

**March 26, 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](mailto: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

*During Lent: Mondays 6:00-7:00 PM & Thursdays 7:15-7:45 AM*

**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](mailto: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, March 25

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

### Sunday, March 26

8:00 AM † Marilyn Doucette  
By: The Bosso Family  
9:30 AM † Harriet Gabinelli  
By: The Carroll Family  
11:00 AM The People of St. Mary's

### Monday, March 27

8:00 AM † Bill DeLany  
By: Oggie & Mary Ann Pappano

### Tuesday, March 28

8:00 AM † Dick O'Donnell  
By: The Kuszaj Family

### Wednesday, March 29

8:00 AM † Mary Melanson  
By: Her Family

### Thursday, March 30

8:00 AM † Joseph Campise  
By: Suzanne Jackson

### Saturday, April 1

5:00 PM † Erin Cowell  
By : Allyson, Rich & Lillian Gosselin

### Sunday, April 2

8:00 AM The People of St. Mary's  
9:30 AM † Mary Melanson  
By: The McGrath Family  
11:00 AM † Harriet Gabinelli  
By: Doris Burns

## Altar Server Training

*Sunday, March 26th (12:30 PM)*

Please join us for our second week in our Altar Serving Training . We will have pizza at 12:30 pm in the Forcucci Faith Formation Center, followed by a training in the church from 1:00 – 2:00 PM.



## Simsbury Food Pantry

*Sunday, March 26th*

Please drop off non-perishable food items between 8:00 AM - 12 PM. Thank you for your support.



## Soup Dinner/Stations of the Cross

*Friday, March 31st*

Please join us on Friday, for our second soup dinner in the Parish Center from 5:30-6:45 followed by the Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM in the church. The Stations of the Cross will be presented by our K-6 Faith Formation Program.



## Mercy Shelter

*Sunday April 2*

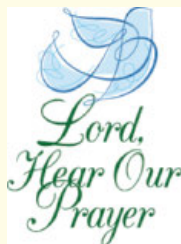
Please drop off fresh fruit and desserts next weekend in the Magowan Center from 8:00 am—12 Noon. Thank-you for your support.



## Pray for the Sick

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

Lisa Amato  
Sara Anderson  
Carolyn Collings  
Edward Connolly  
Dennis Fallon  
Meg Gallagher  
Joyce Henderson  
Maureen Taylor



## What to do with blessed palms from Palm Sunday?

According to the Code of Canon Law, blessed items are not to be discarded in a trash can, but treated with respect. At Mass these palm branches were set apart by a blessing from the priest and made into a “sacramental”, an object that is meant to draw us closer to the celebration of the seven sacraments. Throwing them in the trash ignores their sacred purpose and treats them like any other object we no longer need. Most sacramentals, like palm branches, can be burned or buried in order to properly dispose of them. This type of disposal honors their sacred purpose and returns them to the earth in a dignified way. Anyone can do this, but if you don't have the ability to burn or bury them, simply drop off your palm branches at the parish office.



## **Raised From Death**



On this Fifth Sunday of Lent our Gospel is the third and final of the triad of special Gospel selections calling us to deeper faith on our Lenten journey. We've witnessed the budding faith of the Samaritan woman at the well, and that of the man born blind, healed by Jesus. Now we hear the familiar story of Jesus raising his friend Lazarus from the dead. Although Jesus has healed many people during his ministry, he does not get to Lazarus in time. However, he uses the opportunity to elicit from his disciples, his friends Martha and Mary, and many in the crowd, a deeper faith in him. "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even if he dies will live." Jesus asks Martha (and us), "Do you believe this?" Most of us struggle with the death of a loved one. We might even blame Jesus for not doing enough in response to our prayers, like Martha does: "Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died." All of this is a natural reaction arising out of our own grief. The Lord certainly understands our grief. Even he wept when he saw where Lazarus was buried. They were good friends. Jesus is "perturbed" when he sees Mary's grief and again when he comes to the tomb. Death is an enemy, and standing face to face with death, Jesus becomes more than perturbed, he is downright angry. The Greek word behind our translation "perturbed" actually refers to the snorting of an angry bull that is ready to charge. Jesus' experience of death robbing his dear friend of life, foreshadows his own pending wrestling match with death. What we already know, is that Jesus will emerge with the victory!

Therefore, Jesus isn't content to leave us in our grief. He challenges us to ponder his victory over death and to believe in his promise of life. As we approach Easter, this gospel can help us put the events in Jesus' life into perspective. On Good Friday we will remember again the terrible agonizing death of Jesus on the cross. But that is not the final story. After the darkness of Good Friday dawns the beautiful morning of Easter and the empty tomb. Death cannot hold Jesus prisoner. And just as Jesus moves through death to eternal life, we too enjoy that same promise. St. Paul in his letter to the Romans writes, "Are you unaware that we who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life." May this promise of life, foreshadowed in the raising of Lazarus and made firm in the death and resurrection of Christ, give us all hope and courage to face our own death and the deaths of those we love, with firm belief that the One who is the resurrection and the life, will raise us also to everlasting life!

