

# 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

**Saturday January 25**  
5:00 PM Teresa Montano  
By: Ed & Sheila DeManuel

**Sunday January 26**  
8:00 AM People of St. Mary's Parish  
9:30 AM Linda Menard  
By: Stephen Ministry  
11:00 AM Barbara Sieber  
By: Her Loving Family

**Monday January 27**  
8:00 AM Rose & Ben Kuckel  
By: The Reynolds Family  
**8:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration**

**Tuesday January 28**  
8:00 AM

**Wednesday January 29**  
8:00 AM

**Thursday January 30**  
8:00 AM

**Saturday February 1**  
5:00 PM Joseph Bosco  
By: The Hughes Family

**Sunday February 2**  
8:00 AM People of St. Mary's Parish  
9:30 AM People of St. Mary's Parish  
11:00 AM Eunice Kelly  
By: Her Loving Family

**Baptism:** We welcome Keegan Davis-Bogdany who was baptized into Christ last week.

**Weekly Offertory:** Last week's offertory was \$11,342. Of this amount, \$5,379 came from 109 E-Givers, and \$5,963 came from envelopes and cash. Please consider E-Giving. Total Christmas collection was \$27,549 and the Parish Maintenance collection was \$20,222.

Offertory for the twelve months ended December 31, 2019 was \$811,543 compared to a budget of \$817,321. 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:** We ask for your support in helping the Catholic High School collection. Your investment will yield significant results, since our Catholic High Schools offer students exceptional academics, a true spirit of service, and an understanding of Faith and the Gospel message. We deeply value your support for the Catholic School Education.

## Parish Announcements

**Steubenville East Youth Conference:** Youth Ministry would like to invite any parents or students who are in high school or currently in 8th grade to come and receive information about the fun and energetic Steubenville East Youth Conference which will be held July 10 - 12. St. Mary's has been attending this conference for many years and many of our young people come away renewed and excited about the Faith. Our informational meeting will be held this Sunday, January 26, 6:15 PM in the Forcucci Faith Formation Center. Parents and teens are invited.

**Synod Update:** St. Mary's continues gathering input for the Archdiocese of Hartford Synod 2020. Join us next Saturday, February 1, at 9:00 AM or Sunday, February 2, at 10:30 AM to share in our parish conversation. Additional resources are on the website with links so you may see the speaker's presentations.

**Mercy Shelter:** Desserts and fruits are needed to take to Mercy Shelter in Hartford next Sunday, February 2. All items can be dropped off in the Forcucci Faith Formation Center before 3:00 PM. Thank you for your donations!

**Retreat Information:** Sister Elaine Betoncourt will be available after the 9:30 AM Mass next Sunday, February 2, to answer any questions about the men's and women's upcoming retreats.

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 and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you...after the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life...or after the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do." Please phone the parish at (860) 658-7627 and a Stephen Minister will return your call.

**Rosary Group for Moms:** Please join us the first Monday of the month **9:00 AM** in the Forcucci Faith Formation Center. Little ones are welcome! Any questions, contact Roseann Cerreta at [rosiecerr25@gmail.com](mailto:rosiecerr25@gmail.com).

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** If you are interested in knitting or crocheting, please join us next Monday, February 3, 7:00 - 8:30 PM in the Forcucci Faith Formation Center. We come together to make shawls which can then be given by parishioners to those in need of comfort. For questions, or if you cannot attend meetings, contact Rhoda at (860) 651-4027.

# *The People Who Walk in Darkness Have Seen a Great Light*



Today's Liturgy focuses our attention on the beginning of Jesus's ministry. Upon learning that John the Baptist has been arrested, Jesus knows the time has come for him to begin his own work. And so, he withdraws to Galilee where he begins his preaching and calls his first disciples.

Jesus's message is clear and direct: "Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand." This is the message he preaches over and over again. God is about to do something new, something that the prophets of Israel longed and hoped for. God is about to establish his rule over humanity and all history in a new and marvelous way. But if we hope to enter the new creation God is bringing about in Christ, we must *repent*. We must change our old way of thinking so that it allies with Jesus's way of thinking. We must turn from one path and take another. Something must change in our lives.

St. Matthew understood the importance of Jesus's ministry. He sees it as the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah that we hear in today's first reading: "the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen."

Dear friends, without Christ in our life we sit in the darkness of sin overshadowed by the threat of eternal death that separates us from God. But when we are in Christ, when we walk with Christ, when Christ is at the center of our life, then we stand in the glorious light of Christ that is the life of God. We live in God's new creation; we have entered in the kingdom of God. We live in the light. We live in the kingdom of God. And so, we must follow Jesus in the way of discipleship.

