

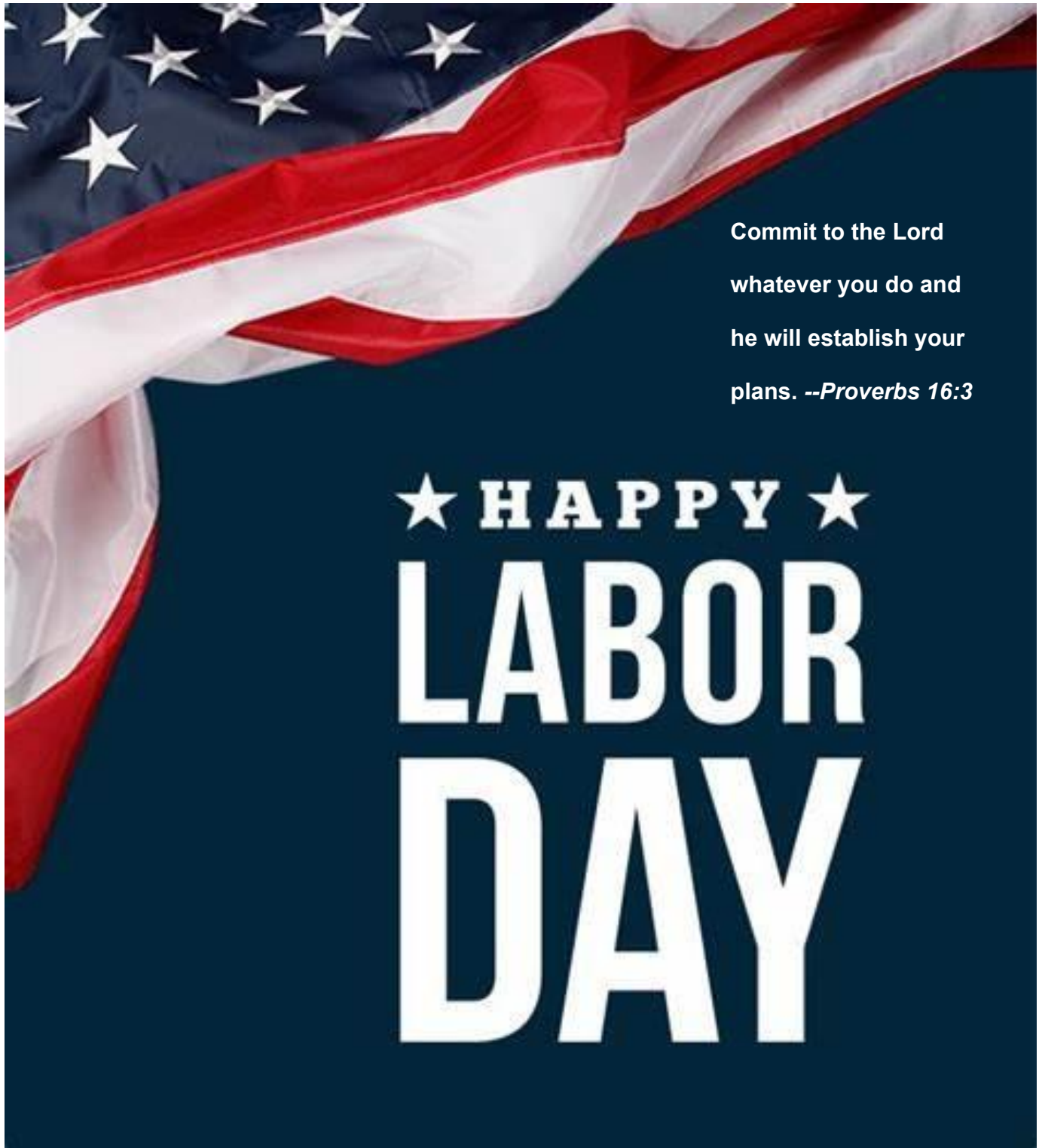


Saint Mary Parish

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

September 4, 2022

A Warm & Welcoming Family of Catholic Faith



Commit to the Lord
whatever you do and
he will establish your
plans. --Proverbs 16:3

★ **HAPPY** ★
LABOR
DAY



Our nation celebrates Labor Day as a way of acknowledging the contributions Americans have made in strengthening our country. It is a collective celebration that indicates the well-being of our citizens and the commitment to work hard and be prosperous. America has always been a generous nation and we should give God the honor and glory for the blessings He has graciously bestowed on the United States.

