

Welcome



St. Mary's Church

Simsbury, Connecticut

PASTOR

Reverend Frank J. Matera

DEACON

Mr. Arthur Miller



www.stmarysimsbury.org

MASSES:

Monday - Thursday: 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

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 5:00 PM	JANUARY 30 Heath Fitzsimmons In Loving Memory By: His Wife, Sofie Fitzsimmons
Sunday 8:00 AM	JANUARY 31 Eunice Kelly 2nd Anniversary By: Ann & Carl Sturges
9:30 AM 11:00 AM	People of St. Mary's Parish Eunice Kelly 2nd Anniversary By: Her Loving Family
5:00 PM	Youth Mass
Monday 8:00 AM	FEBRUARY 1 Fr. Santiago By: A Friend
Tuesday 8:00 AM	FEBRUARY 2 Fr. Bill By: A Friend
Wednesday 8:00 AM	FEBRUARY 3 Fr. Lou Lussier By: A Friend
Thursday 8:00 AM	FEBRUARY 4 James, Marianna & Elizabeth Gluth 41st Anniversary By: Their Family
Saturday 5:00 PM	FEBRUARY 6 People of St. Mary's Parish
Sunday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM	FEBRUARY 7 People of St. Mary's Parish Mark Richard Potter In Memory of By: The Potter Family
11:00 AM	Araire Rees 4th Anniversary By: Her Family

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Baptism: Congratulations to Poeta Christian, Alyssa Candelario, Richard Candelario Jr, and Caden Candelario who were baptized into Christ last week.

Prayer Partner Cards: We are asking parishioners to pray for our 2nd graders as they prepare to receive the Eucharist for the first time. Baskets are located at all the entrances of the church with envelopes. Inside the envelope is the name of a 2nd grader and instructions. We encourage you to take a child's name and pray for that child. The children will be thrilled to see someone has been praying for them.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feast of the Presentation: This Tuesday, February 2, is the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas Day), a day we commemorate how Christ, the true light of the world, entered the Temple of Jerusalem to bring the light of God to all people. To commemorate this Feast, we will begin daily Mass on Tuesday with a procession of candles from the vestibule into the church.

Blessing of Throats: This Wednesday, Feb 3, is the Feast of St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, known for healing ailments of the throat. We will bless throats after the 8:00 AM Mass on Tuesday.

Station of the Cross: Instrumentalists are needed to play for Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 7:00pm. The dates available are 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/4, and 3/25. Only one hymn is needed for the service, #488 - *At the Cross Her Station Keeping*. Please contact Gena Sullivan at the church office or speak to her after Mass if you would like to play for Stations.

Wine & Cheese Social: No need to rush home after Mass; join us next Saturday, February 6th after the 5 PM Vigil Mass in the Parish Center. You're invited to stop in before dinner and have some appetizers along with a glass of wine, hot cider or juice. Hosted by our Social Committee.

New Altar Server Training: Are you interested in becoming an Altar Server for Saint Mary's Church? All students in 4th grade and above are invited to attend our yearly training program. There will be four training sessions on the following Saturday from 1:30-2:30pm in the Church: February 20, 27, March 5, 12. Candidates must attend all four sessions. Please contact Diana Kalamarides (ServerLeader@StMarySimsbury.org) with any questions.

Altar Serving is a great way to grow closer to God and serve our community. We hope you will consider joining us in this ministry.

Bereavement Group: The loss of someone we love through death is one of the most difficult experiences of life. At such moments, we need the support of our faith and others. Please join us Sunday, February 7 after the 11:00 AM Mass in the Lower Church.

Going on Retreat

Have you ever gone on retreat? I don't mean a corporate retreat. I mean a real retreat where you are alone with yourself and with the Lord.

Going on retreat has always been an important part of Catholic life. Jesus often withdrew to be alone and pray with God, and on more than one occasion he encouraged his disciples to do the same. Stop what you are doing. Withdraw and be alone with yourself, alone with God.

Taking time to withdraw from the business of life is not easy. Most of us easily persuade ourselves that we don't have the time "to do nothing." We don't have the time to be alone with ourselves and with God. We are too busy, too important; we have too many obligations to attend to. If the truth be told, we are afraid to stop the busyness of our life and be alone with God.

There was a period when I stopped going on retreat. I was at the university. I was very busy; I am very important I told myself. Furthermore, since I was always studying and teaching about the Bible, what need did I have to go on retreat? It was a deception; it was a great mistake.

