

# 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:** Patricia Lepak

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

## Mass Intentions

<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 PM	<b>November 16</b> Shirley Laucella By: Louis & Carole Pepe
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 AM 9:30 AM  11:00 AM	<b>November 17</b> People of St. Mary's Parish Sheri & Jae Eklund Living Intention By: Lois Caron Louis & Mildred Leonka By: The Carroll Family
<b>Monday</b> 8:00 AM 8:30 AM	<b>November 18</b>  <b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>November 19</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>November 20</b> Maddy Haas By: Ron & Carol Locandro
<b>Thursday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>November 21</b>
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 PM	<b>November 23</b> Elaine Budd By: Her Loving Family
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 AM  9:30 AM 11:00 AM	<b>November 24</b> Madelyn Valence By: Her Family People of St. Mary's Parish Michael Leonka By: The Carroll Family

**Deceased:** Please pray for Phillip Plona. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

**Baptism:** We welcome Nash Flanagan who was baptized into Christ.

**Weekly Offertory:** Last week's offertory was \$15,103. Of this amount, \$5,944 came from 125 E-Givers, and \$9,159 came from envelopes and cash. Please consider E-Giving. Offertory for the ten months ended October 31, 2019 was \$622,981 compared to a budget of \$640,114. 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:** Next weekend, November 23-24, there will be a second collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. This collection supports programs that empower people to identify and address root causes of poverty as they work to make a permanent difference in their communities. Thank you!

## Parish Announcements

**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.

**Simsbury Interfaith Thanksgiving Service:** This year's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held next Sunday, November 24, 7:00 PM at the Simsbury Methodist Church on the corner of Hopmeadow St. and Plank Hill Road. Clergy and choirs from the many houses of worship in the Simsbury area will be present. This is a wonderful opportunity to worship and give thanks with other believers with whom we do not usually worship. Please join us. Fr. Matera

**Bible Study with Deacon Art:** Please join us for Bible Study this 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.

**Simsbury Food Pantry:** As part of our Confirmation program, each class will be participating in a service project. This Sunday, November 17, 12:00 - 3:00 PM, one of our classes will be at the Granby Stop and Shop collecting food for the Simsbury Food Pantry. They will have a list of needed items. Please stop by and not only support this class, but also the folks who need food assistance this holiday season.

**Simsbury Food Pantry:** Next weekend, November 23-24, we will be collecting the following items at all Masses: canned or bottled juices, canned meats/tuna, canned fruit and vegetables, cereals, pasta and spaghetti sauce, tea, coffee and toilet paper. Contact: [lrippel@aol.com](mailto:lrippel@aol.com)

**A Giving Opportunity:** A few weeks ago, I asked if someone would be willing to sponsor railings for the sanctuary that would make it easier for lectors and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist to enter the sanctuary. Someone generously responded. Another need is for automatic door openers to the Magowan Center and to the lavatory door next to the elevator that would make these doors handicap accessible. I already have received some donations toward this project. If you would like to participate, please let me know. Fr. Matera

**Bulletin Deadlines:** With the holidays quickly approaching, bulletin submission due dates will be moved up to meet the printing company's deadlines. Please check with the parish office for exact dates.

**Thank You:** Thank you to St. Mary's School for hosting coffee and fellowship after the 8:00 and 9:30 AM Masses. If you would like to host, please call the parish office (860) 658-7627.

# *Alive in Christ (7)*

## *Breathing in the Spirit*



We do it without thinking every day. And the day we stop doing it, we die. Every day we breathe in the life-giving oxygen that sustains us. When we are healthy, we breathe without thinking. But then comes a moment when breathing becomes difficult, and we gasp for every life giving breath. At that moment we understand how important it is to breathe.

What is true of our everyday life is true of the spiritual life, by which I mean our life in the Spirit of God. If we are to be alive in Christ, we must breathe in the life-giving breath of the Holy Spirit. We must breathe in God's life, the life of the Spirit.

We breathe in the life of the Spirit when we pray and let the Spirit of God enter our lives. We breathe in the life of the Spirit when we receive the sacraments. At Baptism and Confirmation, the Spirit enters our spirit. Whenever we receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, the Spirit enters our life. When we receive the Sacrament of Anointing, Matrimony, or Holy Orders, the life-giving power of the Spirit enters our life.

We also breathe in the life of the Spirit when we live in the community of the Church, which is the Body of the Risen Christ. In the Body of Christ we breathe in the power of Christ's resurrection. In the Body of Christ we are alive in Christ because we are in the atmosphere of God's Spirit.

