

Welcome



St. Mary's Church

Simsbury, Connecticut

PASTOR

Reverend Frank J. Matera

PAROCHIAL VICAR
Reverend Ramon Garcia

DEACON

Mr. Arthur Miller



www.stmarysimsbury.org

MASSSES:

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

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday 8:00 AM	NOVEMBER 21 Ernst Mollo By: Josephine Mollo
5:00 PM	Howard Miller (Father of Dave Miller) Birthday Remembrance By: The Duff Family
Sunday 8:00 AM	NOVEMBER 22 Dorothy Anastasio By: Her Family
9:30 AM	Virginia Morgan By: The Everett Family
11:00 AM	People of St. Mary's Parish
Monday 8:00 AM	NOVEMBER 23 Rose Voovaart By: Sylvia & David Bahre
Tuesday 8:00 AM	NOVEMBER 24 Judith Ann Kolarik In Loving Memory By: Ron & Dorothy Miller
Wednesday 8:00 AM	NOVEMBER 25 Kenneth Forcucci In Loving Memory By: Ann Forcucci
Thursday 9:00 AM	NOVEMBER 26 Thanksgiving Day Mass
Friday 8:00 AM	NOVEMBER 27 Marie L. Kelley In Loving Memory By: The Michael J. O'Hara Family
Saturday 8:00 AM	NOVEMBER 28 Joseph Amico In Loving Memory By: Richard & Joanne Leitao
5:00 PM	Arthur J. O'Grady (Father of Maureen Vaughn) In Loving Memory By: The Bourdon Family
Sunday 8:00 AM	NOVEMBER 29 People of St. Mary's Parish
9:30 AM	John J. Bruno Birthday Remembrance
11:00 AM	The Parents of Norma & Robert Gallagher By: Norma Gallagher

Second Collection: The collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) provides funding for groups that make lasting change and uplift the poor in the United States. CCHD's grants improve education, support economic development, and create affordable housing in low-income neighborhoods. Help us continue to defend human dignity and build communities of solidarity. Please give to the CCHD Collection.

Thanksgiving Mass: Please join us on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26th at 9:00 AM to give thanks to God for all of the blessings that have been bestowed upon us. There is no 8:00 AM Mass this day.

Parish Office Hours: The parish office will be closed on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 in honor of Thanksgiving.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard on Saturday, November 28th from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

Advent Wreaths & Candles: Kits to make Advent Wreaths are available for purchase this 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.

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.

Stephen Ministry Meeting: The Stephen Ministers will meet in the Lower Church for continuing education and supervision on Tuesday, November 24th at 7:00 PM.

Wine & Cheese Social: Join us after the 5:00 PM Vigil Mass on Saturday, December 5 in the Parish Center. You are invited to stop in before dinner and have some appetizers along with a glass of wine or juice. Hosted by our Social Committee.

Advent Evening Prayer: Begin Advent with a calming prayer time in the church on Tuesday, December 2, at 7:00 PM. This simple service consists of music, scripture and quiet - a calm in the midst of the rush.

Prayer Partner Cards Due: Thank you to all who have been praying for your special second grader as he/she prepares to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Please send your card to St. Mary's Church, P.O. 575, Simsbury, with the name of the child you were praying for on the envelope. Please send cards by December 1st.

Baptized: We welcome Samuel Moon who was baptized into Christ last week.

November A Time to Remember Preparing for the Funeral (4)

November is the month we remember the faithful departed. Last week, I wrote about the Mystery of Eternal Life. This week I would like to discuss how to prepare for a funeral.

The time of death is a traumatic moment, especially if someone dies suddenly and unexpectedly. Even in those moments when death comes after a long illness, it still remains difficult to accept. For while we may think we are prepared for the death of someone we love, we are never completely prepared for the sense of loss and separation that follows. Moreover, making funeral arrangements can be daunting, especially if one has not made them before.

Working with a funeral director can relieve a great deal of stress. The funeral director will lead and guide you through the process and provide you with guidance and information. Thus one of the first things to do is to contact a funeral director. The funeral director will then be in contact with the local parish to make arrangements for the Funeral Mass and burial.

