

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 12, 2017



Happy Valentine's Day!

While there are varying stories about who St. Valentine actually was (see our Faith Formation Corner!), it is generally believed that he was a priest serving in the Diocese of Rome during one of the great 3rd century Christian persecutions and that he died a martyr's death. Although he no longer appears on the Church's official feast day calendar, he remains a saint associated with romantic love and is remembered every February 14th, Valentine's Day. As I wish our Parishioners who are in love, falling in love and/or celebrating married love, a very happy and blessed Saint Valentine's day this Tuesday, I offer you a reflection from St. Paul, who in a letter, reflected deeply on the virtue of love:

*Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.
But I shall show you a still more excellent way.
If I speak in human and angelic tongues
but do not have love,
I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.
And if I have the gift of prophecy
and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;
if I have all faith so as to move mountains,
but do not have love, I am nothing.
If I give away everything I own,
and if I hand my body over so that I may boast
but do not have love, I gain nothing.
**Love is patient, love is kind.
It is not jealous, is not pompous,
it is not inflated, it is not rude,
it does not seek its own interests,
it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,
it does not rejoice over wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.
It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.
Love never fails.***
(Corinthians 12:31–13:8a)

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz

Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, February 13

Gn 4:1-15, 25/Mk 8:11-13

7:00 AM Margaret L. Kraus
12:00 PM Francis Ryan

TUESDAY, February 14

Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Mk 8:14-21

7:00 AM Ted Dankowski
12:00 PM William Novak

WEDNESDAY, February 15

Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Mk 8:22-26

7:00 AM J. Brayton Fogerty
12:00 PM Lillian Sturz

THURSDAY, February 16

Gn 9:1-13/Mk 8:27-33

7:00 AM Jim O'Toole
12:00 PM Josephine Solley

FRIDAY, February 17

Gn 11:1-9/Mk 8:34—9:1

7:00 AM Intentions of Conner Fiveash
12:00 PM Donald Ligos

SATURDAY, February 18

Heb 11:1-7/Mk 9:2-13

8:00 AM Regina Lynch
4:30 PM Jason Wagner

SUNDAY, February 19

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48

Church

7:30 AM Calise Family
9:15 AM Parishioners of the Parish
11:15 AM Kevin Mills

Hall

10:30 AM Joseph Lockwood
12:00 PM Betty Murphy Orteig
5:00 PM Dec. Members of the Kostiw Family

Volunteers Needed- Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day House of Hospitality needs volunteers to make mixed salads the third Sunday of each month. Students that need service hours are welcome. For more information, please email mbreilly28@gmail.com.

Our next Pre-Baptism Class (required for parents who have not had a class within five years and wish to have their child baptized) will be held **Wed., March 8th** from 7:30-8:30pm in the Barn. Call our Parish Office to register.



Save the Date! Family Movie Night, Saturday, March 11th, 5-9pm. "The Ultimate Gift" Rated: PG



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

	WEEKLY	YEAR-TO-DATE
February 5, 2017	\$23,448	\$135,611
February 7, 2016	\$24,902	\$140,575

Facilities Repair

2017	\$5,491
2016	\$5,127

This week's 2nd collection is for Immaculate High School

Prayers for the Sick



Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Theresa Avento, Mary Jo Calamai, Patti Capilli, Bill Casey, Pat Gotimer, Jeanne Mastandrea, Tom McCarthy, Pat Ruhl and Jim Tornello.** 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.



NO CONFESSIONS 2/18

Please note, there will be no confessions next Saturday, February 18th.

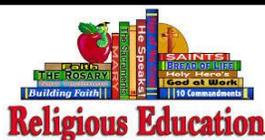


You Can Play an Important Role in Our Ministry

Do you know someone going through a difficult time who could benefit from the focused care, encouragement and support of a Stephen Minister? If you know of someone who is hurting, talk to one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders, Mary Ann O'Grady – 203-438-5610 or Jack Hughes – 203-665-0054. They can talk with you about how we can connect the person you know with one of our Stephen Ministers. It's a great way to show how much you care!

Senior Citizen Lunch

Calling all Senior Citizens! Please join us at our next luncheon this Tuesday, February 14. Rosary begins in the Hall at 11:30, Mass will be at 12:00, with lunch to follow. Call the School office to RSVP by Monday February 13th, 203-438-7288.



20th ANNIVERSARY



Saint Mary School
RIDGEFIELD

Foreign Language at Saint Mary School

Did you know that research shows that elementary school students who learn a second language have improved test scores, better musical skills, better attention skills, and a higher level of proficiency in reading, writing and speaking compared to those who started in middle school or high school?

