



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

April 16, 2023

A Warm & Welcoming Family of Catholic Faith

Divine Mercy Sunday



"On that day the very depths of My tender Mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the font of My Mercy."

Divine Mercy Sunday



What a grace-filled day this is! It is the eighth and final day of the Octave of Easter. On this eighth day of Easter we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. It is a day when the flood-gates of mercy are opened wide and God lavishes us with more than we could ever hope for.

Divine Mercy Sunday has been celebrated for years as a private devotion. But in the year 2000, Pope Saint John Paul II, who himself was an extraordinary instrument of God's mercy, put this feast on the Church's official calendar as he raised Sister Faustina to sainthood.

Saint Faustina was a member of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Krakow, Poland. She died in 1938. She came from a simple and poor family of farmers, had only three years of simple education and performed the humblest of tasks in her convent. But she also was a mystic who was privileged to have many private revelations from our Lord which she recorded in her diary of Divine Mercy.

She writes of her experience February 22, 1931:

In the evening, when I was in my cell, I became aware of the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand was raised in blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From the opening of the garment at the breast there came forth two large rays, one red and the

other pale. In silence I gazed intently at the Lord; my soul was overwhelmed with fear, but also with great joy. After a while Jesus said to me, 'paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the inscription: Jesus, I trust in You.'

Later, Jesus explained to her in another vision:

"The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous; the red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the depths of My most tender Mercy at that time when My agonizing Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross....Fortunate is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him."

Jesus spoke again to her of His desire that the Solemnity of Divine Mercy be established:

"On that day (the 8th day of Easter each year) the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity."

As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, intensely reflect upon the abundance of this gift that God wishes to pour forth upon us. There is no limit to how much we are loved by our God of perfect mercy. And today, on this the eighth day of Easter, we should especially be aware of the fact that the floodgates of Heaven are opened to us to an unimaginable degree. Turn your eyes toward our merciful Lord and be open to all that He wishes to bestow. catholic-daily-reflections.com



Monday April 17th

7:00 am Jack Leary

12:00 pm Albert J. Marcotte

Tuesday April 18th

7:00 am Kathy Murphy - D

12:00 pm Health of Joseph Farajdo

Wednesday April 19th

7:00 am Vita Russo

12:00 pm Intentions Cicchesi Family

Thursday April 20th

7:00 am Vincent Patrick Callanan

12:00 pm Ralph Michilli

Friday April 21st

St. Anselm

7:00 am Christopher Michael Manno

12:00 pm Jay Morrison

Saturday April 22nd

8:00 am Vincent Patrick Callanan

4:30 pm Stan Baldyga

Sunday April 23rd

3rd Sunday of Easter

7:30 am Mary S. Sullivan

9:00 am David Thomas Lang

10:30 am St. Mary Parishioners

12:00 pm Roman Jezioro

5:00 pm William Short

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 [Monica Taddonio](mailto:Monica.Taddonio@monica.taddonio@gmail.com) at monica.taddonio@gmail.com. Thank you!



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT
OF OUR PARISH. Call the Parish Office if you
would like assistance with Online Giving.**



stephen
MINISTRY.

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.



USHERS AND GREETERS

Join this important hospitality ministry at St. Mary Parish!

FAITH FORMATION CORNER

Jesus showed his Apostles great mercy, even after they abandoned him in his greatest hour of need, running and hiding in fear — only St. John the Evangelist (along with some of the women) remained and stood at the foot of the cross. However, Jesus' greeting as he stands among the Apostles is not a chastisement but instead, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19). Jesus demonstrates the limitless power of his mercy as he breathes the Spirit upon them, conferring the authority to forgive sins. In yet another way, fulfilling the words spoken as Jesus washed their feet, "For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15).



St. Thomas, sometimes called "Doubting Thomas," is the only Apostle missing during this incredible encounter with the Risen Christ. He struggles to believe, he requires signs and wonders, physical evidence to open his eyes to the Truth. Is that not still true today, a world so suspect of everyone and everything they struggle to believe? However, unlike Thomas, who proclaimed "My Lord and My God," when Christ reveals himself, so many people find temporal explanations to keep them from embracing the Savior they so desperately need — who longs to be in communion with them.

Sadly, 2000 years later, even the faithful seem to diminish the wonder and awe of Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection. We fail to take advantage of the abundant graces that flowed from his side that dark afternoon on Calvary. Instead of emerging into the light of Easter, we continue to choose darkness — stuck on Good Friday because of sin. We can start living our heaven now because if we wait for it, we may miss the opportunity altogether. —Allison Gringas 4ipi.com



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

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 of the special statue to your home, call Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341 or email istoveken@comcast.net



ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY

Today's individually focused society can make it difficult for us to find shared meaning and belonging. In the Men's Ministry, we explore God's TRUTH together and try to live this truth out in our lives. Please join 40 of us each week during this Lent to see if you like this extra time each week focused on Jesus. Saturdays in the Hall 6:45-8am. Coffee and bagels served (we recognize physical hunger too 😊).



RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Diocese of Bridgeport, join us **Saturday, April 22 for Heart to Heart**, a night of Eucharistic Adoration. Presented by the Guild of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Bishop Caggiano's personal apostolate, this is a night for families and people in all seasons to gather and gaze upon our Lord, to be renewed in his presence, and encounter his Mercy.

Praise and worship music will be played during Adoration. Confessions and intercessory prayer teams will also be available. **Fr. Herald Brock of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal** joins us as a special guest preacher.

Childcare for children 6 years and younger will be available so families can gather together as well as give mom's and dad's time for personal prayer.

Register at heart2heart-stmichael.eventbrite.com

OFFICE FOR
**YOUTH &
FAMILIES**



Discounted Priority Registration for all programs next year will open May 1st and remain open through the end of the month. Pickup your priority registration slips in class, at the End of the Year Celebration or stop by the OYF Mon-Fri 10am-5pm. (Do it now so you don't have to worry about it over the summer; you can always change your day/time later!) ! Register [here](#).

EARLY CHILDHOOD

May PK Storytime: Our Blessed Mother will be Wednesday, May 10th at 11am. ! [Signup](#) now.

ELEMENTARY

Easter Egg Hunt & Walking Brunch Sunday, April 16th at 11:30am on the lawn next to the Church. Children 5th grade or younger are invited to participate. Signup & details [here](#).

End of Year Celebration for Elementary families Sunday, May 7, 9:30-10:30am OR Tuesday, May 9 at 4:30-5:30pm. We will begin in the Hall with some special recognitions, pray a rosary for the month of Mary, and enjoy ice cream and games in the gym and back parking lot! Note the extended timeframe. Friends and anyone considering joining us next year are invited to attend!

EDGE (6TH-8TH)

Watch your email for details about our end of year off-site social!

Middle schoolers are invited to register during our priority registration window (during the month of May) for next year's EDGE-- 7th graders, this is still the place for you. We'll cover all new topics, have a slew of new group activities, and welcome new friends to the mix! EDGE won't be EDGE without you! 8th graders—hang out with us through the summer, then get used to looking down below for high school youth activities.

HIGH SCHOOLERS (9TH-12TH)

April 16: HS Youth outing. See the Keeping Us Connected e-newsletter for details or email kanderson@smcr.org. See the flyer in today's bulletin to see what's coming up next!

SACRAMENTS

Rehearsals for First Communion will be April 18th at 25th. Please be sure to attend at your scheduled time!

Elementary classes will still be meeting these weeks at their usual time—delving into a beautiful new literature-based curriculum on the dignity of the human person for these final few sessions. Be sure to continue attending!

Please pray for our 125 children preparing to receive our Lord in their First Eucharist on April 22nd and 29th.

Signups on the Events OYF page at www.smcr.org.

MINISTRIES

ALTAR FLOWER MINISTRY
 Anita Barrios, anitabarri@aol.com

ALTAR GUILD
 Bobbie Anderson 203-438-6454
 bander1938@gmail.com

ALTAR SERVERS
 Marcy Miller
 marcybutler@hotmail.com

BAPTISM/PRE-BAPTISM PREP
 Joanne Brown 203-438-6538
 jbrown@smcr.org

CATHOLIC ACTION
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 mtstaudt@gmail.com

CATHOLIC WOMEN IN COMMUNITY
 Barbara Giobbi 917-257-0027
 bgiobbi@snet.net

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

DISCIPLES 4 LIFE
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DOROTHY DAY HOUSE
 Monica Taddonio
 monica.taddonio@gmail.com

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
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HOMEBOUND MINISTRY
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 203-894-5617
 bpmartin98@aol.com Kofc.org

LAUNDRY LOVE
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 lachristiansen@sbcglobal.net

MARRIAGE/MARRIAGE PREP
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 jbrown@smcr.org

MEN'S MINISTRY
 Timothy O'Connell 203-903-4846
 timothytoconnell@gmail.com
 st.mary.mm1@gmail.com

MIDNIGHT RUN
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 rgwendel@sbcglobal.net

MOTHER'S CLUB
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 Mara Martin
 maramc80@yahoo.com

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PARISH NURSE PROGRAM
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 203-438-6538

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 stmaryridgefield22@gmail.com
 Catherine Clock
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PILGRIM VIRGIN
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 jstoveken@comcast.net

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

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE
 TBD

ROSARY MINISTRY AT LAUREL RIDGE
 Jeremiah King
 203-438-8226

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@smsridgefield.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;
 smcrhospitality@gmail.com

