

# St. Mary's Church



## Directory

**Parish Office:** 944 Hopmeadow 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

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

**Rev. Frank Matera:** Ext. 301

**Deacon Arthur Miller:** Ext. 113

**Parish Office:** Ext. 306  
Heather Benedetti & Kathy Hughes  
[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:**  
Kathy Piggott Ext. 304  
[reled1-6@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:reled1-6@stmarysimsbury.org)

**Religious Education Grades 7-8:**  
Lori Ryan Ext. 309  
[reled7-8@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:reled7-8@stmarysimsbury.org)

**Youth Ministry Grades 9-10:**  
Steve DiMotta Ext. 302  
[youthministry@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:youthministry@stmarysimsbury.org)

**Stephen Ministry:** Linda Duff Ext. 114  
[stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto: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>December 7</b> Agnes Looney Birthday Remembrance By: Her Family
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 AM 9:30 AM  11:00 AM	<b>December 8</b> People of St. Mary's Parish Lou Casella By: The Kalamarides Family Deceased Members of the Robert & Norma Gallagher Family
<b>Monday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>December 9</b> Immaculate Conception
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>December 10</b> Marie Krucek By: John & Midge Condaxis
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>December 11</b> Rosie Voorvaart By: Her Loving Family
<b>Thursday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>December 12</b> Mary Lou Daley By: Fran Sethre
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 PM	<b>December 14</b> Virginia Michaud By: St. Bernard Parishioners Alumni
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 AM 9:30 AM  11:00 AM	<b>December 15</b> People of St. Mary's Parish Philomena Spatcher By: Her Family Bob & Jean Snediker By: The Family

**Deceased:** Please pray for Alice Hoppi, Teresa Montano, and Rose Winot. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**Baptism:** We welcome Gabriella Anne Wells who was baptized into Christ last Sunday.

**Immaculate Conception:** This year Immaculate Conception falls on the second Sunday of Advent. Therefore, Immaculate Conception is being transferred to Monday, December 9, however the obligation to attend Mass is NOT being transferred.

**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.

## Parish Announcements

**Weekly Offertory:** Offertory for the weekend of November 24 was \$13,957. Of this amount, \$4,309 came from 102 E-Givers, and \$9,648 came from envelopes and cash. Second collection for Catholic Communication Campaign was \$3,489.

Last week's offertory was \$13,839. Of this amount, \$5,386 came from 116 E-Givers, and \$8,453 came from envelopes and cash.

Offertory for the eleven months ended November 30, 2019 was \$686,981 compared to a budget of \$698,286. 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, December 7 - 8, there will be a second collection for the Fund for Retired Religious.

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation:** During Advent, Bishop Rosazza will be hearing confessions with Father Matera on the Monday nights of December 9 and 23 from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Please consider availing yourself of the opportunity to receive the sacrament before Christmas.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** During Advent, there will be adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the Mondays evenings that confessions are heard, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Please join us and take an hour to adore the Blessed Sacrament, even if you are not going to confession that night.

**Giving Tree:** If you have purchased an item or gift card from the Giving Tree, please return it with the tag underneath the tree by next Sunday, December 15, 1:00 PM. We are also seeking volunteers of all ages, individuals or families, to help with the sorting, assembly of Christmas stockings, and delivery of the gifts. Please call Peggy Day (860) 306-4230, Kathy Brignac (860) 490-4958, or Sandy Everett (860) 214-6557 with any questions, suggestions, or feedback.

**Poinsettias** benefiting St. Mary's School 8th grade will be available for pick up Saturday and Sunday, December 7 - 8, after all Masses in the Parish Center. Thank you for your support.

**Stephen Ministry:** 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 phone call you hoped you'd never get. *After* the funeral, when everyone has left. *After* the pink slip with your final paycheck. Are you experiencing something like this? Call the office (860) 658-7627 or Stephen Minister coordinator, Mary Ann Pappano at (860) 658-7532 to inquire about the ministry.

## Advent 2



### *Justice Shall Flourish in His Time, and Fullness of Peace Forever*

On this Second Sunday of Advent, the Liturgy presents us with a vision of what can be when God enters our lives. It presents us with a vision of a ruler who brings us perfect justice and peace.

This vision starts with a magnificent prophecy from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Living in a time of political turmoil similar to our own, the Prophet promises a day of perfect peace and justice. On that day, the whole creation will be at peace. The wolf will be the guest of the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the kid, the calf and young lion will browse together. Even the cow and the bear will be neighbors! How is this possible? It is possible because the earth will be filled with the knowledge of God.

In response to this magnificent vision, we sang this refrain in today's responsorial psalm: *Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever*. But who is this ideal ruler who will bring the fulfilment of perfect peace and justice? Who is this ideal ruler who will fill the earth with the knowledge of God?

