

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

Table with 2 columns: Day/Time and Intention. Rows include Saturday (5:00 PM), Sunday (8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM), Monday (8:00 AM), Tuesday (8:00 AM, 12:15 PM, 6:00 PM), Wednesday (8:00 AM), Thursday (8:00 AM), Friday (8:00 AM), Saturday (8:00 PM, 5:00 PM), and Sunday (8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM).

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception: This Tuesday, December 8th, is a Holy Day of Obligation. On this day the Church honors Mary who was conceived without Original Sin since she was to be the mother of God's Son. This day is also the patronal feast of our Parish. The original building of St. Mary's Church was on Plank Hill Rd. You can still see the church steps on Plank Hill Rd just above the Maple Tree Café. Our Parish was originally called the Church of the Immaculate Conception, and the rose window above the choir loft depicts Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception. Join us on this holy day, which is also our patronal feast day. Masses will be celebrated at

8:00 AM
12:15 PM (St. Mary's School)
6:00 PM

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard this Monday, December 7th, the first Monday of the month from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Giving Tree: Please visit the Giving Tree. Take a card and return it next week.

Second Collection: A parishioner writes, "As a Catholic school student from grades K-12, I was formed to be the person I am by many religious brothers and sisters, and I am forever grateful." Show your appreciation for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Christmas Youth Choir: The Christmas Youth Choir will rehearse this Thursday, December 10th, and next Thursday, 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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Join us on Monday, December 7 at 7:00 PM in the Lower Church. Are you interested in knitting or crocheting? Beginners to experts are welcome. We gather once a month to make shawls for parishioners to give others for comfort during times of illness or other occasions. For information, call Rhoda Obermeier (860) 651-4027.

Stephen Ministry Meeting: Stephen Ministers will meet in the Lower Church for continuing education and supervision on Tuesday, December 8 at 7:00 PM - 9:15 PM.

Bereavement Support Group: If you have lost someone and would like support please join our Bereavement Support Group after the 11:00 AM Mass on December 13. We will meet in the lower church. We hope to see you there.

Parish Council: The Parish Council will meet this Wednesday, December 9th at 7:00 PM in the Lower Church. The meeting is open to all parishioners of St. Mary's Parish

Advent 2015

Prepare the Way of the Lord (2)

On this second Sunday of Advent, John the Baptist takes center stage. The Gospel says that in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar (about 27 AD), the Word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, *in the desert*. It is significant that the Word of God did not make its appearance in the royal court of Tiberius Caesar at Rome, the most powerful ruler of the day. Nor did it make its appearance in the great temple of Jerusalem to any of the high priests. Rather, it made its appearance *in the desert*, to John, the son of Zechariah. God acts in strange and unexpected ways. And so, *in the desert*, far away from the political and religious powers of the day, the Word of God comes to John the son of Zechariah.

Filled with the Word of God, John goes forth and proclaims *prepare the way of the Lord*. Prepare the way of the Lord because God is bringing about a great reversal. Every lofty mountain will be brought low, and every valley will be exalted. That is, the first will be last, and the last will be first, because God is about to bring about a new act of salvation in Jesus Christ.

The prophet Baruch speaks about this salvation in today's first reading. He tells the city of Jerusalem, which has been overrun by its enemies, to put off its robe of mourning and to put on the splendor of God forever; for God is about the return her children who had been carried off to Babylon in exile. The city of Jerusalem will be renewed. The people will be renewed, and all will experience God's salvation once more.

As we hear this reading, we can apply what it says to ourselves and to the Church. God is about to do something new. Indeed God is always about to do something new. But if we hope to embrace God's new act of salvation, we must put off the old and put on the new.

In today's second reading, St. Paul prays that we may be pure and blameless on the Day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness. The Day of Christ is that moment at the end of the ages when Christ will come again. It is the day of Christmas when Christ will come to us in Christmas mystery with a further offer of grace and salvation.

The central theme of today's readings can be summarized in this way: *God is about to bring forth a new act of salvation, and we must be prepared to receive it*. We must hasten to meet the Lord who is coming to meet us. This is how the Opening Prayer of today's Mass summarizes the message of this Advent Season.

