



Saint Mary Parish

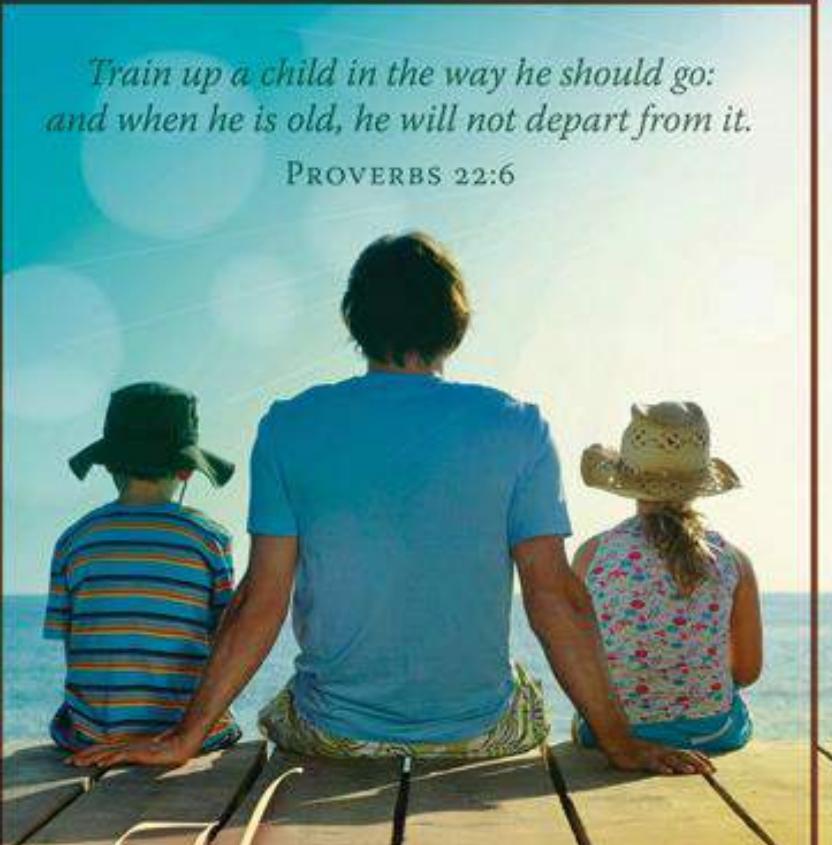
St. Mary Roman Catholic Parish
55 Catoonah Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
Phone: (203) 438-6538
Fax: (203) 438-4406
www.smcr.org

June 18, 2023

A Warm & Welcoming Family of Catholic Faith

*Train up a child in the way he should go:
and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

PROVERBS 22:6

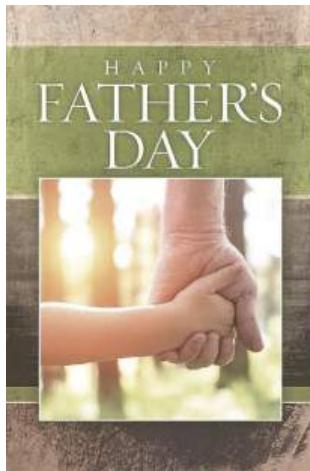


*Hope for the
FUTURE
BEGINS
WITH
faithful fathers.*



Thankfulness

A Father’s Day Reflection



As I reflect on Father’s Day, the word that comes to mind is “thankfulness.” Among the many things I’m thankful to my father for is teaching me how to hunt and fish; how to shoot a basketball; how to change a flat tire; how to play cribbage; for assistance when I needed help; the importance of self-discipline and hard work; how to be respectful to others; and how to live out the vocation of husband and fatherhood. Most of all, I’m thankful for his role in sowing the seeds of faith in my life.

As a father myself, I know that all dads want the best for their children – a good education, self-confidence, success, prosperity and happiness. As a Catholic man and father, my deepest desire is that my children come to establish a deep and lasting relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. Yet I know from the polls, discussions with other dads, and my own experience, that only about 20% of our young adults who were raised Catholic attend mass on a regular basis, and over 1/3 of them

no longer identify with any religion. What’s a father to do?

