

St. Mary Church



AERIAL VIEW FROM HOPMEADOW

Directory

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

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 - 3:00 PM
Friday: 8:30 - 12:00 PM

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

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

Rev. Frank Matera: Ext. 301

Deacon Arthur Miller: Ext.113

Parish Office: Ext. 306
Jennifer Almeida and Heather Benedetti
parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org

Finance Manager: Joanne Dunn Ext. 307
financemanager@stmarysimsbury.org

Operations & Facilities: Jay Reynolds Ext. 305
jay.reynolds@stmarysimsbury.org

Religious Education Grades 1-6:
Lori Oleasz Ext. 304
DRELori@stmarysimsbury.org

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

Stephen Ministry: Linda Duff Ext. 114
stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org

Music Ministry: Gena Sullivan & Patricia Lepak

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

∞ **Mass Intentions** ∞

Saturday 5:00 PM	May 26 People of St. Mary's Parish
Sunday 8:00 AM	May 27 Ann Mary Roderick, & Family Members Jacob, Anna, Charles & Ruby Barbara & Paul Roderick
9:30 AM	Candee Mulak By: Her Friends
11:00 AM	Mark Sylvain By: The Lopiaon & Deschaine Families
Monday 8:00 AM	May 28 Guillermo Garcia
Tuesday 8:00 AM	May 29 People of St. Mary's Parish
Wednesday 8:00 AM	May 30 Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thursday 8:00 AM	May 31 John Keily In Loving Memory By: His Family
Saturday 5:00 PM	June 2 Gary Forrest, Ann, & Donna Feola In Loving Memory By: Their Family
Sunday 8:00 AM	June 3 People of St. Mary's Parish
9:30 AM	Rita Feeney By: The Governors House EMHC
11:00 AM	Robert Roden By: His Family



Parish Office Closed: The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, May 28 in honor of Memorial Day.

Baptism: We welcome Lyla Damo, Brielle Reid, Santino, Cristiano, and Vincenzo Unker who were baptized into Christ last week.

Deceased: Please pray for Regina Rudewicz. May she rest in peace of Christ.

∞ **Parish Announcements** ∞

Weekly Offertory: We thank you for your generous support of St. Mary's Parish without which we would not be able to carry out our many ministries. Last week's offertory was \$23,400. Of this amount, \$5,043 came from 114 E-Givers, and \$18,357 came from envelopes and cash. Please consider E-Giving. Going forward, on the first week of the month we will provide year-to-date offertory receipts against budget. Second Collection for Catholic Communications Campaign total was \$2,752.

The Archbishop's Annual Appeal (AAA): When you contribute to any charitable effort, you will want to be assured that the funds received are being used wisely. This includes your gift to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, which supports the ministries and outreach of the Archdiocese of Hartford and its parishes. Of the many things funded by the Appeal, ABC Program, ARC of the Farmington Valley, and Gifts of Love, right here in our local area, received funding from the Appeal's Vicariate Outreach Program. This truly makes a big difference in the lives of many local residents and neighbors. Please visit the Appeal website at www.archdioceseofhartford.org to learn more and make your gift today.

Campus Connection Project: Construction Documents are out to bid. We expect to receive our Guaranteed Maximum Price from the Construction Manager by May 28. Please pray for that our costs remain within our budgeted estimate.

St. Mary's School: St. Mary's School is still collecting Box Tops for Education! Box Tops can be left in the collection boxes in the church or dropped off at the school office. Thanks for your support!

Mercy Shelter: Desserts and fruit are needed to take to Mercy Shelter in Hartford on Sunday, June 3. All items can be dropped off in the lower church before 3:00 PM. Thanks for all the donations!

Are You Registered with Saint Mary's? If you have recently moved to the Simsbury area and are new to Saint Mary's but have not registered, we invite you to do so. By registering, you become a member of the parish, and it is easier for us to serve you. Call the Parish Office (860 658 7627), or stop by 3 Massaco St. during office hours.

St. Bernard's Church: We have recently obtained some sacred objects from Saint Bernard's Church and will be using them at St. Mary's as a way of showing the connection between St. Bernard's and St. Mary's.

Holiness

A Gift and a Task

For the past several weeks, I have been writing about Pope Francis's exhortation to holiness. In this column, I would like to speak about two aspects holiness: (1) holiness as a gift that God has *already* bestowed on us in Christ, and (2) holiness as a task to which those who have received the gift are called.

Holiness is a *gift* and a *task*. Most people, however, think of holiness as a merely a task: something they must achieve by living a good life that includes various spiritual practices. But there is another aspect to holiness that precedes the task of becoming holy: the gift of holiness.

In his letters, Saint Paul regularly calls those to whom he writes 'the saints' or 'the holy ones,' those who have been consecrated and set aside by God for service. Paul addresses his converts in this way because God has already communicated holiness to them through the blood of Jesus. In doing this, Saint Paul is affirming that holiness is a gift we have received from God.

Paul was not naïve. He experienced many problems with his converts, and their behavior was not always the conduct of saints. He calls them saints, nevertheless, because they have been sanctified, consecrated, and made holy in Christ. Paul knows this because he is deeply aware of the holiness that God granted him in Christ: God consecrated, sanctified, and made him holy, and set him aside for the proclamation of the gospel.

