St. Mary's Church

Directory

Parish Office: 944 Hopmeadow 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
Heather Benedetti & Kathy Hughes
parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org

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

Religious Education Grades 1-6:
Kathy Piggott Ext. 304
reled1-6@stmarysimsbury.org

Religious Education Grades 7-8:
Lori Ryan Ext. 309
reled7-8@stmarysimsbury.org

Youth Ministry Grades 9-10:
Steve DiMotta Ext. 302
youthministry@stmarysimsbury.org

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	**November 2**
5:00 PM	The Souls of All the Faithful Departed
Sunday	**November 3**
8:00 AM	People of St. Mary's Parish
9:30 AM	Joseph Matera
11:00 AM	Ann Forcucci In Loving Memory By: Her Family
Monday	**November 4**
8:00 AM	Patti Dorman By: Catherine Rivard
8:30 AM	**Eucharistic Adoration**
Tuesday	**November 5**
8:00 AM	Geraldine Clarke By: The Barglowski Family
Wednesday	**November 6**
8:00 AM	Nancy Richard 6th Anniversary By: Her Family
Thursday	**November 7**
8:00 AM	Frank Barcelo By: His Family
Saturday	**November 9**
5:00 PM	Ann Forcucci In Loving Memory By: Her Family
Sunday	**November 10**
8:00 AM	Estelle Mulak In Loving Memory
9:30 AM	Matthew Heagney By: The Henault Family
11:00 AM	People of St. Mary's Parish

Deceased: Please pray for Madeline Haas. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

Weekly Offertory: Last week's offertory was $13,168. Of this amount, $4,603 came from 107 E-Givers, and $8,565 came from envelopes and cash. Please consider E-Giving. Thank you for your generous support of St. Mary's Parish without which we would not be able to carry out our many ministries.

Second Collection: This weekend, November 2-3, there will be a second collection for the Archdiocese for Military Services. The Archdiocese for Military Services serves the spiritual needs of our troops and their chaplains in this country and abroad. This collection is taken up every three years. Thank you for your generosity!

Parish Announcements

October Count: We have completed our October count for the month of October. Our attendance at Mass was 913 the first week, 791 the second week, 837 the third week, 792 the fourth week. Our Church average was 833.

Book of the Deceased: During the month of November we will remember at Mass all those whose names are written in our Book of the Deceased.

Farewell to Mrs. Sullivan: After 20 years of dedicated and faithful service to Saint Mary's, our Music Director, Gena Sullivan, has decided to resign her position. We are grateful for all she has done to minister here, and we wish her well in the years ahead. Please bear with us in the interim as we search to fill this important position.

Thank you Bulletin Ad Sponsors! Help Still Needed! We would like to thank all of the advertisers who have generously committed to the bulletin for this year! We still have space available and humbly ask that you consider advertising your business or professional ad. Our parish bulletin is one of our main communication tools to our parish members. It provides inspirational words from Father, Mass intentions, news, and events for the week ahead. We are thankful that this crucial communication piece is provided to our parish at no cost thanks to the generous advertising support of our parishioners and community-minded businesses. Please let us know if you can help. Please contact Mary Hoffman at (860) 836-8486 or via e-mail at Mhoffman@4LPi.com. Thank you!

People often ask, **"What is a Stephen Minister?"** One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After* People. They are there *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible, *after* the nursing home shakes your hand and says, "welcome home", *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out. If you would like to consider Stephen Ministry, please phone the parish office (860) 658-7627.

Property for Sale: If you know someone who would like to purchase the old Parish Office Building on 3 Massaco Street, please contact Rich Correia of RM Bradley, (860) 305-5622, rcorreia@Rmbradley.com.

We need your Pictures!! Please send any parish pictures that you would like to share on our Facebook page to parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org.

Lost and Found: If you lost a bracelet, please contact the parish office.

Alive in Christ (5)

Even the Dead are Alive in Christ

For the past several weeks, I have been writing about what it means for us to be alive in Christ. Today I turn my attention to the faithful departed and what it means to say that they are alive in Christ.

We traditionally remember our beloved dead on *All Souls Day* (Nov 2) and throughout the month of November. This is why we place our *Book of the Deceased* in the sanctuary every November.

We remember the faithful departed, our relatives and friends, because we loved and continue to love them, even after death. But we do not remember them as merely deceased. As believers in the risen Christ, we remember them as now fully alive in Christ!

Yes, they have died and are no longer with us. Yes, we grieve for them and feel the pain of their absence. But, as Saint Paul writes in his letter to the Thessalonians, we do not grieve as people without hope. We believe that the faithful departed are alive in the risen Christ.

Reflect on this great truth. The faithful departed are alive in a way that we cannot imagine because they live in the risen Christ, and because they live in the risen Christ, they are alive in God. And so, there are two ways of being alive in Christ.

First, we are alive in Christ in this life because we have been baptized into the risen Lord. This means that we already experience something of the new life that will be ours after death. Second, we will become *fully* alive in Christ after death. If we have lived our lives in Christ in this life, we will be taken up into the fullness of life - God's life - after death.

