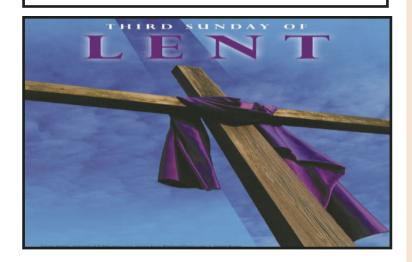
March 23,2025 St. Mary's Parish & School 944 Hopmeadow St. Simsbury CT 06070



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 Saturday5:00 PM Sunday 8:00 / 9:30 / 11:00 AM

Reconciliation: Saturday, 3:30-4:15 PM & Tuesday, 6:00 – 6:30 PM or by appointment

Baptisms: Sunday 12:15 PM By Appointment

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary

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

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 at (860) 658-2118 or 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
Parish Office(860) 658-7627
School Office(860) 658-9412

Pastor

Father Stephen Sledesky • Ext. 301 **Deacon**

Art Miller, <u>Deaconartmiller@gmail.com</u>

Finance Manager

Joanne Dunn • Ext. 307

financemanager@stmarysimsbury.org

Parish Office

Heather Benedetti • Ext. 306 parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org

Faith Formation

PreK-6: Kathy Piggott • Ext. 304
reled1-6@stmarysimsbury.org
Gr. 7-10: Lori Ryan • Ext. 309
reled7-8@stmarysimsbury.org
Admin: Alice Newton • Ext. 315
ffadmin@stmarysimsbury.org

Youth Minister

Manuela Hanshaw
ManuelaHanshawYM@gmail.com

Youth Ministry Liaison

Frank Ippolito • Ext. 302

YouthMinistry@stmarysimsbury.org

Stephen Ministry • Ext. 114
Linda McGurn, Sharon Locandro, Linda Duff
stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org

Music Ministry

Patricia Lepak & Mary Walsh musicministry@stmarysimsbury.org

St. Mary's School

www.StMarysSchoolSimsbury.org
Kerri Work, Principal
kwork@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net

Trustees

Tom Rechen & Joanne Russell

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 22

5:00 PM + Oggie Pappano

Birthday Remembrance By: His Loving Family

Sunday, March 23

8:00 AM † Noreen Brasche

By: Noreen Kuziak

9:30 AM + Oralie Metcalfe

By: Her Loving Family

11:00 AM People Of St. Mary's

Monday, March 24

8:00 AM + Andrew Zartolas Jr.

By: The Fredericks Family

Tuesday, March 25

One Year Anniversary By: Jude, Katie & Isa

Wednesday, March 26

8:00 AM Phil Olsen

By: The Fredericks Family

Thursday, March 27

By: Catherine Rivard

Saturday, March 29

5:00 PM + Oggie Pappano

By: The St. Denis Family

Sunday, March 30

8:00 AM People Of St. Mary's

9:30 AM † Oggie Pappano

By: The Kalamarides Family

11:00 AM † Maurice C. Harvey

By: The Albergo Family

Pray For The Sick

Sara Anderson, Carolyn Collings, Regina Dymersky, Meg Gallagher, John Gualtieri, Joyce Henderson, Deena Miller-Tyson, Dylan

Niehay, Lorraine O'Donnell, Daniel O'Donnell, Mary Judith Palaia, Jennifer Goldberg Julie Warren& Maureen Taylor

Dearly Departed

Please pray for Pam Hartlove (mother of Pam Sickinger), John Marcktell, Leonard Guerriero and all those we keep in our hearts.

Archbishops Annual Appeal

The Archbishop's Annual Appeal helps provide the critical funding needed to feed the hungry, shelter the unhoused, counsel those in despair, offer muchneeded assistance to the unemployed, and make



medical care available to those without health insurance. Your gift to the 2025 Appeal will help to continue these and other vital ministries, services, and programs that reach out to so many in need.



https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/

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.

Stations of the Cross

Please join us this Friday for Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM in the church



Special Collection Next Weekend

Next week our Parish will take up The Catholic Relief Service Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees and bring Christ's love and mercy to the vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/cathoicrelief.

UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTION DATES 2025

March 30 Catholic Relief Services April 18 Holy Land (Good Friday)

June 1 Catholic Communications Campaign

June 29 Peter's Pence

September 21 Catholic Elementary Schools

October 19 Propagation of Faith World / Mission Sunday
November 9 Archdiocese for the Military Services (every 3 yrs)
November 16 Catholic Campaign For Human Development

December 14 Retirement Fund for Religious

Catholic Relief Services

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the international charitable arm of the United States Catholic Bishops which was originally established in 1943 as the "War Relief Services" in response to the needs which arose during World War II. It later changed its name to "Catholic Relief Services" to better reflect its more universal mission as a charity of the Catholic Church in the United States. Its mission statement says in part: "CRS carries out the commitment of the Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas. We are motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to cherish, preserve and uphold the sacredness of all human life, foster charity and justice, and embody Catholic social and moral teaching." It is one of the most trusted international relief agencies in the world, providing help and hope to more than 255 million people worldwide.



CRS, with it's 8000 workers, is active in more than 122 countries across the globe, promoting human development as they respond to major emergencies such as natural disasters, outbreaks of diseases such as cholera, ebola, and COVID, or the impact from human-created crises like war and other conflicts. CRS promotes health through providing nutritious food and clean water to places impacted by famine and poverty, promoting agricultural improvements for sustainable farming, and provides access to medicine, vaccines, sanitation and public health education that aims to keep people healthy through proper hygiene.

CRS also provides education to children in areas where there is no access to public education, assists women in developing business skills and decision—making strategies, offers programs that encourage and support small enterprise and helps to develop community-led and community-managed internal lending and financial services. They create opportunities for peacebuilding and justice, by fostering social cohesion through non-violent conflict prevention and resolution, working to eradicate human trafficking and gender-based violence, providing protection for vulnerable children and adults, and advocating for the inclusion of people with disabilities. CRS promotes youth development, enhancing young people's leadership skills, entrepreneurial abilities, and provides support to assist them in building dignified and sustainable livelihoods.

As you can imagine, this takes tremendous financial resources to sustain. CRS is a great steward of the funds entrusted to them. A full 94 cents on every dollar goes directly to their live-saving global outreach. While just under half of CRS's income comes from private donations and grants, the other half of its revenue has traditionally been provided by grants through the U.S. government. With government assistance currently frozen, the ability of CRS to provide these life-sustaining services is seriously compromised. There are 733 million mal-nourished people worldwide, a significant number of whom have benefited from CRS programs. Needs are increasing due to wars, natural disasters, failed crops and famine. Many millions of people, particularly women, children and the elderly are left to starve. This makes this year's national collection and CRS Rice Bowl initiatives so much more critical.

Next weekend, the Second Collection is for Catholic Relief Services. Perhaps we can make an extra special gift this year to CRS through this opportunity for giving, or through our use of the Rice Bowls. Last year's collection was \$4,498. Could we make our goal to increase that by an additional 50% or maybe even double it this year? Might we also consider becoming a partner with CRS all year through by becoming a member of their Footsteps in Faith monthly giving initiative. I have been a Footsteps partner myself for over 20 years. I know you will do the very best you can financially and let us all certainly pray for the success of the good work CRS does throughout the world!

~ Fr. Stephen

Please Consider Caring For Fellow Parishioners Who Are Bereaved

St. Mary's Funeral and Bereavement Ministry is seeking parishioners who would like to be part of the team who care for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. At this time we are training for help at funerals; both greeting and assisting Father on the altar. If you would enjoy helping with the outreach to our families we are adding helpers for: mailing letters, making cards, and mailing bereavement booklets. In addition, we gather with those bereaved for a Meal and Conversation twice a month on Tuesdays from 5-6:30, and are looking for helpers. If you have talent to administrate we are looking for more leaders in the ministry. Training is provided! If you would like to help please call the parish office at 860-658-7627 and your call will be returned.



Vacation Bible School

6/23 - 6/27 (8:30 AM - 12:00 PM) Join us for a wonderful week of Faith & Fun! Bring a friend! Open to PreK 3/4 through Grade 6. Register to participate or volunteer with the following link:



https://stmarysimsbury.org/vbs

Faith Formation-Teen Stations of the Cross

Friday, 3/28; 7 PM @ St. Mary's Father Stephen invites all teens to participate in the St. Mary's teen led Stations of the Cross on Friday, 3/28. We are looking for teens who are willing to hold a candle or read a brief description at one of the stations. Service hours are provided. Contact Mrs.

