

February 19, 2023  
St. Mary's Parish & School  
944 Hopmeadow St. Simsbury CT 06070



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

**Email:** parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org

**Mass Times**

Monday—Thursday..... 8:00 AM

Saturday .....5:00 PM

Sunday ..... 8:00 / 9:30 / 11:00 AM

**Reconciliation:** Saturday, 3:30-4:15 PM & Monday, 6:00 –6:30 PM

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

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary**

Thursday after the 8:00 AM Mass & Monday @6-7 PM  
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.

Mailing Address: PO Box 575

[www.stmarysimsbury.org](http://www.stmarysimsbury.org)

Parish Office .....(860) 658-7627

School Office .....(860) 658-9412

Prayer Line .....(860) 658-2118

**Pastor**

Father Stephen Sledesky ▪ Ext. 301

**Deacon**

Art Miller, [Deaconartmiller@gmail.com](mailto:Deaconartmiller@gmail.com)

**Finance Manager**

Joanne Dunn ▪ Ext. 307

[financemanager@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:financemanager@stmarysimsbury.org)

**Parish Office**

Heather Benedetti ▪ Ext. 306

[parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org)

**Faith Formation**

K-6: Kathy Piggott ▪ Ext. 304

[reled1-6@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:reled1-6@stmarysimsbury.org)

Gr. 7-8: Lori Ryan ▪ Ext. 309

[reled7-8@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:reled7-8@stmarysimsbury.org)

Confirmation: Joanne Russell

[Joanne.russell@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:Joanne.russell@stmarysimsbury.org)

**Youth Ministry**

Christine Simons ▪ Ext. 315

[youthminister@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:youthminister@stmarysimsbury.org)

**Stephen Ministry** ▪ Ext. 114

Sharon Locandro, Linda McGurn,

Linda Duff

[stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org)

**Music Ministry**

Patricia Lepak, Mary Walsh & AmyJean Silling

[musicministry@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:musicministry@stmarysimsbury.org)

**St. Mary's School**

Principal Margaret Williamson

[mwilliamson@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net](mailto:mwilliamson@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net)

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, February 18

5:00 PM † Robert Williams  
By : His loving Family

### Sunday, February 19

8:00 AM The People of St. Mary's  
9:30 AM † Kathleen Grob  
By: The Music Ministry  
11:00 AM † Jane D'Amato  
By: The O'Donnell Family

### Monday, February 20

8:00 AM † Bill Bitterly  
By: Oggie & MaryAnn Pappano

### Tuesday, February 21

8:00 AM † Patti Dorman  
By: Catherine Rivard

### Wednesday, February 22

#### Ash Wednesday

### Thursday, February 23

8:00 AM † Daniel Camilliere  
By: Ginny Gore

### Saturday, February 25

5:00 PM † Louise Giannini  
By : Mark, Elaine, Susan & Nancy

### Sunday, February 26

8:00 AM The People of St. Mary's  
9:30 AM † Joyce Wamster  
By: The Letson Family  
11:00 AM † John & Bette Malloy  
By: Their loving Family

## Pray for the Sick

Please pray for the following parishioners and loved ones who are sick:

Dennis Fallon  
Maureen Taylor  
Sara Anderson  
Meg Gallagher



## Book Cart this Weekend

02/18-19

Stop by and browse the book cart this weekend. You can borrow from our Lenten selection or pick up a few free items.



## Parish Office Closed

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, February 20th for Presidents Day.



## Ash Wednesday Wednesday February 22

6:30 AM: Prayer Service and Ashes

9:00 AM: School Mass

12:00 Noon: Prayer Service and Ashes

6:30 PM: Mass

## Lenten Guidelines

**Fasting:** Catholics aged 18-59 who are physically able, are expected to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting means eating only one full meal for the day and two light meals with no snacking in between. All meals are meatless.

**Abstinence:** Abstaining from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent is expected of all Catholics who have reached the age of 14.

## Stations of the Cross

Beginning Friday February 24, the Stations of the Cross will begin at 7:00 PM during Lent.

## Lenten Soup & Bread Dinner Dates Mark your calendars

Friday March 10 & Friday March 31, @ 5:30 PM in the Parish Center. Soup and fellowship, followed by the Stations of the Cross.

## The Little Black Book

A daily meditation book for Lent is available in the Magowan Center. Pick up your copy this weekend.

## Share Your Compassion

We are in need of people who are willing to help with our Funeral and Bereavement Ministry. There are many small tasks that need doing and many hands make light work. Please consider supporting this ministry.

