

# St. Mary's Church

Simsbury, Connecticut 06070

## Directory

**Parish Office:** 3 Massaco Street  
(860) 658-7627  
www.stmarysimsbury.org

### Office Hours:

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

**Rev. Frank Matera:** Ext. 301

**Deacon Arthur Miller:** Ext.113

**Parish Office:** Ext. 306

Jennifer Almeida and Heather Benedetti  
Parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org

**Business Manager:** William Heiden Ext. 303  
businessmanager@stmarysimsbury.org

**Bookkeeper:** Joanne Dunn Ext. 307  
bookkeeper@stmarysimsbury.org

**Religious Education Grades 1-6:** Judy Eagen  
Ext. 304 ReLED1-6@stmarysimsbury.org

**Religious Education Grades 7-10  
& Youth Ministry:** Kathleen Keating  
Ext. 302 youthministry@stmarysimsbury.org  
Instagram & Facebook: @igniteyouthministry831

**Music Ministry:** Gena Sullivan and Patricia Lepak

**Stephen Ministry:** Linda Duff Ext. x114  
stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org

### St. Mary's School:

Principal: Margaret Williamson  
(860) 658-9412  
946 Hopmeadow Street  
www.stmarysschoolsimsbury.org



### MASSES:

Monday - Thursday 8:00 AM  
Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 PM  
Sunday: 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

**CONFESSIONS:** Saturday 3:00 - 4:00 PM

**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.*

**BAPTISMS:** First Sunday of the month during the 11:00 AM Mass and the third Sunday of the month after the 11:00 AM Mass. Please call the Parish Office for further information.

**WEDDINGS:** Please call for an appointment at least 6 months in advance.

**VISITORS:** Thank you for worshipping with us. To register with St. Mary's Parish please call (860) 658-7627 or email us at Parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org

∞ **Mass Intentions** ∞

<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 PM	<b>February 18</b> John & Alice Sorich In Loving Memory By: Their Children
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>February 19</b> Ethel Melanson In Loving Memory By: The Cheffer Family
9:30 AM	Rae Bremner In Memory of By: The Eucharistic Ministers of Governor's House
11:00 AM	People of St. Mary's Parish
<b>Monday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>February 20</b> Kathy Correll By: The Kalamarides Family
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>February 21</b> Roberta Landy In Memory By: Eileen Sickinger
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>February 22</b> Michael Furey 25th Anniversary By: His Family
<b>Thursday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>February 23</b> Andrew Living Intention By: His Family
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 PM	<b>February 25</b> Louise Giannini 8th Remembrance By: Her Husband, Tony and her 4 children
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 AM 9:30 AM	<b>February 26</b> People of St. Mary's Parish Harry and Marie Spieler In Memory of By: Henault Family
11:00 AM	Ethel M. Melanson Birthday Remembrance By: Linda and Charles Mullane
5:00 PM	Youth Mass Robert Windisch, Sr. The 8th Grade Cate.

**Parish Office Closed:** The Parish Office will be closed February 20<sup>th</sup> in honor of President's Day.

**Our Parish App:** Text 88202, or download "myParish" from the App Store.

∞ **Parish Announcements** ∞

**Weekly Offertory:** Last week's offertory was \$15,033.08. Of this amount, \$7,560.58 came from 138 E-Givers, and \$7,472.50 came from envelopes and cash. Please consider E-Giving. To meet our projected budget, our weekly offertory should average \$14,900.

**Annual St Patrick's Dinner: Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM** Parish Center. Come and enjoy Corned Beef & Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots, Irish Soda Bread, Dessert and Beverage and stay for the Entertainment and Sign Along. Tickets will be sold after the weekend Masses at Church on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>. Also available in the Parish Office after March 1<sup>st</sup>. Adults - \$15; Children 12 and under- \$7. RSVP no later than March 13<sup>th</sup>. Get your tickets early, we frequently sell out. No tickets will be sold at the door. Hosted by the Knights of Columbus & St Mary's Social Committee. For additional info., call (860) 651-4027 or (860)-658-7627.