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
give us admittance to his company.

Advent is a time for us to hasten to meet the Lord, who is always coming to meet us with ever new offers of salvation. John the Baptist summons us to prepare a way for the Lord in our lives. The prophet Baruch tells us to set aside the past in order to embrace the Lord when he comes in all of his glory. And St. Paul reminds us that we must be ready to stand blameless before the Lord when he comes.

Make this Advent season a time to prepare for the coming of the Lord who will come in the mystery of Christmas and at the end of the ages.

Father Matera

December 6, 2015

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grade Level Mass: On Sunday, December 13th Grades 4-6 will be featured at the 9:30 Mass AM.

Youth Mass: Our next Mass will take place on December 13 at 5:00 PM. Please mark January 31, February 21, March 13, April 24, and May 15 on your calendars. All middle and high school students are encouraged to attend with family and friends! Small groups will meet afterwards at 6:00 PM at Saint Mary's School as usual.

Middle School Religious Ed & Confirmation Prep: Sunday, December 13 is our next session. Small groups will gather in the Parish Center for Catholic Prayer and Practice from 6:00-7:30 PM. Join us beforehand for the 5:00 PM Mass!

YOUTH MINISTRY

December calendar: This is an overview of the upcoming meetings which will all take place on Sunday nights from 7:45 PM to 9:00 PM. On December 6, there will be dodgeball, sandwich making, and Adoration. December 13 is an Advent movie night. On December 20, we will have a Christmas party and Adoration.

Youth Worship Band: We are seeking talented vocalists and musicians! Come learn contemporary Christian music to lead worship at 5:00 Sunday night youth Masses and Adoration during IGNITE meetings. Practices take place in the Lower Church on Saturdays from 6:00-7:00 PM. Contact Kathleen Keating, our Youth Minister youthministry@stmarysimsbury.org if you are interested.

OUTREACH

Catherine's Place: (St. Patrick and St. Anthony Church) in Hartford. On Thursday, December 10 and Wednesday, December 16 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, desserts and a few volunteers. During December we will also be giving small gifts of toiletries, so we will also accept items for personal care. Please call Lorraine Rippel at (860) 658-6438 or Email at lrippel@aol.com. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Breakfast With Santa: Breakfast with Santa Party for People with Special Needs will be held in the Parish Center on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 10-11:30 AM. If you would like to attend or volunteer to help, please call Carol Locandro (860) 658-2118 or MaryAnn Pilon (860) 651-7220.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Jubilee Year of Mercy: The Archdiocese of Hartford will inaugurate the *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, proclaimed by Pope Francis, next Sunday, December 13th, 2015 at 3:00 PM at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, 140 Farmington Ave., Hartford. The Jubilee Year will begin with the opening of the Holy Door at the Cathedral. This special liturgy will include a procession through the door, Evening Prayer, and Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. On this *Gaudete Sunday*, the Archdiocese of Hartford will prayerfully rejoice as our local Church strives to become more "Merciful like the Father" by practicing spiritual and corporal works of mercy in our local parishes and Archdiocese throughout this *Jubilee Year of Mercy*. Visit archdioceseofhartford.org for more information.

ADULT ENRICHMENT

Sunday Morning Adult Enrichment Program: Come join us today at 8:30 AM or 10:45 AM for a lively talk and discussion led by Deacon Art on the *Church's Jubilee Year of Mercy*. Starbucks, Duncan Donuts, and pastries will be served.

St. Mary's Annual Retreat: Our annual retreat weekends are scheduled for February 26-28 at our Lady of Calvary and March 18-20 at the Holy Family. Look for more information about the themes and registration at www.stmarysimsbury.org and click on Faith Formation.

Our Lady of Calvary Retreat: An Advent overnight at Our Lady of Calvary will be held on December 11-12 entitled *Mary. Our Mother*, reflects on the question "Who is the Mother of God?" Please visit www.ourladyofcalvary.net

Tuesday Evening Bible Study: Join us on Tuesday, December 15th 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.

