



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

September 27, 2020

A Warm & Welcoming Family of Catholic Faith

Priesthood Sunday

Thank You!

Thank You!

1 Thessalonians 1:3

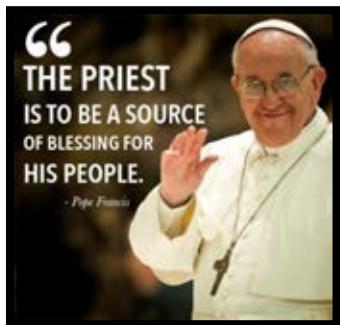
**Remembering
without ceasing your
work of faith, and
labour of love, and
patience of hope in
our Lord Jesus
Christ, in the sight of
God and our Father.**

We appreciate all you do for

our Parish, Msgr. Royal,

Fr. Damian & Fr. Lourduraj!

Today is Priesthood Sunday --*The Second Father's Day--*



Priesthood Sunday is set aside to thank our spiritual fathers—priests.

In 2003, the USA Council of Serra International—the organization whose mission is to foster and affirm vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious life—organized the first Priesthood Sunday. They felt there was a great need to honor those who are called to be priests. There are many references throughout the Old and New Testament regarding the importance of priests and clergy: **“And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding” (Jeremiah 3:15)**

The role of priests is essential to the prosperity of the Church. Priests wear many hats in the Church, yet the most important is to be a mediator between God and us. Without priests, there would be no one to transform the bread into the Body of Christ, no one to absolve us of our sins, no one to marry us, bury us, and the list goes on...

Pope Francis outlined the 7 pillars of Priesthood as:

1. The strength of a priest depends on his relationship with Christ.
2. Just as he must be close to Christ so the priest must be close to the people he serves.
3. A priest's authority must be linked to service, especially to the care and protection of the poorest, weakest, the least important and most easily forgotten.
4. The priest must be a minister of mercy.
5. The priest is called to simplicity of life.
6. The priest must be a model of integrity.
7. The priest is to be a source of blessing for his people.

**In addition to thanking your parish priest this year, remember to pray for
more vocations to the priesthood.**



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, September 28

Jb 1:6-22/Lk 9:46-50

7:00 AM Parishioners of the Parish

12:30 PM Ann & Edward Smith

TUESDAY, September 29

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/Jn 1:47-51

7:00 AM All Those Affected by COVID-19

5:00 PM Rose Taravella

WEDNESDAY, September 30

Jb 9:1-12, 14-16/Lk 9:57-62

7:00 AM All Clergy

12:30 PM Adele Annesi

THURSDAY, October 1

Jb 19:21-27/Lk 10:1-12

7:00 AM The Intentions of the Cousineau Family

5:00 PM Rafaele Michilli

FRIDAY, October 2

Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5 (459)/Mt 18:1-5, 10

7:00 AM All Souls in Purgatory

9:00 AM The Intentions of the Rizzo Family

12:30 PM Yolanda Torcellini

SATURDAY, October 3

Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17/Lk 10:17-24

8:00 AM Frances & Joseph Cali

4:30 PM Esther Royal

SUNDAY, October 4

Is 5:1-7/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43

CHURCH

7:30 AM Conrad and Mary Sponberg

9:15 AM Paul G. Haley

11:15 AM The Youth of our Parish

HALL

10:30 AM Parishioners of the Parish

12:00 PM Our Homebound Parishioners

5:00 PM Joseph Silvestri

PLEASE NOTE: Every Mass intention will be honored; the priests of the Parish will say the scheduled Mass privately on the day it was requested. Parishioners can still request a Mass for their particular intentions according to availability by calling or emailing the Parish office.

BAPTISMS

We welcome to the Family of God and our Parish Family **Holland Rose Freyer, Gerard James Oddo & Teague James Oddo** who were recently baptized.



Please continue to support our Parish with Online Giving. Go to our website to sign up. Call the Parish office if you would like assistance.

