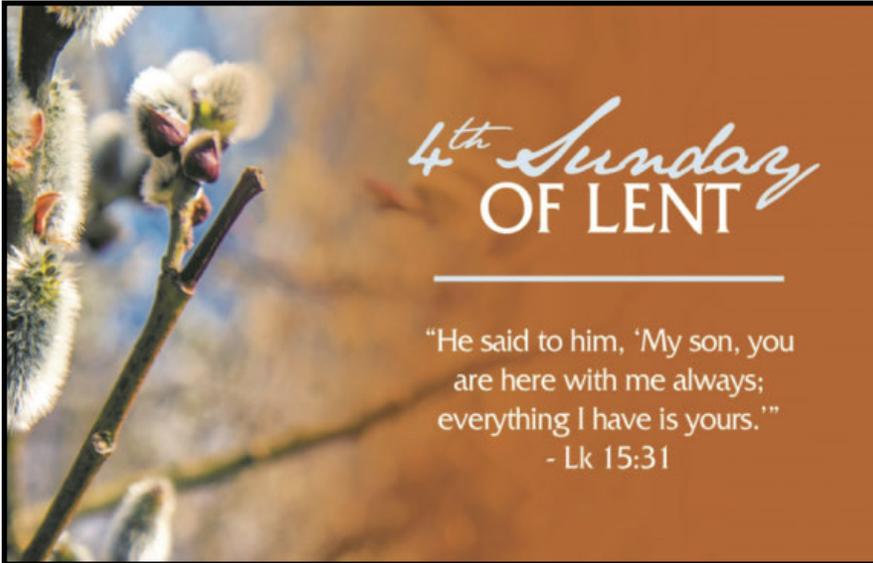


**March 27, 2022**  
**St. Mary's Parish & School**



**Office Hours:** M-Th 8:30 - 3:00 PM; Fri 8:30 - 12:00

**Mass Times**

Mon—Th . . . . . 8 AM  
Saturday . . . . . 5 PM  
Sunday . . . . . 8, 9:30 and 11 AM

**Reconciliation:** Saturday 3-4 PM

**Baptisms:** Sunday 12:15 PM By Appointment

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary**

Thursday after the 8:00 AM Mass. You are encouraged to recite the Rosary *privately* for the welfare of the Church and Country.

**Prayer Requests**

To request prayers for a family member or friend, email their name to the Parish Office. Names will be announced for one month. For continual prayers, contact the Prayer Line Ministry (cmlocandro@gmail.com).

**Livestreaming**

All the Masses celebrated at St. Mary's are live-streamed, visit our website for the link.

**MyParish App**

Stay connected with our Parish throughout the week with instant notifications, parish calendar, prayers, daily readings, podcasts and much more.



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www.stmarysimsbury.org  
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School Office .....(860) 658-9412  
Prayer Line .....(860) 658-2118

**Pastor**

Father Stephen Sledesky ▪ Ext. 301

**Deacon**

Art Miller  
Deaconartmiller@gmail.com

**Finance Manager**

Joanne Dunn ▪ Ext. 307  
financemanager@stmarysimsbury.org

**Parish Office**

Heather Benedetti ▪ Ext. 306  
parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org

**Faith Formation Grades K-6**

Kathy Piggott ▪ Ext. 304  
reled1-6@stmarysimsbury.org

**Faith Formation 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** ▪ Ext. 114

Sharon Locandro, Linda McGurn,  
Linda Duff  
stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org

**Music Ministry**

Patricia Lepak & Cynthia Bos

**St. Mary's School**

Principal Margaret Williamson  
mwilliamson@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, March 26

5:00 PM † Robert Minihane  
By: His Family

### Sunday, March 27

8:00 AM People of St. Mary's  
9:30 AM † Margaret Brown  
By: Rhoda & Lou Obermeier  
11:00 AM † Mary Melanson  
By: Her Family

### Monday, March 28

8:00 AM

### Tuesday, March 29

8:00 AM † Joseph & Grace Tedone  
By: The Burk Family

### Wednesday, March 30

8:00 AM

### Thursday, March 31

8:00 AM † Delia T. Lecko  
By: Cathy DeSimas

### Saturday, April 2

5:00 PM † Laurie Porter Campbell  
By: Her loving Family

### Sunday, April 3

8:00 AM People of St. Mary's  
9:30 AM † Patricia Potter  
By: The Sullivan Family  
11:00 AM † Susanne Cummings  
By: Linda & Charles Mulane

## Pray for the Sick

Please pray for the following parishioners/loved ones who are sick - Abby Harris & Family, Maria O'Donnell, Richard Valence & Jeremy Muinde-Pires.