We should also thank Him for the work that He did on our behalf: the work of coming down from Heaven and giving His life for sinful people. He died on the cross so that we might live abundant lives, not lives of materialism, but lives that speak of His great love for us. Jesus worked all His life. But the greatest labor of love that has ever transpired, is when He willingly laid down His life for us.

While we cannot come to know God through our own works, when we receive His salvation, He gives us opportunity to serve Him on earth by sharing with others what it means to belong to the Savior of the world.

As God's children we are not just meant to sit back and selfishly enjoy our privileges. Instead, God wants us to serve Him and help others.

The Bible says, "Let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need" (Ephesians 4:28).



Monday September 5th

Labor Day

9:00 am Mary Angelina

Tuesday September 6th

7:00 am Mary Kleiman-D

12:00 pm Fernanda Fronzi

Wednesday September 7th

7:00 am Intentions of Christopher Hopey

12:00 pm Erin Bridget Vick

Thursday September 8th

Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 am Mary Patricia Culhane

12:00 pm Mary and John Donnellan

Friday September 9th

St. Peter Claver

7:00 am John A. Miltenis, Sr.

10th Anniversary

12:00 pm Anthony J. & Rose Barbaro

Saturday September 10th

Mem. of Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am St. Mary Parishioners

4:30 pm Tracy Giannattasio

Sunday September 11th

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

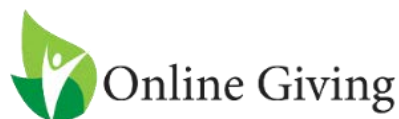
7:30 am Ty Ugolyn

9:00 am Charles Bourke

10:30 am Joseph Heller

12:00 pm David Henwood

5:00 pm Sally Silbernagel Ruggles



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH. Sign up for Online Giving. Call the Parish Office if you would like assistance. ☺

Additional greeter/ushers needed at the 4:30 PM, noon and 5pm Masses. Can you help? Please email John Ahle, johnahle@aol.com.



Men lose all the material things they leave behind them in this world, but they carry with them the reward of their charity and the alms they give. For these, they will receive from the Lord the reward and recompense they deserve.

—St. Francis of Assisi

Happiness is to be found only in the home where God is loved and honored, where each one loves, and helps, and cares for the others.

—Bl. Theophane Venard

Pray, hope and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayers.

—St. Padre Pio

FALL IHS OPEN HOUSE

At Immaculate High School, academic excellence matters and our student outcomes prove it. All are invited to learn more about why Immaculate is the #1 Catholic, co-ed day school in CT and about our admissions process at our upcoming **Open House on Sunday, October 16**. Register today and choose from a number of different tour start times beginning at 1:00pm. **Register** at immaculatehs.org/visit.



We welcome to the Family of God and our Parish **Olivia Scott Leighton** and **Emma Kathleen Nissim** who were baptized in our Church last weekend.

Labor Day, Sept. 5: One Mass at 9 AM in the Church & no Confessions.



Saint Mary School

RIDGEFIELD

Teaching

We're not in it for the income

We are in it for the outcome

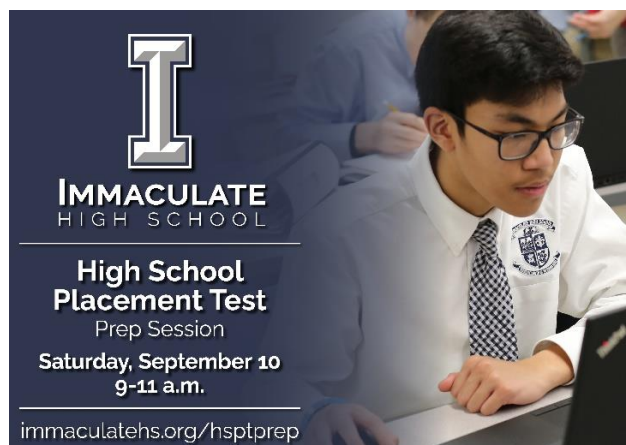
Work Hard. Be Kind. Smile. This is the student version of the Saint Mary School mission statement and is heard every day at the end of morning prayers and announcements. It is visible on the walls of our classrooms and in the behaviors of our students and staff. It is what makes SMS such a special community.

