

St. Mary's Church



Directory

Parish Office: 944 Hopmeadow Street
(860) 658-7627
www.stmarysimsbury.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday
8:30 - 2:00 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

Baptisms: Sunday 12:15 PM By Appt

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: Heather Benedetti &
Kathy Hughes Ext. 306
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

Prayer Line Ministry: (860) 658-2118
cmlocandro@gmail.com

Music Ministry: Patricia Lepak & Cynthia
Boss

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:00 PM	August 22 The People of St. Mary's Parish
Sunday 8:00 AM	August 23 Robert Hirnyk In Loving Memory By: Diana
9:30 AM	The People of St. Mary's Parish
11:00 AM	Glenn Knierim By: Patricia & Peter Carey
Monday 8:00 AM	August 24 Daniel J. Hogan By: The People of St. Mary's Parish
Tuesday 8:00 AM	August 25 The People of St. Mary's Parish
Wednesday 8:00 AM	August 26 The People of St. Mary's Parish
Thursday 8:00 AM	August 27 The People of St. Mary's Parish
Saturday 5:00 PM	August 29 Paul Mikkelson Living Intention By: The People of St. Mary's Parish
Sunday 8:00 AM	August 30 The People of St. Mary's Parish
9:30 AM	The People of St. Mary's Parish
11:00 AM	Joanne Healy By: Joyce Donahue

Baptism: We welcome Alina Grace Walz who was baptized into Christ last week.

Wedding: Congratulations to Lauren Rosano and Sean Flynn who were married at St. Mary's last week.

Pray For the Sick: Please pray for the following parishioners/loved ones who are sick - Dennis Sullivan, Bob & Mary Figulski, Robert Goldschmidt, and Michele Guttermuth.

Community Outreach

This Sunday, August 23, our collection is for the **Simsbury Food Pantry and Ojakian Commons**. Drop off is 8:00 AM-12:00 Noon in the Magowan Center. Items needed: non-perishable food, antibacterial cleaning materials, and household paper supplies. The need continues to be great! Contacts: livings10@yahoo.com, lrippel@aol.com.

Fall Enrichment Series

Fr. Matera will give a four-part **Adult Enrichment Series** entitled *Praying the Psalms in the Voice of Christ* on the Thursdays of October 1, 8, 15, 22 at 7:00 PM. This year's series will be held in the Church. It will also be live-streamed for those who cannot be present in person.

Parish Announcements

Saint Joseph Medal: Every year the Archdiocese asks for nominations for the Saint Joseph Medal, which is awarded to a parishioner who has done outstanding work in his or her parish. Last February Joanne Russell was chosen for this award, but the ceremony at the Cathedral for bestowing it was cancelled because of the pandemic. Last week, however, Joanne was given the St. Joseph Medal in a small gathering at St. Mary's. We congratulate her on receiving this medal and thank her for the volunteer work she has done for St. Mary's throughout the year.

RCIA Information Session: The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) will have an Information Meeting *Sunday, September 13th, 9:30 AM* in the Forcucci Faith Formation Center, located in the Lower Church. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, join us at this information session. The RCIA is for (1) those who have never been baptized, (2) those who have been baptized in another denomination and wish to become Catholic, and (3) for baptized Catholics who never received Communion or Confirmation.

Live Streamed Masses at St. Mary's: You can watch daily or Sunday Mass live from St. Mary's as it occurs, or later in the day at your convenience. Go to our website (www.stmarysimsbury.org) and, at the top of the page, you will see a button called Live Streaming. *To view, press the play button on the Rose Window.* If there is not a current live broadcast, you may select the option of "Previous Broadcasts" to view the recent archives, which are available to watch at your convenience. Daily Mass is at 8:00 AM, Monday through Thursday. Weekend Masses are at 5:00 PM on Saturday, and 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM on Sunday.

Weekend Masses: Average attendance at Mass on Saturday and Sunday has been about 200, with approximately 50 people at each Mass. There is no need to sign up to attend Mass. Please keep the following in mind:

- Do *not* attend Mass if you are ill or not feeling well.
- Wear a face mask for your safety and the safety of all.
- Enter by the Magowan Center, and leave from whatever exit you wish.
- Observe social distancing for the safety of all.
- Place your offertory envelope in one of the boxes at the exits of the church.

Confirmation: Confirmation will be held on Saturday, September 26 and Saturday, October 3. There will be two ceremonies each day, one at 9:00 AM and one at 11:00 AM. If you have questions, please be in contact with our Youth Minister, Mr. Steve DiMotta.

Offertory: The offertory collection for August will be reported the beginning of September.

The Riches and Wisdom and Knowledge of God



Throughout this summer, our second reading has been taken from Saint Paul's letter to the Romans. While I have made some comments about these readings, I have not dedicated a great deal of time to them. But today, I wish to focus on the wonderful passage that we hear in today's second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans:

Oh, the depths of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways!

This magnificent passage comes at the end of Romans 11, after Paul has been wrestling with a problem that has vexed and saddened him: If Jesus is truly the long-awaited Messiah, why is it that the majority of Paul's fellow Jews have not accepted him? Why is it that the gospel has found a better reception among Gentiles than among Paul's Jewish compatriots?

Paul wrestles with this question throughout chapters 9-11 of Romans. Has God rejected the people of Israel, God's chosen people? Has God been unfaithful? At one point, Paul is so distraught that he says he would endure separation from Christ if it would bring his people to Christ. But as he wrestles with this question, Paul eventually comes to an answer that reveals the depths of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God.

