

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](https://www.instagram.com/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	February 23 Clinton Burnham By: Zim Anthony
Sunday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	February 24 People of St. Mary's Parish Martha Zaldonis By: The Nolan Family James Arthur Cloonan By: The Albergo Family
Monday 8:00 AM	February 25
Tuesday 8:00 AM	February 26 Mollie Ions By: Her Daughter, Shae
Wednesday 8:00 AM	February 27 Ed Reed By: The Mauro Family
Thursday 8:00 AM	February 28 Sheila Jones By: The Bible Family
Saturday 5:00 PM	March 2 Florence Christian
Sunday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	March 3 People of St. Mary's Parish Barbara Sieber By: The Nolan Family John Molloy By: His Family

Baptism: We welcome William Lucas David, Gia Marie Imelda Rivard, Anthony Jace Dercy, and Atom David Mill who were baptized into Christ last week.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Monday, 8:30 to 9:30 AM, is reserved for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Please join us.

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Talk Saves Lives™: Local Speaker Tom Steen will present the program this Sunday at 2:00 PM in the Parish Center. We urge all to attend this very important talk about what is now the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. Come learn about suicide prevention, what it is, who it affects, what we know about it and what can be done to prevent it. Sign-ups are at the front of the church or you can email your name and number of participants to aespstm@gmail.com This program is open to anyone from the community that wishes to attend. We are accepting last minute sign ups—it's not too late to come.

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).

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 \$14,947. Of this amount, \$8,009 came from 133 E-Givers, and \$6,938 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.

Questions about E-Giving: Thank you for using E-giving. If you have questions about how to increase your e-giving, just call the office (860-658-7627).

Simsbury Food Bank: This 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. Please email lrippel@aol.com for any questions.

Immacare Meal For the Homeless: The next serving date is this 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 or text/call (860-218-5478) if you would like to help. Thank you for any assistance.

Annual St Patrick's Dinner: Saturday, March 16th at 6:00 PM Parish Center. Come and enjoy Corned Beef & Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots, Irish Soda Bread, Dessert and Beverage and stay for the Entertainment. Tickets will be sold after the weekend Masses at Church on March 2nd 3rd 9th & 10th. Also available in the Parish Office after March 4th. Adults - \$17; Children 12 and under- \$7. RSVP no later than March 11th. Get your tickets early, this is a popular event. No tickets will be sold at the door. Hosted by the Knights of Columbus & St Mary's Women's Guild. For additional info, call (860-651-4027) or (860-658-7627).

Singing Opportunity: Do you attend the 5:00 PM Saturday 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. Join us when you can by the organ when you attend the Saturday 5:00 PM Mass. No prior choir experience required, all abilities are welcome!

Witnessing To Our FAITH *in Christ*



Jesus Christ God's Faithful Witness

For the past few weeks, I have been writing about witnessing to our faith in Christ. Moreover, since September we have heard more than twenty of our parishioners witness to their faith. By listening to their stories of faith, we have learned why they believe in Christ. But in addition to speaking about *our* witness to faith in Christ, we must also speak about *the witness of Jesus Christ*.

The Book of Revelation (the last Book of the Bible) calls Jesus Christ “the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth” (Rev 1:5). Jesus is God’s faithful witness because he testifies by his life and death to the truth that is God. He comes as a witness to the truth to reveal God to the world. It is his witness to the truth that leads to his death. But death was not victorious; for God raised Jesus from the dead. God who is faithful raised Jesus, his faithful witness, into new life.

Jesus witnessed to God throughout his life by doing God’s will. Nothing was more important to him than living in conformity with God’s will. The whole of his life was an offering to God, a living sacrifice whereby he accomplished what he taught in the prayer he gave us: “Thy will be done on earth as in heaven.” Throughout his life Jesus testified to the truth that is God. His mission was to reveal God the Father to us.

Jesus’ most powerful witness to God came at the moment of his death. In the Garden of Gethsemane, he said, “Not my will but yours be done.” When he stood before Pontius Pilate, he said, “I have come to witness to the truth. “On the cross, he cried out, “Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit.”

