



Saint Mary Parish

St. Mary Roman Catholic Parish
55 Catoonah Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
Phone: (203) 438-6538
Fax: (203) 438-4406
www.smcr.org

March 17, 2019

A Warm & Welcoming Family of Catholic Faith



Spiritual Weapon - Fasting

Are you struggling with a sin? I mean a sin that you just can't seem to get rid of; a sin that is keeps you in a constant state of guilt and despair. You've prayed, you've frequented the sacraments, but you just can't seem to break its hold. We've all been there at one point or another, and such struggles are part and parcel of the spiritual life. But it doesn't have to be that way.

Today, I want to remind you of a very powerful, but much neglected weapon in the spiritual arsenal: Fasting. If you want to energize your spiritual life, if you want to slay a sin that has you in bondage, if you want to grow in union with God, take up the holy weapon of fasting. For as Jesus said, there are some demons that "cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." catholicgentleman.net; [link to full article on our website](#)

Fasting gives birth to prophets and strengthens the powerful; fasting makes lawgivers wise. Fasting is a good safeguard for the soul, a steadfast companion for the body, a weapon for the valiant, and a gymnasium for athletes. Fasting repels temptations, anoints unto piety; it is the comrade of watchfulness and the artificer of chastity. In war it fights bravely, in peace it teaches stillness.

— St. Basil the Great

Second Sunday of Lent

March 17, 2019



Prayer and Confession

Pope Francis has stressed the importance of prayer in our lives. In one of his daily homilies, he stated, "This is what prayer is, opening the door to the Lord, so that he can do something." He also stated,

**"The first task in life is this: prayer...gazing on the Lord,
hearing the Lord, asking the Lord."**

Let's also remind ourselves that we meet the Lord in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lent is a time for repentance, spiritual renewal, conversion, and transformation. Let us avail ourselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, acknowledging that we are all sinners in need of God's mercy.

Confession is meant to be a sincere time of conversion and spiritual healing, an occasion to demonstrate trust in God's willingness to forgive me and to help me back on the path of following Jesus. The Sacrament of Reconciliation draws me closer to the Lord who loves us all.

**"Every time we go to confession,
God embraces us and celebrates." –Pope Francis**

Please take advantage of our regular Parish Confession hours, which are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30PM and Saturdays at 3:30PM in our Church. Please stay tuned for additional Confession times this Lent.

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz".

Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, March 18

Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38

7:00 AM Donald Edman

12:00 PM Evo Fronzi

TUESDAY, March 19

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt

1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

7:00 AM Brian E. Benson

12:00 PM Aldo Girolmetti

WEDNESDAY, March 20

Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28

7:00 AM Joseph Franek

12:00 PM John Viniello

THURSDAY, March 21

Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31

7:00 AM The Sad and the Lonely

12:00 PM Joy DeMello

FRIDAY, March 22

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

7:00 AM James Houlihan

12:00 PM Louise Rossini

SATURDAY, March 23

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

8:00 AM James Houlihan

4:30 PM Jerry Galgano

SUNDAY, March 24

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9

CHURCH

7:30 AM Peace in Our World

9:15 AM Marie Behling

11:15 AM Ray Timarko

HALL

10:30 AM Parishioners of the Parish

12:00 PM Otto Pambianchi

5:00 PM Ellen O'Keefe



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

March 10, 2019 \$18,958 \$196,280

March 11, 2018 \$23,795 \$228,938

Ash Wednesday

2019 \$3,154

2018 \$4,959

Facilities and Repairs

2019 \$4,363

2018 \$7,551

Some Parishioners have received **SCAM EMAILS** under a fake email address from Msgr. Bronkiewicz. Most ask recipients to purchase gift cards. If you receive any of these, please delete!



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed in our Church every Friday at 12:30pm as well as 7:30pm during Lent. (Good Friday at 12pm.)

CONFESSIONS

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30PM and Saturdays at 3:30PM in our Church.

MEATLESS LENTEN FRIDAYS

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat for all those who are 14 and over.

LOAVES AND FISHES

"Loaves and Fishes" is a Lenten Campaign to help feed the hungry of Fairfield County. We encourage you to put aside the cost of one meal per week and enclose it in the "Loaves and Fishes" envelope for the poor in our area. Envelopes are available at the Church and Parish Hall entrances and at our Parish Office.

LENTEN FISH FRY DINNER!

