



This Sunday we celebrate **Palm Sunday** as we begin the holiest week of the Church year. We focus on the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. In our faith tradition, during Holy Week we commemorate the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

In a Palm Sunday address, Pope Francis called on the faithful to focus on the importance of Holy Week and strive to more fully appreciate what Jesus has done for us. As reported in the publication the “National Catholic Register,” Our Holy Father prayed that we would have the grace “to follow in faith our Savior’s example of humility, to heed his lesson of patient suffering, and thus merit a share in his victory over the spirit of evil.” Pope Francis challenged people of faith to face moments of difficulty with “confident abandonment to the Father and to his saving will, which bestows life and mercy.” He emphasized the importance of the silence of Jesus throughout his Passion, and stated, “By our silent witness in prayer we give ourselves and others an accounting of the hope that is within.”

As we celebrate this day, we should not forget those who suffer, especially in Ukraine, and also Christians throughout the world who continue to endure suffering and hardship as they strive to profess their faith. The following prayer titled “Palm Sunday” provided by the website “Catholic Images” reflects the need for Jesus in this world and the importance to identify with our suffering brothers and sisters:

GRACIOUS GOD, YOU HAVE HEARD THE
CRIES OF YOUR SUFFERING PEOPLE.
YOU HAVE SENT JESUS TO US TO BE OUR
REDEEMER AND BROTHER.
OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE THE IMMENSITY
OF YOUR LOVE FOR US AND THE WONDER
OF WHAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR US.
GIVE US THE COURAGE TO BE YOUR
HANDS AND HEART FOR THOSE WHO ARE
IN PAIN.
GIVE US THE WISDOM TO SPEAK OUT FOR
JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.
MAY YOUR WILL BE DONE IN US TODAY
AND ALWAYS. AMEN.

As we reflect on this prayer, we are challenged to keep our focus on Our Lord and avoid the many commercial distractions of the season. Today, as we celebrate and experience the joy of Palm Sunday, as we shout “Hosanna,” we are challenged to heed the words of Our Holy Father and strive to embrace this week in a spirit of humility and reverence and experience this special time of grace. *Fr. Neil Herlihy*



Mass Intentions

Monday April 11th

Monday of Holy Week

7:00 am Meredith Riley Warner - 4 year Anniversary

12:00 pm Kitty Trench

Tuesday April 12th

Tuesday of Holy Week

7:00 am Intentions of Carol O'Neill (Living)

12:00 pm Anne Doty

Wednesday April 13th

Wednesday of Holy Week

7:00 am Mary McInerney

12:00 pm Betty Dolen

Thursday April 14th

Thursday of Holy Week

7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday April 15th

Good Friday

3:00 pm The Passion

8:00 pm Tenebrae

Saturday April 16th

Holy Saturday

10:30 am Easter Food Blessing

8:00 pm Easter Vigil

Sunday April 17th

Easter Sunday

7:30 am

9:00 am

10:30 am

12:00 pm

12:15 pm



Online Giving

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT OF**

**OUR PARISH. Sign up for Online Giving. Call the
Parish Office if you would like assistance. ☺**

Saint Mary Parish

We Stand With Christ Campaign Update

Total Pledged:	\$4,333,583
Total Collected (As of 3/21/22):	\$3,438,639 (79%)

To make a payment on your pledge, visit
GiveCentral.org/WSWC or call 203-648-9050.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Good Friday, April 15

7:30pm

No Stations at 12:30 PM

CONFESSIONS

in the Church



Reconciliation Monday, April 11

3:00 – 9:00 PM

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

11:30 AM

Wednesday

6:00 - 7:00 PM

Holy Thursday

No Confessions

Good Friday

No Confessions

Holy Saturday

No Confessions

MEATLESS LENTEN FRIDAYS

Good Friday is a day no meat and of fasting for those 18-59:
one full meal plus two smaller meals and no snacking. ☺

BAPTISMS

We welcome to the Family of God and our
Parish Family **Hudson Barrett Koellmer,**
Alanna Grace Pellegrino, and **Nolan**
Alexander Tufano who were baptized in our
Church last weekend.





Saint Mary School

RIDGEFIELD

Work Hard. Be Kind. Smile. This is the student version of the Saint Mary School mission statement, and is heard every day at the end of morning prayers and announcements. It is visible on the walls of our classrooms and in the behaviors of our students and staff. It is what makes SMS such a special community. For more info or to set up a tour, visit www.smsridgefield.org.

Dorothy Day Food Volunteers Needed



The Dorothy Day mission to feed the homeless and under-served has expanded to include residents in Pacific House, a managed homeless shelter in Danbury. We are seeking additional volunteers to prepare trays of food and salads from your home once a month. St. Mary volunteers serve on the third Sunday of each month. If you are interested in volunteering or want to know more, please email Meg at mbreilly28@gmail.com. Thank you!