To register, get more information, or set up a tour, please contact principal Rachel Ambrosio at ambrosior@smsridgefield.org or visit www.smsridgefield.org.

In all toil there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty" (Proverbs 14:23)

Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise. --Ben Franklin

...the reward of a thing well done, is to have done it. -- Ralph Waldo Emerson



IMMACULATE
HIGH SCHOOL

**High School
Placement Test**
Prep Session
Saturday, September 10
9-11 a.m.

immaculatehs.org/hsptprep

PILGRIM VIRGIN

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 jstoveken@comcast.net.



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 Brian Patrick Martin, Grand Knight, at bpmartin98@aol.com.



FAITH FORMATION CORNER

Work is good, but life transcends our jobs. As a Christian, I'm reminded that my first calling or vocation is to be a follower of Jesus Christ, and as such I've been called to love and serve my neighbor. As part of this service to God and neighbor, I'm invited to engage in labor that will provide food and shelter for me and my family. From what I earn I can also contribute to the welfare of others who share this world of ours. I may be employed, but my divinely given vocation is to be a blessing to others. It's good that we celebrate the value of labor, but we must keep our priorities straight. While not every job will have the same intrinsic value, every job can be life affirming. *Excerpt Faith in the Public Square*



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.

OFFICE FOR
YOUTH &
FAMILIES

OFFICE HOURS

The Office is now open regular hours, Mon-Fri 10am-5pm. Stop in and see Ms. Pam if you need any help with registration, placement, payments, etc.

ELEMENTARY & FAMILIES

Open House and Teacher Meet & Greet will be Sept 18th & 20th during regular class time. Come and find your classroom, meet your teacher and tie up any loose ends. Refreshments, door prizes, and goodie bags to the first 10 families to arrive each day!

First Day of Classes & Parent Orientation will be Sept 25th & 27th-- all parents are expected to attend and will meet in the Hall after dropping children in classrooms.

There is still space remaining in most of our in-person classes; registration will remain open until classes are filled. We invite you to join us!

SACRAMENTS

2nd graders are invited to prepare for First Penance to be received in January and First Communion in April.

7th and 8th graders are invited to prepare for Confirmation this year. Sessions will be held on Sunday nights from 7-8pm OR Monday nights from 6-7pm, every other week from October through March. Registration for in-person classes will remain open as long as space remains-- please register as soon as possible.

9th-12th graders, did you miss your Confirmation? For whatever the reason, now's the time to come back! We're assembling a Confirmation prep journey just for you— led by Fr Lomnitzer and Emma, our new coordinator of youth ministry. This will be a great opportunity to connect with peers at the parish and get caught up on other missed sacraments too (i.e., Baptism, Penance and First Communion). Please reach out to Laura at ldanner@smcr.org to learn more.

EDGE (6TH-8TH)

Keep your Monday nights clear this Fall—**Edge is back!** Make some new friends, encounter Christ in prayer, understand the teachings of the Church better. **Kickoff is October 3rd, 7-8:15pm** in the Gym!

HIGH SCHOOLERS (9TH-12TH)

FALL FEST will be Sunday, Sept 18th from 6-8pm in the Gym/back parking lot. Gather some friends and join us for BBQ, sack races, spikeball & other fall fun! All are welcome!!

PARENTS

****Parents of Middle & High Schoolers** are invited to an **Info Night, Wednesday, Sept 14th at 7pm** in the Hall** This will be to answer any questions you may have regarding Edge, Confirmation, and the new HS Youth ministry. Parents of 6th graders new to Edge, high schoolers wondering what's the plan, and all others with questions about youth programs should plan to attend. Presentation will last roughly 30 minutes, then there will be time for questions.