Friday, April 5th

More Info Coming Soon!



SINGERS FOR EASTER!

We are looking for singers who wish to sing with the Adult Choir on Easter Sunday and/or the Vigil. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights from 7:30-9pm. Contact Darren Motise at 845 242 7276.

Prayers for the Sick

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Mary Jane Anderson, John Barczak, Joseph Barone, Mary Ellen Bolton, Richard Hanel, Sr., Lee and Scott**

McCaughey, Pat McManus, Katherine Plum, Ethan Pozholiparambil, Pat McManus, Patricia Murphy, Kitty O'Reilly, Joseph Petrucelli Katherine Plum, Ethan Pozholiparambil, Ann and Edward Smith and David State. Only immediate family members may add someone to our prayer list. Individuals will be removed monthly unless we are otherwise notified.



Stations of the Cross

Please Join Women of
St Mary Parish
in Praying the
Way of the Cross
from Mary,
Mother of God's, Point of View.



Friday, April 12th

7:30 PM

St Mary Church



Saint Mary School
RIDGEFIELD

Read Across America

Saint Mary School students and staff recently celebrated "Read Across America" with a week-long celebration of reading:

- The whole school enjoyed daily book related trivia
- PK-8 students got to dress as their favorite book character, and another day wore a favorite hat for "Hats off to Dr. Seuss"
- Community guests, including First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Police Chief Jeffrey Kreitz, and Msgr. Bronkiewicz read to students.
- All students took the "Readers' Oath" and read together as a group in an assembly as well as on "flashlight Friday" in their classrooms.

Saint Mary School is currently accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. For more information, or to set up a tour, please contact Anna O'Rourke at (203) 438-7288, or visit www.smsridgefield.org.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

Join us! Our next Respect Life meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday of April and May, at 10am in the Barn.



Prepare for Sunday Mass by watching Opening the Word, a 5-7 minute video to help you ENGAGE in the readings at Mass. It's updated each week! Go to www.smcr.formed.org to view or register for FORMED.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
1-800-273-8255, suicidepreventionlifeline.org

FAITH FORMATION CORNER

Do Not Be Judgmental



How quickly we can judge people just from a quick meeting or glance. We must strive to be non-judgmental. God is the judge of the good and the bad.

Sure we should look at good actions and be grateful when we see them and even offer affirmation. And, sure, we should notice poor behavior, offer correction as needed, and do it with love. But judging the actions is much different than judging the person. We ought not judge people, nor do we want to be judged or condemned by others. We do not want others to presume they know our hearts and motives.

The world needs more people who are non-judgmental and non-condemning. We need more people who know how to be true friends and love unconditionally. God wants you to be one of those people.

mycatholiclife.com





MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Our goal is to offer our members and their families an opportunity to share God's love through service to our Priests, Parish and community. Want to enrich your faith & model strong values for your family? Learn more at www.KOFC.org or contact Phil Del Giudice, Grand Knight, Compass_grp@yahoo.com.

PILGRIM VIRGIN

To arrange for a visit of the Pilgrim Virgin statue to your home, please call Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341 or email at jstoveken@comcast.net



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Thank you to those who recently signed up to cover an hour at our Adoration Chapel! Sign up @ www.smcr.org. No computer access? Contact Monica or Bill at 914-533-2832. **Open Adoration Hours:**

3am Monday
1am Thursday
10pm Saturday

EVERY Thursday evening, 7-9pm, in our Adoration Chapel, the Chaplet of Mercy, 7 Sorrows of Our Blessed Mother and 15 decades of the Rosary sung and prayed. Please join us!



ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY
LENT IS A GREAT TIME TO TRY MEN'S MINISTRY MEETINGS! Get up early the Saturdays of Lent as your Lenten sacrifice and spend an hour and half experiencing our Men's Ministry from 6:30-8:00AM in our Parish Hall. Besides having a welcoming community of 50 to 60 like-minded men, we also serve free bagels, coffee & OJ to ease the pain of a very worthwhile early wakeup call!

SPECIAL SPEAKER All Welcome!