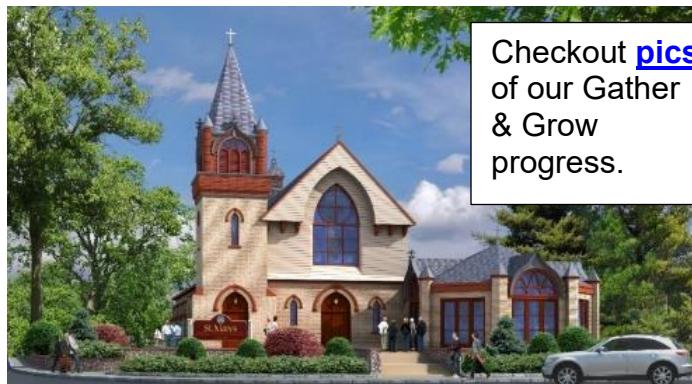
Thank you for all the envelopes you have been sending in each week! Offertory can be mailed to St. Mary Parish, 55 Catoonah St, Ridgefield, CT 06877. Mail is picked up daily. Thank yo

Prayers for the Sick

Please pray for the sick on our online prayer list and for those who care for them. Pray also for those who died and those grieving loved ones.



Go to our website to make a prayer request and to see those on the prayer list.



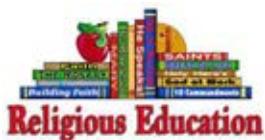
Checkout [pics](#) of our Gather & Grow progress.

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

Ridgefield Social Services
Tony Phillips, Director of Social Services
socialservices@ridgefieldct.org, 203-807-4524.

Respect All Life





The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place in our Parish thru mid-October. Please lift these children up in your prayers. God's blessings upon you and your family!

FAITH FORMATION CORNER

The Calling to be a Priest

Where am I heading? What is God calling me to do with my life? Am I following God's will or my will? It is not always easy to understand the direction that God wants for us. While the decision on which path to follow ultimately comes down to you, understand that you do not need to be alone in making this decision. There are many resources and good people available to help you on the way to know what is your vocation.

Vocation—it is a calling by God to follow a specific path. We all receive them. The question is, do we follow the vocation that God puts before us. A vocation to the priesthood is one of many vocations, and is possibly a road that you are considering. Before you say "yes" to priesthood, there is a need to enter into honest prayer, thoughtful reflection and to have a basic understanding of what a priest is called to do in his life. Priesthood is not a career option, but a total way of living in which a man, once ordained, gives his whole self to God and Church, 100%. [Click here](#) to read more from "A Reflection on Priesthood, Is it for Me?" From the Diocese of Youngstown



Saint Mary School
RIDGEFIELD

PRESCHOOL - PLAYING WITH MANIPULATIVES

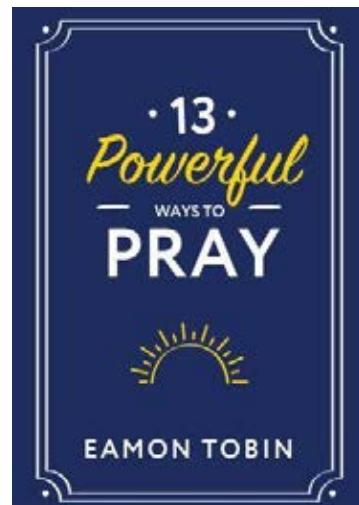
Our preschool students all spend time playing with "manipulatives". On the surface, they are having fun, but deep learning is also taking place. Here are just some of the benefits of manipulative play. Children

- enhance their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination
- practice making decisions
- make observations including comparison of similarities and differences, matching, classification
- recognize shapes, colors, textures and patterns
- explore cause and effect
- analyze and solve problems
- develop concentration and perseverance
- practice creativity

We have openings in select grades for the 2020-2021 School Year. We would love to tell you more about what makes Saint Mary School so special. For more information, or to set up a tour, please contact Anna O'Rourke at (203) 438-7288, or visit www.smsridgefield.org.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish office is currently closed but you may email or call for routine matters (including the purchase of Mass Cards) and our receptionist will get back to you as soon as possible. If there is an emergency, call the office and clergy will get back to you immediately. Stay tuned for open hours coming soon.



13 Powerful
Ways to Pray
Book Study
Starting
October 8

[Click here for
more info](#)



ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY

Hey men - We are having an awesome online experience with our Saturday meetings on the "Discord" App! We are welcoming many who don't want to do the commute to our meetings, or would rather gain some helpful insight in their pajamas! Please email Brian at humblebk@yahoo.com if you want an invite or some quick help using the Discord App. Tune in to just listen or join our table discussions. Meetings on Saturday @6:45-8AM and are really fun! Email or call me.
God's Peace, Brian 203-947-2858



MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

We offer Catholic men and their families an opportunity to explore their faith and share God's love through service to our priests, parish and community. Join 2 million Knights around the world as you share your time & talents. Learn more at www.KOFC.org or contact Phil Del Giudice, Grand Knight, at Compass_grp@yahoo.com.