**Stations of the Cross:** Instrumentalists are needed to play for Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 7:00 PM. The dates available are 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 and 3/31, 4/7 and 4/14. Only one hymn is needed for the service, #488 - At the Cross Her Station Keeping. Please contact Gena Sullivan at the Parish Office (860) 658-7627 or speak to Gena after Mass if you would like to play.

**New Altar Server Training begins Next Weekend:** We hope you will consider joining in this ministry! 2017 classes will meet Saturdays from 1:00-2:00 PM, February 25, March 4, 11, and 18 (please attend all 4 sessions). Call the parish office or contact our altar server coordinato(ServerLeader@StMarySimsbury.org) with any questions. See you next Saturday!

**Men of St. Mary's:** For Men, Four Saturday evenings during Lent (6:00-7:30, March 4, 11, 25 and April 1, Parish Center); let's gather for dinner, fellowship, a talk, and some time to reflect. No pressure, an opportunity to make Lent a more vigorous journey. Come for one or come for all. Bring a friend - all men are welcome.

**Simsbury Food Pantry:** The food collection for January was very generous! The next collection will be on February 26<sup>th</sup>. We are in need of canned food and other non-perishable food items. For questions, please call Lorraine Rippel at (860) 658-6438 or rippel@aol.com. We thank Bob Moran for transporting and stocking the shelves at the pantry on a monthly basis. We thank our parishioners for their continued generosity.

## *Living the Sermon on the Mount within the Community of the Church*

For the past several weeks we have been listening to the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew, chapters 5 – 7). These challenging words of Jesus have fascinated people from the very beginning of Christianity because they present us with such a clear statement of the kind of life we can and ought to live as Jesus' disciples. Although some people complain that Jesus' teaching is not realistic, the great St. Augustine once said that this sermon is "the perfect measure of the Christian life." By this statement he meant that the Sermon on the Mount is the "norm" by which we ought to *measure* our faithfulness to Jesus. To the extent we live according to this sermon, we are faithful followers of Jesus. To the extent we do no, we fail in our call as disciples.

Three weeks ago, we heard the Beatitudes, which describe the blessings of the kingdom as well as how we ought to live within the kingdom. Two weeks ago, Jesus called us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. And last week, he taught us the importance of fulfilling the deepest meaning of God's law by going beyond the letter to the spirit of this law. The commandment says: "Thou shalt not kill." But Jesus says we are to avoid anger and the demeaning word as well. The law says: "Thou shalt not commit adultery." But Jesus says we are to avoid the lustful thought and desire as well.

But today we come to the most difficult part of the Sermon on the Mount, the place where we stumble and wonder if we can truly fulfill these words. Jesus teaches us (1) that we should not retaliate, and (2) that we should love even our enemies. When someone seeks to harm us, our first inclination is to respond in kind: to return evil for evil. But Jesus says, turn the other cheek, do not respond in kind. Then he goes further. We are accustomed to loving those who love us, and doing what is good to those who are good to us. That makes perfect sense to us. But Jesus teaches us to love our enemies, and to pray for those who persecute us. Then we will truly be children of God who is ever merciful to us.

But how can we live in this way? How can we fulfill the demands of this great sermon? By ourselves we cannot! As individuals we cannot! If we try to fulfill the words of the sermon by ourselves, we cannot! *We can only live the sermon as a community of believers!* I need your help to live this sermon, and you need my help to live this sermon. Put another way, we can only live the demands of the sermon as a community of believers who live a sacramental life. This is why we gather as a community to celebrate Mass and receive the Eucharist week after week.

We are an alternate community within a world that says "no." The world says, we cannot live this way. The world says we must retaliate when others do even. The world says we must hate our enemies. But we say that we can live in a way and better way because we are the community of Jesus Christ. We are a community empowered by God's Spirit, and this Spirit enables us to live in a new and better way. That is way we can and must fulfill the Sermon the Mount with joy and gratitude.

*Father Matera*

### *Farewell and Thank You Judy Eagen*

In the spring, Judy Eagen, our Coordinator of Religious Education, will be leaving us. Judy and her husband, Vaughn, are relocating to Ohio. We are grateful for all that Judy has done for the past fourteen years, coordinating our religious education and sacramental programs. Through her dedicated service, Judy has helped to form hundreds of our children in the faith. Thank you and God bless you, Judy.