Ryan (<u>reled7-8@stmarysimsibury.org</u>) to participate.

Senior High Youth Ministry

Save The Date: Make Your Own Pizza & More

Sunday, 4/6 (6-8:15 PM) @ St. Catherine's



Gluten free crust is available. Join us for an evening of faith, fun and friendship. Please use this QR code, visit our website or use the registration button above to sign-up.

Calling ALL Teens-Senior & Junior High

Will you consider bringing some **EASTER** JOY to our most senior parishioners? We are looking for teens to help deliver about 10 -12 small EASTER GIFTS. Gifts



can be picked up at the Youth Ministry Office (located at St. Catherine's) at your convenience anytime after April 8, and can be delivered to our seniors at your convenience any time until Saturday, April 19. If you are able to help, please sign up using this link or QR code:

https://bit.ly/3FcNrPk



Youth Ministry



Register for an Event!

To register for one of the upcoming Youth Ministry events, use this QR code, visit our webpage, or click on the registration button below.



www.stmarysimsbury.org/youthprogram



Junior High Youth Ministry

Cook & Bake **CHEFS NEEDED**

Wednesday, 3/26 (6-8 PM) @ St. Catherine's Please join us this evening as we cook full course dinners for local families and neighbors in need. Parent Volunteers Needed/Welcome. Invite a friend too! Light refreshments will be served. Please use this QR code, visit our website or use the registration button above to sign-up.



Save The Date: Make Your Own Pizza & **Easter Baskets**

Monday, 4/7 (6-8 PM) @ St. Catherine's Come make your own pizza and help make Easter Baskets for children that are living in shelters. Gluten free crust is available. Join us for an evening of faith, fun and friendship. Please bring items to help stuff the baskets.



We will provide the basket and grass, see the sign up for what you can bring. Please use this QR code, visit our website or use the registration button above to sign-up.

Youth Ministry is....CALLING ALL 6TH **GRADERS**

Monday, 4/7 (6-8 PM) @ St. Catherine's All Current 6th Graders are invited to join Junior High Youth Ministry for our upcoming event. We will make our own pizza and make Easter Baskets for children that are living in local shelters. Meet at St. Catherine of Siena in Russell Hall. Please use this QR code, visit our website or use the registration button above to sign-up.





Upcoming Parish Events



Rice Bowls

St. Mary's Faith Formation PreK - 6 Program will be focusing on the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowls for our March Family Service Project. Rice Bowls will be collected on 4/6 for our Faith Formation Program. A collection basket will be left in the Magowan Center through Good Friday, 4/18 for parishioners who wish to participate. Learn more about Catholic Relief Services and CRS Rice Bowl at the following link: https://www.crsricebowl.org/

Lenten Book Study

Two Options: Morning Group or Evening Group
We invite all parishioners to join us for a Lenten Book
study. Our selected book is Stretch Out Your Hand:
Reflections on the Healing Ministry of Jesus by Amy
Ekeh. We are all in need of healing, whether of body,
mind, or spirit. And into our need steps Jesus, the healer
from Nazareth. Join us on an exploration of some of the
most profound and personal moments in the life of Jesus.

Morning Discussion Group:

Tuesday (9:30-10:30 AM): 3/25

Hit the Highlights Nighttime Group

Thursday, 4/3 (6:30-8:30) PM

<u>All</u> are welcome. Books will be available in the church office upon sign-up. A donation would be appreciated. (Actual cost is \$15). This book study is co-sponsored by Women's Ministry and Adult Enrichment. Please sign up through the Parish Office, our website or using this sign-up link.



Supper & Conversation

Tuesday, 3/25 (5-6:30 PM); Forcucci Faith Formation Center

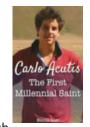
Are you grieving the loss of a family member or friend? We will share a light supper and enjoy each other's company. A topic relating to grief will be presented and we will have a prayer time to remember those loved ones who have died. This program is sponsored by St. Mary's Bereavement Ministry. Call the office at 860-658-7627 to let us know to expect you or just drop in!

Soulcore

Please note: Soulcore has this week off (3/28).

