

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 & Cynthia Boss

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

Mass Intentions

Although daily and weekend public Masses have been cancelled, Father Matera will celebrate Mass every day for the Parishioners of Saint Mary's Church and for the intentions listed below.

Saturday 5:00 PM	May 2 Edward Looney By: His Family
Sunday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	May 3 The People of St. Mary's Parish David Comeau By: His Family Catherine & Vincent Tomasello By: Carol & Arthur
Monday 8:00 AM	May 4 Gary Burdick By: The Crane Family
Tuesday 8:00 AM	May 5 Dolores Zalewski By: The Hughes Family
Wednesday 8:00 AM	May 6 The People of St. Mary's Parish
Thursday 8:00 AM	May 7 Mary Doherty By: Bernard Gaffney & Family
Saturday 5:00 PM	May 9 Christine & Mary Kay Lescoe By: The Lescoe Family
Sunday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	May 10 The People of St. Mary's Parish Lillian DiMattia By: The Bruno Family The People of St. Mary's Parish

Deceased: Please pray for Ann Long, John Malley, William Moore, and Marian Vanasse. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Pray For the Sick: Please pray for the following parishioners who are sick - Michael Orzechowski, Robert Griffin, Glenn Knierim, and John Meskill.

Prayer Requests: If you would like to request prayers for a family member or friend, please submit their names to the Parish Office at parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org.

Weekly Offertory: The total collection for April Offertory will be reported next week.

AAA: Thank you to the parish families who have made a gift or pledge commitment to the 2020 Archbishop's Annual Appeal. If you have not yet had the opportunity, please consider prayerfully supporting the many "Good Works" of the Archdiocese. Every gift will be gratefully received and sincerely appreciated.

Parish Announcements

Do You Need Help? These are difficult days for many people. Some have lost jobs and are struggling to pay bills. Others are finding it difficult to cope with the isolation caused by this pandemic. If you need help, please contact Father Matera. Parishioners have given us food cards that will be of assistance to you. There is also a parish charities account that is intended to assist those in need. Finally, if you wish, our Stephen Ministers will gladly speak with you and accompany you during this difficult period.

St. Mary's Helping Hands Committee: The Women's Guild would like to offer prepared, delivered meals or grocery shopping to anyone who is sick and homebound or to those who are too vulnerable to go out in public. If you are in need, please contact Pam Carter at helpinghands.stmarys@gmail.com or the Parish Office at (860)658-7627.

Mercy Shelter: Desserts and fruits are needed to take to Mercy Shelter in Hartford this Sunday, May 3. All items can be dropped off in the Magowan Center May 3, 10:00-3:00 PM. Thank you for your donations!

Social Outreach: Next Sunday, May 10, we are collecting the following items for **South Park Inn, Hartford** - coffee, non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent; **My Sister's Place** (transitional supportive housing for homeless women and children) - baby wipes, disposable diapers, pull-ups (size 4,5,6), non-perishable food items, antibacterial wipes, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, personal items. Please bring your donations to the Magowan Center May 10, 10:00-2:00 PM. Thank you for your past donations as they have helped many shelters. Contact: Melanie Livingston at livings10@yahoo.com or lrappel@aol.com.

Thank You For Your Financial Support of Saint Mary's: I wish to thank all who have continued to support the parish through E-Giving and by sending in their weekly envelopes during this period. This is a difficult time for all of us, emotionally and financially. To the extent you can continue to support Saint Mary's (which has fixed and on-going expenses) I and your fellow parishioners are most grateful. Fr. Matera

First Holy Communion: In light of the present situation, First Holy Communion has been rescheduled from May 2 to June 20. On that day there will be two ceremonies, one at 10:00 AM and another at 1:00 PM.

Confirmation: This spring's Confirmation has been rescheduled for the fall. We will communicate the new date as soon as we receive it.

Please Help Us Stay Connected To You! If you have changed your phone number or address, or eliminated a landline phone, please contact the Parish Office with your new information: parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org or (860)658-7627.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

The Lord Is My Shepherd



In today's Responsorial Psalm, we hear one of the most beautiful and beloved of all the psalms, Psalm 23: "The Lord Is My Shepherd." While I usually focus on the Gospel, today I would like to reflect upon this psalm that speaks so directly to our present situation.

The Lord is my shepherd. The shepherd of whom we speak in this psalm is the Lord Jesus Christ, the good shepherd who has laid down his life for us, the people of his flock. No one takes his life from him; rather, Jesus freely lays down his life for our salvation. This is why we do not lack anything that is important for life; for the good shepherd has given us the gift of his life, the fullness of life, resurrection life. This good shepherd has refreshed our souls with the life-giving waters of the Holy Spirit.

Even though I walk in the dark valley, I fear no evil; for you are at my side. We have been walking through a very dark valley these days, and sometimes it seems there is no end in sight. We walk, and as we walk we are assailed by fear and anxiety because of the overwhelming darkness. But we are not alone in this valley. The good shepherd is walking with us. For, just as we know that the virus that we cannot see is here, so we know that the good shepherd we do not see is with us. This is why we need not fear. We are not making this perilous journey alone. We are making it together, with the good shepherd.

You spread the table before me...you anoint my head with oil. The good shepherd spreads the table of his life-giving Word from which we eat every day. The good shepherd spreads the table of the Eucharist from which we will eat once more. The good shepherd anoints us with the power of God's spirit so that we can make the journey.