He begins to understand that God has a plan that will bring about the salvation of humanity, Gentile and Jew alike. To be sure, the plan is not yet complete, and Paul does not know how that plan will unfold. But he is confident that God has a plan, and so he cries out: "How inscrutable are God's judgments and how unsearchable are God's ways!" Paul realizes that God has a plan, even if he doesn't understand it; God has a plan for the good and salvation of creation.

It may be hard to believe that God has a plan during these days of Corona Virus, these days of division and rancor in our country, and yes, in the Church. It often seems there is no plan, that life is a great illusion. We are going nowhere. Creation is going nowhere. That is how it seems to us. That is how it appears. But that is not how it is! Saint Paul knows that we are part of a great drama, God's drama, that has a beginning, a middle, and an end. And since we are still in the middle of that drama, we find it difficult to understand how it will end. But God's plan does have an ending and purpose and goal: Jesus Christ.

When the great story of salvation is complete, all things will be renewed and restored in Jesus. Jew and Gentile will be one in Jesus Christ. There will be no division, and all enmity and sin will be destroyed. For the outcome of the drama has already been revealed in Christ. What Christ is, we will be. Where Christ is, we will be. We will be one in the body of Christ. When we begin to understand this, when we begin to believe it, we will say with Saint Paul:

Oh, the depths of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways!

There is so much we do not understand at this point, but some day we will. Someday we will understand that we have always been in God's loving care.

Here is something you can do this week. It is not easy, but if you take the time, it will strengthen your faith. Read Romans 9-11 so that you, like Paul, can understand the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God.

Father Matera

August 23, 2020

This Year's Religious Education

This year, out of abundance of caution and to ensure we keep with guidelines set by the CDC, state, and local health department, the religious education team will offer classes using a hybrid model. This means the majority of classes will take place virtually using Zoom. However, there will be some events that will take place in person. **Those in-person events will have reduced numbers, face coverings, and social distancing.** All parents should have received an email with a detailed plan for the grade or grades your child (ren) are registered for. If you did not receive this e-mail, please contact the appropriate religious education director. Below is an outline of the plan for each set of grades.

Religious Education Grades K-6: Kathy Piggott
reled1-6@stmarysimsbury.org

- **Classes**-will be held using Zoom for presenting, Seesaw & Google Classroom for lesson resources.
- **Service Ministry**-one grade each month will meet in person in the Parish Center for service ministry learning.
- **First Reconciliation/First Communion Preparation**-there will be 2-3 in-person events.

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

- **Junior High classes**-will be held using Zoom.
- **Special Classes**-will be presented on a voluntary basis in the church.
- **Jr. High Youth Group**-there will be a schedule of both in-person and virtual events.
- **Service Requirements**-5 hours of service.

Religious Education (Confirmation) High School: Steve DiMotta
youthministry@stmarysimsbury.org

- **Confirmation classes**-will be held using Zoom.
- **Special events**-both levels first year and second year will have 2 events in person in the church.
- **Prayer Experience**-each class will have 1 in-person prayer experience during the year.
- **Service**-there is still a service requirement, 10 hours + 1 project with class.
- **Retreat**-each class will be assigned a retreat date to attend in person.
- **Youth Group (Ignite)**-there will be a schedule of both in-person and virtual events.

If your child is moving up to 9th grade from Catholic School, they need to enroll in their parish Confirmation Program for preparation of the sacrament.

Religious Education Registration for 2020/21 is OPEN: Families who have previously enrolled in St. Mary's Religious Education program can register at <https://stmarysimsbury.org/religiouseducation>. Also, we will be adding a **Kindergarten Program** this year.

Men's Ministry

Men of Saint Mary's - Are you looking for a way to connect with other men and talk about your faith? St. Mary's Men's Ministry group has been meeting by Zoom throughout the pandemic. Our men's group offers an opportunity for fellowship, time to reflect on the Sunday Gospel in our daily lives, and an opportunity to benefit from each other's faith experiences. Join us on Zoom Saturday mornings from 8:00-9:30 AM. Contact MensMinistryStMary@gmail.com and you will receive the meeting ID and Password.

Holy Land Journey

All Parishioners, Come Join the Youth Group Journey to the Holy Land! As of Sunday, August 16, we added an additional 423 miles to our pilgrimage bringing us to a total of 3950 miles. Welcome to Italy! We barely made it over the border of Switzerland. We are just north of Mount Adamello in Lombardy, Italy. This is the 2nd highest peak in Italy with elevation 11,611 feet. The highest point in Israel is Mount Meron which is only 3,963 feet. It's never too late to join - text (860)900-9106 or email youthministry@stmarysimsbury.org.

St. Mary's School National Blue Ribbon School

New Opening Date: St. Mary's 1st day of school has been rescheduled for Monday, August 31, to allow for extended professional development training due to COVID-19 (original open date was Wednesday, August 26). Monday, August 31 - Friday, September 4 will be full school days with before & after care available.

Substitute teachers for all grades PreK thru 8th Grade are needed for the 2020-2021 school year. Please contact Mrs. Williamson for more information: (860)658-9412 or mwilliamson@stmarysimsbury.edu. **St. Mary's School office hours are in full swing!** Please call with any questions or to make an appointment to stop in. Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 AM-1:00 PM.

Choice Cards are available for purchase during office hours as well! Call ahead and we will fill your order for curbside or front door pick up! Call us! (860) 658-9412.

Summer Walk-In Wednesdays are back! Stop in on any Wednesday 9:00-11:00 AM and take a tour! Please note masks are required. Now enrolling PreK-8th Grade for the 2020/21 school year. **Limited seats available in full day PreK 4's!**
www.stmarysschoolsimsbury.org - (860)658-9412

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