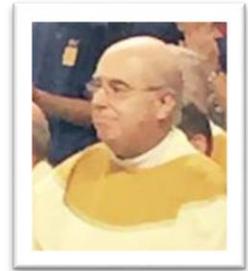


Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 22, 2018



Follow His Example

One of the greatest challenges in life, and I am sure that at least some of you will agree with me, is occasionally going through the stuff that one accumulates in the course of a lifetime and deciding what to get rid of and what to keep. Not an easy thing to do for people who like to collect things and do not want to let go. I am a collector. I admit it. I should be in a 12-step program for collectors or packrats as we are sometimes called. People who tend to keep anything and everything because we believe for some strange reason that the stuff, whatever it happens to be, will be useful or necessary at some point in the future.

I have kept a lot of the books I used when I was preparing for the priesthood, both here in the United States and in Rome. Textbooks which have yellowed with age. Their bindings have lost their freshness. When I open them up the marginal notes I made as a student in my 20s are still quite readable. Once in a while I come across a not so complimentary comment about the professor of the course. And I can recall where I sat in the class and my fellow students seated close by, all of us learning with varying degrees of enthusiasm.

Recently I was indulging my love of the past and discovered a piece of old stuff as I said earlier. It is a term paper I wrote for a course on John's Gospel at the Pontifical Gregorian University where I did my undergraduate and graduate theological work. The seminar director was a young, demanding English Jesuit biblical scholar – Fr. Peter Purdue. The topic of my paper was a piece of today's Gospel from the 10th chapter of John. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep, a fact we solemnly celebrated a few weeks ago.

I got a very good grade for that paper – an A minus. I analyzed the passage pretty well, going back to the Biblical Greek. He complimented my 61 footnotes and my 31 bibliographical sources.

Father Purdue, realizing that he was teaching men who were preparing for the priestly service around the world, would always add some incisive comments or questions.

At the end of my paper he wrote the following: "A fine paper overall and a very relevant topic as you prepare for priestly ministry in your Diocese. The topic of your paper transcends this course. It goes to the heart of what Jesus Christ has called you to be – a Good Shepherd. Follow his example."

I am glad I kept that paper.

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz

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

Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, April 23

Acts 11:1-18/Jn 10:1-10

7:00 AM Mary S. and Jack L. Sullivan

12:00 PM Anna Primiano

TUESDAY, April 24

Acts 11:19-26/Jn 10:22-30

7:00 AM Andrew Murphy

12:00 PM Richard Postiglione

WEDNESDAY, April 25

1 Pt 5:5b-14/Mk 16:15-20

7:00 AM Joseph Blandino

12:00 PM Antonio Columbo

THURSDAY, April 26

Acts 13:13-25/Jn 13:16-20

7:00 AM Thomas Moore

12:00 PM Anthony Costa

FRIDAY, April 27

Acts 13:26-33/Jn 14:1-6

7:00 AM Marjorie Tarsi

12:00 PM Joan Baldaserini - 10th Anniversary

SATURDAY, April 28

Acts 13:44-52/Jn 14:7-14

8:00 AM Bridie Flattery

4:30 PM Diane May

SUNDAY, April 29

Acts 9:26-31/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

Church

7:30 AM Ridea Ligi

9:15 AM Thomas McCusker

11:15 AM Alice Nell - 2nd Anniversary

Hall

10:30 AM Elizabeth Betsy Kennally

12:00 PM Parishioners of the Parish

5:00 PM Deceased Members of the Kostiw Family



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY

YEAR-TO-DATE

April 8, 2018 \$20,444
April 9, 2017 \$24,162

Facility Repairs
April 8, 2018 \$4,256
April 30, 2017 \$4,735

April 15, 2018 \$22,619 \$350,334
April 16, 2017 \$23,613 \$347,118

Hospitality House
2018 \$5,295
2017 \$6,603

Prayers for the Sick

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Mike DeSerio, Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni, Shelagh Featherstone, Margaret Hughes, Lee & Scott McCaughey, Jennie Palmieri, Gloria Putnam, Vincent Ryan and Genevieve Sturz**: 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.



UPDATE ON THE FLU & DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

According to the latest from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (week ending 3/24/18):
In Connecticut, influenza activity is past peak, but we continue to observe an elevated percentage of patients presenting to hospital emergency departments and outpatient providers along with elevated numbers of flu-associated hospitalizations and deaths...Elevated flu activity will likely continue through the end of April in Connecticut.
With this in mind, Msgr. Bronkiewicz will reassess the situation in the coming weeks with the hope of resuming the distribution from the Cup and on the tongue in May. Thank you for your understanding.



Fair Donations: Jewelry & Accessories

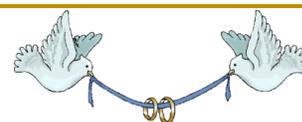


Our Fall Fair is in September. We are in need of donations of jewelry, jewelry boxes, jewelry displays, accessories (watches, sunglasses, scarves, etc.). Donation drop off: Parish Office. Thank you so much, in advance, for your generosity...Ruth VDN

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 on Wednesday, **May 9th** from 7:30-8:30 pm in the Barn. Please call our Parish Office to register.



Marriage Banns
III. Nicholas Formus – Crystal Morter

MEALS ON WHEELS

Do you know someone homebound, ill, disabled or recovering from surgery? Contact Meals on Wheels of Ridgefield at mealsonwheelsofridefield.org or 203-438-8788 to learn about our delicious, low cost program to help those unable to cook for themselves.