Jesus explains in this message in Mark’s Gospel: “This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how.” What our God is telling us is that He is the one who is in charge of the growth of the Kingdom of God. My role as a father is to plant the seeds, then trust that God’s love will make that seed sprout and grow.

As fathers, our mission is to bring our children up in the Church – sowing the seeds of faith and making sure they are watered by the sacraments. For some, the seeds will sprout straight away. For others, it may take longer. For still others, there may be a long period of drought before the seed springs forth, but we dads will continue to courageously pray and patiently trust in our God that His Spirit will gradually surge up and yield fruit.

So, thank-you to my earthly father for planting those seeds and faithfully praying that they one day might bear fruit, and thank-you to my Heavenly Father for giving me the grace to allow it to happen, and His forgiveness for those times when I got in His way. —Deacon Mike Monagle akinsdiepassage.com



Monday June 19th
St. Romuald
Juneteenth
9:00 am Father's Day Intention Requests

Tuesday June 20th
7:00 am Lena and Steve Najger
12:00 pm Frank Eustace

Wednesday June 21st
St. Aloysius Gonzaga
7:00 am Lillian Murphy
12:00 pm Nancy Bossidy

Thursday June 22nd
St. Paulinus of Nola
Ss. John Fisher & Thomas More
7:00 am Debbie L. Urban
12:00 pm Karen Blawie

Friday June 23rd
7:00 am Shelagh Featherstone
12:00 pm Ann M. Smith

Saturday June 24th
Birth of St. John the Baptist
8:00 am Vito Teric
4:30 pm Tae Im Lee - 25th Anniversary

Sunday June 25th
12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 am Tom Egan
9:00 am St. Mary Parishioners
10:30 am Albert Rowe Jr.
12:00 pm Josephine Healy
5:00 pm Raymond Murphy

June 19 Juneteenth
There will be one Mass at 9AM and no confessions.



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

Twine & Chat Ladies Night

Twine Knot Join Us?!

Twine & Chat Ladies Night Continues

Come join us and learn how to make Twine Knotted Chaplets to give to those in need of prayer.

Great opportunity to make new friends, have fun, get more supplies, and chat as we knot!

6/21, 7/26,
8/23, 7-9PM,
Holy Family
Hall
Sign up
www.smcr.org

We're still here while you're on vacation!



Please use *Online Giving* to keep up with offertory. Go to www.smcr.org and click on the *Online Giving* link.

HELP WANTED

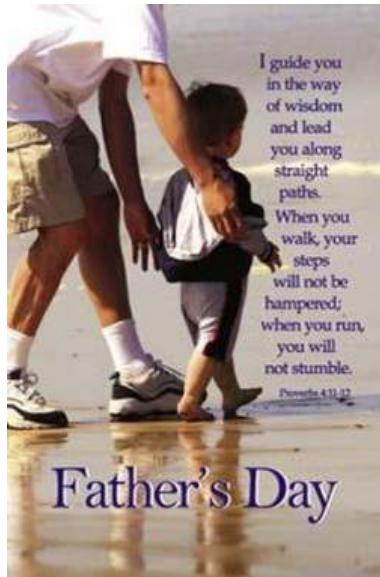
Hi, it's Kathy Backus, former religion teacher at St. Mary School for 21 years. I have ALS and am in need of help with daily activities. If you are interested in being a substitute for any time outside of hours available below please reach out.

Job Details: No experience is necessary, just a kind, compassionate heart with a desire to help and serve. Will need to be able to lift a 42 lb wheelchair in and out of the car.

Hours available: Wednesdays & Fridays 8:30am-4:30pm

To apply: Please email me at backusk1@gmail.com to find out more information.

FAITH FORMATION CORNER



While attending a summer festival last year, the number of fathers who were shepherding children caught my attention. They carried babies in backpacks and commandeered strollers through crowds bunched around food tents and bandstands. It is a source of delight to watch young fathers who easily take on a nurturing role in the lives of their kids.