FAITH FORMATION CORNER

PALM SUNDAY

Each year on this Sunday the Church reads an account of the Passion of Jesus. As we listen to it, we are reminded of the cowardice of the followers who abandoned him in his hour of greatest need, of the wickedness of the religious leaders who plotted his death, and of the cruelty of the soldiers who carried out his execution. And we need to be reminded of these things, because we have a kinship with them. But that is not the purpose of the Passion reading. We hear too much bad news as it is.

The emphasis is not there. The emphasis is on Jesus, the central character in the story. What we are remembering is the fidelity, the courage, and the sheer goodness of Jesus. Against the darkness of Calvary his goodness shines all the more brightly. The day of his death is not called "Bad Friday" but "Good Friday." What makes it good is the love of Jesus. "Greater love no man has than to who lay down his life for his friends." It is that love that we are remembering this week. saintjohntheevangelist.com

Easter Speaker Rev. Don Calloway!

"The importance of the Virgin Mary in our world today"



Tuesday May 24th at 7 pm, renowned author and speaker Rev. Don Calloway is coming to speak at St. Gregory the Great Parish! The title of his talk is, "The importance of the Virgin Mary in our world today". Rev. Calloway is the author of very popular books such as his conversion story, "No Turning Back," "Consecration to St. Joseph," and "Champions of the Rosary." Fr. Calloway's conversion story was made into a documentary film called "Power in my Hands," he was interviewed on ABC TV, has been a guest on many Catholic podcasts, and his talks have been viewed by many on YouTube. His books will be available for purchase after his talk. Tickets, \$10, can be purchased at the SGG parish office, 85 Great Plain Road, Danbury, or call (203)797-0222 or email drabito@stgregdanbury.org.



OFFICE FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES

ELEMENTARY

Join us for Children's Stations of the Cross one final time this Lent, on Friday, April 8th at 6pm in the Church. Geared towards families with small children through grade 5.



FIRST COMMUNION

If you have not yet done so, please be sure to pick up your banner kit and instructions from the office during open hours. We hope you will enjoy using your Easter break to work on these! **Completed banners should be brought to the Church on the day of First Communion.**

Rehearsals will be the Tuesday before your scheduled ceremony at 6pm in the Church. Parents are expected to attend along with children.

EDGE (6TH-8TH)

There will be **NO Edge Monday, April 11th or 18th.**

We will see you for our **end-of-year celebration on Monday, April 25th!** (Don't worry, we're cooking up something special for May and will continue to meet once per month through the summer—so keep your Monday nights open!)



HIGH SCHOOLERS (9TH-12TH)

All high schoolers are invited to join us for **Stations of the Cross for Teens** in the Church this **Sunday, April 10th** at 7pm. Dinner and games starting at 6pm in the Hall, too.

There will be **NO High School Youth Night on Easter Sunday.**

PARENTS & FAMILIES

There are **no elementary classes or Edge during Holy Week (4/10,11,12) and Easter week (4/17,18,19).**

The office will be closed Holy Thursday and Good Friday and Easter Monday.

Here are some ideas about how to keep Holy Week...

- Attend Mass (and Eucharistic Adoration immediately afterwards) on Holy Thursday.
- Attend Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 7:30pm.
- Bring a basket full of some of your Easter meal food to the Church to be blessed at 10:30am on Holy Saturday.
- Of course, make Mass the priority on Easter Sunday!



ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY

Community is so important, especially during these isolating times. Consider trying the St. Mary Men's Ministry, a group of joy-filled men who gather at 6:30AM every Saturday for breakfast and faith discussions about the everyday lives of men. Zoom is an option as well, although it's better in person! Experience a more rewarding prayer life and support of faith-filled brothers.

Why do we get up so early each Saturday? We enjoy each other's company and strongly benefit from the time together and time with God in prayer. Come and see how it can energize you for the week ahead. More info @ STMMM.ORG.



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

Lent is a time for prayer, penance, fasting and sacrifice. Our Lady's message to the world: Pray the Rosary daily, a wonderful Marian devotion, for world peace and the conversion of sinners. To arrange for a visit call Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341 or Email to jstoveken@comcast.net.



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

DAILY - 6:00 AM- 10:00 PM
Adoration Chapel in Church Building



An Adoration candle is burning in loving memory of Regina Walsh

Adoration Chapel will close Holy Thursday at noon and reopen Easter Sunday 6am



Do you have a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who has been struggling with life's many challenges? Our Stephen

Ministers can provide them with the focused care, encouragement, and support they need to make it through. If you know of someone hurting, 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 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

MsrRoyal@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

Communications Manager: Carolyn Haitsch, chaitsch@smcr.org

Director of Music: Darren Motise, darren@smcr.org

Office for Youth & Families:

Pastoral Associate – Laura Danner, ldanner@smcr.org

Administrative Coordinator – Pamela Jensen oyf@smcr.org

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

Find us on FACEBOOK,
INSTAGRAM, & TWITTER