## February 19, 2017

### Religious Education

**No Religious Education:** Due to the long President's weekend Religious Education Classes will not be in session this week. Classes resume on 2/26.

**Grade Level Mass:** On Sunday, February 26th Grades 1-3 will be featured at the 9:30 Mass.

### Adult Enrichment

**Adult Enrichment:** No Religious Education or Adult Enrichment will be held this week.

**Next Week:** Excerpts from the film *Champions of Faith*, featuring Mike Piazza, will be screened in the Parish Center.

**Bible Study with Deacon Art:** Bible Study with Deacon Art Miller will meet on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please note: During the basketball season - Lectio Divina will be held in the Lower Church Library at 6:10 PM (doors open at 6 PM), Prayers for healing and special intentions will be in the Lower Church Hall at 6:45 and Bible Study in the Lower Church Hall at 7:00 PM. Please bring your Bible and a friend.

**Father Matera's Lenten Series:** *Entering into God's Rest* is the title of the Lenten Series Father Matera will present on the Thursdays of March, beginning March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Lower Church Hall. Based on the *Epistle to the Hebrews*, this series focuses on the meaning of Jesus' death for our lives today. It deals with the following questions: Why are we afraid to die? Can we find lasting rest? Was Jesus a priest? How does his death touch us today?

### Other

**St. Ann:** The Divine Mercy Holy Hour will be celebrated at St. Ann in Avon on February 19<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 – 3:30 PM. Come and experience God's transforming Love and Mercy!

**St. Catherine of Siena:** "Dr. Joan Kelly will offer a Lenten Mission at Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, West Simsbury on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM titled: CATHOLIC IDENTITY: RENEWING OUR APPRECIATION. Dr. Joan Kelly will lead us on a tour of our Catholic faith Tradition. Together we will explore the wealth of our glorious Catholic heritage steeped in a centuries old Tradition more than 2000 years old. You will be enlightened about the historical resplendency of Catholic doctrine, ritual and devotion that manifest itself in our Church down to the present day. Call 860.658.1642 for more details.

### Retreats & Days of Reflection

**St. Mary's Men's Retreat:** This year's men's retreat will be held the weekend of March 17-19 at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford. The theme of the retreat is "The Light of Simplicity." Each year about thirty men from St. Mary's go on retreat. If you have not been part of our retreat group, please join us. The retreat includes home-cooked meals, inspirational liturgies, enlightening talks and uplifting music. For more information call Jerry Graham (860) 651 6621.

**Retreat Scholarship:** Holy Family Monastery has given us one retreat scholarship valued at \$315 for the Men's Retreat on March 17-19. If you have not made a retreat and would like to attend this year's retreat, please contact Fr. Matera. First come, first served!

**St. Mary's Women's Retreat:** Retreats for the women of St. Mary's Parish will be held on the weekends of March 3-5, April 21-23 and June 2-4. For more information, contact Ellen Graham (860) 651-6621.

**Women's Day of Reflection with Amy Ekeh:** Women's Day of Reflection with Amy Ekeh. "Finding your strength in the Weakness of my Cross" will be Saturday, March 4 from 8:00 AM -12:00 PM. Spend the morning with your sisters in Christ as we explore, discuss and pray while we examine this Lenten theme. Bring a friend you think would enjoy this experience, but feels they don't have the time. Please RSVP to Susan Falkner – falknerr@comcast.net (860) 651-4655 to attend this event. If you need a ride, please let us know.

**Men's Evening of Reflection:** Bill Walsh will lead a discussion on recapturing the wonder of God's presence in our lives on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Church for the men of our parish. The topic is based on Fr. Ronald Rolheiser's book, "The Shattered Lantern, Rediscovering A Felt Presence of God."

### St. Mary's School

**A Knight at the Gala:** Join us in celebrating 60 years of Catholic education! St. Mary's School will be hosting A Knight at the Gala at Farmington Gardens on Friday, April 21, 2017 at 6:30 PM. The evening includes dinner, dancing, entertainment by speed painter Rob Surette, silent & live auction.

Special offer- \$90 per person, table of ten \$900 if purchased by 2-28-17. Ticket price will go to \$100 per person, table of ten \$1,000 on March 1st.

## **End of Bulletin**

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