The gift of holiness precedes the task of holiness. We are called to be holy because we have been made holy. We are holy because we have been set aside, consecrated, sanctified by Christ's death and resurrection. And because we have received the gift of holiness we are to live lives of holiness that reflect the gift we have received.

Notice what Saint Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians, 'This is the will of God, your holiness: that you refrain from immorality ... For God did not call us to impurity but to holiness' (1 Thess. 4.3, 7). Paul reminds us that the goal of our life in Christ is 'to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones' (1 Thess. 3.13).

Because holiness is central to the Christian life, Paul is always disturbed by the presence of immoral people in the community of faith because such people defile the holiness that was bestowed upon the community at the price of Christ's blood. Accordingly, he commands the Corinthians to expel the immoral person in their midst (1 Cor. 5.1-5). And in 2 Corinthians he warns the Corinthians not to be yoked with unbelievers, 'For what partnership do righteousness and lawlessness have? Or, what fellowship does light have with darkness?' (2 Cor. 6.14).

The community of the church is a holy place because God has made it holy through the death and resurrection of Christ. The members of the church are holy because they have been made holy. *You are holy because you have been baptized into Christ.* Our *task* of living a life of holiness is grounded in the *gift* of holiness that has been bestowed in Christ.

A Presentation on Holiness by Father Matera

If you would like to learn more about Pope Francis's exhortation on holiness, join me this **Thursday, May 31, at 7:00 PM, in the Lower Church.** I will examine the Pope's exhortation on holiness in greater depth.

Father Matera

May 27, 2018

Religious Education

Register now: Registration for Religious Education for the 2018-2019 school year is now open. It will be open until June 15. Please register as soon as spaces fill quickly! Visit stmarysimsbury.org/religiouseducation and click the big red button.

First Communion: Our second group of "Little Lambs" received their First Communion last weekend on Saturday, May 19th. It is with much pride and great joy that we witness this very important milestone in their faith formation. Congratulations!

Youth Program: Summer is a great opportunity to share your gifts and talents with others! Service completed in the summer counts towards the next school year. Keep your eyes out for local plans and service opportunities with IGNITE Youth Ministry! Follow us on Instagram @igniteyouthministry831

Youth Ministry

Serving the Homeless: IGNITE served 75 men at the shelter on Friday, May 25. A team of teens and adults cooked, transported, and served the meal. Thank you to everyone who chose to kick off Memorial Day weekend with us! The Calcutta Project is an outreach effort our ministry.

Adult Enrichment

Bible Study with Deacon Art: Join Deacon Art in the Parish Center beginning at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, June 6. Prior to Bible Study join us at 6:10 PM for Lectio Divina and/or 6:45 PM for Prayers for Healing and Special Intentions. Please bring your Bible and a friend. All are welcome!

Other

Concert for a Cause: The annual concert to support a clinic in Nigeria will be held at Trinity Church in Tariffville on June 2 at 7:00 PM and June 3 at 2:00 PM. The Tapestry Singers come from different churches in the valley and beyond and are known for their distinct sound and energetic spirit, singing a variety of new and familiar songs. The concert is free and good will offerings will be accepted. Bring a friend.

Save the Date

Parish Bike Ride: Come join us on Saturday, June 16, at 11:00 AM, in the north parking lot. All are welcome! This is a fun ride on Rails to Trails, with 1, 2, 5, 10 and 20 mile rides for every level and interest. Sign-up now, contact Paul Mikkelson at mikbenefit@comcast.net. Invite friends -- This is a fun and subtle way to bring someone back to Church. Prizes and snacks!

St. Mary's Carnival

The Carnival Is Coming! St. Mary's Annual Spring Carnival is just around the corner. Mark your calendars for exceptional family fun from Wednesday June 6th thru Saturday, June 9th. Same location as last year on 10/202 North field of CL & P. The hours are Wednesday thru Friday from 6:00 PM until 10:00 PM and on Saturday from 5:00 PM until 10:00PM. Please plan to join us and catch up with good friends and great food! **Volunteers (teen through adults) are needed** in everything from selling raffle tickets to cooking and serving food. Please sign up for a shift or two on the church website, through the following link www.SignUpGenius.com/go/70A0545ABAC238-stmarys1 or on sign up sheets at the exits of the church. If you are having any difficulty signing up to volunteer or you have any questions just call or text Sandy at (860-214-6557).

Carnival Flags: Thanks to all the families who have purchased a carnival flag or have made a donation to re-fly their family flag this year.

All families and friends of St. Mary's are invited to show your support for the upcoming carnival by purchasing a family carnival flag for \$50. Your flag will decorate one of the tents at our carnival. For more information go to the St. Mary's Carnival website and click on Sponsorship information, then on 2018 Sponsorship Form. If you have any question please call Jane Stevenson (860-651-5017).

The triangle-shaped flag is 18" wide at the top and tapers down from there. Therefore, when deciding wording, please keep in mind that the more letters there are, the smaller the print.

Each year after initial purchase we will re-fly your carnival flag from prior year for a donation of \$25. Deadline for ordering a flag is May 25th.

The carnival committee would love to decorate all the tents with family flags this year!