

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 28, 2018



Sisters of Life Thank You to our Mothers' Club and Giving Tree

We, the Sisters of Life, would like to say a huge THANK-YOU to all the parishioners and members of the Mother's club at St. Mary's who donated to us over Christmas. We are so very grateful for your exceptional generosity and kindness. The gifts you give are the visible sign of God's love and providence in caring for the mothers and babies who live with us. Truly we couldn't do it without your support and your prayers. May the Lord bless you and your families in this New Year.

In Christ our Life

The Sisters of Life

Yes, once again, on behalf of our Parish, I am very grateful to our Saint Mary Parish Mothers' Club for organizing once again our Advent/Christmas Giving Tree, which helped so many families, individuals and charitable organizations.

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz

Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, January 29

2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Mk 5:1-20
 7:00 AM Louise & Elmer Waltz
 12:00 PM John Hyland

TUESDAY, January 30

2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/Mk 5:21-43
 7:00 AM Catherine McGavin
 12:00 PM Louis Remza - 4th Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, January 31

2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Mk 6:1-6
 7:00 AM Bruce Cunningham
 12:00 PM Angelo Mannarino

THURSDAY, February 1

1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/Mk 6:7-13
 7:00 AM Angelo Mannarino
 12:00 PM Santina Stroligo

FRIDAY, February 2

Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
 7:00 AM Joseph Schmid
 9:00 AM Sean Donovan
 12:00 PM Georgine Tulipani

SATURDAY, February 3

1 Kgs 3:4-13/Mk 6:30-34
 8:00 AM Donald B. Gioffre
 4:30 PM John Fagas

SUNDAY, February 4

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39
Church

7:30 AM Parishioners of the Parish
 9:15 AM Joseph Comunale
 11:15 AM Patricia Maguire

Hall

10:30 AM Charlotte Keidel
 12:00 PM Ellen Conway Cahill
 5:00 PM Dorothy Lorden



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

January 21, 2018	\$22,869	\$69,571
January 22, 2017	\$26,596	\$70,303

Hospitality House		
2018	\$5,723	
2017	\$5,829	

Prayers for the Sick

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Olivia Avate**,

Fr. John Baran, Sally Gagliardi Jeanne Mastandrea, Pat Ruhl and Jane Ventrella.

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 Family of God **Nora Erin Madhoun, Elena Joclyn Roberts and Sullivan James Vick** who were baptized in our Church last week.



Love One Another as I have Loved You In John 15:12, Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that

you love one another as I have loved you." Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to others. If you know of someone going through a difficult time, talk to one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders, Mary Ann O'Grady – 203-438-5610 or Jack Hughes – 203-665-0054. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They help bring the healing power of Christ's love.

Register at our Parish! It's easy. Stop by our Parish Office or go to our website. We welcome you!



PRE-BAPTISM CLASS

Pre-Baptism instruction is required for parents who have not had any within five years and wish to have their child baptized. Our next class will be held Wednesday, **March 14th** from 7:30-

8:30pm in the Barn. Please call our Parish Office to register.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY HOSPICE HOUSE OPENS

(The first residential home for individuals receiving home hospice care in the State of CT)

Stamford, CT – On January 11, 2018, the Fairfield County Hospice House opened its door to residents. Dedicated to filling a need for those receiving home hospice care in Fairfield County and surrounding communities, the House provides 24-hour private assisted living services for individuals receiving home hospice care from an accredited hospice agency and offers people a place to find meaning and joy in their final days. This new 10,000 square foot home is located in a residential neighborhood at One Den Rd in Stamford, easily accessible to Merritt Parkway and north and south corridors to Interstate 95.

For more information, visit fchospicehouse.org or call Terry Robustelli, Executive Director at 203-921-5111, Ext. 7.

Religious Education



Our Grade 7 Family Mass will be the Noon Mass on Sunday, February 11th.

Confirmation classes are on February 11th and 12th. This month's theme is Reconciliation. Service forms are due as well as the Gospel Reflections for the month of January.

Family Formation classes are on February 4th, 5th, and 6th, as we study the Covenants that God made with Noah, Abraham and Moses.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE



The child, by reason of higher physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth. --*United Nations' Declaration of the Rights of the Child*
Join us for our next Respect Life meeting on February 7 at 7:00 PM in the Day Chapel.
www.smcr.org/respect-life



DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Fifty years ago, the Second Vatican Council adopted a declaration on religious freedom called, *Dignitatis Humanae*. In it, it says that religious freedom includes the freedom to practice our faith in public. In our culture, some tend to think that religious liberty means only that individuals can worship without interference from the government. This understanding is inadequate. Religious schools, hospitals, and charities should be able to operate in accordance with their faith. Indeed, the work of these organizations is part and parcel of their faith. They are expressions of religious mission, and religions must have the space to live out their missions.

