

St. Mary Church



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

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: @ignite.simsbury

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	January 5 People of St. Mary's Parish
Sunday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	January 6 Maryann Blackely People of St. Mary's Parish Deacon Art's Ministries By: The Bible Study Group
Monday 8:00 AM	January 7 People of St. Mary's Parish
Tuesday 9:00 AM	January 8 St. Mary's School
Wednesday 8:00 AM	January 9 People of St. Mary's Parish
Thursday 8:00 AM	January 10 People of St. Mary's Parish
Saturday 5:00 PM	January 12 Bernice Kowalski 2nd Anniversary By: Ed Kowalski
Sunday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	January 13 People of St. Mary's Parish Eileen Cunningham 15th Anniversary By: Her Family Elinor Matczak By: Her Family



Baptism: We welcome Anthony Robert Hemmann who was baptized into Christ last week.

Wedding: Congratulations to Michael Zeiner & Megan Palomba who were married at St. Mary's last week.

Deceased: Please pray for Shelia Jones and Clinton Burnham. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Each Monday, from 8:30 to 9:30 AM, is reserved for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Please join us as we worship Christ in the Eucharist.

Parish Announcements

For Sale: The Saint Mary's Parish Office building on 3 Massaco Street is for sale. If you or someone is interested in this space, please call or text "Sam" at (860-803-9760).

12/30/2018 Weekly Offertory: Last week's offertory was \$8,169. Of this amount, \$1,336 came from 35 E-Givers, and \$6,833 came from envelopes and cash. Please consider E-Giving. Christmas Collection was \$17,632, Parish Maintenance was 13,807. 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.

Witnessing to our Faith: On Sunday, March 31, 6:00 PM, Saint Mary's Parish will celebrate an evening in which we will witness to our faith in Word and Song, similar to the opening of last year's parish retreat. Our combined choirs will provide music and several parishioners will give witnesses to their faith. There will also be an opportunity for others to do so as well. Mark your calendar and plan to be with us as we witness our faith.

A Mini-Lenten Retreat: Father Matera will give a mini-Lenten retreat in the Lower Church on the following Thursdays of Lent: March 14, March 21, 28, April 4, and 11 that will focus on the themes of Temptation Faith, the Mystery of God, Reconciliation, and God's Grace. Mark your calendar.

Confirmation: We have received word from the Archdiocese that this year's confirmation will be held at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Hartford on **Saturday, May 11, at 11:00 PM.** Our new auxiliary Bishop, Bishop Juan M. Betancourt, will be the celebrant.

Team Trivia Night: The St. Mary's Women's Guild is hosting their Annual Team Trivia Night on Friday, January 11th, 2019 at Freemason Hall, 991 Hopmeadow Street. Tickets are \$15.00/per person or \$25.00/ per couple and will be on sale after Mass January 5th-6th and in the Parish Office starting January 3rd. For more information please contact, Chris McNally at (860-670-0600).

Witnessing To Our
F A I T H
in Christ



Little Christmas
The Epiphany of the Lord to the Nations

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, a day that is sometimes called “little Christmas.” This feast, however, is much more than a “little Christmas.” It is a day that celebrates one of the most important aspects of the Christmas mystery: the revelation or manifestation of Christ to all the nations of the world.

On this day, we read the story of the Magi, the three kings or wise men, who come from the East to worship the Christ child. These three kings, who come with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to worship the “Jewish Messiah,” represent all the nations of the world—the Gentiles. They represent us. This “little Christmas” proclaims the epiphany or manifestation of the Christ child—the “Jewish Messiah”—to the whole world.

What we celebrate today can be explained in this way: Although Jesus Christ was the Jewish Messiah, the fulfillment of God’s promises to all the nations, he is also the Savior of all the nations, the savior of all the peoples of the earth. He does not belong to one people or to one nation; he belongs to all the peoples of the earth; he belongs to all the nations of the world. He breaks down the barriers between all nations and races.