Then one year I went on retreat to St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer and made a private retreat. To ensure that I would be busy, I brought a small library of books—none of which I read. Instead, on the first day of the retreat, my eye caught the title of an old dusty volume in the Abbey Library that I slowly read and prayed over during the rest of the retreat. That changed everything. God was at work in my life, and ever since I have been back on retreat.

Here at St. Mary's we are blessed to be near two retreat houses, Holy Family and Our Lady of Calvary. And every year we sponsor a retreat for the men of the parish at Holy Family and for the women of the Parish at Our Lady of Calvary. While a few new people join us every year, most years it is the same group of people because they have understood the importance of going on retreat. And so they would never miss it.

So what about you? Have you ever been on retreat, or has it been years since you have been on retreat? What is your excuse? Why haven't you gone on retreat? Are you, like me, too busy, too important?

Make a Lenten resolution this year, a resolution that will change and transform your life. Go on one of the retreats we have designated for our parish.

Father Matera

Woman's Retreat

February 26 to 28

Our Lady of Calvary

Contact: Ellen Graham (860) 651-6621 or Mary Blume (860) 651-8302

Men's Retreat

March 18 to 20

Holy Family Monastery

Contact: Jerry Graham (860) 651-6621

St. Mary's Mission Statement:

We are a faith-filled community centered in Christ that gathers in our Father's love to celebrate in Word and Sacrament. We seek to grow in that love, to be guided by the Holy Spirit and to share an atmosphere of warmth and hospitality with all.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ADULT ENRICHMENT

Grade Level Mass: Grades 4-6 will be featured at the 9:30 Mass next Sunday, February, 7th.

Middle School Religious Ed: Information regarding service opportunities and expectations can be found on our parish website under the Faith Formation tab on the Service Hours page. In addition, documents such as our service log and volunteer forms are ready to be downloaded. Sign up for service within our program through SignUpGenius.

High School Confirmation Prep: Tenth grade students who were baptized or received their First Holy Communion at another parish should bring copies of these certificates to small group on January 31. Please review the due dates on the second page of our Confirmation Prep packet.

Confirmation: The Archdiocese of Hartford notified us that the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered at our parish on Thursday, April 28 and Friday, April 29 by Archbishop Blair and Bishop Macaluso. Visit the Confirmation page on our parish website for further information.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Vacation Bible School: Thinking about summer when you see snow? We are! Mark your calendars to join us on a four day journey to Egypt in June! You won't want to miss the live music, crafts, or outdoor games. Stay tuned for more information!

Collection: During our meetings in January, we are collecting diapers (newborn-toddler) and baby wipes for Saint Gerard's Center for Life in Hartford. The center supports mothers throughout their pregnancies and after the birth of the babies. Please bring these items to IGNITE meetings. Thank you!

MERCY SHELTER

Mercy Shelter: Desserts and fruit are needed to take to Mercy Shelter in Hartford Sunday, February 7. All items can be dropped off in the Lower Church before 3:00 PM.

Lenten Series: Father Matera will give a four week series on the Book of Exodus, entitled *The God Who Frees and Redeems Us: Reading the Book of Exodus Today*, on the following Thursdays of Lent: February 18, 25, and March 3, 10.

Sunday Morning Adult Enrichment Program: Today, the Jubilee Year of Mercy Corporal and Spiritual works of *Feeding the Hungry* will be featured before and after the 9:30 Mass. Various members involved in different ministries will take part in a panel to discuss their work to feed the hungry. Hear their stories of how they got involved, who they help, and how this work has affected their lives.

Next week: Broncos or Panthers? Join us before or after the 9:30 AM Mass to catch up with friends and discuss your Super Bowl predictions

Tuesday Evening Bible Study: Join us on Tuesday, February 9th for Bible Study with Deacon Art Miller in the Parish Center beginning at 7:00 PM. 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.

Contemplative Prayer Group: St Mary's Christian Contemplative Prayer Group meeting will be on Sunday, February 7 in the Lower Church. Newcomer Orientation at 6:30 PM , Group meeting starts at 7:00 PM

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

Nominations: The Saint Mary's School Board Nominating Committee has started the process of identifying potential school board members for next year. Potential candidates may self-nominate or be nominated by someone else. There is no requirement for board members to have children at Saint Mary's School. The needs we will be looking to address for the upcoming term include individuals with a financial or CPA background skills or individuals with skills focused on marketing, project management and strategic planning. Potential candidates must believe and support Catholic education and be willing to serve a three year term. If you are interested in being considered to serve on the School Board, contact Claude Howard at claudioh@gmail.com. Include in your e-mail information about your Parish, Occupation, If you have or had students at Saint Mary's School and your specific talents available to the board.

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