The first thing Jesus does after his initial preaching of the gospel is to call his first disciples: "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." All of us who have been baptized into Christ are disciples of the Lord. Jesus has called us by name to follow him, to learn from him, and to preach the gospel.

To be a Christian is to be a disciple who lives in the light and proclaims the gospel to others. That is why all of us, without exception, must take responsibility for the growth and life of the church. All of us must call others to live in the glorious light of the kingdom. After all, if we experienced the new life of the gospel, why wouldn't we share it with others?

**Here is something you can do this week that will make you more fully alive in Christ.** Think of one person with whom you would like to share your faith and the new life you have in Christ. Pray for that person. Raise that person up in your daily prayer. And then, when the occasion arises, speak the word that the Lord will give you. If you pray for that person, the Lord will give you the word you need.

*Father Matera*

**January 26, 2020**

### **Save The Date**

**Bible Study with Deacon Art:** Please join us for Bible Study in the Parish Center on the following dates: February 12 & 19, March 4 & 18, April 1 & 15, May 6 & 20, June 3 & 17. 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.

**Scout Sunday:** Calling all Scouts, including Cub Scouts, Brownies, Girl Scouts and Scouts USA! Please come and join us on Saturday, February 8, at the 5:00 PM Mass to celebrate Scout Sunday. Come in full uniform with your families. Scouts will have an active role in the Mass as greeters, Altar Servers, Lectors and multiple other roles. Please contact Mr. Kalamarides at (860) 478-5335 with questions or to volunteer for roles.

**Women's Retreats:** There are 2 wonderful opportunities for retreats this year: March 13 - 15 Our Lady of Calvary in Farmington with the theme "How Can I Keep From Singing" and April 17 - 19 Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford with the theme "Our Greatest Longing".

**St. Mary's Men's Retreat:** March 13 - 15 at Holy Family Retreat Center. For more information please contact Jerry Graham (860) 651-6621 or Leon Rippe (860) 658-6438, or register online: [www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org) or call (860) 760-8705.

**Retreat Scholarship.** Every year, Holy Family Monastery gives St. Mary's a "retreat scholarship" for one of the men of our parish. This means that you can go on retreat without cost. This scholarship is intended for someone who has never been on our Men's Retreat at Holy Family. This year's retreat is March 13 - 15 at Holy Family. There will be many men from our parish there. If you can use the scholarship, contact Fr. Matera.

**Winter Marriage Anniversary Mass:** If you celebrate your wedding anniversary during the months of December, January or February, please join us at the 5:00 PM Mass next Saturday, February 1, so we can bless your marriage and you can renew your marriage vows. All anniversaries are important, be it the first or the fiftieth. A **Wine and Cheese Social** hosted by the Women's Guild and open to everyone in the congregation will follow in the Parish Center; stop by before dinner and have a glass of Wine, Hot Cider, or Juice and Appetizers.

**Adult Enrichment and Spiritual Development Committee** invites you to be awakened by THE MASS narrated by Bishop Robert Barron. The full schedule for viewing this series on Sundays after the 9:30 AM Mass in the Magowan Center is: February 9 (Parts 1,2); February 23 (Part 3); March 1 (Parts 4,5); March 15 (Part 6). The entire series will be shown again on the following Tuesday evenings in the Forcucci Faith Formation Center from 6:45 - 8:00 PM: February 11, 25; March 3, 24.

### **Religious Education**

**Junior High** classes will meet this Sunday, January 26, 6:00 - 7:30 PM. We will present a Child Lure program for the 7th and 8th graders. The 7th grade will hear about the Authority Lure, and the 8th grade will hear about the Assistance Lure. Then we will meet in the Parish Center and spend the rest of class offering the students an opportunity to ask any questions regarding their faith. The teachers and Father Matera will answer their questions. Parents are always welcome to any of our classes.

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

**St. Mary's School Open House This Sunday, January 26, 2:00 - 4:00 PM!** Come see how our students create, collaborate, and climb to new heights every day! Full day Pre-Kindergarten now available for the 2020-2021 school year. Now enrolling for Pre-Kindergarten thru 8th grade. For more information and to register - <http://bit.ly/SMSOpenHouse20> [www.stmarysschoolsimsbury.org](http://www.stmarysschoolsimsbury.org) (860) 658-9412.

**Celebrate Catholic Schools Week!** This Sunday, January 26 - Saturday, February 1. A spirited week of celebrating and appreciating our faculty and staff, students and our families. We love St. Mary's School!

**Calling All Kids 5 & Under!** Get ready for Five Sense Fridays in January! Grab your favorite grown up and join us for some sensory fun! Every Friday in January 9:00 - 9:30 AM. Go to [www.stmarysschoolsimsbury.org](http://www.stmarysschoolsimsbury.org) for more information.

**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)



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