

Welcome



St. Mary's Church

Simsbury, Connecticut

PASTOR

Reverend Frank J. Matera

PAROCHIAL VICAR
Reverend Ramon Garcia

DEACON

Mr. Arthur Miller



www.stmarysimsbury.org

MASSES:

Monday - Saturday: 8:00 AM

Sunday Vigil (Saturday Evening): 5:00 PM

Sunday: 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 AM

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 3:00 - 4:00 PM

BAPTISMS: First Sunday of the month (during the 11:00 am Mass) and third Sunday of the month by appointment. Required Baptism Preparation Program, please call the Parish Office.

WEDDINGS: Couples please call for appointments at least six months in advance.

SICK CALLS: Please notify the Parish Office if someone in your family is hospitalized and would like a visit. Under HIPAA Regulations, hospitals are not allowed to notify us.

VISITORS: Thank you for worshipping with us. If you would like to join our parish, please give us a call or email us at parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org

DIRECTORY

Parish Office: 3 Massaco Street, PO Box 575
860-658-7627 Fax: 860-658-7626

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:30-4:00 PM
Friday: 8:30- 12:00 PM

Rev. Frank Matera: x301

Rev. Ramon Garcia: x305

Deacon Arthur Miller: x113

Parish Office: x306
parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org

Business Manager: x303
businessmanager@stmarysimsbury.org

Bookkeeper: x307
bookkeeper@stmarysimsbury.org

Religious Education Grades 1-6: x304
RelED1-6@StMarySimsbury.org

Religious Education Grades 7-10: x302
RelEd7-10@stmarysimsbury.org

Youth Ministry: x302
youthministry@stmarysimsbury.org

Stephen Ministry: x114
stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org

St. Mary's School: (860) 658-9412

ST. MARY'S PARISH, SIMSBURY

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 8:00 AM 5:00 PM	NOVEMBER 14 Mark Cummings By: The Ronning Family
Sunday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM 5:00 PM	NOVEMBER 15 George Hillegass In Loving Memory By: Vic & Mary Lou Daley Robert Henderson In Loving Memory By: Carole & Lou Pepe People of St. Mary's Parish High School Mass
Monday 8:00 AM	NOVEMBER 16 Ruth M. Colby Birthday Remembrance By: Vic & Mary Lou Daley
Tuesday 8:00 AM	NOVEMBER 17 Judith Ann Kolarik By: Tuesday Morning Bible Group
Wednesday 8:00 AM	NOVEMBER 18 Judith Ann Kolarik By: Mike & Joanne Dunn
Thursday 8:00 AM	NOVEMBER 19 Bob Roden In Loving Memory By: Ron & Dorothy Miller
Friday 8:00 AM	NOVEMBER 20 Linda Callahan In Loving Memory By: The Perissi Family
Saturday 8:00 AM 5:00 PM	NOVEMBER 21 Ernst Mollo By: Josephine Mollo Howard Miller (Father of Dave Miller) Birthday Remembrance By: The Duff Family
Sunday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM 7:00 PM	NOVEMBER 22 Dorthy Anastasio By: Her Family Virginia Morgan By: The Everett Family People of St. Mary's Parish Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Deceased: Please pray for Anna B. Forcucci. May she rest in peace of Christ.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Second Collection: Next week's collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) needs your help. CCHD was founded to end the cycle of poverty in the United States by funding organizations that help individuals help themselves. With the tradition of improving education, housing situations, and community economic development, CCHD continues to make a positive impact in communities nationwide. Your contribution will defend human dignity and reach out to those living on the margins. Please give to the CCHD collection.

Governor's House: Join Father Garcia and the residents of Governor's House on Tuesday, November 17th for Mass at 2:30 PM. Families and adults are welcome to attend as well as children since this is an early release day for Simsbury elementary schools. By visiting these residents you show them that they are not forgotten and you also practice Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy of visiting the sick and the homebound. Any questions or concerns please contact Sandy Everett at (860) 214-6557 by either text or call. We will be meeting on the stairs at 2:25 PM.