Let us pray that legislators who work to replace the federal health care mandate will read and be inspired by *Dignitatis Humanae*.



Please be considerate of others. If you are not feeling well, please stay home from Mass and get better!

20th ANNIVERSARY



Saint Mary School

RIDGEFIELD

Open Houses

Work Hard. Be Kind. Smile. This is the student version of the Saint Mary School mission statement, and is heard every day at the end of morning prayers and announcements. It is visible on the walls of our classrooms and in the behaviors of our students and staff. It is what makes SMS such a special community.

We invite you to come take a closer look. Saint Mary School will be holding a Kindergarten – Grade 8 Open House on Thursday, February 8th from 9-10 am, and a Preschool Open House on Friday, February 9th 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.



FAITH FORMATION CORNER

Praying with the Saints

The saints help us in two main ways: as companions and as patrons. As companions, they offer us examples of how to lead Christian lives. But they do so in particular ways. St. Peter was different from St. Francis of Assisi, who was in turn different from St. Therese of Lisieux. Each saint was holy in his or her own way, and their individual lives show us that we can be holy in our own ways. Being a saint means being yourself—nothing more, but more important, nothing less. The saints are also our patrons, the ones who pray for us. Some people misunderstand this aspect of Catholicism, believing that Catholics “worship” the saints, as if they were God. Of course the saints are not God—and they would be the first to tell you this! Some people also mistakenly think Catholics believe saints “answer” prayers. No, God does this. Saints simply pray for us in heaven, much as a friend on earth would pray for us. We also pray with the saints by reading their writings, meditating on their lives and finally, by following their examples—helping the poor, living a prayerful life, and exercising charity. In this way, their roles as patron and companion are joined, and we find ourselves slowly becoming saints in our own lives. *In All Seasons For All Reasons – J. Martin, SJ*

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.**

More info contact Jim Orkin, 914-420-7564, jamesorkin@gmail.com. No meetings 2/18 and 4/1.

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 January, collected food goes to the Saint Joseph Parenting Center. 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



The Pilgrim Virgin statue was damaged on her last visit and will not be able to travel for several months until repairs are made. Our Lady's message to all remains the same: Pray the rosary daily for world peace and the conversion of sinners.

RCIA

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - will celebrate the Rite of Sending at the 11:15 Mass on February 11th. This Rite marks the end of the period of the catechumenate and ushers in the period of purification and enlightenment as they prepare to be received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. The candidates will meet Bishop Caggiano at the Rite of Election or Enrollment of Names on February 18th at St Theresa Church in Trumbull. Please keep these catechumens and candidates of the Diocese in your prayers. *This group is open to anyone who would like to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation and/or Holy Eucharist. All are welcome to join and learn more about the Catholic Faith. For more info, call Pat Postiglione, 203-438-7335 or ppostiglione@smcr.org*

EUCHARISTIC 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 = permanent or substitute adorer **urgently** needed.
X = there is at least 1 adorer. 2 adorers are desired.
Blank 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	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	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
10am-11am	X	X		X		X	X
11am-12N	X	X	O	X	X		X
12N-1pm	X	X		X	X	X	X
1pm-2pm	O	X		X	X	X	O
2pm-3pm	X	X	X	X		X	X
3pm-4pm		X	X		X	X	X
4pm-5pm	X			X	X	X	X
5pm-6pm	X			X	X		X
6pm-7pm	X	X	X		X	X	X
7pm-8pm	X	X				X	X
8pm-9pm		X	X	X		X	X
9pm-10pm	O	X	X	X		X	X
10pm-11pm		X	X	X	X	X	X
11pm-12M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

How many of us have asked ourselves many times "How can I improve?" Jesus wants us to love, cherish & respect our own lives as well as those of others, appreciating & being content with what we have, sharing with others & living by the golden rule. God continuously guides us, but do we follow what He tells us? Come visit Him as much as possible in the Adoration Chapel where He waits for each one of us & seek His direction. Join us as an adorer by either going online to sign up or to call Bill & Monica at 914-533-2832. 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!



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.**

January 2019 Mass Intentions will be available at the Parish Office beginning February 1, 2018.