St. Mary Contemplative Prayer Group: Set aside activity to pray in stillness and increase the intimacy of your relationship with God. We meet on Sunday, December 6 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, Ellen Graham (ejgraham08@gmail.com) or visit the St Mary's website.

Book Study: "The Joy of the Gospel" Join us this morning as we continue studying "The Joy of the Gospel". Click the title to see what chapters we are reading on Thursday, December 10 at 9:30 AM. For more information contact Joanne Russell (joanne.russell@comcast.net). All are welcome!

Andrew J. Ponichtera, DMD, MS
Cosmetic Dentistry
373 Hopmeadow St.
Weatogue, CT 06089
860-651-3319



DEITCH ENERGY, LLC
40 Woodland St. Rear
Hartford, CT 06105
860-728-5431
#2 FUEL OIL
BURNER & A/C SERVICE
& INSTALLATION
HOD-000924 • S-1-0402964

Meadon Brook of Granby
Health Care Excellence Brings Peace of Mind
Short Term Rehab • Hospice
Respite • Skilled Nursing
350 Salmon Brook Street, Granby, CT
(860) 653-9888
An Athena Health Care Systems Managed Facility

BEST PAINT... BEST ADVICE
Maher's Paint & Wallpaper LLC
Benjamin Moore Paints
369 West Main St.
Avon, CT 06001
(860) 678-1200
www.MahersPaint.com

D'Agata Granite & Bronze LLC
Granite & Bronze Cemetery Memorials
Distinctive Bronze Plaques
Memorial Cleaning & Lettering
739 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor
688-5977 • www.dagatagranite.com

KEVORKIAN & ASSOCIATES, LLC
Attorneys At Law
Estates and Trusts
Real Estate and Commercial Transactions
Gary R. Kevorkian, Esq. 18 Hartford Avenue
Kathleen M. Congero, Esq. Granby, CT 06035
Eileen C. Moskey, Esq. 860-653-5521
Website: www.kevorkianlawfirm.com

Friendly & Reliable Service.
860-844-3000
www.painesinc.com
A part of your neighborhood for three generations.
PAINE'S INC.
RECYCLING & RUBBISH REMOVAL

Tel. **(860) 242-5559**
Fax **(860) 243-3865**
L.J. Electric Co. Inc.
Residential • Commercial
Industrial
705 North Mountain Road Newington, CT 06111
Bud Klimas - President
Lic. 103941

COLDWELL BANKER

Jeanne McCusker
Coldwell Banker
Residential Brokerage
860-930-3277
jeanne.mccusker@cbmoves.com

MAGLIERI
Construction & Paving, Inc.
Greg Maglieri, Parishioner
39 West Dudley Town Rd.
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Tel. 860-242-0298
Fax: 860-286-9731
www.maglieri-construction.com



Erica Maglieri

(860) 324-6842
ericamaglieri@bhhsne.com
Call or e-mail Erica for all your real estate needs.
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices
New England Properties


Christensen Insurance, LLC
Simsbury
860-651-8236
www.insuranceagentswhocare.com

KEHOE REMODELING, INC.
 **860-693-4929** 
FREE ESTIMATES
"No Job Too Small"
www.KEHOEREMODELING.com
Tim Kehoe • Insured • CT Lic. #0624474

FRANKLIN PAINTING LLC
Your Neighborhood Painters
Faux • Wallpaper • Cabinet Refinishing
Residential Specialists • Interior & Exterior
Up to 15% Off for a limited time
860-678-7701
www.franklinpainting.com

Nate Miller
Owner/Auto Technician

Checked Flag Auto
20 Main Street, Tariffville, CT 06081
860-651-7976
checkeredflagauto.ilo@gmail.com
www.checkeredflagautorepair.com

Arthur Robert Sanfilippo
Owner
Arthur Roberts Custom Painting
Established 1988
Interior/Exterior
Residential/Commercial
Simsbury, CT **860-658-1535**