PILGRIM VIRGIN

Our Lady's message to the world: Do penance, amend your life, offend God no more and pray the Rosary daily for world peace and the conversion of sinners.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Adoration Chapel

OPEN DAILY

10:00 AM- 4:00 PM

Limited to 4 people at any one time

If the 4 places are full, a visitor must wait outside or return at another time.

Chairs and kneelers are safely distanced and the air conditioning and air circulation system works well.

Please remember to wear a face mask



RCIA

RCIA is the Church's way of helping people on the journey to full membership in the Roman Catholic Church. It offers people a deeper and fuller understanding of our Catholic faith in preparation for reception into the Roman Catholic Community of faith. For more info contact our Religious Ed Dept.

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 5:30 PM

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

*Easter and Christmas have
special schedules

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. Kevin T. Royal
MsgrRoyal@smcr.org

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Damian K. Pielesz, frdamian@smcr.org
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Lourduraj P., O. Praem., fraj@smcr.org

Deacon: Rick Lawlor, dnlawlor@diobpt.org, 203-470-8084

Deacon: 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

Office Manager: Deborah Korniewicz, dkorniewicz@smcr.org

Facilities Scheduling: Jbrown@smcr.org & kmacko@smcr.org

Communications Manager: Carolyn Haitsch, chaitsch@smcr.org

Youth Minister: Brenner LeCompte, 203-438-2394,
blecompte@smcr.org

Director of Music: Darren Motise, 203-438-6539, ext. 300,
darren@smcr.org

Religious Ed: Josephine Bove, jbove@smcr.org

St. Mary School: Anna O'Rourke, Principal,
orourkea@smsridgefield.org

Finance Council Chair: John Spera, johnspera57@gmail.com

Find us on FACEBOOK &
TWITTER @ SMCRIDGEFIELD

Celebrate!

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

Monsignor Kevin Royal

Father Damian Pielesz & Fr. Lourduraj

Thank You for all you do for our Parish!

"He calls them to **lead** your holy people in love, **nourish** them by your word and **strengthen** them through the sacraments. Father, they are to **give their lives** in your **service** and for the salvation of your people as they strive to **grow** in the **likeness of Christ** and honor you by their **courageous witness** of faith and love."

— *Preface to the Liturgy of the Chrism Mass*



SESSION 2



[**Click here to
Register**](#)

Our Lady of Kibeho



Monday, October 19, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Speaker: Father Bateman, a parish priest from Pennsylvania. A few years ago Father Bateman felt called to visit Kibeho on a pilgrimage and has agreed to share his experience with us.

[**Article on Fr. Bateman's visit.**](#)

Facilitator: Meg Whitbeck

The ZOOM link will be emailed to participants before the event

103rd ANNIVERSARY OF FATIMA

Join us to Pray the Rosary in Public



**Saturday, October 10th
12:00 Noon**

Saint Mary School Parking Lot
by the entrance of
High Ridge Avenue &
the corner of Barry Avenue



"The Rosary will be a very powerful armor against hell; it will destroy vice, deliver from sin and dispel heresy."
Our Lady to Saint Dominic

October 13th is the 103rd anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun, witnessed by 70,000 people, including unbelievers, some of whom converted to Christianity. Our Lord sent the apostles to go forth and teach all nations. Praying the Rosary in public is an excellent way to introduce others to our Catholic faith as well as the Fatima message. "Now no man lighting a candle covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed; but sets it upon a candlestick, that they who come in may see the light" (St. Luke 8:16).

Come and pray for our country, the world, and your children.

Public prayer is powerful - in The Secret of the Rosary, Saint Louis de Montfort states: "Public prayer is far more powerful than private prayer to appease the anger of God and call down His mercy, and Holy Mother Church, guided by the Holy Ghost, has always advocated public prayer in times of public tragedy and suffering."