20th ANNIVERSARY



Saint Mary School
RIDGEFIELD

Read Across America

Saint Mary School students and staff recently celebrated "Read Across America" and Dr. Seuss' Birthday with a week-long celebration of reading:

- The whole school enjoyed daily Dr. Seuss trivia
- PK-Grade 8 students had "Fox in Socks Day" wearing crazy socks, "Cat in the Hat Day" with favorite hats, and "Dress as your favorite Character" day
- PK-8 students got to dress as their favorite book character
- Community guests, including First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Police Chief John Roche, Fr. Sean, and Ridgefield Library Children's Services Assistant Sonta Frindt, read to students.
- All students took the "Readers' Oath" and read together as a group in a culminating assembly

Saint Mary School is currently 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.



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." Loving and caring for one another is something Jesus has called us all to do. In Stephen Ministry, people with special gifts for caring put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who need it most. 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. Our Ministers are ready to provide focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care—to help that person experience the healing power of Christ's love.



DIVORCE & SEPARATION SUPPORT GROUP meets Sundays at 7:30pm in the Barn, next to our Church. All faiths welcome!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Dorothy Day House of Hospitality

Join our DD volunteers to occasionally prepare salads and/or a tray of food for the main course that we serve the third Sunday of each month. Please contact mbreilly28@gmail.com if interested.

GREASE THE MUSICAL WITH A TWIST COMING TO IHS!

GREASE, the stage play combined with music from the popular movie, will be performed April 26, 27 & 28 at Immaculate High School in Danbury. This production is great for children and adults of all ages and makes for a great family night! Tickets are now on sale and sell out quickly! Go to www.immaculatehs.org/grease to order tickets to a production that has entertained families for nearly 50 years. Tickets are \$25 for reserved seating, \$20 for adults and \$15 for students/seniors. Immaculate High School has won prestigious Halo and other awards for their dramas and musicals and this show will be performed with the same level of dedication, costumes/props and talent as before!



FAITH FORMATION CORNER



Baptism

Pope Francis spoke about the Sacrament of Baptism at a recent Papal Audience, emphasizing the importance of the Catholic practice of baptizing infants, since the grace of the Holy Spirit helps them to grow in virtue.

"Why baptize a child who does not understand?" the pope asked. "When we baptize a child, the Holy Spirit enters that child, and the Holy Spirit makes... the Christian virtues grow in that child, who will then flourish."

Though we hope that when a child grows up he or she will understand and desire Baptism for themselves, to withhold the Sacrament from a child "means not trusting in the Holy Spirit," he said.

"We must always give this opportunity to everyone, to all children, to have inside of them the Holy Spirit that will guide them throughout their lives. Do not forget to baptize children!"



Save the date for this year's praise and worship! The annual Parish music event will take place Saturday, June 9 at 7:00 PM. in the Parish Hall. Stay tuned for more details coming soon!

CATHOLIC ACTION

MIDNIGHT RUN

The next scheduled Midnight Run is April 27th. Needed items: medium to lightweight jackets, hooded sweatshirts, jeans, new underwear (M-XL), socks, blankets, backpacks, lightly used sneakers & shoes, and travel size toiletries, including toothpaste and mouthwash. Drop off donations at the Barn from 7:30am to 3:30pm, April 23-26. Volunteers are needed to sort and fold clothing, pick up and return the van and to go on the Run. To volunteer, call Bob Wendel, 914-325-6860.



DONATE: FOOD PANTRY

Food collected in April 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 = 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
5am-6am	X	X	X	X		X	X
6am-7am	X	X	X	X		X	O
7am-8am	X	O	X	X	X	X	O
8am-9am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
9am-10am	X	X	X		X	X	X
10am-11am	X	X		X		X	X
11am-12N	O	X	X	X	X		O
12N-1pm	X	X		X	X	X	X
1pm-2pm	X	X		X	X	X	O
2pm-3pm	X	O	X	X		X	X
3pm-4pm	X	X	X		X	X	X
4pm-5pm	X				X	X	X
5pm-6pm	X			X	X		X
6pm-7pm	X	X	X		X	X	O
7pm-8pm	X	X				X	X
8pm-9pm	X	X	X			X	X
9pm-10pm	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10pm-11pm	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11pm-12M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Our passage through life moves very quickly. Attitudes & situations change. One minute we are loved, the next rejected. The jubilation expressed when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem was short-lived. Jesus was the same man when He arrived as when the crowd turned on Him soon after calling for His death. Fickleness & insensitivity of the crowd caused them to change & condemn. On our own life's journey toward heaven, we keep Jesus & His teachings etched in our hearts continuously striving to do & be what He expects of us. Those who spread negativity around us should be eliminated from our lives as we focus on our relationship with God. Come to the Adoration Chapel & share God's unconditional love. Call Bill or Monica at 914-533-2832 to sign up for chapel. 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!

RCIA

RCIA 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 our Catholic Faith. For more info, call Pat Postiglione, 203-438-7335 or ppostiglione@smcr.org



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 IS BACK!

The Pilgrim Virgin statue is ready to travel to your home upon request. The message of Fatima remains the same and is more urgent than ever: say the Rosary daily for peace in the world, pray for the conversion of sinners and observe First Saturday Devotion. To arrange for a visit of the Pilgrim Virgin statue to your home, please call Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341 or email at jstoveken@comcast.net.



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.**