We Understand Commitment.
For decades, Edward Jones has been committed to providing financial solutions and personalized service to individual investors.
You can rely on us for:
• **Convenience**
Locations in the community and face-to-face meetings at your convenience
• **A Quality-focused Investment Philosophy**
A long-term approach that focuses on quality investments and diversification
• **Highly Personal Service**
Investment guidance tailored to your individual needs

Call or visit today.
 **Peter Mowry**
Financial Advisor
714 Hopmeadow St Suite 7
Simsbury, CT 06070
860-651-0849
peter.mowry@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC
Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices | New England Properties
Dorothy Tindall
... There's no place like home!
There's no time like the present to make that special move. Call me, I've got tips and solutions to make your Real Estate decisions go smoothly!
860-817-1592-Cell / 860-658-1981-Office
dorothytindall@bhhsNE.com
©2013 An independently operated member of BHH Affiliates. Equal Housing Opportunity

bhhsNEproperties.com

Farmington Valley Farmers Market
Sundays 11-2
Riverdale Farms Shopping
124 Simsbury Rd, Avon
f @fvfarmersmarket
fvfarmersmarket@gmail.com

THE WINE HOUSE
BEER • WINE • LIQUOR
860-658-6588
1356 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

Your Ad Here
SUPPORT OUR PARISH THROUGH LOCAL ADVERTISING
Contact Gail Stone to place an ad today!
GStone@4LPi.com or (800) 477-4574 x6376



WEBER INSURANCE 487-3435 Parish Member
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 487-9929

413-569-2400 **860-654-1975**
T.J. BARK MULCH

www.tjbarkmulch.com
25 Sam West Rd., P.O. Box 1168, Southwick, MA 01077
BARK MULCH & COLORED MULCH • DECORATIVE STONE
PLAYGROUND CHIPS • FIREWOOD • TOPSOIL
More than a grocery store An active member of the community for over 50 years

ISG
Integrated Security Group
Michael Veronese
mveronese@isgsecurity.com
tel 866.433.4474
fax 855.400.7FAX
SECURITY | FIRE | ACCESS CONTROL | VIDEO
KNOW HOW TO BE SECURE™


Fitzgerald's Great VALU
Best Under The Sun
710 Hopmeadow Street Simsbury, Connecticut
Open 7 days a week, 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Contact us

for solutions to help meet your financial needs at 860-653-0734. Our success is measured by your success.



Frank A. Schoenrock, CPA | Stephen K. Lucas, CPA

34 East Granby Road • PO Box 805
Granby, CT 06035

860-653-0734

www.schoenrockfinancial.com

Investments: amalo@cambridgesecure.com

Taxes: theresa@schoenrockfinancial.com

Frank Schoenrock Registered Representative. Securities offered through Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., a Broker-Dealer, Member FINRA/SIPC. Frank Schoenrock, Investment Advisor Representative, Cambridge Investment Research Advisors, Inc., a Registered Investment Advisor. Cambridge and Schoenrock Financial are not affiliated. Cambridge does not provide tax advice. © 2015

Our Services Include:

- Retirement Planning
- IRAs and 401(k)s
- SEPs and Simple IRAs
- Small Business Advising
- Business Startups
- Tax Planning and Preparation
- Insurance
 - Disability
 - Life
 - Long-term Care



Connecticut Eye Center, P.C.

Patrick F. Albergo, M.D.
BOARD CERTIFIED OPHTHALMOLOGIST
Duane F. Austin, M.D.
BOARD CERTIFIED OPHTHALMOLOGIST

639 Park Rd., W. Hartford, CT 06107
860.521.9230 • Fax 860.521.1709

35 Waterville Rd., Avon, CT 06001
860.409.7764 • Fax 860.409.7766

Kane's Market

A specialty food store

Open Sundays till 2 p.m.