For more information contact Barb Costello barbcostello@sbcglobal.net

Coming to St. Mary Parish



walking with purpose

THE MODERN WOMAN'S GUIDE TO THE BIBLE

Thursday Evenings
Oct. 8 - Dec. 10
at
7:30 - 9:00PM
via Zoom

***Are you looking for a way to refuel and be refreshed
while making authentic connections with others?***

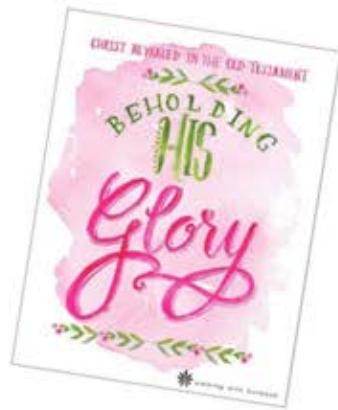
***Would you like to have a better understanding of your faith
and learn more about God?***

Walking with Purpose transforms the hearts and lives of women by providing Bible studies that enable women to know Christ through Scripture and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Beholding His Glory

As we look at Old Testament people and events, we'll encounter problems that only Christ will solve, needs that only He will satisfy, and promises that only He can deliver.

This nine-lesson study, Beholding His Glory, shows us how all Scripture points us to our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. We'll learn to recognize and appreciate God's plan for our own lives, His awe-inspiring majesty, and His desire for personal intimacy with each one of us.



Walking with Purpose will meet on **Thursday evenings 10/8 - 12/10**

From **7:30 – 9:00PM via ZOOM**

For more information, contact **Barbara Giobbi, bgiobbi@snet.net**

This program is FREE. [Register here](#).

[Click here](#) to purchase the book (\$20). Please order your book 2 weeks before the first session.



CLASS OF 2020 QUICK FACTS

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Grants & Awards

“

At Immaculate, I have grown academically and socially thanks to the support and understanding of the faculty and the kindness of peers.

Immaculate has also allowed me to grow in my faith and encourages me to practice it freely and openly.

The teachers' compassion and the students' inclusivity has made Immaculate feel like a family.

Amanda T. - Student

UPCOMING ADMISSION EVENTS

Open House

Sunday, Oct. 4 beginning at 11am
By appointment only

Placement Exams

Saturday, Sept. 26, Oct. 31 & Nov. 14

Applications Now Open!

immaculatehs.org/apply

LEARN MORE

immaculatehs.org/visit



New
Ministry!



St. Mary Parish, 55 Catoonah Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

During this time of unprecedented sadness, pain, disruption, and uncertainty, I am privileged to introduce a new **grief and loss program** for children and teenagers.

I was eight years old when my mother died suddenly. Afterward, no one spoke of her, they didn't have the words. With the best of intentions, adults felt they were protecting me but the silence made my loss even more painful, isolating and confusing. As I grew older, I had to deal, on my own, with that gaping mom-shaped hole in my life, the tragedy compounded by not having her memory kept alive for me. Grief is one of the most universal human experiences, yet we don't talk about it—the *elephant in the room*.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, our *GALE* program (Grief And Loss Education) is offered free-of-charge to schools and community organizations. Designed for students K-12, this workshop complements the social and emotional education already provided in school. Developing empathy and learning how to cope with adversity are vital for healthy development.

The stark reality is that 2 out of 3 kids will experience a traumatic loss during childhood:

- Death of a parent or sibling 1 in 14
- Breakup of parents' marriage 1 in 4
- Parent deployed 1 in 40
- Incarceration of parent or guardian 1 in 12
- Parent with substance use disorder 1 in 8
- Classroom with at least one grieving student 7 in 10

Unaddressed grief puts children at increased risk of developmental delays, poor school performance, anxiety, aggression, addiction, depression, suicidal ideation, diabetes, and more. Tragically, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the number of families living with grief and loss is now greater than ever. While we cannot eliminate trauma, we **can** support kids, and help them grieve and grow after loss. We **can** create a culture of caring, compassion and healing. We **can** educate teachers about grief. We **can** build resilience.

Our interactive workshop:

- explores ways to help students talk about grief—their own or the grief of someone close to them—in ways that are not scary, and
- normalizes grief and gives students the language and tools to reach out to their friends who are hurting.

Call or email today to schedule your free *GALE* workshop. Dates available January through May 2021. We are also offering a virtual program this November—more information to follow.