## Baptism

We welcomed Reid Lilley who was baptized into Christ last week.

## Reconciliation & Adoration During Lent

Confessions and Adoration are on Mondays during Lent from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Confessions will also be heard on Saturday from 3:00—4:00 PM.

## Stations of the Cross



Join us on Fridays for The Stations of the Cross during Lent at 7:00 PM. We are using different meditation booklets each Friday to offer variety. Our youth of the parish will be presenting the stations on March 25th.

## How We Are Supporting Ukraine

- On the weekends of April 3rd and 10th we will be having a free-will offering in support of Ukraine. Please place your donations in the offertory boxes.
- St. Mary's has sent a donation to the Hartford Ukrainian National Home to assist with shipping costs of items recently collected.
- The students at St. Mary's School are saving money from allowances and chores to fill CRS Rice Bowls in their classrooms (Catholic Relief Services is on the ground in Ukraine & Poland assisting with relief efforts).
- Children in Faith Formation will be invited to bring in items to be donated (i.e. medical supplies, children's clothing etc.) for a collection.
- The Women's Guild is saying a Rosary for Peace on Sat., March 26 at 9 AM in church.



## 2022 Parish Council Nominations (Due 4/24)

This year the Parish Council is seeking three (3) at large Parish Council members thru nominations and a subsequent election. If you are looking to become more involved, please nominate yourself, or a fellow parishioner. Nominations can be submitted using the ballots found in the pews and placed in the box at each entrance or via the Parish website. For more information on Advisory qualifications and voting visit our parish website. Questions? Please contact Susan Falkner – [falknerr@comcast.net](mailto:falknerr@comcast.net). All nominations must be submitted by Sunday, April 24, 2022.



## Rosary For Ukraine



The Women's Guild will be hosting a rosary for peace in Ukraine with the special intention towards women and children on Saturday, March 26 at 9:00 am in the church. In prayer we are strong!

## From the Pastor's Desk...

### Why Go To Confession?

Why do I need to go to confession? Can't I just confess directly to God and receive forgiveness? The Church teaches that all who are conscious of having committed serious or mortal sins, must confess them to a priest and receive absolution (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* nos. 1455-1458). Venial sins should also be confessed, although forgiveness for these less serious sins can come in a variety of ways including devout reception of Holy Communion and making a sincere act of contrition – which is essentially asking God directly through prayer to forgive one's sins. What motivates us to confess sins? Sometimes it is out of a fear of hell (remember the old form of the Act of Contrition – “because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell”?) Even better though would be to confess out of our love for God. Have you ever let someone down whom you love? You know the feeling of remorse, even shame for disappointing your beloved. Well, it's the same with sin. Knowing that we have “let God down” through our actions or neglect, can leave us feeling that remorse and shame, leading us to ask for forgiveness. Also, there is a great benefit to celebrating this sacrament in that we unburden ourselves from guilt that could severely weigh us down. Sometimes we have done something so serious that maybe we think God could never forgive us or that we could never forgive ourselves. The reassurance of God's love, mercy and forgiveness by the priest in sacramental confession can give us renewed hope and allow us to let go of the guilt and burden of our sin.

How often should I seek out the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Certainly, as often as we are aware of having committed serious (mortal) sin. The traditional understanding of a mortal sin is when 1) we have done something gravely wrong (or failed to fulfill a serious responsibility) 2) we know and fully understand the serious nature of this moral evil and 3) proceed in doing that action (or neglecting that responsibility) with full freedom of will. If we are aware of responsibility for such grave sin, we also ought to refrain from receiving communion until we've had the opportunity to be reconciled through sacramental confession. If we only are aware of venial sins, I would recommend some regular pattern of celebrating the sacrament to help strengthen us in resisting such sins. Perhaps monthly, seasonally (think “spring cleaning” and then again in summer, fall and winter) or at least during the traditional penitential seasons of Advent and Lent in preparation for the great celebrations of Jesus' birth and death/resurrection.

