

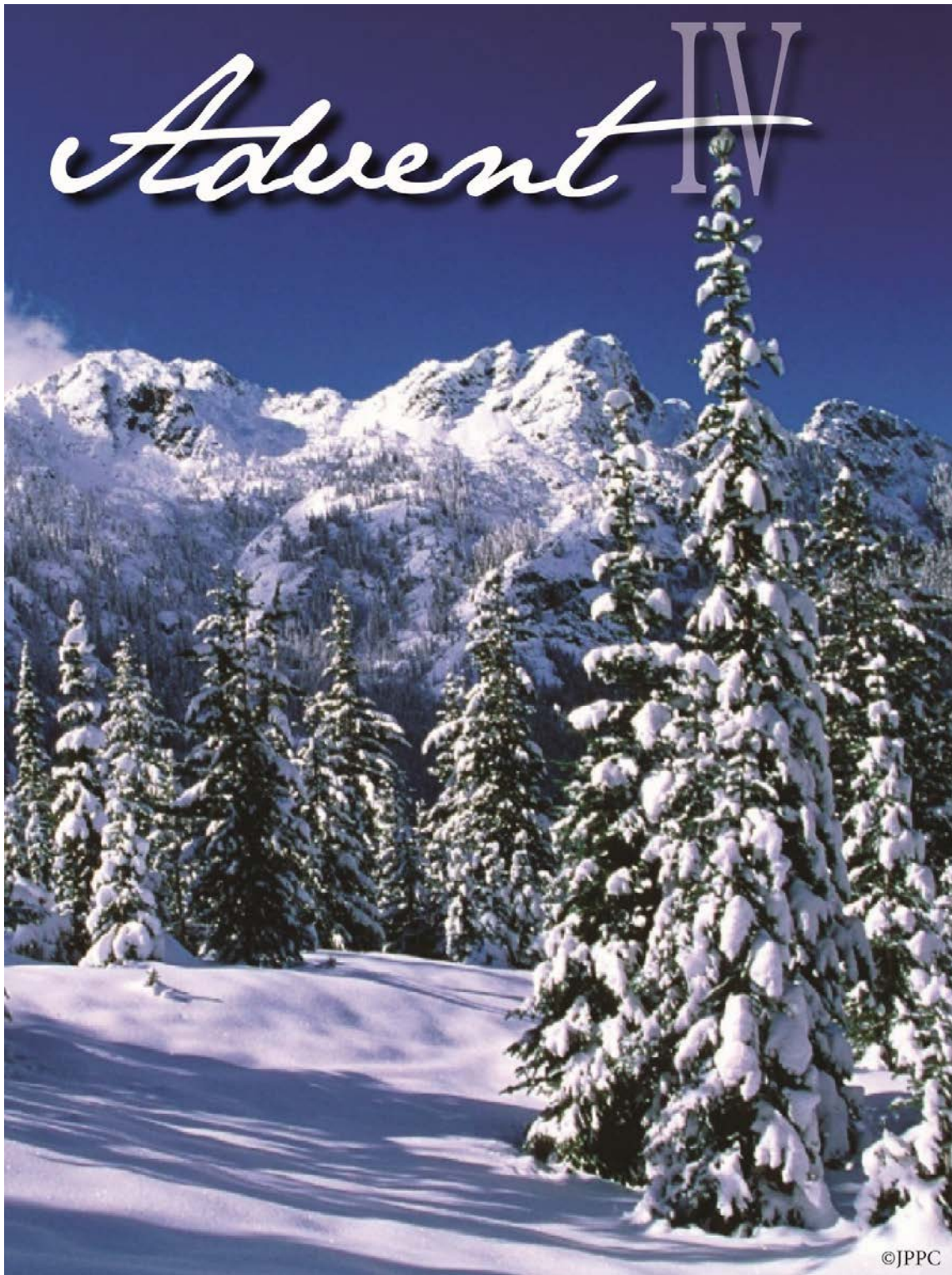


Saint Mary Parish

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

December 19, 2021

A Warm & Welcoming Family of Catholic Faith



©JPPC

Joseph's Mercy & Fidelity



Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. Matthew 1:22–24

Try to imagine Joseph's dilemma. He loved Mary, but suddenly she was pregnant. And Joseph knew that he was not the father. So his first thought was not to chastise her, question her, or ridicule her. Instead, the Gospel says that Joseph was “unwilling to expose her to shame.” This is a beautiful statement about the mercy and goodness of Saint Joseph. Instead of being self-concerned, his concern was for Mary not to experience shame at this unexpected pregnancy.

