd from 7 - 9pm in the Day Chapel. Please register at VIRTUSonline.org.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Our Adoration Chapel, the oldest one in Connecticut, is open 24/7. The entrance is near our Religious Ed Office. Stop by anytime or sign up for an hour:

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 | X | X | O | X | X |
| 2am-3am | X | 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 |
| 6am-7am | X | | X | X | X | | X |
| 7am-8am | X | | X | X | X | X | X |
| 8am-9am | X | X | X | | X | X | X |
| 9am-10am | X | X | | X | X | X | X |
| 10am-11am | X | | | | | X | X |
| 11am-12N | X | | O | | | | X |
| 12N-1pm | X | | | | X | X | X |
| 1pm-2pm | O | X | 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 |
| 5pm-6pm | X | | X | X | X | | X |
| 6pm-7pm | X | | | X | X | X | X |
| 7pm-8pm | X | | | | | X | X |
| 8pm-9pm | | | | | | X | X |
| 9pm-10pm | X | X | | | X | X | X |
| 10pm-11pm | | | X | X | X | X | X |
| 11pm-12M | X | | X | X | X | X | X |

Perpetual Adoration extends its influence far beyond the individual adorers, touching their homes and families and reaching out to the Parish Community and beyond.

--Pope Paul VI. Sign up on-line or call Bill/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 sung and prayed. Please join us!



ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY

Take an opportunity to deepen your relationship with the Lord - along with 50 to 60 other like-minded men. How about spending a weekly hour and half experiencing our Men's Ministry on Saturday mornings from 6:30-8:00AM? Besides having a great and welcoming community, we also serve bagels, coffee & OJ each week to ease the pain of a **very worthwhile wakeup call!**



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.

Contact Manette Hutchings at mejch226@hotmail.com