*Fr. Stephen*

## **Palm Sunday Procession**

### **9:30 AM Mass**

On Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the 9:30 Mass, we will gather outside the Parish Center entrance for the blessing of palms and the reading of the Gospel that recalls Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We will then form a procession from that place across the front parking lot and into the main entrance to the church. We are particularly inviting children of any age from both our school and faith formation program to join in the procession along with an older sibling or parent. However, anyone who wishes to join in is welcome. Once we are in church, following the opening prayer of the Mass, the children (K-6) will be invited to go to the lower church for a Children's Liturgy of the Word, which will be more engaging for them while the reading of the Passion is being done upstairs during the Mass for the older children and adults. The younger children will then process back upstairs during the Preparation of the Gifts (Offertory) to rejoin their families.. If they have brought a non-perishable food item to donate, it can be brought up to the altar at that time.



## **Holy Week Schedule**

### **Holy Thursday**

8:00 AM-Morning Prayer

7:00 PM-Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Adoration until 10:00 PM in Parish Center

### **Good Friday**

8:00 AM-Morning Prayer

3:00 PM-Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

### **Holy Saturday**

8:00 AM-Morning Prayer

9:00 AM-Blessing of the Food

8:00 PM-Solemn Easter Vigil

### **Easter Sunday**

8:00 AM-Mass

9:30 AM-Mass

11:00 AM -Mass



## Faith Formation Update

### Grades K-6

There will be class on March 26.

### Grades 7-8

Our final class for the year is this Sunday 3/26.

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

Our final class for the year is Sunday, 4/2. Our 10th Graders must hand in their Confirmation packets to the Parish Office. Thanks for your cooperation.

## Confirmation Date is Set

*Sunday, April 23rd*

*2:00 PM*

*Cathedral of St. Joseph*



## Save the Date - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

*Monday, June 19- Thursday June 22*

Our VBS dates are set but we need helping hands! Adults, teens and tweens are invited to volunteer for this awesome week of fun and faith! Planning/training gatherings will begin in April.

- Musical & Drama talent - we need you!
- Love crafting and games - we need you!
- Looking for a way to share your faith - come along and join us!

Contact Kathy Piggott at [reled1-6@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:reled1-6@stmarysimsbury.org) for more information or to volunteer.



## Steubenville Youth Conference- REGISTER NOW!

*July 21-23*

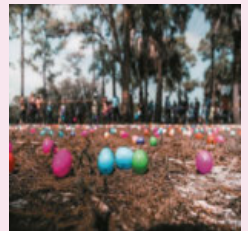
Steubenville East is a dynamic, energetic, and powerful faith weekend event for high school students. The Life Teen conference organizers are trained in youth ministry and have developed a program format that many teens find favorable, reaching them at their level. This year it will be held on July 21-23 in Springfield, MA. The venue provides a concert-like environment that facilitates a high energy experience for the teens. The program includes live music, trained speakers, Mass, Eucharist Adoration, and the opportunity for teens to partake of the sacrament of Reconciliation. The registration link can be found on our parish website or by calling the Parish Office. For more information contact Joanne Russell ([joanne.russell@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:joanne.russell@stmarysimsbury.org)).

## Blessing of Foods & Easter Egg Hunt

*Saturday, April 8th @9 AM*

All are welcome on Easter Saturday, April 8th at 9:00 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 outside for an Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn.



## Sacrament of Reconciliation

As we prepare for Easter, Lent is the perfect time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Below are some reminders:

- As you enter the confessional, either kneel behind the screen or sit face to face (your choice).
- Make the Sign of the Cross together with the priest.
- Tell the priest how long it has been since your last confession. (Doesn't have to be exact.)
- Tell the priest your sins; when finished say something like, "That is all, Father" so he knows.
- The priest will speak with you and give you a penance to perform.
- You may then pray an Act of Contrition (don't worry—a copy is provided in the confessional).
- The priest will then absolve you of your sins and send you forth FORGIVEN!



## Computer Donations Needed

John Kimball, a parishioner here at St. Mary's is looking for computer donations which will be refurbished and then donated to those in need. The donation locations include immigrants in Hartford, centers in Hartford that help the needy, and locations in Haiti and New Orleans.