MINISTRIES

ALTAR FLOWER MINISTRY

Anita Barrios, anitabarri@aol.com

ALTAR GUILD

Bobbie Anderson 203-438-6454
blander1938@gmail.com

ALTAR SERVERS

Megan McCaughey
mccaughey.megan@gmail.com
Mary Tappan
mtappan27@gmail.com

BAPTISM/PRE-BAPTISM PREP

Joanne Brown 203-438-6538
jbrown@smcr.org

CATHOLIC ACTION

Mary Staudt 203-460-6541
mtstaudt@gmail.com

CATHOLIC WOMEN IN COMMUNITY

Barbara Giobbi 917-257-0027
bgiobbi@snet.net
Cathy Chomiak 914-719-3505
cathychom@gmail.com

CYO BASKETBALL

Jack Jancin 203-748-3808
jjancin@hotmail.com

DISCIPLES 4 LIFE

Marilyn Kain 203-994-7808
kainma56@gmail.com

DOROTHY DAY HOUSE

Meg Reilly, mbreilly28@gmail.com

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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shelleyanderton6@gmail.com

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Kevin Hitchcock 203-241-0145
kevin8669@aol.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Brian Patrick Martin, *Grand Knight*
203-894-5617
bpmartin98@aol.com Kofc.org

LAUNDRY LOVE

Laurie Christiansen
lchristiansen@sbcglobal.net

MARRIAGE/MARRIAGE PREP

Joanne Brown 203-438-6538
jbrown@smcr.org

MEN'S MINISTRY

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st.mary.mm1@gmail.com

MIDNIGHT RUN

Bob Wendel 203-431-4031
rgwendel@sbcglobal.net

MOTHER'S CLUB

Amy Tomasco
amyg8646@yahoo.com
Mara Martin
maramc80@yahoo.com

MUSIC MINISTRY

Darren Motise
845-242-7276
darren@smcr.org

PARISH NURSE PROGRAM

Colleen Minchik, R.N.
203-438-6538

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stmaryridgfield22@gmail.com
Catherine Clock
catherinemclock@gmail.com

PILGRIM VIRGIN

Elma Stoveken 203-894-1341
jstoveken@comcast.net

READERS

Kathryn Shelava 203-431-0191
kathy.shelava@att.net

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE TBD

ROSARY MINISTRY AT LAUREL RIDGE

Connie Starsiak 203-438-4916
Connielove37@outlook.com

RCIA

Vince Falotico
vincent@brooksandfalotico.com
Sue Fernandez
susanmdf@comcast.net

SAINT PETER'S RUN

Laura Danner
LDanner@smcr.org

SCRIPTURE STUDY (Evening)

Bev Scott 914-763-6243
bscott@scottassociatesllc.com

SENIOR CITIZENS

Rachel Ambrosio, Principal
ambrosior@smsridgfield.org

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Jack Hughes 203-244-5228
jack2cruise@gmail.com

USHERS AND GREETERS

John Ahle 203-610-5335
johnahle@aol.com

WELCOME COMMITTEE & HOSPITALITY HOUR

Janie Nneji
203-942-9589; jnneji@aol.com

FINANCE COUNCIL

Steve Seagriff, John Ahle,
Dayan Anandappa, Felix
Cacciato, Richard Camuso, Mary
Flynn-Maquire, Mike Kane,
Kristin McSpedon, Mike
Raduazzo, Deborah Korniewicz

SACRAMENTS

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

ADORATION

Open 6 am-10 PM Daily
Barbara Baughman
Catherine Clock
stmaryridgfield22@gmail.com

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

CEMETERY

203-438-3606

CHURCH STAFF

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

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Brendan Blawie, frblawie@smcr.org
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Colin Lomnitzer, frlomnitzer@smcr.org
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Justin Raj, frraj@smcr.org
Deacon: George Kain, DnKain@diobpt.org
Deacon: Rick Lawlor, dnlawlor@diobpt.org, 203-470-8084
Deacon: Robert Salvestrini, salvo95@aol.com