*Greet, serve, or lector at funeral Masses*

*Share your gift of compassion with those grieving for a weekly get together*

*Make or mail notes to those who have lost a loved one*

*Share your gift of hospitality and help with funeral receptions*

Please call the office to learn about the Funeral and Bereavement Ministry at St. Mary's.

*From The Pastor's Desk . . .*

## **Burial, Cremation or Composting?**

Last week *The Hartford Courant* ran an article about the proposed legalization of human composting here in Connecticut. Human composting appeals to the environmentally conscious who desire in death to be as eco-friendly as possible. It is true that our current burial practices do involve using many resources for concrete vaults, steel and wooden caskets, embalming fluid and lots of land for burials. Some believe that cremation is better environmentally, especially direct cremation, as it doesn't involve the resources of a casket, the toxins of embalming fluid or the use of precious land area or concrete vaults for burial. Yet even cremation is not as "green" as one would expect since the process involves the use of fossil fuels and emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Thus the push for human composting. But what does the Church believe about this?



First, we must always keep in mind that as humans we are created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, every human person has inherent dignity. Second, God took on our human nature in the bodily person of Jesus, further dignifying the body. Third, St. Paul says that the body is "the temple of the Holy Spirit" (cf. 1 Cor. 6:19), Our bodies have been sanctified by the indwelling of God. Fourth, our bodies have been washed in the waters of Baptism, and sealed with Sacred Chrism in the Sacrament of Confirmation, once again dignifying them. Finally, in the Apostle's Creed we affirm that we "believe in the resurrection of the **body**, and life everlasting. All of this demonstrates that in our Christian belief, the body is not something we simply discard. In fact, over time beliefs that arose which denigrated the body (e.g. Manicheism), have consistently been rejected by the Church as heretical. Thus any disposition of the body following death that does not honor the dignity of the body and belief in bodily resurrection is contrary to our Catholic beliefs. Composting the body, at least as presented in this article, fails to meet the criteria of properly honoring the dignity of our human remains.

Given the church's commitment to preserve the environment, especially since the release of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*, are there any environmentally friendly alternatives to traditional burials? If we remember that really all burials prior to the civil war were "green burials" (burial in a simply wooden casket, or even just a cloth shroud, with no embalming), there is nothing in Church teaching or civil law which would prevent such burials. The challenge is that state laws often require embalming if there is to be a public viewing of the body at a wake, and most cemeteries require vaults to keep the ground from sinking in as the casket and body decompose. However there has been a move to create spaces in Catholic cemeteries where such burials could take place. Catholic Cemeteries in Minnesota has begun doing so. A recent article in *America Magazine* "The Church forbids 'human composting' at death. But what about 'green' burials?" (October 2022) tells the story of the Sisters of Loretto Motherhouse in central Kentucky which has set aside 300 acres of their land to receive natural burials that do honor the body, and record the place of burial so that family and friends can visit. While I don't know of any Catholic Cemeteries in Connecticut that have begun to receive natural burials, there are a few non-affiliated cemeteries which do. If choosing a non-Catholic cemetery for such a burial, it would be important to be sure they honor the burial as a permanent site (will not be reused) and that it is marked with a marker and/or there is an accurate record of where the burial site is, in order that the body may be treated with the respect and dignity it deserves.

*Fr. Stephen*

## **St Mary's Parish Bereavement Ministry**

St Mary's Parish Bereavement Ministry is offering a seminar for those who are grieving. The multi-week seminar will use *The NEW DAY Journal: A Journey from grief to healing for people coping with the loss of a loved one*. The gathering is limited to 15 people and will meet on Thursday mornings starting February 23 at 9:00 am. If you are interested please phone our office at 860-658-7627 for information or to pre-register.



## **Anti-Asian Racism: Myths, Stereotypes, and Catholic Social Teaching**

*March 1st at 7 PM (via Zoom )*

The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford is offering this free program, but it requires registration. The conversation with Rev. Joseph Cheah OSM will center on his book by the same name. Father Cheah has made Asian American studies part of his career, primarily focusing his scholarship on race and religion. He has worked as the chair and professor in the department of philosophy, theology and religious studies at University of St. Joseph of Connecticut.



## Faith Formation Update

### Grades K-6

There will be no class on 2/18.

### Grades 7-8

- **Child Lures, Sunday 3/5**

The required Child Lures presentation will be given to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> during regular class time in addition to our discussions on the final episode from The Chosen.