My own father was of a different generation. The only time I remember him carrying me anywhere was into a hospital emergency room when I came down with a severe case of Scarlet Fever. He didn't toss balls around in the back yard with my brothers, and left most of the day-to-day parenting to my mother. Nevertheless, he took his role as provider seriously and I looked to him for safety and security. I knew he would never abandon or harm us in any way. Although not demonstrative, his love for his wife, children, and grandchildren was absolute.

If there is one single parable that sticks in our minds, it is probably the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-22). The image of a father waiting for the return of his wayward child with such patience and longing is one of the most poignant scenes in the Bible. His response to the prodigal's irresponsible behavior catches us off guard with its magnanimity and parental perception. He shows the same benevolence towards the elder son, whose petulance sets up even greater barriers to reconciliation. At a time when we are quick to draw attention to "deadbeat dads," this ancient story invites us to consider fatherhood as a reflection of God's magnanimous heart.

We are not all blessed with nurturing parents, but we do have a God whose love knows no bounds, who stands ready to forgive us for our misbehavior, and who awaits our return home with longing and tenderness. As we honor fathers of this and past generations, may we also give thanks to our Father in heaven for his sheltering presence.

Sally Hendricks, Sadlier.com



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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.

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ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY

Have you ever thought, "It would be good to have a group of friends to help stay the course and assure me that I am not alone in my efforts to live a good Catholic life?" Every Saturday morning from 6:30-8:00am, men gather in St. Mary School Hall to hit the "pause button" on life to be refreshed by listening to the Word of God (plus a thoughtful reflection), and then discuss how it speaks to our daily lives. We finish up with prayer intentions for our loved ones. Over 300 men have joined MM, and 40-50 attend weekly. Coffee and bagels are served (because we recognize physical hunger, too!) Come stretch for the Lord. Please check out STMM.org. We are an active group and growing. We have a Zoom option as well. All are invited.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

Homebound Ministry Needs Volunteers



The 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, Eucharistic Ministers visit homebound Parishioners, residents at Laurel Ridge Health Care Center, Ridgefield Congregate Housing, and the Ridgefield Crossing Assisted Living Residence. **To volunteer to bring the Eucharist, please contact Kevin Hitchcock at 203-241-0145 or Kevin8669@aol.com. To receive the Eucharist, please contact the Parish office. Thank you.**

MINISTRIES

ALTAR FLOWER MINISTRY
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 st.mary.mm1@gmail.com

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 Mara Martin
 maramc80@yahoo.com

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 Catherine Clock
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 jstoveken@comcast.net

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

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE
 John Pappa

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

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 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,
 Steve Fugazy, 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

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

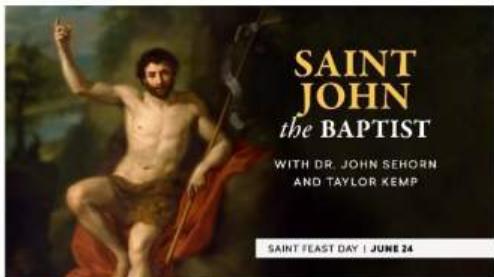
203-438-3606

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Msgr. Kevin T. Royal, MsgrRoyal@smcr.org
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Colin Lomnitzer, rfromnitzer@smcr.org
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Justin Raj, frraj@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
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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
Summer Fridays 8AM - Noon
203-438-6538, 203-438-6539 (after hours)

THIS WEEK ON
FORMED

Week of June 18, 2023



St. John the Baptist | Catholic Saints

Join Dr. John Sehorn and Taylor Kemp as they talk about St. John the Baptist, the forerunner to Christ.



Saint Thomas More: The Age of the Author

This engaging series delves into the lives of the saints who led the Catholic Counter-Reformation. In this episode, learn about St. Thomas More, a patient witness to the faith who endured a heroic martyrdom at the hands of Henry VIII.



The Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist | The Bible and Baptism | Episode 3

Dr. John Sehorn joins Fr. Isaac Morales, OP, a Dominican friar of the Province of Saint Joseph and Associate Professor of Theology at Providence College. This episode highlights the significance of Jesus' baptism at the hands of his cousin, John the Baptist.