Only goodness and kindness shall follow me...I shall dwell in the house of the Lord. If we walk with the good shepherd, we will experience the goodness and kindness that only Jesus Christ can give us. If we walk with the good shepherd, we will arrive at the goal of our life's journey and dwell in the house of the Lord that the risen Christ has prepared for us.

Dear friends, we are walking through a very dark valley these days, but there is no need to fear. We are walking through a very dark valley these days, but we are not alone. The good shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, has given us the power of God's life-giving Spirit. As fearful as these days may be, do not be overcome by fear. As stressful as these days are, do not be overcome by anxiety. As lonely as these days are, do not be overcome by loneliness. For we are not alone. We are making this journey with the good shepherd, the shepherd and guardian of our souls, the one who has come to give us the abundance and fullness of God's own life.

For your **homework**, read Psalm 23 every day this week.

Father Matera

An Update on Parish Activities

Staying Connected through the Word: You will find a new Liturgy of the Word on our Website every day. These Liturgies of the Word consist of the readings for the day, a brief homily by Father Matera, and a time for spiritual communion. These Liturgies, which are produced through the professional services of our parishioner, Jay Reynolds, are 15 minutes. Watch them with the whole family and your loved ones and stayed connected with us through the Word. To access the website, go to www.stmarysimsbury.org.

Praying During A Time Of Crisis: If you are searching for a way to pray in this stress-filled time, read the psalms. You may not understand all they say, but you will hear a voice that expresses your feelings these days. Here are some psalms to begin with:

Morning Prayer (Psalms 3, 5, 63, 143)

Evening Prayer (Psalms 130, 141)

Night Prayer (Psalm 4, 91, 134)

Praise of God (Psalms 8, 66, 104, 135-36, 145, 148, 150)

Thanksgiving to God (Psalms 30, 34, 92, 111, 116, 118, 138)

You can watch Mass on television: The television Mass is broadcast seven days a week at 10:00 AM on WCCT-TV (WB20) and WCTX-TV (MyTV9). It can also be viewed Saturday and Sunday at 5:00 AM on WCCT-TV. The Mass from ORTV can also be found streaming live at these times on <http://www.ortv.org/streaming/streaming.htm>.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Because of the Covid-19 crisis, the Archdiocese has suspended the hearing of confessions until further notice. When the crisis is over, we shall have extended confessional hours. Even though you cannot receive the Sacrament at this time, you can always make a perfect Act of Contrition to express your profound sorrow and need for forgiveness. And God, who is always merciful, will offer that forgiveness.

Funerals: At the present time we can do burials at the graveside but not funerals. When the crisis is over, however, we will arrange for a Memorial Mass for your beloved at which you can celebrate his or her life and hope for resurrection life in a public manner.

Visit the Church: The church is open every day from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM for prayer and visitation. Enter through the Magowan Center and spend some time in adoration before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

Parish Office Closed: The Parish office is closed, however you may leave a message on the phone (860)658-7627 or email parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org.

Assisting our Health Care Workers: St. Francis Hospital has need of personal protective equipment. If you have such supplies to donate, please contact Kyle Meccariello, (860)595-3781, kmeccariello@damatorealty.com.

Distance Youth Groups! Youth Ministry will be hosting distance youth groups until we can meet again on Zoom. The links are up on the youth group portion of the St. Mary's Website. Join us as we play and pray each week.

Religious Education Program, Grades 1-6 has transitioned to an online format. The curriculum guides are available on our website. Any questions, contact Kathy Piggott at reled1-6@stmarysimsbury.org.

Jr. High: Thank you to all the parents and students who completed their course work and completed the survey. Thank you to all the teachers who gave their time and talents to teaching their students the Catholic Faith. I will be working during the summer to develop the Junior High program. Lori Ryan

High School students and parents: An email has already gone out to all confirmation parents, if you did not receive this message please contact youth ministry. The last 2 classes for confirmation 3/22 and 4/5 were moved to an online format. Each person has received a link or information by email to be able to attend. It is very important that our communication stays open, so please make sure emails are being read and if you have not already, sign up for remind text messages.

- Year 1 students and parents: text @1con2019 to the number 81010
- Year 2 students and parents: text @2con2019 to the number 81010
- Anyone else with a student in high school who would like to keep up with information on alternative youth groups and other plans moving forward can text @smhsreled to the number 81010

St. Mary's School National Blue Ribbon School

St. Mary's School will remain closed until May 20th as ordered by Governor Lamont. **Enrollment for 2020-21 in grades PreK thru 8th is still open!** Please contact Toni Chagnon for more information at tchagnon@stmarysimsbury.edu or go to www.stmaryschoolsimsbury.org to request an Admissions packet.

Cards of Thanks & Encouragement: SMS is working hard, creating cards filled with positive messages for the greater community. **Third grade teacher** Mrs. Pabich Phillips has organized students making cards to thank the medical staff at St. Francis Hospital for their fearless work.

Our Librarian, Mrs. Mortillaro is also collecting cards for Simsbury seniors who can no longer go to Eno Hall for lunch where our middle school students volunteer. For more information on how you can help or where to drop off cards, please contact Toni Chagnon at tchagnon@stmarysimsbury.edu.

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