But of course the story goes much further. The angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, explaining to him that “it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her” and that this Child “will save his people from their sins.” Joseph's response, as quoted above, was to then do “as the angel of the Lord had commanded him” and to take Mary and her new child into his home. Therefore, this Gospel passage for today reveals to us the mercy of Joseph as well as his fidelity to the will of God, no matter what God asked of him. These two qualities will greatly assist our lives, also, if we can strive to imitate Saint Joseph.

First, we all need to have mercy in life. This means that our only interest must be the good of the other. Too often when we have conflict in life, or are faced with some unexpected difficulty, we turn our eyes in upon ourselves. But a merciful heart never thinks about itself first. Instead, it thinks about the other and is fully detached from its own feelings to the point that the merciful soul is able to desire mercy for everyone, even those who have hurt it. Of course our Blessed Mother did not do anything to hurt Saint Joseph, but before he understood how she became pregnant, he certainly would have been tempted to be upset and hurt by her unexpected pregnancy. Thus, in imitation of Saint Joseph, we must always seek to have a heart full of mercy.

Perhaps Saint Joseph's crowning virtue was his fidelity—not only to his new wife, but also to the will of God as it was revealed to Him through the mediation of this angel. And though we do not have angels appearing to us in dreams in the same way, we are gifted with the Gospels, the teachings of the Church and the lives of the saints to lead us into God's will. Additionally, when we are truly open, God will certainly communicate to us His perfect will for our lives through our prayer and in our consciences. Our only duty must be unwavering fidelity to all that God speaks.

Reflect, today, upon these two virtues of Saint Joseph and consider how well you live them in your life. Do you show mercy to all, no matter what? Do you allow yourself to be drawn into the all-consuming desire to show mercy? If so, then you will also be imitating the virtue of fidelity to the will of God. God's will is mercy itself. This is Who He is. Mercy must permeate our lives always. Mycatholic.life



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday December 20

7:00 am John Sieyes
12:00 pm Nenay Schultz

Tuesday December 21

St. Peter Canisius
7:00 am Robert Pagnucco
12:00 pm Digby Barrios

Wednesday December 22

7:00 am Arlene Anastasia Gomba
12:00 pm Betty Hanney - 2nd Anniversary

Thursday December 23

St. John of Kanty
7:00 am Kenneth R. Forrest
12:00 pm John Henwood

Friday December 24

Christmas Eve
3:00 pm St. Mary Parish Parishioners
4:15 pm St. Mary Parish Parishioners
5:30 pm St. Mary Parish Parishioners
7:00 pm St. Mary Parish Parishioners

Saturday December 25

Christmas Day
12:00 am St. Mary Parish Parishioners
7:30 am St. Mary Parish Parishioners
9:00 am St. Mary Parish Parishioners
10:30 am St. Mary Parish Parishioners
12:00 pm St. Mary Parish Parishioners

Sunday December 26

The Holy Family
7:30 am Those Remembered from Our
Christmas Flower Offertory
9:00 am Diane May
10:30 am Virginia Azrak
12:00 pm St. Mary Parishioners (Living)
5:00 pm David Henwood



Online Giving

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. Offertory can be mailed to St. Mary Parish, 55 Catoonah St, Ridgefield, CT 06877 or dropped off at Mass. ☺

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

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ST MARY SCHOOL
183 HIGH RIDGE AVENUE
RIDGEFIELD, CT 06877

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 9
2022

7:00 - 9:30 PM

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with CHRISTOPHER WEST MUSIC BY MIKE MANGIONE

Prayers for the Sick



Go to www.smcr.org to make a prayer request and to see those on the prayer list.

