

# St. Mary Church



## Directory

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

**CONFSSIONS:** 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](mailto: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](mailto:parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org)

**Finance Manager:** Joanne Dunn Ext. 307  
[financemanager@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:financemanager@stmarysimsbury.org)

**Religious Education Grades 1-6:**  
Lori Oleasz Ext. 304  
[DRELori@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:DRELori@stmarysimsbury.org)

**Religious Education Grades 7-10**  
**& Youth Ministry:** Kathleen Keating Ext. 302  
[youthministry@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:youthministry@stmarysimsbury.org)  
Instagram & Facebook: @ignite.simsbury

**Stephen Ministry:** Linda Duff Ext. 114  
[stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org)

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

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

## Mass Intentions

<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 PM	<b>February 2</b> Assancao Marto Santos By: Michael & Maria Angelillo
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>February 3</b> Rose & Pat Parente By: The Smyth Family People of St. Mary's Parish
9:30 AM	Eunice Kelly
11:00 AM	In Loving Memory By: Her Family
<b>Monday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>February 4</b> Patti Dorman (Sister of Catherine Rivard)
<b>Tuesday</b> 9:00 AM	<b>February 5</b> St. Mary's School Mass
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>February 6</b> Virginia Cody By: Patricia Hogard
<b>Thursday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>February 7</b> Richard Clark Butler By: His Family
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 PM	<b>February 9</b> Sheila Jones By: Debbie Franco
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>February 10</b>
9:30 AM	People of St. Mary's Parish
11:00 AM	

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Every Monday, 8:30 to 9:30 AM, is reserved for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Please join us to worship Christ in the Eucharist. Spend time before Christ in the Eucharist, asking Christ to heal, strengthen, and reform the Church.

**Bereavement Support:** St. Mary's Bereavement Support Group will meet next Sunday, February 10th from 12:00 PM-1:00 PM in the Lower Church.

**Casual Choir:** Do you attend the 8:00 AM Sunday service and like to sing? The casual choir sings the Mass music with the leadership of a cantor. The choir does not have a formal rehearsal while offering the experience of sharing the joy of singing with a group.

**Adult Choir:** NEW SCHEDULE for Rehearsals will be on Sunday mornings starting at 9:30 AM in the lower church. The Adult Choir sings in a variety of musical styles for the 11:00 AM Mass as well as special Masses. Everyone is welcome!

## Parish Announcements

**No Parking!** Please do not park in the parking lot directly across the street from the Church on Massaco. It is a private lot and the owners often need it for work on the weekends. Please respect their wishes. Town Hall parking is available for overflow. Our parking lot will soon be open, and we will have more than adequate parking for all.

**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).

**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 \$12,437. Of this amount, \$4,836 came from 116 E-Givers, and \$7,601 came from envelopes and cash. Please consider E-Giving. On the first week of the month we will provide year to date offertory receipts against budget.

**A Lenten Opportunity for the Men of St. Mary's:** This Lent, we invite you to participate in a men's faith group designed for our growth in faith together and to build fellowship in a comfortable setting. There will be more details in the weeks ahead.

**Winter Marriage Anniversary Mass- Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM.** If you celebrate your wedding anniversary during the months of December, January, or February join us at the 5:00 PM Mass next Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> so we can bless your marriage and you can renew your marriage vows. A Wine and Cheese Social, hosted by the Women's Guild and open to everyone in the congregation, will follow in the Parish Center. If your marriage anniversary falls during December, January or February please join us!

**A Celebration of Witness and Song:** Throughout this year, we have been focusing our Parish life on the theme of witnessing to our faith. On **Sunday, March 31, 6:30 PM**, we will gather for a joyful celebration of witness and song. This celebration will be similar to the wonderful evening that began our parish retreat last year. Our combined choirs will provide music and several parishioners will witness to their faith. There will also be an opportunity for others to witness to their faith as well. Mark your calendar and plan to be with us as we witness to our faith.



*The Body of Christ  
A Homily on the Present Crisis  
January 27, 2019*

In today's second reading, Saint Paul describes the church as a body made up of many parts, with every part vital to the health and well-being of the body. He says that we form one body in Christ because we have been baptized into the body of the Risen Christ. And so, as I look at the congregation today, I see more than a gathering of people, I see the body of the Risen Christ.

This is how I think of the church. It is not an institution; it is the body of Christ. Christ is its head, and we are his body. Christ is the head of the body, and each of us plays a vital role in his body. And so, none of us should say, "I am not important." None of us should say, "the body can exist without me." When we function as we ought, the church is healthy. When we do not, the church is less than it should be.

I have begun my homily with these remarks about the body of Christ because I need to talk to you again about the crisis we are facing as the body of Christ, a crisis that threatens to destroy our life in Christ.

This past Monday, Archbishop Blair gathered the priests of the Archdiocese at Saint Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield to give us advance notice of what has now been made public about what has happened in the past in the Archdiocese and what is presently happening. At that meeting we were given (1) a list of the clergy of the Archdiocese who have been credibly accused since 1953, none of whom served at Saint Mary's, (2) the monetary settlements that were made, (3) where this money came from, and (4) what the Archdiocese is doing and will do. All of that information is now public, and you can access it by going to the website.