The world in which we live, however, is divided on the basis of national and ethnic identity. This is even true of Christians who often think of themselves in terms of their racial or ethnic origin rather than in terms of their unity in Christ. And yet we of all people should know better since we are the beneficiaries of the salvation that Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, brings to the world. Through his death and resurrection, Christ has broken down the walls of hostility that separate us from each other. Through his death and resurrection, he has called us to be united as one people in his name.

This Epiphany of the Lord to the nations—this day in which we hear the story of the three kings—is much more than a “little Christmas.” It teaches us the central meaning of the Christmas mystery: The eternal Son of God, the very Word of God, took on human nature to unite us as one people, a family of nations and races who are no longer divided from each other by race or nationality. The eternal Son of God has united us in the community of the Church to witness to the world that no one is excluded from the gift of salvation. No one is excluded from God’s love.

Enjoy this beautiful feast of the Epiphany. Read the story of the three kings in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 2. Tell the story of the three wise men to your children. And, as you look at these three kings in your Christmas crèche, imagine all the nations of the world coming in peace to worship the Son of God. Imagine a world in which there is perfect peace and justice because the people of every race and nation are finally united in their worship of God. Enjoy this “little Christmas.”

Fr. Frank Matera

January 6, 2019

Religious Education

Grade Level Mass: Grades 1-3 will be featured at the 9:30AM Mass on January 6th. All are welcome!

Youth Ministry

Welcome: IGNITE serves teens in grades 9 – 12. We're on Instagram and Facebook @ignite.simsbury. Check our story for updates.

Calcutta Project: IGNITE will return to the shelter on Friday, February 15. A team of teens and adults will cook, transport, and serve the meal. Join the mission! Visit stmarysimsbury.org/ignite

Adult Enrichment

Retreats: Men's Retreat is March 15 - 17, 2019 and the Women's Retreat is April 5 - 7, 2019. Both retreats will be held at Holy Family Monastery in West Hartford.

Campus Connection Update

Campus Connection Project: Several good things have been happening: (1) a first layer of asphalt has been laid down, the final layer must wait till Spring; (2) the elevator has been installed; (3) new guard rails have been put in place on the Iron Horse Side of the Parking lot; (4) final window installation and side planking is taking place; (5) workers are now working on the interior of the building. We anticipate being in our new structure by or before Easter. If you have not yet been able to contribute to our Campus Connection Project, it is not too late.

Member Update

Registration: If you are not a member of St. Mary's but would like to be a part of our community or you would like to update your address or email information, we encourage you to call the Parish Office at (860-658-7627).

Outreach

South Park Inn - Homeless Shelter: This Sunday, January 6, we will be collecting new underwear of all sizes for men, women and children (15 children are presently at the shelter). Gently used towels, washcloths, sheets, pillowcases and band-aids are also needed.

St. Mary's School A Blue Ribbon School

Jumbling January! Please join us with your little one (all children under the age of 5 are welcome!) on Friday mornings in January for Story Time & Craft 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM. RSVP Toni Chagnon at (860-658-9412) or sign up at <http://bit.ly/ftjumbled>

Open House: Join Us! Open House on Sunday, January 26th from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Meet our faculty, staff, parents and students. From cursive to coding, come learn more about our 2018 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence! Contact Toni Chagnon for more information or to RSVP tchagnon@stmarysimsbury.edu or (860-658-9412).

Keys to Kindergarten - This Wednesday, January 9 from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM, PreKindergarten students are invited to wear their pj's and come for a special evening storytime with Mrs. Sheri Jehnings, our first grade teacher. While students enjoy this storytime, parents are invited to meet with Kindergarten teacher, Miss Dianne Ciarcia and our Principal Mrs. Margaret Williamson, to discuss kindergarten readiness, early literacy and what makes SMS such a special place for our youngest elementary school students. RSVP to (860-658-9412).

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as good stewards of God's varied grace.* 1 Peter 4:10

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