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 Noon

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 12:00 Noon 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:
Deaconartmiller@gmail.com

Parish Office: Heather Benedetti 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 Bos

St. Mary's School:
Principal Margaret Williamson 860-658-9412
mwilliamson@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net

Mass Intentions

Saturday	**December 12**
5:00 PM	Joao Garraio Garcao
	By: Linda Rivera & Family
Sunday	**December 13**
8:00 AM	The People of St. Mary's Parish
9:30 AM	James Daigle
	By: The Lepak Family
11:00 AM	Rosie Voorvaart
	By: Her Mom & Dad
Monday	**December 14**
8:00 AM	Peter Ekeh
	By: Fr. Matera
Tuesday	**December 15**
8:00 AM	Hazel & Alphonse Silva
	By: Their Family
Wednesday	**December 16**
8:00 AM	Mary & Al Swaika
	By: Their Family
Thursday	**December 17**
8:00 AM	Peg & Tom Whelan
	By: Peg Furey
Saturday	**December 19**
5:00 PM	Michael Orzechowski
	By: The Anthony Family
Sunday	**December 20**
8:00 AM	Therese Doherty
	By: The Henault Family
9:30 AM	Michael Charles Powers
	By: The McGrath Family
11:00 AM	The People of St. Mary's Parish

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

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

Newly Baptized: We welcome James Michael David who was baptized into Christ last week.

Parish Announcements

Women's Guild Guest Speaker – Sheri Dursin: Mary's response to God's invitation brought Christ into the world and changed our lives forever. What courage and faith it must have taken to say "Yes"! During this Advent season, join us to reflect on the ways in which God is inviting you into an intimate relationship with Him. Our talk will be held in the church for those who can attend in person and will be live-streamed for those who cannot this Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 PM. Please go to www.stmarysimsbury.org to access the live-stream.

Communal Celebration of Penance: This Thursday, December 17, 7:00 PM there will be a Communal Celebration of Penance. Deacon Art will be the preacher. This service will allow us to prepare, as a parish, for the coming of the Lord in Christmas Mystery. Since many parishioners are not able to attend church, Thursday's Penance Service will be live-streamed.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard this Monday and next Monday at 7:00 PM. There will also be an opportunity for confession at the Communal Celebration of Penance on Thursday.

Bible Study: Join Deacon Art and fellow bible learners this Wednesday, December 16, 7:00-8:00 PM via Zoom. To receive the Zoom link you must email Deacon ArtMiller@gmail.com.

Second Collection This Weekend: This weekend there will be a collection for the Fund for Retired Religious. Thank you for your generosity!

Offertory: The offertory collection for November was $56,874. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development Collection was $3,912. 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. Fr. Matera

Can't Attend Mass? Although you may not be able to attend Mass, all the Masses celebrated at Saint Mary's are live-streamed, daily as well as Sunday Mass. Go to www.stmarysimsbury.org.

Christmas Mass Seating

There is limited seating and several Masses are already filled up. Check the Website for seating availability. You can sign up in three ways:

1. Go to the Parish Website www.stmarysimsbury.org and use Sign-Up-Genius
2. Call the Parish Office (860-658-7627)
3. Email the Parish Office: parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org.

Advent 2020

Rejoice Always

Pray without Ceasing

On this third Sunday of Advent the Church is filled with joyful hope because her Lord is near. St. Paul expresses the mood of this day when he writes: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing."

***Rejoice Always*:** We Christians can always rejoice because the source of our joy is the Spirit of God who lives in us. This Holy Spirit fills us with God's own life, which enables us to rejoice in the most trying circumstances such as this pandemic. As one spiritual writer puts it: "Joy is the echo of God's life in our heart." A Christian who is morose has misunderstood the central mystery of our faith. A Christian who is pessimistic has forgotten the central mystery of our faith. We should always rejoice because we know God has saved us in Christ. We should always rejoice because we know we are destined for resurrection life. We should always rejoice because the victory belongs to God.

But how can I rejoice when I am sick and infirm? How can I rejoice when my marriage is falling apart? How can I rejoice when the world seems to be overcome by the power of sin and evil? We can rejoice *in the Lord*. We can rejoice in the assurance that good will triumph over evil. We can rejoice in the confidence that God will have the final word, the only word that counts.

