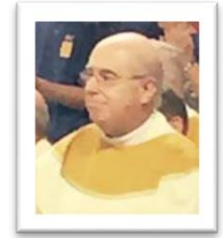


First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017



Advent Activity: Blessing the Christmas Tree

Advent is a special time in the Church year as we prepare for the celebration of the Lord's birth and the light of Christ breaking through the darkness of our world. Our Holy Father Pope Francis focused on the importance of hope during Advent. He stated, "The time of Advent returns us to the horizon of hope, a hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the Word of God." It is "a new journey of the People of God with Jesus Christ, our Shepherd, who guides us in history towards the completion of the Kingdom of God."

At this special time, we are urged to remain watchful and vigilant as we wait in joyful anticipation for the coming of the Lord. He is ready to come more fully into our homes. He is ready to come more fully into our lives. He is ready to come more fully into our hearts. This Christmas we are invited to give the Lord the gift of a pure heart as we prepare for his coming. Below is an idea that can be done as a family during this Advent Season:

Blessing of the Christmas Tree

After you have decorated your home for Christmas, set up the Christmas tree. Before the tree is trimmed but the lights have been strung, recall that God has blessed us with life and that, just as the tree is evergreen, God's love for us is unending and never changes. Then as each ornament is placed on the tree, have the family member placing it share a particular personal or family blessing that has been received during the past year. After the tree is trimmed, plug in the lights and read this prayer together:

O God, you made light shine out of darkness. Bless this tree that we decorated with lights in honor of Jesus Christ who has come to bring light into our lives. During this Advent, help us to show your light in our faces and to be happy, radiant, and loving people. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Wishing our Parish Family a beautiful Advent and Christmas season as we await our Lord and Saviour!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz".

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz
Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, December 4

Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11

7:00 AM Pierandri/Giardini Family

12:00 PM Dina Casavecchia

TUESDAY, December 5

Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24

7:00 AM Virginia DeSerio

12:00 PM Irene Gilchrist

WEDNESDAY, December 6

Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37

7:00 AM Primo Baldaserini

12:00 PM Richard Venus Jr. – 40th Anniversary

THURSDAY, December 7

Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27

7:00 AM Joseph Egan

12:00 PM Roman Sierpina

7:30 PM Erin Bridget Vick - 5th Anniversary

FRIDAY, December 8

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

7:00 AM Emma Ruba - 34th Anniversary

9:00 AM Parishioners of the Parish

12:00 PM Robert Andrew Brian

7:30 PM Richard J. Cirulli - 5th Anniversary

SATURDAY, December 9

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

8:00 AM Mary Ann Vlymen

4:30 PM Feduzi Family

SUNDAY, December 10

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Church

7:30 AM Parishioners of the Parish

9:15 AM O.J. Robert

11:15 AM Joseph Giordano

Hall

10:30 AM Al and Rose Calamai

12:00 PM Richard Ligi, Sr.

5:00 PM Grace Nneji



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

Nov 19, 2017	\$25,880	\$1,063,239
Nov 20, 2016	\$25,752	\$1,110,878

Human Development		
2017	\$4,197	
2016	\$3,824	

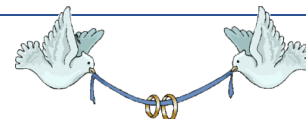
Nov 26, 2017	\$23,078	\$1,086,317
Nov 27, 2016	\$26,855	\$1,137,733

Hospitality House		
2017	\$6,526	
2016	\$7,171	

Prayers for the Sick

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Fr. John Baran, Josie Connelly, Jean Mastandrea, Lee & Scott McCaughey, Jennie Palmieri, Pat Ruhl and Anna Sorgie.**

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. Norman Joseph Roos – Tiffany Marie Whitney

EVENT RENTAL SPACE

Need a place to gather after a Baptism, Funeral or Wedding Rehearsal? St. Mary Parish offers a variety of venues for social events and meetings, including our Parish Barn for smaller groups and our Parish Hall for larger groups, up to 250. Dance floor, free parking and on-site caterer available. Please contact our Parish Office, 203-438-6538, for more information.

Our Senior Citizen Christmas Luncheon

will be held on Tuesday, December 12th at 12 noon in our Parish Hall. **The MacDonald-Pin Dancers** will perform their Christmas show. Donations are appreciated. Please call St. Mary School at [203-438-7288](tel:203-438-7288) to make your reservation. The reservation deadline is Monday, December 11th.



PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO CONFESSIONS that day and noon Mass will take place in our Church.



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

MASS CARD INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions for November 2018 are now available. Mass cards may be obtained at the Parish Office, with a suggested donation of \$10 for announced Masses and \$5 for unannounced Masses.

Religious Education



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.

20th ANNIVERSARY



Saint Mary School
RIDGEFIELD

We are Called

Saint Mary School has kicked off a nine-month strategic planning initiative entitled "We are Called." The result of this effort will be a comprehensive, five year plan that builds upon our tradition of educating students in a faith-filled environment yet presents an innovative and inspirational vision of the future. This plan will not be successful without the collaboration of our many constituents, and we are grateful already for the participation of many parishioners. We will be looking closely at eight "domains"- governance, curricular programs, Catholic identity, student life, enrollment, advancement, facilities, and finance, and will provide updates along the way.

Saint Mary School is currently enrolling students in select grades of Preschool through Grade 8 for the 2017-2018 school year, as well as accepting applications for the 2018-2019 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.

RELIGIOUS ED NATIVITY PAGEANT! Sunday, December 17, at 2 pm in the Parish Hall.



RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE



Join us for our next Respect Life meeting on Wednesday, December 6th at 7pm in the Day Chapel.

FAITH FORMATION CORNER



Advent

Advent is the Season of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. The word, Advent, means 'coming' in Latin, the coming of Jesus into our world. We Catholics use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Lord's Birth.

There are three meanings of 'coming' that Advent describes. The first happened about 2000 years ago when Jesus came into the world as a baby to live out his life as a man and die and rise again for our salvation. The second happens now as Jesus walks with us on our life's journey. The third will take place in the future when Jesus comes back to the world as King and Judge.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



In a letter to the U.S. Senate, the United States Conference for Catholic Bishops (USCCB) urged the Senate to respect life when changing the health care mandate. The USCCB says no health care reform plan should compel us or others to pay for the destruction of human life, whether through government funding or mandatory coverage of abortion. Long-standing "Hyde Amendment" protections must extend to any relevant health care plan in order to prevent federal funding of abortion and not as a temporary fix or future promise.



A priest cannot absolve himself from sin. He must go to confession to another priest. One of the benefits is that this makes him much more conscious of what it is like on the other side of the sacrament.

Mary Mother of God, Patroness of our Parish, pray for us.



GIVING TREE!! Gifts are due back tomorrow, Monday, December 4th. ☺ Thank you to all who participated and are making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate in our community.

Please support Boy Scout Troop 76 who are selling wreaths this weekend after Masses.



CATHOLIC ACTION

VOLUNTEERS: LUNCH & BINGO

Two or three volunteers needed to serve lunch. Commitment is appx 2x/month, weekdays of your choosing, Mon-Fri. Hours: 11:45am-1:00pm. ALSO needed: 2 Bingo Callers. Wednesdays 1-2:30. Commitment - 1 hour a month. 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 December, collected food goes to the Ridgefield Food Pantry. Collection bins are in the Church and Hall. Thank you for your generosity!



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	O	X	X	X
3am-4am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4am-5am	X	X	X	X	X	X	O
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	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	O
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	O
7pm-8pm	X					X	X
8pm-9pm		X				X	X
9pm-10pm	O	X			X	X	X
10pm-11pm			X	X	X	X	X
11pm-12M	X		X	X	X	X	X

Christ the King was born to testify to the truth. As followers & believers in Christ, we must always seek the Truth. Follow the path to our Adoration the Chapel where we can pray in silence. Call Bill or Monica Brown @ 914-533-2832 or go to our website to fill in a much needed hour or to become a substitute. Thank you and God bless.

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!

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.



RCIA



RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will continue this year, leading to the Easter Vigil and Feast of Pentecost! **Upcoming gatherings are on November 28, December 3 (Rite of Welcoming), December 5,**

December 12, and December 19. If you are a Baptized Catholic who has not received the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Holy Eucharist, or if you are someone curious about the Catholic faith, **Come and See** what our Catholic faith has to offer! All are invited, bring a friend! For more info, call Pat Postiglione, 203-438-7335 or ppostiglione@smcr.org



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 wake up call.**