But notice this. Before we can take our next breath, we first need to exhale. If we do not exhale we cannot breathe again and we die. And so to breathe we must also exhale, we must make room for our next breath.

And so it is with the spiritual life. If we hope to breathe in the power of the Spirit, we must exhale. That is, we must empty ourselves, our spiritual lungs, of all that prevents the Spirit from living in us.

For example, when we breathe in the Spirit, we must exhale all hatred and jealousy. When we breathe in the Spirit, we must exhale all greed and avarice. When we breathe in the Spirit, we must empty ourselves of everything that would prevent us from being alive in Christ.

Do you want to be more deeply alive in Christ? Then breathe in the gift of God's Spirit. Do you want to be alive in Christ? Then exhale all that prevents you from living in Christ. When you do this you will be alive in Christ. You will breathe easily and effortlessly because the Spirit will be present to your life

*Father Matera*

**November 17, 2019**

**Save The Date**

**Adult Enrichment:** Please join us on Sunday, December 8, at 10:15 AM for this presentation by Marek Czarnecki on Religious Icons associated with the liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas. Mr. Czarnecki is a gifted iconographer and artist, teaching and writing icons from his liturgical arts studio, Seraphic Restorations, in Meriden, CT. His icons are marked by a loyalty to historical criteria, materials and high level of craftsmanship, hanging in homes and churches across the United States. He has restored hundreds of church statues and murals and speaks on the importance of the sacred arts in American Catholic churches. His most recently completed commission was for Yale University's parish of St Thomas More. Interviews and articles about the artist have appeared in the New York Times, The Hartford Courant, The St. Anthony Messenger, The Catholic Digest, Our Sunday Visitor, Connecticut Public Radio and others. This presentation will take place in the Magowan Center Reading Room.

**Santa's Workshop & Breakfast:** Please join us for this festive family event sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Women's Guild on Saturday, December 14, 8:30 - 11:00AM in the Parish Center. Breakfast, crafts and Christmas card making for area shelters. And don't forget the visit from Santa! Tickets on sale December 1 & 8 after all Mass. 2 yrs and under - Free. Adults & children \$10.00 per person (Family cap of \$50.00)

**Advent Wreath Making:** Intergenerational Event Saturday, November 30, 3:00 - 4:30 PM in the Forcucci Faith Formation Center hosted by St. Mary's Religious Education Grades 1-6. Learn about the meaning of the Advent Wreath and make one for your family or as a gift! Cookies and hot chocolate will be served! Bring your wreaths to the 5:00 PM Vigil Mass for Fr. Matera to bless. Email Kathy: [reled1-6@gmail.com](mailto:reled1-6@gmail.com). Let us know: Family name, number attending, and if you want more than one wreath, by November 23.

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

**International Bazaar:** Shop fair trade products including coffee, chocolate, clothing, ornaments and more next Saturday, November 23, 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM at St. Ann's Church in Avon. Hosted by St. Ann's Social Justice Committee.

**Religious Education**

**Reminder:** Confirmation class for High School students will be this Sunday, November 17, 6:00 - 7:30 PM. Students should report directly to class.

**Grades 7 & 8** will meet next Sunday, November 24, 6:00 - 7:30 PM. Unit 9: Jesus Redeems Us

- To recall why God the Son became man: to return God the Father's love and to help us return God's love. Jesus does this by reconciling us with God the Father, who "loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins." (1John 4:10).
- To understand Jesus also became man to show us who we are and how we should act. Jesus does this by the very revelation of the mystery of the Father and of his love.
- To understand why Adam and Eve and their descendants were unable to regain the friendship with God that was severed by Original Sin.
- To learn Jesus is both God and man to make it possible for the love of the Father to be returned by a human being.
- To recall Jesus gives us grace through his Death on the Cross, his Resurrection from the dead and his Ascension into heaven (the Paschal Mystery).

**High School Ignite Night:** Join us next Sunday, November 24, 6:30 - 8:30 PM in the Forcucci Faith Formation Center. Can you escape with your faith? Please email [youthministry@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:youthministry@stmarysimsbury.org) to RSVP so we can get a count for food. Open to all high school students.

**Thank God It's Youth Group:** Next Monday, November 25, 6:30 - 8:00 PM, all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to join us. There will be silly games like Pumpkin Pictionary, Turkey Toss, and many more. Our topic this month will be about Thankfulness.

**St. Mary's School  
National Blue Ribbon School**

**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! Call the school and we will be happy to assist you!

**Take A Look...**at a National Blue Ribbon School every Tuesday 9:00 - 2:00 PM. Take a tour and see the difference a Catholic education can make. [www.stmarysschoolsimsbury.org](http://www.stmarysschoolsimsbury.org)