Grace and peace,

Mary

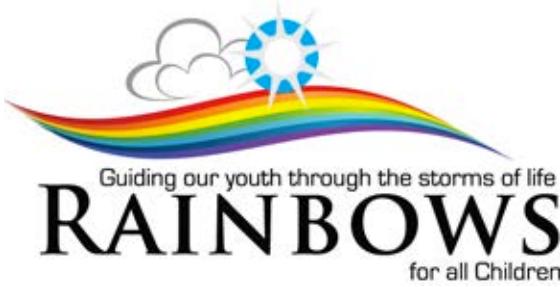
Mary Curley
Program Director

mmary@gale-us.org

Office 203-438-6538

Cell 203-550-3250

Supporting children and teenagers who are grieving the loss of a parent, grandparent, guardian, sibling, friend, or other loved one — whether from death, divorce, deployment, illness, incarceration, violence, or other trauma



Calling all crafters and artisans—knitters, crocheters, jewelry-makers, artists, photographers—whatever your craft of choice, we need you! Make a difference in the lives of grieving children and teenagers.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND/OR DONATIONS NEEDED FOR OUR
CRAFTY CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER

**Auction/Online Auction
Church of the Holy Spirit, Stamford, CT
Holy Family Hall
November 21/22, 2020**

With the blessing of Bishop Caggiano and the financial support of our generous donors, we are growing *Rainbows*, diocesan-wide and further afield, under the good shepherding of Monsignor Royal at St Mary Parish in Ridgefield. Needed now, more than ever, in this time of unprecedented grief and loss...

**GALE Grief And Loss Education workshops in our schools
Rainbows peer support groups in our community
Professional development for educators
Toward a culture of compassion in our schools and communities**

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matthew 5.4

Get your creativity on! Put your craft stash to good use! Join us in this worthwhile and fun event—we welcome your involvement with planning & organizing, or as a crafter (or both!) RSVP sooner rather than later, if possible before August 20th.

Grace and peace,
Mary

Mary Curley
Program Director mary@gale-us.org Cell 203-550-3250 Office 203-438-6538

Supporting children and teenagers who are grieving the loss of a parent, grandparent, guardian, sibling, friend, or other loved one – whether from death, divorce, deployment, illness, incarceration, violence, or other trauma.

Crafty Christmas Fundraiser!

Rainbows is gratefully accepting contributions/donations for our Crafty Christmas fundraiser.

All items gratefully received until Wednesday October 28th. Other suggestions welcome!

Please contact Mary Curley to arrange drop-off/pick-up.

Knitted/crocheted/quilted/embroidery

- Hat (adult and child)
- Scarf (adult and child)
- Mittens (adult and child)
- Lap blanket
- Prayer shawl
- Socks
- Headband
- Baby blanket
- Baby hat
- Pocket prayer shawl
- Potholders
- Cotton washcloths
- Cotton dishcloths
- Napkin Rings
- Doggie sweater
- Embroidered tea towel
- Christmas decorations
- Soft toys

We have patterns available for many of the above items - happy to provide on request. If there is something in particular that you like to make, or have other suggestions, we'd love to hear from you!

For allergy information and washing instruction purposes - with your knitted/crocheted items, please include the paper sleeve/band from around the ball of

Thank you for your generosity in supporting grieving children and families.

Mary Curley
GALE Grief And Loss Education
Program Director
Office 203-438-6538
Cell 203-550-3250



Give sorrow words; the grief that does not speak whispers the o'er-fraught heart and bids it break.
William Shakespeare

DANBURY LIFE CHAIN

A Pro-Life Prayer Vigil

SUNDAY, October 4, 2020

44 Main Street, Danbury, CT

(Between Wooster and South Sts.)

2:30 to 3:30 pm

Participants pray the rosary together along Main St.



2006.10.1

LIFE CHAIN is a peaceful, prayerful public witness of pro-life Americans standing in honor of 54 million lives lost to abortion, praying for our nation, for people in crisis situations and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death.

Come Be a Link in our Chain

For your comfort bring water, strollers umbrellas, etc.

Contact: Deirdre Condon (203) 438-6123



Pray, Fast, & Witness for an End to Abortion

Join us for a 9 Week Seven Sorrows Rosary Novena!

HOW IT WORKS:

Every Friday, pray the Seven Sorrows Rosary for
the intention of ending the scourge of abortion

AND

Fast at least 1 day/week, preferably Friday

AND

Join a Defend Life Prayer Group to witness at the
abortion facility at 44 Main Street, Danbury, CT
(in the public right-of-way)

Defend Life Prayer Groups meet on

Tuesdays at 12:45, Wednesdays at 11:00 AM, &
Saturdays at 10:00 AM

(You can also create your own Defend Life Prayer
Group)

Register Now!