~ Father Stephen

### Upcoming Lenten Activities

Sunday 27	Monday 28	Tuesday 29	Wednesday 30	Thursday 31	Friday 1	Saturday 2
Steubenville Informational Meeting (7 PM)	Reconciliation & Adoration (6-7 PM)	Bible Study (8:30 AM)  Book Study (7 PM)	Book Study (8:30 AM)  “The Call Of Parenthood” (7 PM)	Fr. Matera's Lenten Series (7 PM)	Stations of the Cross (7 PM)  	Reconciliation (3 PM)

### Second Collection this Week (3/27)

Please give generously and support The Catholic Relief Services (CRS). CRS provides vital assistance from pastoral support to humanitarian aid, all over the world. The work supported through this collection prioritizes families by protecting children, fighting for family reunification and supporting the sacredness of life and human dignity of each person. CRS has been providing expertise and compassion to the very poorest of our brothers and sisters in more than 100 countries.

### Simsbury Food Closet this Week ( 3/27)

Please drop off non-perishable food this Sunday.

### Mercy Shelter (4/3)

We will be collecting fruits and desserts next Sunday 4/3. Items should be dropped off in the Magowan Center.

### Lenten Series with Father Matera (3/31)

Father Matera has been offering a Lenten series on "Meeting God" through the eyes of four different Biblical persons. The final session will be next Thursday at 7 PM in the church. Come join us to hear how **Paul** encountered God and how it helps us to meet God in our lives.

### Steubenville East - Informational Meeting (3/27)

Calling all parents and students who want to learn more about the Steubenville East youth conference. We are excited to be sending a group of youth once again this summer. Come join us to learn more about this dynamic, energetic, and powerful faith weekend event for high school students (July 29-31). Visit the parish website for more detailed information and to register.



### Vacation Bible Camp (6/20-23)

Save the Dates: Monday-Thursday, June 20-23! Adult and Teen volunteers needed! Join us in Jerusalem! Registration is now open on the parish website.



### Grades K-6

Classes will meet this weekend.

#### First Communion Retreat (4/23)

Our second graders and their parents will join us from 9-12 PM on 4/23. The postponed Church Tour will be incorporated into this retreat.



### Grades 7-8

Classes will meet this weekend from 6-7:30 PM.

### Grades 9-10

#### Upcoming Class Dates

Visit our webpage to see the upcoming class dates.

### "The Call of Parenthood" An Evening With Kelly Henderschedt (3/30)

Join us on March 30th. Dynamic speaker, and Archdiocesan Director of Faith Formation, Kelly will talk about **The Call of Parenthood**. All are welcome! 7:00 pm in the Parish Center. Being a Mom or Dad is one of the hardest yet most joyful roles in a person's life. But parenthood is more than just a job. It is a true calling! We have so much to teach and offer our children but we learn from our children as well. Come and spend time with other Moms and Dads to explore this sacred calling and be surprised to look at parenthood with fresh eyes! This talk is open to parents of all ages. To help us plan for seating (and cookies!) please RSVP to Lori Ryan (reled7-8@stmarysimsbury.org).

### Youth Group Ignite Nights

Monday, 4/4: **Dodgeball Shirt Making** (7-8 PM)

Saturday, 4/23: **Dodgeball** (5:30-8:00 PM) \*\*

Tuesday, 5/10: **G.L.O.W.** (6-7:30 PM)

\*\* The annual interfaith Dodgeball Tournament now has a NEW DATE. This event is open to students in grades thru students who are in their 2nd year of college. Come out and support St. Mary's as we play against other local churches.



## Discovering God's Vision For Your Life

The Parish Council and Adult Enrichment Committee will be hosting a Workshop entitled "**Discovering God's Vision for Your Life:**

### **You and Your Spiritual**

**Gifts".** This study enables us to deepen our relationship with God, realize who God created us to be, and provide a vision of what God



wants us to do with our lives. The course begins on Monday, April 25th and meets for four weeks from 6:30 PM to 8:45 PM. Please visit the parish website for more information and to register.

## Huge Used Book Sale at St. Ann's Church, Avon

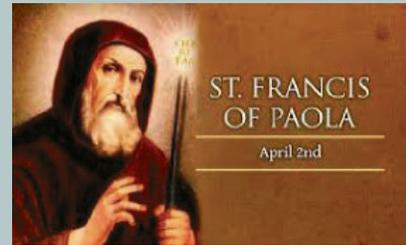
Friday April 1st: 5:00 pm-7:30 pm \$5:00 admission  
Saturday April 2: 9:00 am—2:30 pm Free admission  
Most books are \$1.00—\$3.00.