We become witnesses to faith by imitating Christ in our daily life. We become witness to Christ by seeking to do God’s will above all things, and by witnessing to the truth that is God. *Father Matera*

Saint Mary's Campus Connection Update

Here is an update of what is happening and what is about to happen with our Campus Connection Project:

- New doors have been installed connecting the church and our new building.
- New carpet will be installed inside the church in front of these new doors, and the church interior walls near these new doors will be painted in the next few weeks.
- Within our new building:
 - * Walls are being painted
 - * Rosary floor patterns, carpeting, and other flooring materials have been installed
 - * The St. Bernard window cabinet is scheduled for installation next week
- Construction fencing gates must remain open for access by emergency vehicles, *but no other traffic may enter the construction fencing area*. The gates will be replaced by cones and sawhorses as a reminder that this area is only accessible to construction traffic. It is very important that we respect this as a construction area only **for safety and liability reasons**

Thank you for your patience during our construction project—the prize is not far away! We anticipate moving in early April once the final paving is complete in all parking areas. When this is done we will have ample parking and better traffic flow for all who attend Mass. Most importantly, St. Mary’s will be handicap accessible for all, and we will have a vestibule where we can gather before and after Mass.

February 24, 2019

Adult Enrichment

Habitat for Humanity build Day: Learn about what's involved with a Habitat for Humanity Build Day on Sunday, March 3 at 10:30 AM in the Parish Center. We are very lucky to have Rose Vigdal, from Hartford Habitat, come speak with us in the Parish Center about what is involved with a "Build Day." St. Mary's will have its own special Habitat for Humanity build day on March 23rd and you can sign up right there if you are interested.

Women's Book Club: Please join us for our first Book Club on Saturday, March 2nd from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. We will be discussing the book *Lent, Season of Transformation* by Amy Ekeh. Books are available in the parish office for \$10 or online at Amazon. Feel free to contact Barb (barb.demaio@comcast.net) with questions. Read the book and come prepared for a spiritual discussion!

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.

Men of St. Mary's: Take your faith journey in a new direction this Lent. The men of our parish will meet every Saturday morning (7:00 AM to 8:30 AM) to read and reflect on the Gospel and its relevance in our lives as Christian men, fathers, husbands, and workers in today's society. No homework, no pressure, just an invitation to journey in fellowship together with men you probably already know or see at church. Visit: <https://www.mensministryusa.com/> or email smma95@gmail.com

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) or speak with Father Matera.

Retreat Gift Certificate: Holy Family Monastery has given us a gift certificate for the men's retreat that will be held at Holy Family the weekend of March 15-17. The certificate covers the cost of the retreat. If you have never attended the Men's Retreat but would like to this year, contact Father Matera.

Granny's Attic & Boutique

This year for our boutique we will accept **Designer/ Name Brand clean gently used coats and clothing, and new shoes only.** Antiques or collectibles will be specially priced. We encourage families to donate unwanted treasures they no longer need. All items must be in good to excellent condition and clean. the generosity of Rick and Carole Wagner. **Collection dates:** Wednesday, April 3rd, Thursday, April 4th and Friday, April 5th 4:00 PM-7:00 PM - Saturday, April 6th and Sunday, April 7th 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. **Granny's Attic will be open to the public:** Monday, April 8th to Saturday, April 13th. For times refer to St. Mary's website www.stmarysimsbury.org. If you have questions and/or would like to volunteer to collect, sort and assist in selling, go to our sign up genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0545abac238-grannys2> Any questions please contact Jane Stevenson (860-651-5017) stevenje@comcast.net or Stephanie McIntyre (860-651-3862) smcintyre190@gmail.com or Ann O'Donnell (860-658-2120) annno@snet.net

St. Mary's School National Blue Ribbon School

Hip, Hip Hooray! Preschool for 3 year olds is coming your way! Now enrolling for the 2019-2020 school year. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Enrollment is limited to 10 children. Contact Toni Chagnon for more information (860-658-9412) or tchagnon@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net

Walk In Wednesdays: Take A Tour! March 6th thru March 27th 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Come see why we were awarded the **2018 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence** award. Now enrolling for the 2019 - 2020 school year in Prekindergarten thru 8th grade. www.stmarysschoolsimsbury.org Contact Toni Chagnon for more information, (860-658-9412) or tchagnon@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net

Other

National Day of Mourning: Due to recent legislation in New York allowing for late term abortions a National Day of Mourning is scheduled for Saturday, February 23rd. We are asked to pray, fast, and wear black on that day hoping to make up for apathy on this issue and to beg God for His Mercy on us. At St. Ann's in Avon, we will gather to pray the rosary and Chaplet of the Divine Mercy from 1-2:30 PM in the church. Please join us.