Parish Receptionist: Kim Macko, kmacko@smcr.org
Administrative Assistant: Joanne Brown, jbrown@smcr.org
Accountant: Deborah Korniewicz, dkorniewicz@smcr.org
Facilities: Greg Taylor, Phil Franceschini, Jim McElroy
Facilities Scheduling: Jbrown@smcr.org
Communications Manager: Carolyn Haitsch, chaitsch@smcr.org
Director of Music: Darren Motise, darren@smcr.org

Office for Youth & Families – 203-438-7335

Pastoral Associate – Laura Danner, ldanner@smcr.org
Administrative Coordinator – Pamela Jensen oyf@smcr.org
Parish Coordinator of Youth Ministry – Emma Weinheimer
eweinheimer@smcr.org

St. Mary School: Rachel Ambrosio, Principal
ambrosior@smsridgfield.org

Parish Office Building Open

Monday - Thursday 10 AM – 2 PM

Parish Office Hours

Monday–Thursday 8AM – 4PM

203-438-6538, 203-438-6539 (after hours)

Walking with Christ

FOLLOWING JESUS, PRAYER, PREPARATION, ACTION

By: Deacon Rick Lawlor



When fighting a fire as you could imagine there are many strategies and tactics involved. The captain must run through a mental check list before he or she makes many critical decisions. How big is the fire? Where is the fire located? Do we have enough water? Do we have enough firefighters? You get the idea, the point is before we make a decision to commit ourselves to attack a fire we must be committed and devoted to the task, and we must be dedicated to see it through.

Our scripture readings this weekend focus on this central theme of discipleship and as we shall hear, true discipleship in Jesus is not easy, it takes courage and dedication. So much so that even family and relationships must at times be subordinate to following Jesus and that means carrying the crosses that come our way. In our Gospel this Sunday Luke gives us two parables which stress the importance of weighing all the consequences of discipleship before we embark upon this great endeavor. Like fighting a fire we must think very clearly and deliberately and one should not embrace such a life if they are unwilling to experience profound personal sacrifice. *"Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion."*

But now it's time to come back to reality, because God understands that many of us would find it very difficult in surrendering our lives, to leave our work and leave our families. We all can breath a bit easier because the ultimatum has not been placed before us, but it has for others, and others have had to make very difficult decisions. Look at the lives of our great saints and look at the lives of our great priests for example. Following Jesus is not always easy, some have persevered with great personal pain and sacrifice. Meanwhile there are many Christians in our world today who have felt very little pinch or pain in their life of Christ, the reality is most of us live very cozy and comfortable lives.

My friends today Jesus is asking us to follow him, discipleship is not easy and walking the road of our Christian faith can be bumpy, and at times dangerous and unpleasant. Therefore, today we are being asked two simple questions. Are you prepared to follow Jesus? And are you prepared to sacrifice even a little for God's greater good? Today give these questions some thought. There may come a day when God asks you to follow him and do something that you will find very difficult. Most of us indeed have comfortable lives and we have much that is good and we are grateful to almighty God for the gifts in our lives. But fires can start out of nowhere and each of us needs to be ready if we are called into service, if we are called to attack a fire, we must be prepared. This is what is required to be a Christian follower of Christ. If I could summarize my point it would come down to three words... prayer, preparation and action.

May Almighty God Bless You Today & Always!

Sept 4, 2022

WATCH NETWORK OF FREEDOM

Set in France at the beginning of World War II, this inspiring film narrates the heroic work of Sister Helene Studler, the Daughter of Charity who saved the lives of thousands of French refugees by preventing them from becoming prisoners of the Nazi forces, or freeing those who were captured. Among those she saved were many illustrious characters including the future Prime Minister of France, François de Mitterrand.



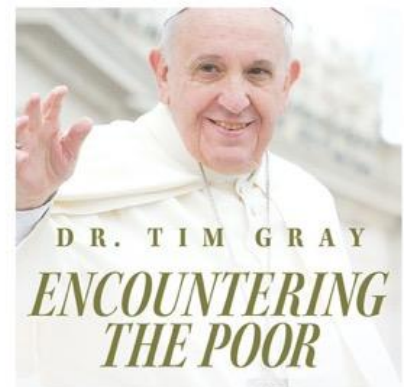
LEARN FORMED NOW: THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



As we celebrate the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary this week, listen as Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn discuss the traditions surrounding Mary's life and how her life is a model of humility for Christians.