BAPTISMS

We welcome to the Family of God and our Parish family **Parker Rose Cleghorn** who was baptized last weekend.



Greeter/Ushers Needed for Christmas Masses

Interested parties should contact John Ahle at johnahle@aol.com.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

He's on His way

Christmas starts with Christ

St. Mary Respect Life - Ridgefield

YOUTH & FAMILY



Upcoming Events

Dec 21- **Carol Sing-Along**
4:30-5:15pm

Dec 22-Jan 2- **Christmas Break**

OFFICE CLOSED, NO CLASSES
Office Re-Opens Jan 3rd
Classes resume Jan 9th

Contact Us

oyf@smcr.org
203-438-7335

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

****Please note our new location--** in the school at the opposite end from the Main Entrance, on the far right-hand end of the building. A single door, currently decorated with a large wreath!**

FAITH FORMATION CORNER

CHRISTMAS IS GIVER'S FEAST

Christmas is the giver's feast. Why the giver's feast? Because God is a giver not a taker. Jesus is a giver not a taker. Mary says, "Yes!" and gives her whole life. Joseph says, "Yes!" and takes her into his house. And the whole world celebrates all these givers. No money, no gain, nothing but the simple gift of themselves. And with that, the whole world changes.



SAINT MARY PARISH

2021 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

7 PM Christmas Eve Mass added. Registration required. Link at www.smcr.org.

Christmas Eve Masses (Friday)

3:00 pm – Nancy Bossidy Recreation Center *
4:15 pm – Church *
5:30 pm – Nancy Bossidy Recreation Center*
Midnight Mass 12 am – Church

*Tickets required & reserve a seat PRIOR to the start of Mass. Tickets become available online at www.smcr.org beginning Dec 6

Christmas Day Masses (Saturday)

7:30 am – Church
9:00 am – Church
10:30 am – Nancy Bossidy Recreation Center
12 Noon – Church

Advent Confessions – Church

Monday – Friday 11:30 am
Wednesday, 6 – 7 pm
Saturday, 3 – 4 pm

Giving Tree Success! We collected over 400 gifts and donations ❤️ Special thanks to all who gave gifts and to our organizers, Mothers' Club leaders Amy Green & Mara Martin!





ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY

All men (18+) are welcome to join our very friendly Men's Ministry Community. Saturday morning meetings (6:45 to 8 AM) in the Hall begin with a valuable presentation followed by spiritual reflections/questions on the topic. At-will discussion of the questions at our 6-man tables, followed by group sharing of valuable insights. Individual prayer intentions end the meeting. Plenty of coffee and bagels to fuel our discussions. New members join us weekly and some members have been coming for 15 years. Join us and have fun with a purpose.



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

The Advent season is here. To honor the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, consider inviting the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima to your home to pray the Rosary daily, a wonderful Marian devotion. The message from heaven for us is more urgent than ever to pray for world peace and the conversion of sinners. To invite the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima to your home contact Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Adoration Chapel

OPEN DAILY

10:00 AM- 4:00 PM

Masks not required

Location: In the school building



The holidays can be tough. If

you know of someone going through a difficult time, talk to our Stephen Ministry Leader, Jack Hughes – jack2cruise@gmail.com; he will connect you with one of our Stephen Ministry ministers who are ready to provide focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They help bring the healing power of Christ's love.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

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

Sunday

7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, Noon, 5 PM
(Church)
10:30 AM
(Hall)

WEEKDAY MASSES

7:00 AM & Noon
Monday- Friday
Church

Holy Days of Obligation

Check website

*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

Confessions

Monday - Friday
11:30 AM
Wednesday
6:00 - 7:00 PM
Saturday
3:00 - 4:00 PM
(Church)

Baptism

Celebrated each Sunday
(except holiday weekends)

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

Joanne Brown

203-438-6538

Pastor: Msgr. Kevin T. Royal
MsgrRoyal@smcr.org

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Brendan Blawie, frblawie@smcr.org