Contact Marie Sangalli:
mareesang@yahoo.com
or (845) 279-7607



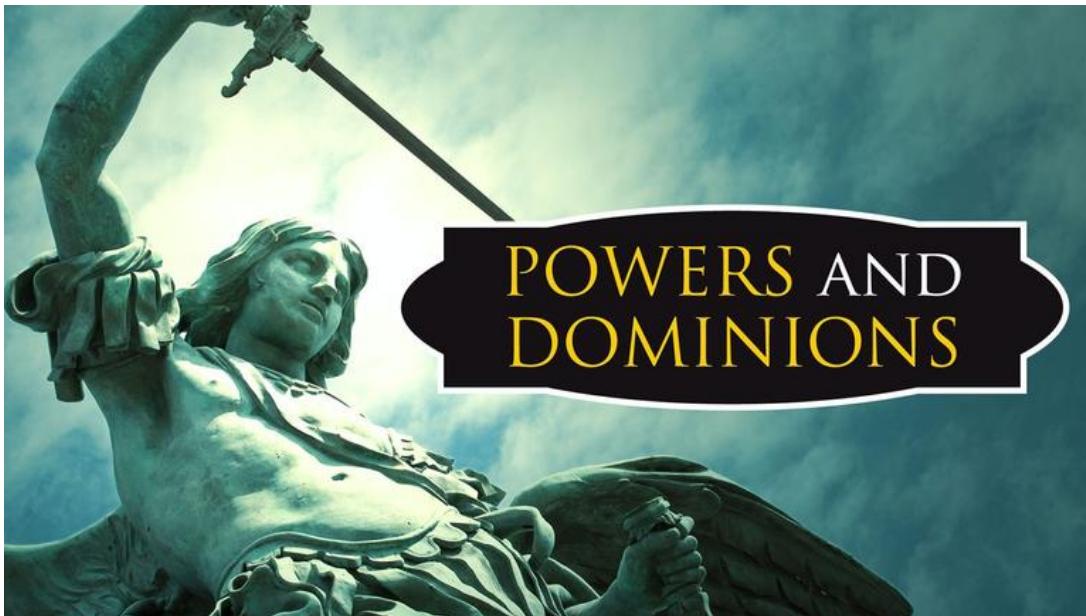
Seven Sorrows Rosary
information will be emailed
to you upon Registration.

Car decals and pro-life signs
are available for use during
the novena!

For more information
contact Peg Rozzi:
mis_peg@outlook.com

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK



Powers and Dominions

In all of God's creation we see such splendor, beauty, mystery, and wonder. Within this creation there are beings with intellect and free will: humans and angels. This film explores the spiritual world, that very real but unseen realm: God, the human soul, angels, demons (fallen angels), spiritual warfare, the reality of demonic possession and exorcism, the dangers of the new age movement and the occult, and much more.

[SIGN UP FREE AT FORMED.ORG/SIGNUP](https://formed.org/signup)

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Daniel P. Jowdy, Director

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Commercial Rates are at an **All Time Low**. Contact us today to get a free analysis to see if we can help **Save you money** with your monthly payments on your commercial property. Multi-Family, Retail, Office Building, Apartment and Condos. Can close in as little as 45 days! Four season customer service is our top priority.

DC
Funding

www.dufunding.com
1650 Market Street - Suite 3600
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Wedding Invitations

Holiday Cards



Log onto www.JPPC.net
conveniently from your home or office.

ONLINE CATALOG - ONLINE ORDERING - ONLINE PROOFING
All Major Credit Cards Accepted
FREE UPS GROUND SHIPPING!

To all those
essential
workers
keeping
us safe,
your
service is
invaluable &
appreciated.

Mallory's Army Foundation
United Together In The Fight Against Bullying...
Don't Just Teach Kindness... BE KINDNESS!

www.MallorysArmy.com
(973) 440-8657 • info@mallorysarmy.org
It's easy to join our mailing list! Just send
your email address by text message:
Text MALLORYSARMY to
22828 to get started.



Message and data rates may apply.



Make a Difference in Your Community
VOLUNTEER
with the American Red Cross
Join today at redcross.org/Volunteer



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