### Confirmation Program (Gr. 9 & 10)

- Our next class will meet on Sunday, 2/26. The required Child Lures presentation will be given to the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades on Sunday, February 26th during regular class time.
- **Make-Up Work**  
Please visit our HS webpage for information on make-up work. Our expectation is that students miss no more than two classes. Please contact Joanne Russell for more information.

## Confirmation Date is Set

*Sunday, April 23rd  
2:00 PM*

*Cathedral of St. Joseph*

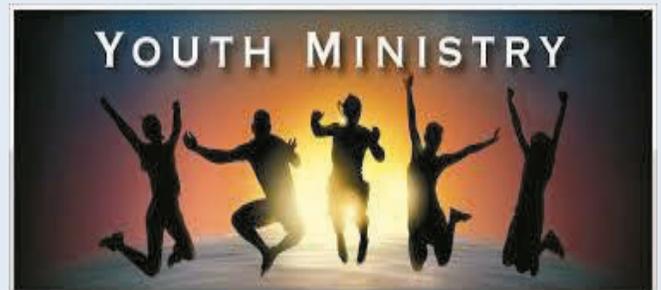
Students and parents have received Confirmation packets. They can also be found on the website. Packets are due no later than 3/24.

## Spring S.W.A.G. - Serve Worship And Glorify Open House Saturday, March 4, 2023, 10am - Noon in the Parish Center

Want to put some S.W.A.G. in your step as a member of St. Mary's Parish? Kick start your Lent and join us to learn about our newest ministry and how you can **Serve, Worship And Glorify** in this new season with Deacon Art Miller and Youth Ministry Leader, Christine Simons. All are welcome. Coffee, juice and pastry will be provided at 10 AM. Please RSVP using the link below so we can plan accordingly.

We look forward to seeing you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949AAA82CA0FDCE9-swag>



## Bring on the Madness Dodgeball Tournament

**St. Mary's Youth Ministry vs  
St. Catherine's Youth Ministry**  
Friday, March 24, 6:30-8:30pm @  
St. Mary's Parish Center

**It's game time!**

Join us for an evening of fun and community building as we battle it out for the coveted dodgeball trophy. Pizza and refreshments will be served! Sign up link below. Please select the parish your teen is representing in the available slot. Adult volunteers are required in order for a successful event for the teens! Please sign up for the volunteer slot if you are able to assist.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949AAA82CA0FDCE9-bring>

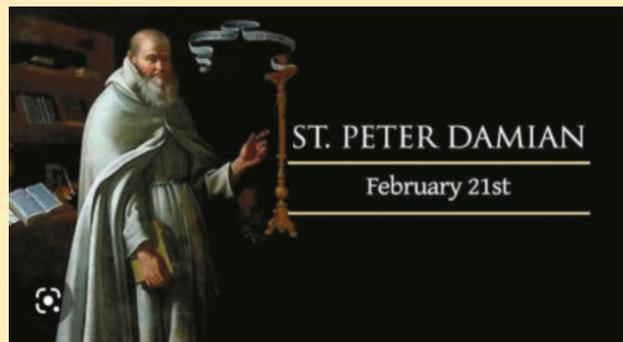


## Attention Men of St. Mary's 3/17-3/19

March 17-19 is our annual retreat weekend at the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford. This season at Holy Family, we'll explore the theme, *A Missing Peace*, in the hope that together, through prayer, presentations, and discussions, we can come closer to understanding how to achieve the peace Jesus meant for us to have, and equally important, to share in our families and in our world. Peace is something we crave but rarely find for more than a short time. Use this link for more information; <https://www.holyfamilyretreat.org/themed-retreats>. If you would like more information, please contact Jon Hughes at 860.480.1052.



## Saint of the Week February 21 St. Peter Damian



Peter Damian was born in Ravenna sometime around 988 but was orphaned at an early age. One of his older brothers who first adopted him treated him very poorly, however another brother took him in, cared for him and provided him with an excellent education, leading Peter to become a professor. Soon after Peter decided to enter the Benedictine Order where he imposed upon himself a strict discipline of fasting, bible study and prayer, praying so much in fact that he left little time for sleep. Exhaustion from lack of sleep forced Peter to realize that he needed to take better care of himself. He eventually became the abbot of the Benedictines and founded several additional hermitages. His skills at diplomacy attracted the attention of the Holy See and he was frequently called upon to help mediate disputes between different abbeys or between clerics and government officials. This led to Peter being made the cardinal bishop of Ostia. He was successful in implementing many reforms in the Church and wrote many letters, treatises, biographies and sermons which survive to this day. Because of his poverty and ill treatment by family in his early life, Peter had a special place in his heart for the poor, and often invited poor people to dine at his table. Longing to return to the simple life of the monk, Peter asked repeatedly to be allowed to retire from his position as cardinal bishop of Ostia. His request was finally granted by Pope Alexander II, though he continued to serve on occasion as a papal legate. During one of his travels to Ravenna on behalf of the Pope, Peter fell ill with a fever and succumbed to his illness on February 22, 1072. Because that date is a major feast day in the universal Church, Peter's feast day was assigned as February 21<sup>st</sup>. Declared a Doctor of the Church in 1828, Peter is patron saint of those suffering from insomnia.