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

Deacon: Robert Salvestrini, salvo95@aol.com

Parish Office Building Open
Monday - Thursday 10 AM – 2 PM

Parish Office Hours
Monday-Friday 8AM-4PM
203-438-6538

Parish Receptionist: Kim Macko, kmacko@smcr.org

Administrative Assistant: Joanne Brown, jbrown@smcr.org

Accountant: Deborah Korniewicz, dkorniewicz@smcr.org

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

Communications Manager: Carolyn Haitsch, chaitch@smcr.org

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

Youth & Family:

Pastoral Associate (RE) Laura Danner, ldanner@smcr.org

Administrative Coordinator – Pamela Jensen oym@smcr.org

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

Find us on FACEBOOK,
INSTAGRAM, & TWITTER



SAINT MARY PARISH

2021 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Christmas Eve 7 PM Mass in the Church added.
Registration required. Link at www.smcr.org**

Christmas Eve Masses (Friday)

3:00 pm – Nancy Bossidy Recreation Center *

4:15 pm – Church *

5:30 pm – Nancy Bossidy Recreation Center*

Midnight Mass 12 am – Church

**Tickets required & reserve a seat PRIOR to the start of Mass. Tickets become available online at www.smcr.org beginning Dec 6*

Christmas Day Masses (Saturday)

7:30 am – Church

9:00 am – Church

10:30 am – Nancy Bossidy Recreation Center

12 Noon – Church



Advent Confessions – Church

Monday – Friday 11:30 am

Wednesday, 6 – 7 pm

Saturday, 3 – 4 pm



December 19, 2021

WATCH

CHRISTMAS IN ROME: A CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY

Nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like Rome. This Christmas, marvel at the Holy City's festive celebration of the coming of the child Jesus in Bethlehem.



THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY: THE TRUTH OF CHRISTMAS

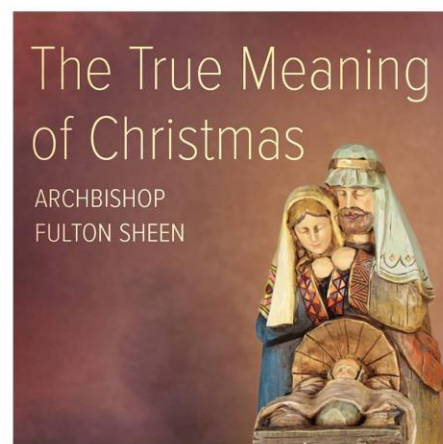
Christmas is so much more than a humdrum story we've heard since childhood. Join top scholars, speakers, and authors as they explain the gravity of Christ's miraculous birth.

LEARN

LISTEN

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS BY FULTON SHEEN

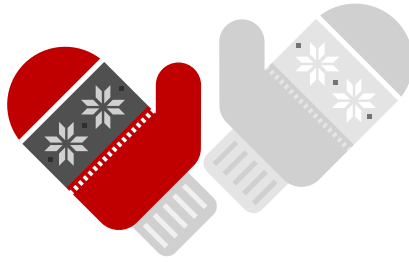
This presentation combines recordings of Fulton Sheen's timeless reflections on the meaning of Christmas, mixed with Gregorian chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite!



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

FOR ST. PETER'S PARISH IN BRIDGEPORT



ITEMS NEEDED: (Gently used or new)