Just as the crucified Jesus was taken up into God's life at his resurrection, so we will be taken up into God's life when we die. We are already alive in Christ, but what we shall be (as St. John says) has not yet been revealed.

The Preface for the Funeral Mass beautifully expresses our understanding of death:

In him the hope of blessed resurrection has dawned,
that those saddened by the certainty of dying
might be consoled by the promise of immortality to come.
Indeed, for your faithful, Lord,
life is changed not ended,
and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust,
an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven.

Father Matera

Save The Date

Mercy Shelter: Desserts and fruits are needed to take to Mercy Shelter in Hartford this Sunday, November 4. All items can be dropped off in the Forcucci Faith Formation Center before 3:00 PM. Thank you for your donations!

Prayer Shawl Ministry: If you are interested in knitting or crocheting, please join us this Monday, November 4, 7:00 - 8:30 PM in the Forcucci Faith Formation Library. For questions, or if you cannot attend meetings, contact Rhoda at (860) 651-4027.

Bible Study with Deacon Art: Please join us for Bible Study this Wednesday, November 6, and Wednesday, November 20, in the Parish Center. We are reading John's Gospel. Community prayer will begin at 6:45 PM with class following 7:00 - 8:00 PM. Lectio Divina will begin at 6:10 PM, please let Deacon Art know if you plan to attend.

"Unplanned" an incredible movie based on a true story of Planned Parenthood clinic director Abby Johnson will be shown at the Church of St. Ann's in Avon next Sunday, November 10, 2:00 PM in Fr. Bennett Hall. Admission is a donated baby item for Two Hearts.

Birthright Needs Volunteers! Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service offering free pregnancy tests, friendship counseling, and practical support. Our guiding principle: It is the RIGHT of every pregnant woman to give BIRTH and the RIGHT of every child to be BORN. Birthright has served in Connecticut since 1972 and helped thousands of mothers and babies. There are 8 Birthright locations in our state. Please call (800) 550-4900 for the Birthright nearest you. Training is provided. Spanish speaking volunteers are especially needed. Thank you!

Northwest Catholic High School will offer an Entrance Exam on Saturday, November 23, at 8:00 AM. You can register for the exam on line at www.northwestcathoic.org/admissions. Walk-ins are welcome! Please contact Andrew Selig at aselig@nwcath.org with any questions.

Catholic Church Annulments: If you have questions about the Church's position on divorce, annulments, and marriage, attend the workshop on Catholic Church Annulments conducted by Fr. Juan-Diego Brunetta at St. Peter Claver's Church, 47 Pleasant St., West Hartford, on Thursday, December 5, 7:00 - 9:00 PM.

Religious Education

Grades 7-8: There is a special class for the Junior High students on Monday, November 4, 6:30 - 8:00 PM. Pizza will be served and games will be played. We will be learning about ANGELS, the good ones and the fallen ones. Service Hours can be earned by those who attend this special class.

Next class will be Sunday, November 10, 6:00 - 7:30 PM. The class objective will be Unit 8: The Redeemer

1. To review that God gives us the freedom to choose to follow him or to reject him.
2. To learn that God loves us with a merciful love and that we should imitate him by showing merciful love to others.
3. To review that the redemption is God's greatest act of merciful love and that it was prepared for us in the Old Testament.
4. To study about the hypostatic union and the Incarnation.

Confirmation Reminder: The next confirmation class will be held this Sunday, November 3, 6:00 - 7:30 PM.

St. Mary's School
National Blue Ribbon School

Open House is Coming Soon! Join us this **Tuesday, November 5, at 6:00 PM**. Tour our campus, meet faculty and staff, ask questions and learn more about the advantages of a modern Catholic education.

The sale you have been waiting for is here! Please take home an order form for poinsettia plants offered by the 8th grade at St. Mary's School. Orders may also be placed next Sunday, November 10, during the coffee after the 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM Masses. The sale ends November 15.

Are you looking for gift cards as gifts for loved ones? Would you support St. Mary's School using gift cards to purchase groceries? Join hundreds of others who participate in the CHOICE program through St. Mary's School! Cards and order forms will be available next Sunday, November 10, during the coffee after the 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM Masses. Can't make that? Call the school and we will be happy to assist you!

Please join us at **St. Mary's School Book Fair!** Shop after Masses this Saturday or Sunday, November 2-3, or 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Monday - Thursday, November 4-7. The Book Fair will also be open during our school's Open House this Tuesday, November 5, 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Remember, all purchases benefit our school, students, and faculty. Thank you for supporting our readers!

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Calvary Cemetery—2324 East Main Street Waterbury, CT
Holy Cross Cemetery—171 Wickham Road Glastonbury, CT
Saturday October 26, 2019:
St Mary Cemetery—1141 Stanley St. New Britain, CT
All Saints Cemetery—700 Middletown Ave North Haven, CT
Mt Olivet Cemetery—669 Platt Road Watertown, CT
Saturday November 2, 2019:
Mt St Benedict Cemetery—1 Cottage Grove Road Bloomfield, CT
St Francis Cemetery—863 South Main St. Torrington, CT
Mt St Peter Cemetery—219 New Haven Ave Derby, CT
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