## My Parish App

Our St. Mary's myParish app is available for iPhone and Android. Stay connected with our Parish throughout the week with instant notifications, parish calendar, the ability to share messages to your Facebook account. Also enjoy additional features like prayers, daily readings, helpful reminders to silence your phone before Mass or Confession, and much more. Strengthen your Parish life at St. Mary's through this wonderful app.



## Saint of the Week



Francis was born at Paola, Italy on March 27, 1416. Educated by Franciscans, he became a hermit at the young age of 15. Shortly thereafter, he and some companions decided to found a new community called the Hermits of St. Francis of Assisi in 1436 which was canonically recognized some 38 years later by Pope Sixtus IV. In 1492, he changed the name of his community to the "Mimin" Friars, as he wanted them to be known as the "least" to signify their humility. Establishing his monastery in the very place he had lived as a hermit, Francis established a Rule for his followers with an emphasis on penance, charity and humility. To the three traditional monastic vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, Francis added fasting and abstinence from meat. Francis had the gift of prophecy and could read people's hearts. Many miracles are attributed to his intercession. Francis died in France on Good Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> (now his feast day) of 1507 and was canonized by Pope Leo X only 12 years later in 1519.



## Archbishop's Annual Appeal 2022

It is important that when you give to any charitable organization, you are confident that the funds received are being used wisely. Be assured that your gift to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal supports the ministries and programs indicated in the 2022 Appeal literature! Organizations such as **Simsbury Food Pantry** right here in our own town received funding from the Appeal's Vicariate Outreach Program that makes a difference in the lives of our local neighbors. Please visit the Appeal website at [www.archdiocesofhartford.org](http://www.archdiocesofhartford.org) to learn more and make your gift today. All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature found on the Archdiocesan website. *No appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.*

**DONATE TO THE  
ARCHBISHOP'S  
ANNUAL APPEAL**

## Blessing of Easter Foods and Easter Egg Hunt For Children (4/19)



All are welcome on Easter Saturday, April 16th at 11:00 AM in the Parish Center, for the Blessing of Foods. Please join us in this cherished Catholic tradition by bringing a basket full of the foods you will have at your Easter meal. Father will bless the meat, bread, butter, eggs, cakes, wine and other foods.



Make sure you bring your children and their Easter baskets because the last prayer will be a blessing for each of them! Immediately following the blessing we will head for an Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn.

## Food Assistance

If you are a parishioner who needs assistance for purchasing food, contact Father Stephen. Parishioners have generously donated food cards for such emergencies. All requests are kept confidential.



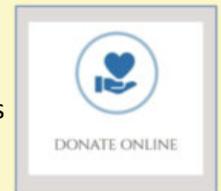
## Parish Cookbook

The Women's Guild is starting the planning process of putting together a Parish Cookbook. If you are interested in helping with this committee please contact Joanne Russell through the Parish Office. We will also be looking for our parishioners to share their favorite recipes for the cookbook. Look for more information in the upcoming weeks.



## Benefits of Egiving

Please prayerfully consider giving to our parish community online as it does benefit our parish in many important ways.



### Benefits to Parishioners

- No need to write checks or remember to bring your envelope to Mass
- You can give even if you are unable to attend Sunday services
- Your contribution amount can easily be adjusted by setting up a recurring weekly or monthly payment
- You can view complete, accurate financial records at any time.

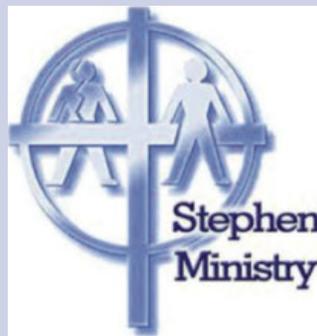
### Benefits for the Parish

- Less time and needed staff to process the collection
- More consistent giving with recurring contributions
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- Accommodates all special parish collections and appeals.

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## 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? Contact Stephen Ministry through the office (860) 658-7627 (ext. 114) or email [stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org).



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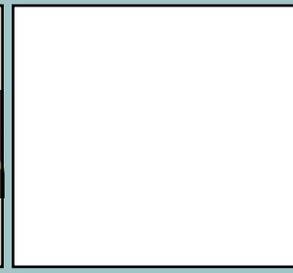
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