***Pray without Ceasing*:** Christians do not limit their prayers to morning and evening prayer. They do not pray only on Sunday. Those who are in Christ pray always, no matter what they are doing. Those who are filled with God's Spirit are always praying because the Spirit of God is praying within them. To pray always is to be conscious of the presence of God in our lives in all places and at all times. To pray always is to live with the confidence that God is always present to us, even when we are not present to God.

This third Sunday of Advent ought to fill us with hope and joy as we await the coming of Christ into our lives in the Mystery of Christmas. This third Sunday of Advent should remind us that praying and rejoicing are the hallmarks of the Christian life. For if we are in Christ and the Spirit of God is present to us, we can always rejoice, even in the midst of adversity. And if we are in Christ and the spirit of God is present to us, we are always praying in all that we do and say. So, rejoice always, pray without ceasing.

Use these days of Advent to prepare for the coming of the Savior. Pray in quiet joy. Read the stories of Christ's birth at the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew and at the beginning of the Gospel of Luke. Be reconciled to God and to each other.

Father Matera

Family Advent Enrichment

Bring your family closer to Jesus this Advent by watching **The Chosen!** Enjoy the critically hailed Season One of the Chosen for FREE on any streaming device! The Chosen is the first multi-season television series about the life of Christ, as witnessed through the eyes of those He impacted. It is completely free--just download the app and watch the episodes on any streaming device at your leisure. This program has been watched over 50 million times in 180 countries and is completely funded by viewers who can voluntarily "pay it forward" should they choose. This program is a hit with young St. Mary's Religious Education students currently watching it. Visit https://studios.vidangel.com/the-chosen/welcome to learn more.

Spiritual Enrichment

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament & Rosary: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is every Thursday after the 8:00 AM Mass. We encourage you to recite the Rosary *privately* for the welfare of our Church and Country.

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.

Religious Education

Grades K-6: Class this Sunday, December 13, and next Sunday, December 20, will be via Zoom. Our religious education program uses the Gospel Weeklies that help connect the Sunday Gospel they hear at Mass to their lesson for that Sunday.

Our family service project for the month of November was a food drive for Gifts of Love. We collected 11 bags of non-perishable food for those that are facing food insecurity. Thank you to all the families that participated and for your generous donations!

Our December service project will be supporting our parish Giving Tree.

Grades 7-8: Class will be next Sunday, December 20. Please log in at 6:00 PM and class will begin at 6:30 PM. Prior to class please watch The Chosen, episode 7 "Invitations" 37.10 minutes.

Community Outreach

St. Elizabeth's House and South Park Inn: This Sunday, December 13, 8:00 AM-12:00 noon in the Magowan Center, we will be collecting new or gently used hats, gloves and scarves for men, women and children. Also needed: non-perishable food, cleaning materials, and household paper supplies. We are grateful to the Simsbury Lion's Club, with the help of Mona Martinik, for their generous personal item contributions and to all our parishioners for their regular donations during this critical time of need for so many. Contacts:
lrippel@aol.com, livings10@yahoo.com.

Giving Tree: Our Parish will continue to extend generosity to the less fortunate homebound parishioners, Governor's House and Virginia Connolly residents, shelter families, and Simsbury Social services. Please help us collect items for those in need by taking a tag off the Christmas Tree in the Magowan Center or visit the church website to find a Sign-up chart. Purchase the item or gift card and return it along with the tag on the table in the Magowan Center by this Sunday, December 13. For more information, please contact Kathy Brignac 860-490-4958, Peggy Day 860-306-4230 or Sandy Everett 860-214-6557. Thank you for your support!

St. Mary's School
National Blue Ribbon School

Need last minute Christmas gifts? CHOICE gift cards are available for purchase in the school office or online. Grocery stores, Visa & American Express, Target, TJ Maxx & Michaels to name just a few. A variety of denominations to choose from! An easy way to shop and support St. Mary's School at the same time! Contact Tricia Prausa to place your safe, contactless order today! 860-658-9412 or
tprausa@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net.

School will be closed for Christmas vacation starting December 24 thru January 1, 2021. School will resume in person on Monday, January 4, 2021.

Now enrolling for the 2021-2022 school year. See what sets us apart, schedule your personal information session today! Scan the QR code to register.

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