([Promise.ArchdioceseofHartford.org](http://Promise.ArchdioceseofHartford.org)). To the best of my knowledge nothing has been concealed, as painful as that may be. I applaud this transparency and now wish it had been done earlier because it is only the full disclosure of the truth that will begin the process of healing us. Only when we have brought everything into the light will we be able to walk in the light. I am aware of how painful this has been for us as Catholics. This crisis has betrayed our trust and undermined our credibility as a church.

This is why I began this homily by reminding us of what Saint Paul teaches us about the church. The church has an institutional aspect, but its reality is the body of Christ. The church has a clergy, but its head is Jesus Christ. The church is the body of Christ, and when some of its members sin and betray it, this affects the whole body of Christ. This is why this crisis affects us so personally. The sin and crimes of some members of the body touch and harm all the members of the body. They affect the whole body of Christ. This crisis affects us so deeply precisely because we are the Body of Christ.

I encourage you to go to the Archdiocesan website ([Promise.ArchdioceseofHartford.org](http://Promise.ArchdioceseofHartford.org)) so that you will be fully informed about what has happened and how the Archdiocese has responded and is continuing to respond.

Moving forward will be difficult and painful; some may even find it impossible. It will take a long time to heal, and many will never be fully healed. But if the church is truly the Body of the Risen Christ—and I believe it is—we can and must rely on Christ to show us the way forward, as painful as that may be. For it is only when we utterly rely upon Christ and follow Christ in truth and integrity, without reservation, that we will begin the process of renewal and reform we so desperately need.

*Father Matera*

**February 3, 2019**

## **Religious Education**

**Grade 2 and 5 Ministry Learning Project Days:** Our second grade students will hold their Ministry Learning Project this **Sunday, February 3rd**. Grade 5 students will hold their Ministry Learning Project Day on **Sunday, February 10th**. Both classes will gather in the Parish Center during class time on their respective day to work along side their parents/grandparents to create Saint Valentine's Day gifts and cards. The work of their hands, the hands of Christ on Earth, will spread the love of God to our elderly brothers and sisters in Christ.

## **Adult Enrichment**

**A Mini Retreat:** Father Matera's Spring Series this year will be in the form of a mini-Lenten retreat entitled *A Time for Renewal and Growth*. This mini-retreat will be held on the following Thursdays of Lent: March 14, March 21, 28, April 4, and 11. It will focus on the themes of (1) Temptation, (2) Faith, (3) the Mystery of God, (4) Reconciliation, and (5) God's Grace. Each evening will begin and end with prayer. Mark your calendar and join us for one or more of these evenings.

**Habitat for Humanity:** On March 3, in the Parish Center, at 10:30 AM, learn about what's involved with a Habitat for Humanity Build Day. If you are interested, you can sign up for the St. Mary's Build Day which will take place on March 23!

**Retreat Scholarship:** Holy Family Monastery has provided our parish with a "retreat gift certificate" that covers the full cost of the Men's Retreat for March 15-17. If you have never been on a retreat at Holy Family and would like to attend this year's retreat, please contact Fr. Matera and he will provide you with this certificate.

**Retreats for Men and Woman:** Have you ever made a retreat? Have you ever taken a few days to review your spiritual life, your life in Christ? If you have not, take a step that can change and transform your life. This year, there will be two retreats at Holy Family Monastery in Farmington for our Parish, one for men March 15-17 and one for women April 5-7. There will also be a retreat for women at Our Lady of Calvary in Farmington, Feb 15-17. To learn more, contact Gerry or Ellen Graham (860-651-6621), email [gfgdds@gmail.com](mailto:gfgdds@gmail.com) or speak with Father Matera.

## **Social Outreach**

**Mercy Shelter:** Desserts and fruit are needed to take to Mercy Shelter in Hartford. All items can be dropped off in the Lower Church this Sunday, February 3, before 3:00 PM. Thanks for all the donations!

**Immacare Meal For the Homeless:** The next serving date is Monday, February 25th. The menu calls for pork chops or chicken (email Tracey for the recipe), and bananas, milk, white bread, cookies and brownies. Email Tracey Roderick at [Roderickllc@gmail.com](mailto:Roderickllc@gmail.com) or text/call (860-218-5478) if you would like to help. Thank you for any assistance.

**Clothes for the Homeless:** On February 10th we will have a collection of new or lightly used hats, gloves, socks, and scarves for children, women, and men. These items are still in great demand due to our very cold weather.

**Simsbury Food Bank:** On Sunday, February 24th, we will have our monthly food collection of canned stew, canned soups, etc., pasta, coffee, toilet paper, and other non-perishables at all Masses. You have all been extremely generous in all our collections. Please email [lrippel@aol.com](mailto:lrippel@aol.com) for any questions.

## **Youth Ministry**

**Register now:** Registration is now open for our annual road trip to the Steubenville East Catholic Youth Conference at UMass-Lowell on July 12-14. To place a deposit or find more information, visit [stmaryssimsbury.org/east](http://stmaryssimsbury.org/east)

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