- Quality Meats • First Class Deli
 - Fresh Produce • Custom Gift Baskets
 - Full Service Catering
- 1310 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT 06070
(860) 651-0614

Jerry Graham, D.D.S.
Avon Wellness Center
100 Simsbury Road, Avon, CT

860-606-0066

Quality dentistry in a comfortable and caring atmosphere

New Patients Welcome



QUALITY SCREENED TOPSOIL

3, 7 & 17 CY LOADS DELIVERED

Excavating & Grading

Call 860-658-3676

mgirard@simsCroft.com

BRISTOL'S

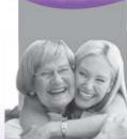


TREE SERVICE LLC
Steven Bristol
860•693•0143

P.O. Box 77, Canton Center, CT 06020
www.bristolstreeservice.com
Year Round Work - Winter Discounts
Available in the Farmington Valley
CT. Arborist License #62677



Experienced Home Care You Can Trust



Live life your way in the comfort of home! From a few hours to 24/7 care, we're there when & where you need us.

Call Home Helpers of Farmington Valley at 860.810.5212

Email at: kglaser@homehelpershomecare.com
Each office is independently owned & operated.

find out how far your heart can reach

Millions of people overseas depend on you. PLEASE HELP.

1-888-354-0060
CRS.ORG/cb



MOE'S TIRE AND AUTO

Never a Diagnostic Fee for Check Engine Lights

10% Senior and Veteran Discount

except for already discounted services & tires.

Oil Change \$19.99

Plus tax and supplies and Free Courtesy Inspection.

860-408-1461

120 West Street

Simsbury

www.moestireandauto.net

WARNER NURSERY

Perennials • Shrubs • Trees
Garden & Lawn Supplies
Christmas Shoppe
860-651-0204

RIVERSIDE RD., SIMSBURY CENTER

Elizabeth Nicole Wig Studio
ELIZABETH WILFINGER • 860-404-5321
44 WEST MAIN ST. • AVON, CT



1-888-TAB-4-HELP
www.tabinc.com

Providing IT support to area small businesses for over 30 years.

After the Lord's Blessing, enjoy your wedding reception at

Saint Clements Castle & Marina



860-342-0593



Douglas M. Hope, D.M.D.
Family Dentistry
Cosmetic Dentistry



381 Hopmeadow Street
Suite 301
Simsbury, CT 06089
860-651-4915

HAYES-HULING & CARMON FUNERAL HOME
364 Salmon Brook Street, Granby
860-653-6637

CARMON FUNERAL HOME AND FAMILY CENTER
301 Country Club Road, Avon
860-673-8610

www.carmonfuneralhome.com

RYAN
Business Systems
Connecticut's
Canon Dealer

Since 1975
528-9881

South Windsor • Milford

LEOPARD LAWN CARE, LLC
Commercial • Residential
Fully Insured • CT Reg # 565848

Complete Landscape Maintenance
New Installations
Stonewalls & Walks
Light Excavation (Bobcat)

WILLIAM CIPKAS, OWNER
860-844-8585 Phone/Fax
We'll Make Your Lawn Purr...fect!



Complete Propane Installation, Service and Bulk Delivery
State Line Propane
500 Salmon Brook St., Granby
(860) 653-8076
www.statelinepropane.com
Delivery & Service
License #s: SI-303179, PI-204150

EMMONS
TROPICAL FISH & GARDEN POND CENTER

860-658-5401
OPEN 7 DAYS

1612 Hopmeadow St.
Simsbury
www.emmonstropicalfish.com

MELANSON & SPARAGNA, LLC Attorneys at Law

Andrea M. Melanson • Marialta Z. Sparagna
714 Hopmeadow Street, Suite One, Simsbury, Connecticut
(860) 651-7181

Residential & Commercial Real Estate Transactions
Refinances • Estate Planning • Probate & Wills
Family Law • Mediation • Special Needs Trusts
Elder Law • Medicaid Planning

START RIGHT - START HERESM

Valley Home & Garden Centre, Inc.
16 Railroad St., Simsbury, CT



860-651-5646

www.valleyhomeandgarden.com

Feed - Hardware - Lawn & Garden
Power Equipment

Sales & Service Greg & Karen Piekarski - Owners



Red's Barbershop

A Modern Barbershop with Traditional Values

860-658-4499

www.Red's-Barbershop.com

244 Farm Village Rd., West Simsbury