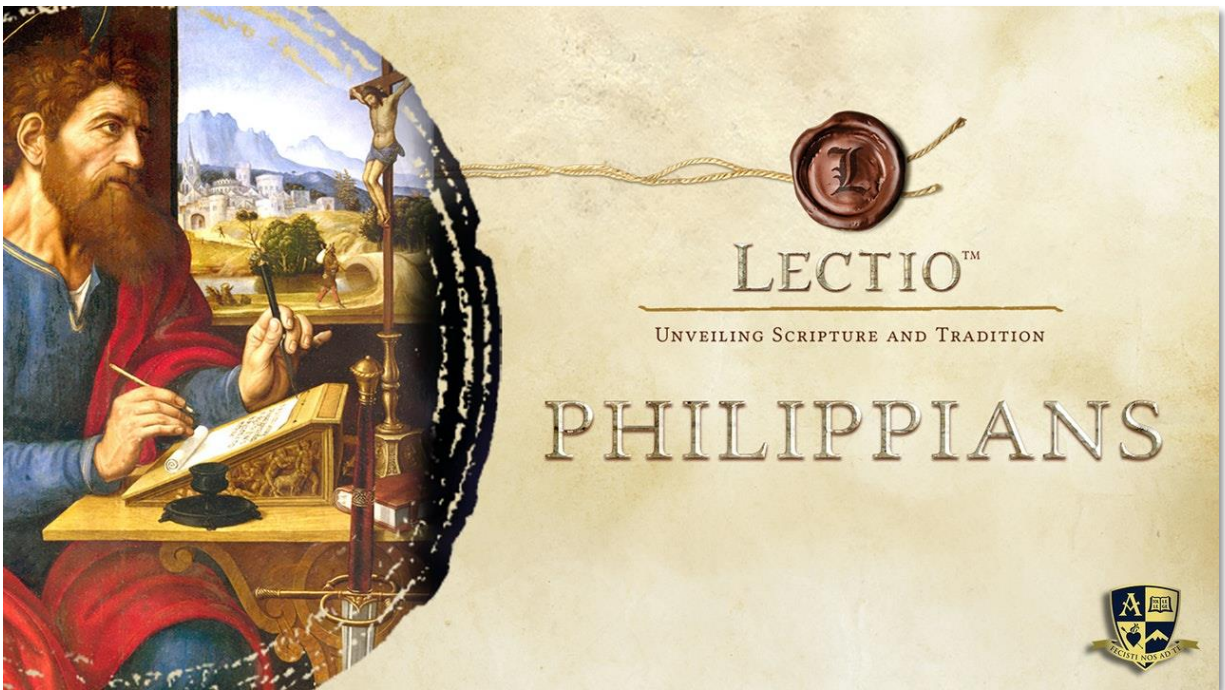
- Hats, Gloves, Mittens, Scarfs- Children's & Adult
- Pants, Shirts & Sweaters- Men's L, Women's M/L
- Blankets & Throws

Sunday December 12 – Tuesday, December 22nd

Collection bins in the Hall & Youth & Families Office

Generous God, we ask that in your goodness you will give those who struggle with poverty renewed hope, economic and educational opportunity, and dignified work in safe conditions for just wages, that they might live in economic security.

Give us open hearts that we might willingly share our gifts with others, follow Jesus in his own poverty, and seek his face in the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters. **Amen**



Toward the end of his life, under arrest and awaiting trial in Rome, Saint Paul writes a short but powerful letter to the Philippians. Paul's affection for the Christian community at Philippi is apparent from his opening words. The Philippians were not only Paul's sons and daughters in the Faith but also his partners in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

At the heart of this letter is Paul's eloquent hymn of Christ's total gift of self, the model for Paul's life. With his words and the example of his life, Paul exhorts the Philippians to have the mind of Christ, to live a life worthy of the Gospel, and, by God's grace, to gain Christ.

Dates – Times – Location

Mondays 7 – 9 PM

Jan. 10 - March 7

6 weeks

St. Mary School

Cost – Registration

\$20 payable at first session

Checks payable to
St. Mary Parish

Beverly Scott,
bscott@scottassociatesLLC.com
914-763-6243



Knights of Columbus

FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

BOYS and GIRLS AGES 9 – 14

Date of Competition: Wednesday January 12, 2022* **Time:** 6:30 PM

Location: The Nancy Bossidy Gym & Rec. Ctr at St. Mary School in Ridgefield

Sponsored by: The Knights of Columbus, Marquette Council #245

Contact: Tim O'Connell, 203-545-3027



All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 (age on January 1, 2022) are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw Championship. Winners progress through local, district, and state competitions. All boys and girls will compete in their respective age divisions. All contestants on the local level will receive participation certificates, and winners advance to the next round. This event is free of charge.