FINANCE COUNCIL
Steve Seagriff, John Ahle,
 Dayan Anandappa, Felix
 Cacciato, Mike Kane, Brenner
 LeCompte, Paula Molloy,
 Kristin McSpedon

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
Paul Janericco, Rachel
 Ambrosio, Sherry Anandappa,
 Catherine Desmarais, Sue
 Fernandez, Alex Mendoza,
 Dennis Peckham, Chris Spahn

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 24 / 7
 Barbara Baughman
 Catherine Clock
 stmaryridgefield22@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 Saturday
 (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. Colin Lomnitzer, rfromnitzer@smcr.org

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Justin Raj, rfraj@smcr.org

Deacon: George Kain, DnKain@diobpt.org, (203) 994-7807

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

Accounting Manager: Karen Conroy, kconroy@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

HS Youth Coordinator – Karen Anderson kanderson@smcr.org

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

Parish Office Building Open

Monday - Thursday 10 AM – 2 PM

Parish Office Hours
Monday-Friday 8AM – 4PM

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

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 16th  3:00pm

"On that day, the depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day, all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to me, even though its sins be as scarlet."

(Diary of St. Faustina, 699)



*Our Lord called for a **Feast of His Mercy** to be celebrated in the whole Church on the First Sunday after Easter.*

***Join us for a Holy Hour
in the Church***

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Veneration of the Image

Benediction

Divine Mercy Sunday

On Going to Confession Before Mercy Sunday



Questions about when to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Divine Mercy Sunday are on the minds of many devout Catholics at this time of year.

After all, in the *Diary of St. Faustina*, entry 699, Jesus promised to St. Faustina: "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened."

In the light of this promise, one of our readers recently asked me: "How soon before Divine Mercy Sunday can you go to confession and have it count toward Divine Mercy Sunday?" Here, I have to answer a question with a question: "count towards what?"

If you are talking about the plenary indulgence offered by the Church for the carrying out of certain types of Divine Mercy Sunday devotions, the answer is that the Church traditionally recommends that you make your Confession not more than 20 days in advance of performing the indulged work. But we need to remember that this

"plenary indulgence" instituted by the Church for Divine Mercy Sunday is not the same thing as the extraordinary graces for Divine Mercy Sunday that Jesus promised to St. Faustina in *Diary entry 699*. To receive those special graces - "the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment" ... in other words, a complete renewal of baptismal grace in our hearts - all we need to do is to receive Holy Communion in a state of grace on Divine Mercy Sunday, with trust in our Lord's great mercy.

Whether your last confession was 10, 20, 30, or even more days before Divine Mercy Sunday, as long as you do not have the stain of unconfessed mortal sin on your soul, then you are spiritually alive in Christ and able to receive His special grace from Holy Communion on that great feast day! Divine Mercy Sunday could just as easily be termed "Divine Generosity Sunday," when we consider how little our Lord requires from us in order that we may be able to receive this extraordinary outpouring of His love.

Actually, some people believe that you have to go to Confession on the very feast day itself! But nowhere in St. Faustina's *Diary* does it stipulate this. In fact, we know from *Diary entry 1072* that St. Faustina made her confession in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday the day before the feast, on a Saturday.

In fact, all of Lent should be a preparation to make a good confession in order to receive Holy Communion with an open and trusting heart on Easter and on the Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday.

Sin without repentance is the only obstacle that prevents Jesus Christ from deeply healing and sanctifying our souls on these great feast days. That's why it is best not to count the days before these feasts and try to abide by some minimum requirement about when to make your confession. Rather, take an inventory of your heart. If there is anything in your heart that is impeding your love for Jesus and His for you - any grudge still held, any despair or mistrust, any kind word left unsaid, any duty seriously neglected - this is the time for a "spring cleaning of the soul." Make a good confession, and then try your best, with the help of grace, to keep your soul clean, open, and ready to receive our Savior in Holy Communion on the first and second Sundays of Easter. Even if you have not committed any mortal sins that need confessing, confessing venial sins also removes obstacles to all that our Lord wants to do in your heart. So clean them out, too!

Robert Stackpole, STD, is the director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy. www.divinemercy.org

High School Youth Group

Join us for an Easter Bonfire on April 16!

Bring a friend!