New In The Library

Carlos Acutis – The First Millennial Saint Carlo Acutis, born May 3, 1991, fully embraced the gift of life. Known as a computer whiz, he also liked to play soccer, video games, and the saxophone. He had many friends and enjoyed spending time with



them. What set Carlo apart was his constant pursuit of holiness. Carlo's unwavering devotion to the Eucharist inspired him to tell the story of Eucharistic miracles through a website he created just for fun. Carlo died from a sudden and violent illness in 2006 at the age of fifteen. In less than a decade, his story spread across Italy and around the world. After Pope Francis declared him venerable in 2018, his beatification was celebrated in Assisi on October 10, 2020. The next step will be canonization, making him the first millennial saint.

Seek Jesus during this Lenten Season

Our Women's Ministry has hidden small Jesus figures throughout the church. Children are invited to "seek" Jesus and take him home to remind them during Lent that Jesus is always with them

Please note that these Jesus figures are small and are not suitable for young children. Here is a little prayer they can recite: Jesus, thank you for always being with me. Please teach me how to hear you in my heart, and how to love others like you. I love you Jesus. Amen.

SAVE THE DATE: Trivia Night

5/3; 6:30-9:00 PM in the Parish Center
Please join us for our 2nd annual Trivia Night,
professionally hosted by Bobby Roast Beef.
Tickets are \$15/person or \$25/couple.
Available through the church office or after Masses April
5/6. Soft drinks, wine and light snacks provided. Open to all
parishioners, family and friends! For more information:
stmarywomensguild@gmail.com

Women's Retreat Dates

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

- Our Lady of Calvary; 3/28-30; I Have Called You Friends
- Holy Family: 4/11-13; *In My Love, Abide*



Parish Announcements



ALPHA Update

St. Mary's Alpha faith exploration program took a week off last week due to St. Patrick's Day. We are excited to welcome our guests back this Monday evening.



To join the waiting list for the next Alpha scheduled this Fall, please go to https://stmarysimsbury.org/alpha. To request more information about the program, please email alpha@stmarysimsbury.org.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry multiplies blessings throughout the St. Mary's community. We carry out Christ's commandment to Love one another as I have loved you



in a powerful & practical way. For more information, please call the Parish Office.

Desserts Needed

Every Monday Through 4/7

In support of our Alpha program, we are asking the parish to help make home-made desserts. We are looking for five people each week to make 2 dozen bite size desserts. Please deliver them to the Magowan Center before 12:00 PM on the selected Monday. You can contact the Parish Office, visit our website st.marysimsbury.org or use this link to sign up for a date:



2024 Contribution Statements Now Available

Due to increased costs, we will not be mailing statements directly to parishioners. If you require a contribution statement, please call the parish office and we will be happy to print one for you to pick up or email you directly.

Pasta Meals Needed

This Monday, 3/24

Please volunteer to prepare food at your home for the food insecure in Hartford. Food may be dropped off in the fridge in lower level at St. Mary's on 3/23 or 3/24. Needs: 1lb box of fully cooked pasta with meat, salad greens (bag or clamshell), cherry tomatoes and cucumbers. We also need two volunteers to serve the

food. We leave St. Mary's at 1:30 pm on 3/25 and are finished serving the food by around 5:00pm. If you are able to donate a meal, salad items, or would like to help serve the dinner, please



contact the Parish Office or reach out to Melanie Livingston at (860)874-1068. To sign up use this link: https://stmarysimsbury.org/social-action-ministry.

Easter Dessert Bags

For the Simsbury Food Pantry
The Women's Ministry will be
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. Please drop off
your items in a small bag and we will



do the rest. Next week we will have recipe ideas in the Magowan Center or you can use your own! Bags will be collected anytime between now and Palm Sunday.

Upcoming Food Collections

Please drop off all donations between 8 AM—12 Noon in the Magowan Center.

Simsbury Food Closet: Sunday, 3/23 (non-perishable)
Mercy Shelter: Sunday, 4/6 (fruits & desserts)
Hartford Shelters: Sunday, 4/13 (non-perishable)

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

St. Mary's Church Corporation of Simsbury



44 Woodland St. Rear Hartford, CT 06105

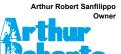
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