At St. Mary's we meet with the family after their meeting with the funeral director to discuss the Funeral Mass. To assist people in this process we have prepared a Funeral Guide that lists the scriptural readings and appropriate music for the Funeral Mass, as well as guidelines for those who wish to say a few words after communion. You can access these guidelines on our website, www.stmarysimsbury.org. On the homepage, go to the tab on the top right called "resources." Click "funerals," and you will find a link to "funeral guide." As you discuss the funeral liturgy with the priest, keep the following in mind.

First, the Funeral Mass is a moment when we pray for the deceased and celebrate our faith in the resurrection of Christ, which is the reason for our hope for eternal life. The readings the Church has chosen for the funeral liturgy focus on our hope for resurrection life.

Second, the Funeral Mass provides opportunities for family members and friends to participate in the liturgy. For example, (1) they can read the scriptures, (2) bring up the gifts, (3) and one member can say a few words after communion about the deceased. Those who participate in the funeral liturgy should be people of faith who understand and believe in the central mystery that is being celebrated: the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our participation in that mystery.

Third, there is no need to create a funeral liturgy. The Church has already provided us with a powerful and faith-filled liturgy. Our task is to participate and share in it so that we can pray for the deceased, comfort the sorrowing, and celebrate our faith in the Lord's resurrection.

Father Matera

Please join us this Sunday Evening at 7:00 PM

Simsbury Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Hosted by St. Mary's Parish

Reception to follow in the Parish Center

November 22, 2015

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grade 2: On Monday, November 30th at 4:00 PM our 2nd graders who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation will meet Father Matera in the church for a tour of the Reconciliation Room.

No Religious Education: Due to the Thanksgiving holiday there will be no Religious Education on November 29th. Classes resume on December 6th.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Worship Rehearsal: There will be rehearsal on Saturday, November 28th at 7:00 PM in the lower church. This group will learn contemporary Christian music to lead worship at 5:00 PM youth Masses and Adoration. These are the same songs you've heard at Steubenville and Fan the Fire. For more information contact Kathleen Keating (reled7-10@stmarysimsbury.org).

ADULT ENRICHMENT

Sunday Morning Adult Enrichment Program: All parishioners are encouraged to come to the Lower Church and visit our new library. An Open House with refreshments will take place after this week's Saturday and Sunday Masses. *Need help with parenting? Grieving the loss of a loved one? Want to know more about the Holy Trinity?* Explore the resources now available to you. You will find it a source of endless inspiration for your spiritual growth.

Fourth Grade Parents: Please join your child in the Parish Center this Sunday to complete a service project.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study: Join us on Tuesday, November 24th for Bible Study with Deacon Art in the Parish Center beginning at 7:00 PM. Bring a bible and a friend - all are welcome!

*** Prior to Bible Study join us at 6:10 PM for Lectio Divina in the portable classrooms and/or 6:45 PM 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.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Simsbury Interfaith Thanksgiving Service: Please join us this Sunday evening at 7:00 PM for the annual Simsbury Interfaith Thanksgiving Service that our parish will host. There will be clergy and choirs from neighboring churches and synagogues. Pastor Woody Eddins of the Simsbury United Methodist Church will preach. A reception will follow in the Parish Center.

SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Results: Last Spring the Archdiocese sent out a survey to all Catholics of the Archdiocese in order to gain information as the Archdiocese plans for its future. A few weeks ago, we received the results of that survey that came from our parish. About 200 of our parishioners filled out the survey. You can find the survey results on our parish website: www.stmarysimsbury.org. It is at the top of our web page.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

Standardized Testing: The Iowa Assessments are administered annually to our third through seventh grade school students. These tests assess the students' comprehension in math, science, language arts, and history. The results from the 2015 assessments place our Archdiocesan students well above grade level and the national standards.

Our secondary school students' 2015 SAT scores also demonstrate a high level of achievement. In all three areas of assessment; writing, critical reading, and math, students in the Hartford Archdiocese scored on average 30 plus points higher than the national and public school scores. These scores also exceed the SAT College and Career Readiness benchmark of 1550, confirming how remarkably well prepared our high school students are for success in college and beyond.

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.

OTHER

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols: Trinity Episcopal Church, Tariffville, will host its annual celebration of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 6, at 4:30 PM.

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