Registration is between 6:30-7:00PM then shooting begins. Forms are available at the following locations:

- www.smcr.org
- At the Religious Education Office and Parish Office
- At the Free Throw Competition

Participants are required to furnish proof of age and signed parental consent when they register.

*Snow date will be Monday, January 17.



**MINISTRY
REBOOT!**

USHERS AND GREETERS

Join this important hospitality ministry at St. Mary Parish!



The Parish is rebooting the Greeter/Usher Ministry now that we are back in the Church and worship is getting back to normal. We need Greeters/Ushers for all the Masses in both the Church and Hall. This important ministry welcomes and seats worshipers as they arrive for Mass, takes up the offertory collection and distributes bulletins at the end of Mass. It requires arriving 20 minutes before Mass and 10 minutes after Mass. If you would like to help at the Mass you regularly attend or would like more information, please contact John Ahle at johnahle@aol.com.



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WEDNESDAY
- MARCH -

Tickets: \$25

Tickets available in your school office or
online at:

RIDGEFIELDCT.EVENTBRITE.COM

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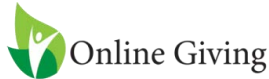
St. Mary School

183 High Ridge Avenue
Ridgefield, CT 06877

7:00 - 9:30PM

For More Information Contact: Measi O'Rourke
(203-448-0939) measio@comcast.net

Ways to Give to St. Mary Parish



Online Giving is easy for you and it helps us. When travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from coming to Mass, *Online Giving* allows your weekly offering to continue on an uninterrupted basis. Go to www.smcr.org and click on the *Giving* tab to sign up. Or call the Parish Office for assistance, 203-438-6538 x106.

Benefits to you as a Parishioner:

No more check writing, no cost to participate, confidential and secure, app for smartphones, easy updates and changes, weekly/monthly/quarterly and one-time donations, accommodates special collections, printable reports for tax purposes.

Benefits to our Parish:

Creates a more consistent cash flow so the Parish can more accurately budget for expenses, safely secures transactions with no need to share personal info with staff, reduces administrative costs, simplifies adding, changing or discontinuing donations, increases recurring gifts, reduces liability.

Offertory Envelopes

Offertory envelopes are available for our Parishioners. They are dated and preprinted with your name, address, and Parishioner #. Contributions can be put in the collection basket at weekend Masses or mailed to the Parish Office.

Stock Gifts

When making stock donations (transfers) to St. Mary Parish, please advise our Parish Accountant (203-438-6536 x106) ahead of time to ensure proper and timely handling of the transaction. She will provide you with information needed to perform the transfer.

IRAs

You can designate your IRA distribution or a portion of it to St. Mary Parish. PATH Act of 2015 makes permanent the ability for taxpayers who are 70 ½ or older to exclude from income (up to \$100,000) distributions made from a traditional IRA that are made payable to a qualified charity. Please contact the Parish Office to expect distribution.

Matching Gifts

Many companies allow their employees to make donations to charitable organizations through payroll deductions, and some will match the gift dollar for dollar. Ask your employer's human resources, matching gift or payroll department if there is a matching gift program. St. Mary Parish is an approved tax-exempt organization by the I.R.S. under section 501©3.

Wills and Bequests

Once you have taken care of your family, please consider a bequest to St. Mary Parish. The best wording to use is "St. Mary's Corporation, Ridgefield, Connecticut." If you decide to name St. Mary Parish in your will, please notify our Pastor so we can thank you. It is a good idea to consult an attorney before writing your will.

Tribute Gifts ("In Memory of" and "In Honor of")

Tribute and memorial donations provide a unique opportunity to remember family and friends. When you make your gift, we will send a notification of your thoughtfulness to whomever you designate. Please contact the Parish Accountant for more information.

As always, please consult your tax advisor or financial planner prior to making financial decisions.

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Donna DePalma, Realtor
 William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
 470 Main Street | Ridgefield, CT 06877
203.733.6443



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Message and data rates may apply.

Love
One Another

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON

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INFORM

ASK #WHATSMYNAME BEFORE YOU GET IN A RIDE SHARE

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us safe,
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