St. Mary's Bereavement Group: For those who have lost someone and are in need of support and guidance in the grieving process we meet this Sunday, November 15th in the lower church at 12:00 PM. We look forward to seeing you.

Christmas Youth Choir: The Christmas Youth Choir will rehearse on three Thursdays, December 3rd, December 10th, and December 17th from 5:00 PM - 5:45 PM inside the church. All children old enough to learn the words to traditional Christmas carols are invited to participate. The choir sings prior to the 6:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve starting at 5:30 PM. Please see Music Director Gena Sullivan after Mass if you have any questions.

Parish Library - Grand Opening: Join us for the grand opening of our Parish Library on Saturday, November 21 at 6:00 PM. The library is located in the lower church. An Open House with refreshments will take place after the Saturday evening vigil Mass. Need help with parenting? Grieving the loss of a loved one? Want to know more about the Holy Trinity? Come explore the resources now available to you-- we hope you will find it a source of endless inspiration for your spiritual growth.

November A Time to Remember

A Catholic Understanding of Eternal Life (3)

November is the month we remember the faithful departed. Last week, I wrote about the Mystery of Death. Today, I write about the Mystery of Eternal Life.

Some years ago I was at a wake, and the family was talking about the deceased. I did not know the family very well. While the family was clearly distraught about the death of their mother, they were consoled by the assurance she was already enjoying eternal life. They were consoled by the thought she was now enjoying her evening cocktail once more with her husband who had predeceased her!

As I thought about this conversation, two things struck me. First, the family had some kind of faith in eternal life; they did not believe death was the end of life. Second, their understanding of eternal life, or at least the way they expressed it, was very much like this life. As they understood eternal life, heaven is a place where we continue to do what we are already doing.

So what do we mean by eternal life? What do we believe in? What are we hoping for? To be sure we cannot answer these questions perfectly because we have not yet experienced eternal life. It will only be when we experience eternal life that we will understand what it is. And even then we will not know it completely since it will be ever new. But there are some things we do know through our Catholic faith.

First, Jesus has already entered into the fullness of this eternal life through his resurrection from the dead. When God raised Jesus from the dead, God brought him into the fullness of his own life. Resurrection life, then, is eternal life. But what do we mean by the resurrection of the dead? What does it mean to say God raised Jesus from the dead? What does it mean to say God will raise us from the dead?

Second, it is important not to confuse resurrection from the dead with resuscitation from the dead. If resurrection from the dead means resuscitation from dead, then we would die again. Resuscitation is simply a return to our old way of life. The people at the wake service I mentioned above gave the impression their mother had returned to her former way of life. She was now having evening cocktails in heaven with her husband as she did in the past. But if resurrection is not a matter of returning to our old way of life, what is it?

St. Paul describes resurrection life in 1 Corinthians 15 as *transformation*. At the resurrection of the dead we will be changed and transformed. Our earthly body will become what St. Paul calls a *spiritual body* because it will be transformed by the power of God's Holy Spirit. At the moment of resurrection, we will enter into a new way of being we cannot even imagine—we will enter into the very life of God. At the resurrection of the dead, St. Paul assures us, we shall be like the risen Christ.

So what is heaven? Well, it's not a place out there. No matter how far we travel in the cosmos, even if we go to its very edge, we are not going to find a "place" called heaven. Heaven is life with and in God. When God raises us from the dead as he raised Jesus from the dead, we will enter into the fullness of God's life. We will enter into a new way of being that we will not understand until we enter into it. And even then, this new way of being will always be new because it is the very life of God.