John the Baptist announces the coming of this ruler in today's Gospel. A solitary voice crying out in the wilderness, John summons us to repent because the time of salvation is near. The ideal ruler that Isaiah foretold is about to make his appearance. But if we are to endure the day of his coming, we must change our ways so that we can live in God's new creation in perfect justice and peace.

Perhaps this seems to you to be too good to be true. After all, we have been waiting for God's perfect justice and peace for a long time, and it still seems so far away. The world in which we live is filled with violence and injustice. Can God really bring about this new creation of justice and peace? Are we hoping for something that will never be? How we answer this question makes all the difference.

We are not hoping in vain because God's new creation has already begun in Jesus Christ for those who are alive in Christ. It is not simply a future reality. It is not a pipe dream. It is something that has begun in Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God. It is something that has begun for those who are *alive in Christ*.

If we are *alive in Christ*, if we live in and for Christ, this new creation of justice and peace takes form in us and the church for the world to see. That is why St. Paul writes in today's second reading, *Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you*. If we welcome others into our lives in the way Christ welcomed us into his new resurrection life, then we begin to live in the justice and peace of Christ. When we are fully *alive in Christ*, the gift of God in Christ becomes a reality in our lives even now!

*Father Matera*

**December 8, 2019**

**Save The Date**

**Advent Taize Prayer:** Looking for a breather, time to pause, reflect on and cherish the wonder of God's love for us in this busy Advent season? Our Taize Service consists of song, scripture, prayer, and quiet. Treat yourself this Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 - 8:00 PM in the church. If you want to know more about this prayer service, call Mary Blume (860) 651-8302.

**Santa's Workshop & Breakfast:** Please join us for this festive family event sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Women's Guild next Saturday, December 14, 8:30 - 11:00 AM in the Parish Center. Breakfast, crafts and Christmas card making for area shelters. And don't forget the visit from Santa! Tickets on sale this weekend, December 7 - 8, after all Mass. 2 yrs and under - Free. Adults & children \$10.00 per person (Family cap of \$50.00).

**Bible Study with Deacon Art:** Please join us for Bible Study this Wednesday, December 11, and December 18 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.

**Share the Warmth!** Next weekend, December 14 - 15, there will be a collection of new or lightly used hats, gloves, hand warmers, socks, and scarves for children, women, and men. These items will be distributed at several of our Hartford shelters. A volunteer is also needed to assist in distributing these items.

**Simsbury Food Pantry:** The weekend of December 28- 29 we will have our monthly food collection of canned stew, canned soups, pasta, coffee, toilet paper, and other non-perishables at all Masses. You have been extremely generous in all our collections. Thank you! [lrippel@aol.com](mailto:lrippel@aol.com)

**Northwest Catholic High School** will offer an Entrance Exam on Saturday, January 11, at 8:00 AM. You can register for the exam online 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.

**Hospital Volunteers Needed:** Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center and Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital are always looking for people interested in giving back to those in need. Apply now and get your name into our volunteer database for future placements. [www.stfranciscare.org](http://www.stfranciscare.org) Click on Careers > Volunteering.

**Men's Ministry** is a fellowship of men of all ages who meet each week to reflect upon the Gospel and it's relevance in our daily lives. We'd love to have you join us this Saturday, and future Saturdays, at 7:00 AM in the Forcucci Faith Formation Center for coffee, bagels and fellowship.

**St. Mary's Men's Retreat:** March 13 - 15, 2020 at Holy Family Retreat Center. Register online: [www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org) or call (860) 760-8705.

**Rosary Group for Moms:** Please join us the 1st Monday of the month 9:30 AM in the Forcucci Faith Formation Center. Little ones are welcome! Any questions, contact Roseann Cerreta at [rosiecerr25@gmail.com](mailto:rosiecerr25@gmail.com).

### **Religious Education**

**Grades 7 & 8** will meet next Sunday, December 15, 6:00 - 7:30 PM. Unit 13: In The Fullness Of Time

- To understand the importance of knowing the Bible.
- To study the inspiration of the Bible.
- To learn how the Magisterium of the Church has guided the complex process of the formation and translation of the Bible.
- To learn each of the four Gospels is written in a different way, but all reveal the truth about Jesus.
- To reread the Christmas story in light of Jesus' reasons for coming into the world.
- To learn more about Jesus as a boy and young man.
- To learn more about St. John the Baptist.

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

Come enjoy the sounds of the season at our annual **Christmas Band & Choral Concert** this Monday, December 9, in the Parish Center. Dress Rehearsal 2:00 PM or our evening performance at 7:00 PM.

A treasured St. Mary's School tradition, please join us for **Lessons & Carols** next Monday, December 16. All are welcome to attend the dress rehearsal at 10:00 AM or the evening service 7:00 - 8:00 PM. The snow date is Tuesday, December 17.

**One Stop Holiday Shopping** - CHOICE Gift cards for Christmas!! Please contact the school office for more information (860) 658-9412.

**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)