The computer hard drives will be completely wiped out and then a new operating system will be loaded. The computers must be in decent condition and licensed to run Windows 10 since this is the oldest OS that we can work with. Unfortunately, we cannot accept Mac laptops. If you have a donation to make please contact John Kimball at 860-325-0007 ([jmktopubs@gmail.com](mailto:jmktopubs@gmail.com)) or contact the Parish Office for more information.

## Stephen Ministry

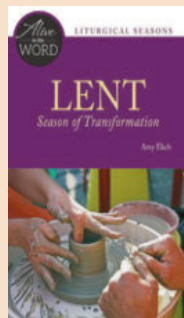
This one-to-one lay ministry is named for Stephen, one of the seven called by the church to assist the apostles in caring for others (Acts 6 & 7). Stephen Ministry is listening and caring for others in Jesus' name. If you want to learn more about this ministry, Contact Stephen Ministry coordinator Sharon Locandro @ 860 658 7627 Ext. 114. You may also call the parish office if you are in need of a Stephen Minister @ 860 658 7627.



## Women's Ministry Book Study

March 30th @ 7:00 PM

Join us as we continue reading our Book Study book "**Lent, Season of Transformation**" by Amy Ekeh. We will meet 7:00 PM in the Faith Formation Center and on Zoom. The first 20 books will be available in the parish office for \$5. The Zoom link can be found on our website (Ministries > Women's Ministry).



## The Annunciation of Mary

March 25



March 25<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation. While not a feast day for a saint per se, it gives us the opportunity to reflect on Mary's role in salvation history. Her Fiat, her "yes," in response to the Angel Gabriel as he announces that she will conceive and bear a son by the power of the Holy Spirit, echoes across generations: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). Pope Francis refers to this day as a "feast of 'yes'" (Vanessa Corcoran, "A Pregnant Pause: Mary's Fiat and the Annunciation," America Magazine, December 10, 2018). The Holy Father said that Mary's response is the lynchpin to this crucial moment in salvation history.

Mary is a young Virgin betrothed to Joseph; the Angel Gabriel announces that "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called Holy, the Son of God" (Lk.1:35).

Reflecting on Mary's "yes," we can apply it to our own lives: in what ways do I cooperate with God's will? As a parent, a single person, a priest or a religious...young people, adults, seniors, empty nesters, grandparents? Corcoran tells us: "Reply in haste to the angel, or rather through the angel to the Lord. Answer with a word, receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, embrace the eternal Word."

The Annunciation provides a framework for radical reliance upon the Holy Spirit alive in our midst. Are we guided by the Spirit as disciples? Does Mary's "yes" resonate with us, especially during this Lenten season? "When we listen to the Annunciation story, it is evident that inner contemplation has always been an integral aspect of Christian devotion. We would all do well to imitate Mary with such thoughtfulness in our own challenging moments." (Corcoran)

When the "Anno Domini" calendar was first introduced in the year 525, March 25 was the first day of the year. A prominent monk argued that this event commenced the age of grace. While our year no longer begins here, it is fitting to meditate on this great event as a model for discipleship.

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

**St. Mary's Church Corporation  
of Simsbury.**

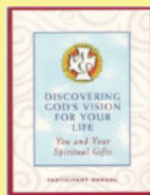
## Spiritual Gifts Workshop

*Mondays (4/17, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8)*

6:30 –8:45 PM

We invite parishioners to join us:

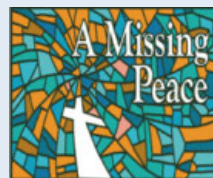
- To experience personal growth
- To add deeper meaning and satisfaction to your life
- To understand more fully who God created you to be and what God wants you to do with your life.



For more information please email our Spiritual Gifts Ministry @spiritualgifts@stmarysimsbury.org.

## Women's Retreat

Our second retreat is being offered for the Women of St. Mary's. Please consider joining one



**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 ([ammelanson@aol.com](mailto:ammelanson@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).

*Retreat is not sponsored by St. Mary's Women's Ministry.*

## Archbishop's Annual Appeal

Thank you to the parish families who have made a gift or pledge commitment to the 2023 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.



*All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/> No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.*

## Adoration & Reconciliation

*Monday, 3/27*

Join us on Monday evening for Adoration and Reconciliation from 6 PM—7 PM. This week we will be adding Praise and Worship music. If you have not yet experienced Adoration please consider joining us as we enjoy being in the presence of our Lord.



## Easter Dessert Bags

**For the Simsbury Food Pantry**

The Women's Ministry is collecting dessert bags to be delivered to the Simsbury Food Pantry for Easter. The bags should include all non-perishable ingredients needed to make a dessert. The recipe should be included in the bag. Select an "egg" from the Magowan Center for a list of ingredients that are needed. Please drop off your items in a small bag and we will do the rest. All dessert bags should be dropped off by 4/2.





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