I believe in eternal life because I believe in resurrection life. I believe in God who raised Jesus from the dead and so will raise us from the dead. Exactly how this new life will come about, I do not know. What it will be like, I do not know. But I know it will be the fullness of life because in God's way, in God's time, I will experience the very life of God. This life has already begun for us who believe in Christ; and it will come to its fruition when God raises us from the dead. *Father Matera*

November 15, 2015

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Simsbury Interfaith Thanksgiving Service: St. Mary's Parish is honored to host this year's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Clergy and choirs from local synagogues and churches will participate. The Reverend Woody Eddins, the Pastor of the Simsbury United Methodist Church will deliver the sermon. Since we are the host church, please join us next Sunday evening at 7:00 PM so that we will have a good showing from our parish.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grade Level Mass: On Sunday, November 22nd Grades 4-6 will be featured at the 9:30 Mass.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Turkey Trot: This frozen turkey drive was started by our beloved parishioner, Mr. Jack Bannan. The goal this year is a collection of 2,015 frozen turkeys. Help us load the refrigerated truck in the HJMS parking lot any time after school on November 18 until 8:00p.m! Contact Kathleen Keating, our Youth Minister, youth-ministry@stmarysimsbury.org if you are interested in this service opportunity.

OTHER NEWS

WJMJ: Be part of the Catholic radio WJMJ Radiothon starting Thursday November 19 to Monday the 23 and keep your favorite uplifting music, inspirational messages and religious news on the air. WJMJ, *Where Faith Meets Life*, on the FM dial near Hartford at 88.9, around New Haven at 107.1 and www.WJMJ.org on the Internet.

Catherine's Place: (St. Patrick and St. Anthony's Church) in Hartford. On Wednesday, November 18th, we will be feeding approximately 16 women at this transitional home for homeless women in recovery. We are in need of main dishes, salads, bread and desserts and a few volunteers. Please contact Lorraine Rippel at (860) 658-6438 or lrippel@aol.com.

ADVENT CANDLES

Advent Wreaths & Candles: Kits to make Advent Wreaths will be available for purchase next weekend (November 21st & November 22nd) and the following weekend (November 28th & November 29th) at the exits of the church. The lighting of the Advent Wreath in your home is an excellent way to celebrate Advent and prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

ADULT ENRICHMENT

Sunday Morning Adult Enrichment Program: Please join us before or after the 9:30 AM mass for coffee and time to chat. For those of you feeling rushed lately, this is your time to slow down a bit and relax with friends.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study: Bible Study with Deacon Art is held in the Parish Center beginning at 7:00 PM. Bring a bible and a friend - all are welcome!

** Join us at 6:10 PM for Lectio Divina in the portable classrooms and/or 6:45 in the Parish Center for prayers for healing and special intentions. **

Please go to our website stmarysimsbury.org, click on Faith Formation, then click on Bible Study for further details. Our next class is Tuesday, November 24th.

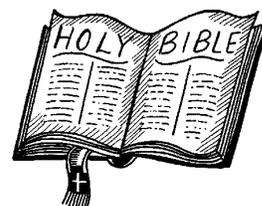
St. Mary Contemplative Prayer Group: Will meet Sunday, November 15th. We meet from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM in the Lower Church on the first and third Sunday of each month. A newcomer orientation will start at 6:30 PM For more information please contact Mike Smoolca (msmoolca@hotmail.com) at (860) 798-8992, (ejgraham08@gmail.com) Ellen Graham or visit the St Mary's website.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

Sock Collection: November Is Sock Collection Month! Our fifth graders are collecting socks for the House of Bread as their community service project for the month of November. Socks donations are needed in children's sizes, 5-7 and adult sizes 6-12. Please see our bulletin board in the Parish Center for more information.

Giving Thanks to Our Local Seniors: Eighth Grade students and parents are busy preparing for our annual Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon on Wednesday, November 18th. This is a greatly anticipated event for our eighth graders as they serve over 200 local senior citizens a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

Follow SMS on Twitter: Want the latest news at SMS? Follow us at [TheScoop@SMS_Knights](https://twitter.com/TheScoop@SMS_Knights).



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