## Little Sisters of The Poor Soup Sale

# Soup Sale

Little Sisters of The Poor  
1365 Enfield Street - Enfield, CT 06082  
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## February 22<sup>nd</sup>

12pm - 4pm

## Drive-Thru

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Order on line: <https://LSPsoup23.givesmart.com>

## Thank you

Thank you to our Adult Enrichment Ministry for our coffee and fellowship this past weekend.



Please consider including St. Mary's in your will and estate planning. Our legal name is:  
**St. Mary's Church Corporation  
of Simsbury.**

## Dignity of Life Seminar

March 15, 2:00 PM

St. Mary's Church

Faith Formation Center



The Catholic Cemeteries Association will be sponsoring a seminar on the challenges and the importance of Advance Planning and Maintaining the Dignity of life during end of life discussions. This Archdiocesan approved program is successfully assisting parishioners with elder care and end-of-life planning. The goal of the session is to provide educational and resource information in the areas of burial, estate planning and information about the Catholic Funeral Plan. Let the experts assist you. Professionals will answer questions on how to manage the elements of the golden years and the importance of the Rite of Christian Burial and how to preserve the Traditions of the Catholic Faith, as well as Wills, Trusts, Probate and much more. Give us an hour and 30 minutes of your time. Seating is limited and registration is required. Please register using the link <https://ccacem.org/event/dignity-of-life-seminar-simsbury/> or call Barbara @ (203) 780 8418.

## Trustees of St. Mary's

According to state incorporation laws, every Catholic parish is a corporation that is required to have a President (the current Archbishop), a Vice-President (the designated Vicar General), a Secretary/Treasurer (the parish Pastor or Administrator), and two Lay Members of the Corporation (also known as Trustees). In an effort to rotate this responsibility, a term limit of 5 years has been established by Archdiocesan policy. I am extremely grateful for the service provided by Susan Guazzelli during her term as Parish Trustee. As her term has been completed, I am happy to appoint Joanne Russell to serve alongside Thomas Rechen as Lay Members of the Corporation. Sue will continue to serve as a member of the Parish Finance Council. Thank you Sue, for your many years of faithful and dedicated service!

## ST. MARY'S WOMEN

Two upcoming retreats are being offered for the women of our Parish:

**Our Lady of Calvary 3/17-19**

"All Creation is Groaning in Labor Pains Even Until Now" (Romans 8:22)

**Holy Family 4/ 21-23**

The Missing Peace

Take time for yourself to get away for a weekend to rest, breathe and retreat in a prayerful and supportive environment with other women at one or both of these retreats.

Feel free to contact Andrea Melanson ([ammelson@aol.com](mailto:ammelson@aol.com))(860-614-8280) , Fay Lenz ([lenzfay@gmail.com](mailto:lenzfay@gmail.com))(860-305-1850) or Carol Storey ([songtale@msn.com](mailto:songtale@msn.com))(860-874-7326)

\* Retreats are not sponsored by St. Mary's Women's Ministry.

## Sunday Morning Coffee

The Parish Council is coordinating the Sunday morning coffee schedule. We will be planning on having a coffee once a month hosted by various ministries in the parish. If you are a ministry that would be willing to host a coffee please contact Kate Rogers at [Rogerskate@gmail.com](mailto:Rogerskate@gmail.com). We have a few spots to fill. We have a full set of instructions on how to make the coffee and how to set-up on Sundays. ***It is a wonderful opportunity for our parishioners to learn more about all our active ministries.***



# SoulCORE

A Movement to Nourish Body, Mind & Soul

**Winter Schedule—Thursday 1:30 –2:30 pm**

**Faith Formation Center**

**2/23, 3/9**

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All fitness levels are welcome. Please wear loose fitting clothing and bring a mat. Recommended donation is \$10.00 that goes directly to the Soul Core organization.



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