Students of all ages are learning languages at SMS! Our Preschool 3's and 4's and TK students take Spanish each week. Students in Kindergarten-Grade 5 take Spanish and French each week, and Middle School students pick either Spanish or French, and take it daily. In addition, the K-8 students participate in a World Language Expo each year, which features songs, food, dress, and booths from Spanish and French speaking countries around the world.

Saint Mary School is currently enrolling students in select grades of Preschool through Grade 8 for the 2016-2017 school year, as well as accepting applications 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

Story of St. Valentine



The Roman Emperor Claudius II fought many wars and needed a strong army, but many men did not want to be soldiers. Claudius noticed that many men wanted to stay home with their wives and children instead of fighting wars so he decided to cancel all marriages! No one in all of Rome was permitted to marry.

Valentine, a priest, believed that people needed to get married to avoid being tempted to sin. So he secretly and illegally married couples anyway. He performed the weddings in secret places, so the Roman soldiers would not find out. But they did find out. Valentine was arrested and brought before the Emperor. The Emperor thought Valentine was a well-spoken and wise young man, and encouraged him to stop being a Christian and become a loyal Roman. Valentine would not deny his beliefs, and he refused. He was sent to prison until he could be executed. While he was in prison, he sent out letters to his friends and asked to be prayed for by writing *Remember your Valentine*. Valentine was killed on the 14th or the 24th of February in the year 269 or 270. We celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14th in honor of St. Valentine.

Although it is not known whether this legend is factually true, it is a good story anyway. It is nice to think of someone who believed in marriage and was willing to risk death to do what he believed was right. --abcteach.com

GIFTS FOR ALL: Liturgy of the Word for Children with Special Needs is next scheduled for February 12th and February 26th at our 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.

Reconciliation: Our Grade 2 children have begun prep for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Reception of the Sacrament will be on March 7th, 8th or 9th. Please call our Rel Ed Office, 203-438-7335 for more info.

Women's Empowerment Drive: Drop off toiletries, makeup and new or gently used handbags at the RE office before 2/21.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE



"The victims of this [throwaway] culture are precisely the weakest and most fragile human beings — the unborn, the poorest, the sick and elderly, the seriously handicapped, etc. — who are

in danger of being 'thrown away,' expelled from a system that must be efficient at all costs.

—Pope Francis www.smcr.org/respect-life

Save the Date

DISCIPLES 4 LIFE RETREAT

St. Mary Parish Retreat

March 24 - 26, 2017

Seton-Neumann Center
Danbury, CT

LUKE 5:1-11

Give your sweetheart a gift certificate for the D4L Retreat for Valentines' Day! Go to www.smcr.org for details.



DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Let us pray that as the new administration repeals the health care mandate that it not only restore the Church's First Amendment right to religious freedom, but also makes coverage accessible to all Americans.

CATHOLIC ACTION

ONGOING

St. Peter's Run



This is a wonderful group activity! Please join our Catholic Action Team prepare and deliver lunches to the children of our Sister Parish, St. Peter's, Bridgeport on Saturdays. As there are no soup kitchens

open in Bridgeport on the weekends, food support is greatly needed for the families of our Sister parish, especially during the winter months. We ask that you consider providing a bag lunch meal to about 200 children of St. Peter's who are enrolled in their Religious Ed program. Reimbursement for the cost is available. Thank you for considering serving Christ through the poor. Go to www.smcr.org for more info or to sign up.

DONATE: Food Pantries

During the month of February, collected food goes to the St. Joseph Parenting Center, whose mission is to strengthen families that are at risk of child abuse and neglect by providing free parenting education and support. Collection bins are in the Church and Hall.

Important Notice - Cemetery Clean-up

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, please refrain from placing any new decorations during this clean up period.



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.

SAVE THE DATE!

Special Needs Seminars: Wednesday, March 29th, 7-8:30pm, Knights of Columbus Hall, Greenwich & Thursday, March 30th, 7-8:30pm, St. Pius Community Room, Fairfield. More details coming soon!

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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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	O	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

Prayer is & should be a large part of our lives. There are many forms of prayer. Sincere prayer puts us in communion with God keeping an open dialogue with Him. With Lent approaching next month, let us take this opportunity to pray in our Adoration Chapel. Please sign up for an hour by calling Bill/Monica @ 914-533-2832. Consider these hours for coverage: SUN: 2-3am, 3-4am, 4-5am, 1-2pm; MON: 1-2am, 8-9am, 1-2pm; TUES: 1-2am; WED: 1-2pm; THURS: 1-2am, 10-11pm; FRI: 3-4am, 8-9am.

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!



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.

Homily Survey

Your feedback is valued and appreciated!
The survey link is on our website, www.smcr.org