April 16: Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday in South Salem

Bring your favorite Easter snacks

Enjoy a bonfire, pizza and potluck at

55 West Lane, South Salem, NY 6:15-8:15 pm

*Weather permitting

Kindly RSVP to kanderson@smcr.org

April 23: Feast of St. George

Killing Dragons—Why being weak is never a virtue

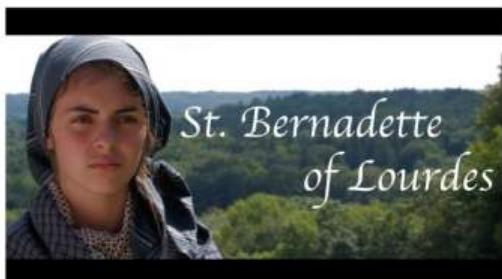
THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of April 16, 2023



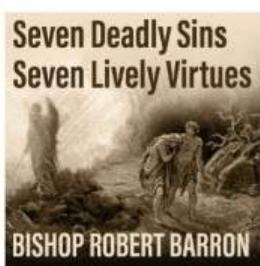
God's School of Trust | Divine Mercy | Episode 1

The sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve, has distorted the way we see God. But God hasn't given up on us. In fact, he has tirelessly worked to heal our distorted image of him through his "School of Trust," beginning with his Chosen People in the Old Testament.



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Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues by Bishop Robert Barron

Join noted professor of theology and author Bishop Robert Barron in this revealing presentation as he sheds light on the seven deadly sins—those great spiritual blocks that inhibit our relationship with God and others—and the antidote to them, the seven lively virtues!

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Come join

ST. MARY PARISH



CHOIR

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DEVOTIONAL MUSIC,
GOD IS ALWAYS AT
HAND WITH HIS
GRACIOUS PRESENCE.
- JOHANN SEBASTIAN
BACH

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WOMEN'S *Day of Reflection*

SATURDAY, MAY 6

Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle

Author & EWTN TV Host Speaking on the Dignity
of Women and God's Mercy in all Stages of our Lives

JOIN US FOR
4:30PM MASS
AFTERWARD

St. Mary School Hall

183 High Ridge Ave. Ridgefield, CT

Register online, www.smcr.org or

in Parish Office by May 1

Registration Fee: \$60 via PayPal or check
dropped off at Parish Office.

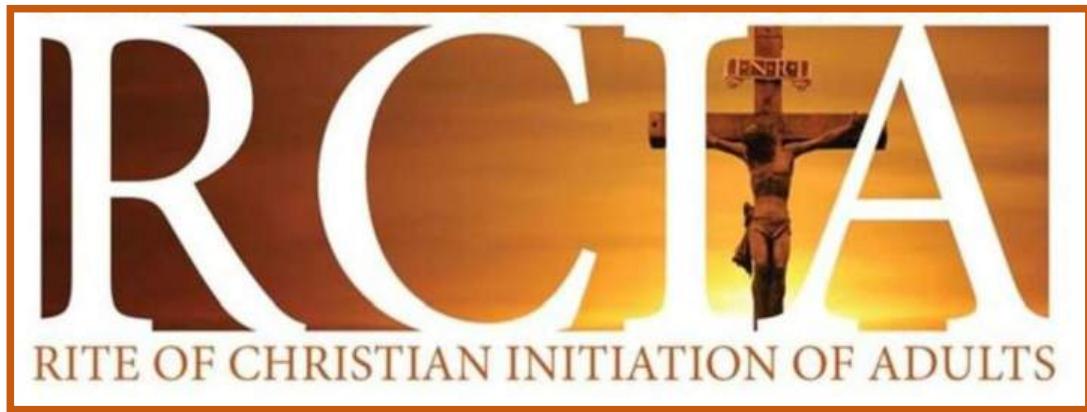


CONTACT:

KSMCSPEDON@
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9:30-10:00AM - CHECK IN
10:00AM-3:30PM
TALKS, SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION, ADORATION,
PRAISE & WORSHIP IN SONG.
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BOOK SIGNING TO FOLLOW.

EXPLORE THE CATHOLIC FAITH



HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW...

- expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- been baptized in another denomination but thought about becoming Catholic and have a desire to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?
- have a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?

We welcome you to come and explore the Catholic faith. Gatherings are one-on-one or in small groups. We will focus on the teachings and lived practices within the Catholic Church as well as spirituality and prayer to help you discern if God is calling you to this Faith. If you decide to proceed, we will celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist during the Easter season. There are separate groups for children or youth.

You are warmly invited to begin your journey of discovery with us. Come with your questions and your faith history. Come as you are, come and see. For more information, email one of our RCIA leaders, Susan Fernandez, susanmdf@comcast.net, or Vincent Falotico, vincent@brooksandfalotico.com. Inquiries can be made by calling the Parish Office as well.

CAN ANYTHING GOOD COME FROM NAZARETH? AND PHILIP SAID TO HIM,

“COME AND SEE.”

JOHN 1:46



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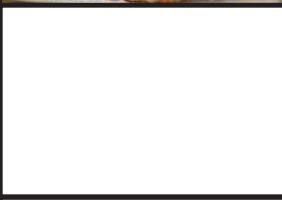
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