Bishop Edward Scharfenberger, Bishop of Albany and friend of our Pastor, will be speaking at our Men's Ministry Meeting on **Saturday, March 30**, from 6:30 to 8:00 AM on the recent passage of legislation in NY allowing abortion immediately before birth. The Bishop was on the front lines defending our Catholic faith and teaching on respect for the sacred dignity of human life and opposing the legislation. **All are welcome!** Please call our Parish Office to RSVP.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

8:00 AM, 4:30 PM Vigil Mass
(Church)

Sunday

7:30 AM, 9:15 AM, 11:15 AM
(Church)

10:30 AM Family Mass,
12:00 Noon and
5:00 PM Youth Mass (Hall)

Monday - Friday

7:00 AM and 12:00 noon
(Church)

Holy Days of Obligation

Vigil Mass 7:30 PM
7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 12:00 Noon
7:30 PM (Church)

Our Mission:

LIVE the gift of our faith, **ENRICH**
our understanding of that gift, and
PRACTICE our faith in
compassionate service.

OTHER SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation

Every Tuesday & Thursday from
12:30-1PM and every Saturday
from 3:30-4:30PM (Church)

Baptism

Celebrated each Sunday
at 12:30 PM

*New parents must attend a pre-
baptism class. Call Parish office
to schedule both*

Marriage

Call Parish Office at least
9 months prior to wedding

Anointing of Sick

Call Parish Office to make
arrangements
*In case of serious illness or
death in the family, call Parish
Office immediately.*

CEMETERY

203-438-3606

ADORATION

Monica & Bill Brown
914-533-2832

Pastor: Msgr. Laurence R. Bronkiewicz S.T.D., msgrlrb@smcr.org
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Sean Kulacz, frsean@smcr.org
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Lourduraj P., O. Praem., frraj@smcr.org
Deacons: Robert Salvestrini, salvo95@aol.com

Parish Office Hours: Monday–Friday 10AM–4PM
203-438-6538

Parish Receptionist: Kim Macko, kmacko@smcr.org
Parish Administrative Assistant: Joanne Brown, jbrown@smcr.org
Communications Manager: Carolyn Haitsch, chaitch@smcr.org
Accountant: Barbara Rizzo, brizzo@smcr.org
Facilities: Dick Camuso, rcamuso@comcast.net
Youth Minister: Brenner LeCompte, 203-438-2394,
blecompte@smcr.org
Director of Music: Darren Motise, 203-438-6539, ext. 300,
darren@smcr.org
Rel Ed: Josephine Bove & Meredith Jackson, Megan McCaughey
203-438-7335, religioused@smcr.org
St. Mary School: Anna O'Rourke, Principal,
orourkea@smsridgefield.org

Executive Director: Dick Camuso, rcamuso@comcast.net
Director of Faith Formation: Patricia Postiglione,
ppostiglione@smcr.org
Parish Finance Council Chair: John Spera,
johnspera57@gmail.com
Director, Pastoral Care: Rev. Sean Kulacz, frsean@smcr.org
Director, Liturgy & Worship:

REFUNDS for the cancelled ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER were processed this past week. If you purchased tickets online, you should see refunds on your credit card statements soon.



Holy Week Schedule



PALM (PASSION) SUNDAY – APRIL 14

4:30 PM Vigil Masses, in our Church

7:30 AM, 9:15 AM (with Choir and Procession of Palms)
and 11:15 AM in our Church



10:30 AM, 12:00 Noon and 5:00 PM
in the Nancy Bossidy Recreation Center

HOLY THURSDAY – APRIL 18

7:30 PM - Solemn Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
(with Choir) in the Church followed by
Procession and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
in the Parish Hall

GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 19

12:00 Noon – Stations of the Cross in the Church
3:00 PM – Celebration of the Lord's Passion (with Choir) in
the Church
8:00 PM – Tenebrae in the Church

HOLY SATURDAY – APRIL 20

10:30 AM Traditional Easter Food Blessing
in our Church
8:00 PM Easter Vigil with Choir in our Church
PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO 4:30 PM VIGIL MASS

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 21

CHURCH



7:30 AM, 9:00 AM and 10:15 AM (with Choir)

NANCY BOSSIDY RECREATION CENTER

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM (with Children's Choir),
11:00 AM (with Life Teen Choir) and 12:30 PM



**PLEASE NOTE: MASS TIMES CHANGE
EASTER SUNDAY & THERE IS NO 5 PM MASS**



Family Movie Night

Inside Out

Saturday March 23 at 6pm in the Hall
Rated PG

Come join us for a free pasta dinner & movie.