LISTEN ENCOUNTERING THE POOR: BIBLICAL ROOTS FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING BY TIM GRAY

Dr. Gray expounds upon the teachings of the Catholic Church surrounding social justice in light of Sacred Scripture. Discover how social justice in regards to the poor is not one small piece in the puzzle, but instead frames the entire mosaic of Scripture.



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

STUDY GUIDE ON ST. THOMAS AQUINAS'
PHILOSOPHICAL & THEOLOGICAL WRITINGS
AQUINAS FOR BEGINNERS PT. I

Pope St. John Paul II said, "the Church has been justified in consistently proposing St. Thomas as a master of thought and a model of the right way to pursue theology." Here we explore what Aquinas has to teach us about the virtues and theory and the essential purpose of living the moral life as Catholic women.

COME AND JOIN

*Aquinas Part I
Study*

WWW.ENDOWGROUPS.ORG

AQUINAS
FOR BEGINNERS

*Study Guide to Thomas Aquinas's
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Endow

St Mary CWIC

9:45am - 11:30am Holy Family Hall

7:15pm – 9:00pm The Parish Hall

Sept 29th - Dec 8th
Barbara Giobbi

Stmarycwic@gmail.com

\$34.95
per study guide

Register [here](#) or go to www.smcr.org for the registration link.

Buy the book [here](#) or find the link to purchase at www.smcr.org Allow 2 weeks for shipping.

\$15 Program Fee payable at the first meeting.



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Knight Talk is BACK!

Please join us on **Thursday Night, September 8th at 7:30 PM** in Holy Family Hall for the return of our “Knight Talks” series. Topic #1:

Is God Calling ME?!?

If you have ever felt a calling to charity and ministry but feared the “logistics”, George and Marlyn Kain will give a firsthand account of answering God’s call ... both the easy side and the difficulties ... to both ministry in various roles in the parish and to the Diaconate. How does a couple juggle marriage, family, friends, and life AND respond to God’s calling and still find time to eat and sleep?

Who are the Knights of Columbus? Find out more at: www.kofc.org

Interested in the Marquette Council? Contact: bpmartin98@aol.com.

Founded in 1897, the Marquette Council is celebrating 125 years of supporting and serving St. Mary Parish and the Town of Ridgefield. Learn more about how you can become active by contacting Brian Patrick Martin at bpmartin98@aol.com.

What We Believe

THE BEAUTY OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

EXPLORE THE AMAZING RICHES OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH



The Catholic Church is extraordinary. Founded by Christ himself, the Catholic Church is where we encounter God in his Word, his sacraments, and his saints.

The Church faithfully proclaims the fullness of faith, leaving no truth out. It proclaims the fullness of life, leaving no person out. It calls all to repent and to believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the source of all life and salvation.

Maybe you've been Catholic your entire life. Maybe you're just beginning to explore the Catholic Faith. Wherever you may be in your journey, you will be profoundly moved by the beauty and the richness of the Catholic Church.

DATES | TIMES | LOCATION

Dates - Times - Location

Mondays - 10 sessions
7 pm to 9 pm
September 12 - November 28, 2022
St. Mary School, Room 224

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Cost - Registration

\$40 payable at first session
Beverly Scott, 914-763-6243
bscott@scottassociatesLLC.com

Visit ascensionpress.com for more details.



ST. MARY'S YOUTH
MINISTRY PRESENTS



SEPTEMBER 18 5-8PM

School has started, and so has Youth Group!

Gather some friends and join us for Mass, BBQ,
sack races, a Spikeball tournament & other fall
fun!

All 9th to 12th Graders welcome!

MASS IN THE CHURCH, PARTY IN GYM AND BACK PARKING LOT



For details, please email Emma Weinheimer
eweinheimer@smcr.org



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