NO GREATER LOVE

A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH
CHRIST'S PASSION



Dates – Times – Location

This 5 week study begins Monday,
March 25, 2019 from 7 to 9 pm
in St. Mary School

Cost – Registration

\$30 for study materials,
payable at the first session

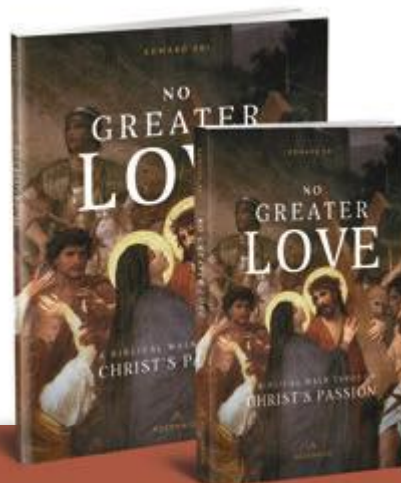
For More Information

Kristin McSpedon,
ksmcspedon@comcast.net.
(203) 438-0495

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Only a few followed him to Calvary.**

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ASCENSION

Visit ascensionpress.com to learn more!

How to participate and help mothers & babies in need!

Hosted by
Saint Mary
Respect Life
Committee



Thank you for
your generous
support of
Birthright of
Greater
Danbury.

...Take a bottle March 30 & 31

Baby bottles will be distributed at all Masses

**...Fill the bottle with a check, coins
or any currency.**

**...Return the bottle the next weekend,
April 6 & 7**

Bottles will be collected as you enter Mass

**...You may also return the bottles to our Parish and
Religious Education Offices.**

**All proceeds are donated to Birthright of Greater Danbury
to help mothers and babies in need.**

ST. MARY PARISH RIDGEFIELD

KIDS CLUB

Do you want your child to learn about the Catholic faith in a fun and interactive way?

**TWO FRIDAYS A MONTH 6:00 PM TO 7:30 PM
ST. MARY PARISH HALL**

In 90-minute sessions children learn about the stories of the bible, the lives of the saints and how to grow in their friendship with Jesus in a fun and interactive environment. \$50 per family (first session free).
See the back for Spring dates!





ST. MARY PARISH KIDS CLUB

SPRING 2019 DATES

- March 15th
- March 29th
- April 12th
- April 26th
- May 10th
- May 31st
- June 14th
- June 28th

ST. MARY PARISH RIDGEFIELD KIDS CLUB
183 HIGH RIDGE AVENUE RIDGEFIELD CT
(914) 486 1676 BLECOMPTE@SMCR.ORG
(203) 482 5709 KRICH612@GMAIL.COM

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP:(ST MARY PARISH RIDGEFIELD
KIDS CLUB) & EMAIL DISTRIBUTION FOR MORE
INFORMATION



2019 PINSTRIPE MASS

SPONSORED BY



The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano cordially invites all business and finance leaders to the Eleventh Annual Pinstripe Mass.

Sunday, March 24, 2019 | 9:00 a.m.

Saint Matthew Church
216 Scribner Avenue, Norwalk Connecticut
Breakfast immediately following in the
Masterpool Great Room



Principal Celebrant and Homilist
Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano



Breakfast Speaker
CAPP US founder Robert A. Nalewajek

TOPIC: "Applying Catholic Social Teaching at our Work and in the Public Square:

Why it's Our Job" Individuals: \$50 Tables: \$400 (8 per table)

Link to buy tickets at www.smc.org

THE SYMPHONYCHORUS

Support us as we launch our
2019-2020 season at our Fundraiser!



Become a Fan - \$40
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For tickets:
<https://bit.ly/TSCfundraiser>
or
www.thesymphonychorus.org



Ridgefield, CT
Sunday, March 24th
4-6:30 PM

Lifting melodies, liberating spirits, luscious light fare and lovely desserts

2019 MASS OF HOPE AND HEALING

SUNDAY APRIL 7th, 2019 2:00 P.M.

The Most Rev. Frank Caggiano, together with a planning committee of Survivors of Sexual Abuse as Minors by Priests, will hold a very special Mass for anyone who has been sexually abused as a minor and for others who have been impacted. The Mass will be held on **Sunday April 7th, 2019 at 2:00 PM** at St. Joseph Church 8 Robinson Avenue, Danbury CT. Light Refreshments will be served immediately following the Mass.

There are regularly scheduled gatherings for any person who has been sexually abused as a minor, as well as any family members of survivors, to meet with the victim assistance coordinators and fellow survivors of sexual abuse for friendship, prayer and for peer support.

- **Thursday March 14, 2019** Open Meeting for Family Members of Survivors
6:00 PM-7:30 PM the Newman Center Danbury 7 8th Ave, Danbury, CT
- **Tuesday March 26, 2019** Open Meeting for Survivors of Sexual Abuse as a Minor.
6:30 PM -8:00 PM St. Roch Church 10 St Roch Ave, Greenwich, CT

If you are an adult survivor of sexual abuse as a minor or a family member of a survivor and you would like to learn more about the Mass, the upcoming meetings and other resources that are available in our Diocese, please contact one of our Victim Assistance Coordinators, Erin Neil, L.C.S.W., (203) 650-3265 & Michael Tintrup, L.C.S.W. (203) 241-0987.

A special message from a mother of a victim of abuse by a priest

"I would like to invite you to join us at the Hope and Healing Mass on Sunday, April 7th at St. Josephs RC Church in Danbury. The mass is at 2 pm. Its focus is on healing those who were victims of sexual abuse by clergy and also for those who were sexually abused by others, such as family members, neighbors, friends of the family, teachers, coaches, caregivers, and others. There will be survivors of abuse in attendance, counselors as well as parents of victims and family members of victims. If you know of anyone who may benefit from this Mass, please, please encourage them to join us. Our son was a victim of sexual abuse when he was only 11. Please also join us for refreshments immediately following the Mass. God Bless you all."

MAGNIFICAT a Ministry to Catholic Women invites you to a prayer breakfast on **Saturday April 27th** at Tashua Knolls Golf Club located on Tashua Knolls Lane Trumbull CT.

Our speakers are:

The Family of Joseph Reali ... For all moms who faithfully pray for their children to come back to the Catholic faith. Magnificat is thrilled to present the family of a young man who has been lovingly called The American Frassati after Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. The Knights of Columbus produced an incredibly inspiring and beautiful video telling his story, which will be viewed during the breakfast. Please come to hear from his mom and sister about Joe's inspiring life and the work he continues to do in Heaven bringing souls back to God. Young people are encouraged to come!

Cost \$25 Pre-register by Saturday, April 19th . No tickets will be sold at the door. For more information, call Fran Hood 203-744-1856 or email s.m.hood@sbcglobal.net. Invitation available on Bridgeport Diocese Website under Woman's Ministry section, also tickets are available on Eventbrite.



Families in Ministry St Mary, Ridgefield

There are many ways for the family to come together in the Parish and to share a ministry! We are so very interested in every family finding a welcome home at St Mary.

To start off our new Families in Ministry we would love your family to join us as Welcomers/Greeters at the Sunday Mass of your choice. Please let us know if you would like to take a Mass once a month and become the people who have a friendly face and a warm smile for fellow Church goers! We would love to see you!

RSVP to Janie Nneji at jnneil@aol.com.



ST. MARY PARISH DISCIPLES 4 LIFE ADULT RETREAT

You are invited to come and be part of St. Mary's Disciples 4 Life Parish Retreat! This is a personal retreat, open to all adult men and women. This retreat is the perfect time to grow more deeply in your faith and even closer to our Lord, finding strength and joy through him.

Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you. (Psalm 9:10)

The weekend schedule includes talks on spirituality, reconciliation, the Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and quiet time. Make a decision to change your life today!

When: Friday, April 26 - Sunday April 28, 2019

(Starting Friday at 7:00 PM and concluding Sunday after the 5:00 pm Mass in our Parish Hall)

Where: Seton-Neumann Center, Danbury, CT

(Rooms are single person occupancy unless specifically requested otherwise)

Please contact Marilyn Kain at kaimms56@gmail.com or (203) 994-7808 with any questions or if you require additional information.

Team members: Nora Fagan, Sue Fernandez, John Hannigan, Tommy Hawkes, Jan and Bob Hebert, Marilyn and George Kain, Dorian Peckham

All reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first served basis. *Reservations are limited, so sign up quickly.*

----- (Tear Here) -----

Please complete the following and include a check of \$150 per person payable to St. Mary and return to:

St. Mary Parish
Attn: D4L
55 Caloonah Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parish: ☐ St. Mary ☐ Other: _____

A confirmation letter with more details will be mailed to you one week before the retreat.

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