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Matthew Leonard

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*Principal celebrant and homilist
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Fr. Glenn Sudano, CFR

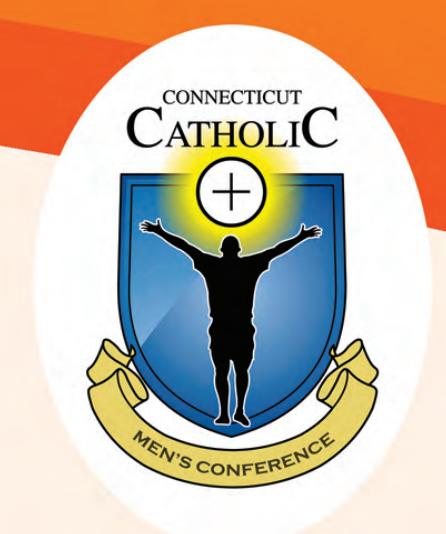
Fr. Larry Richards



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
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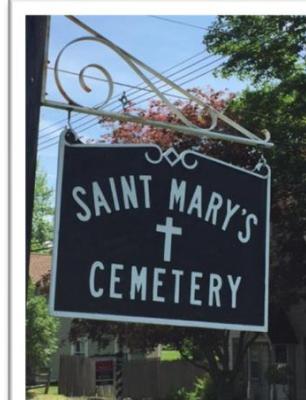
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St. Mary Cemetery, 110 North Street, Ridgefield, CT - Donna Barber, 203-733-4658, dbarber@smcr.org

BYZANTINE ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOP



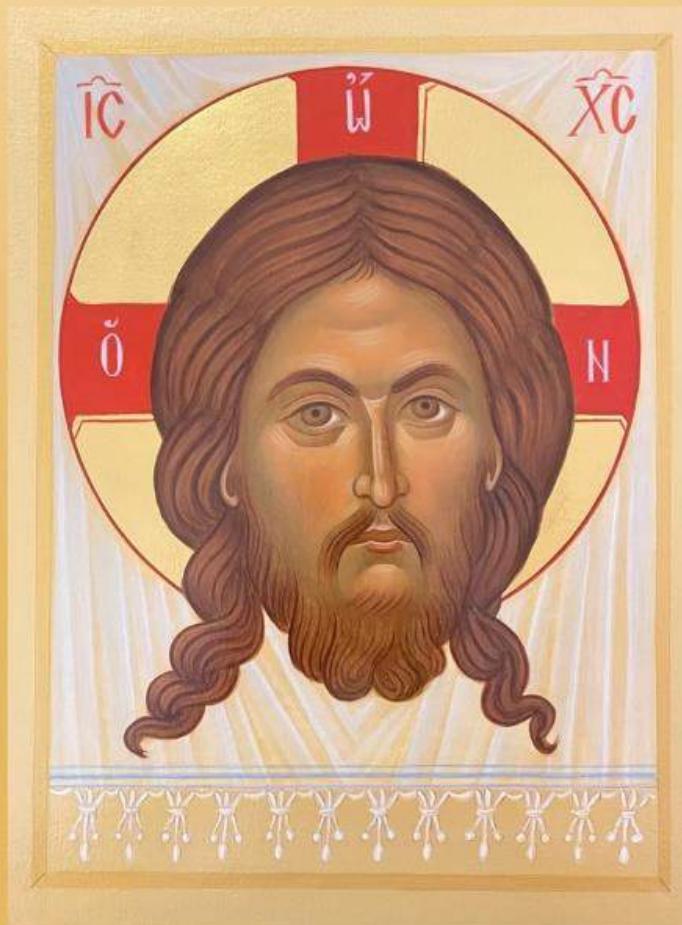
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- Prayer
- Lectures on Iconography
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I think it is promising that we are today witnessing a rebirth of Christian Art... reconnecting with the art of the icon, of a Christian Art that endures in the great norms of the iconological art of the past but that also extends to today's experiences and vision.

Benedict XVI

For more information contact Ewa Krepsztul at ewa.krepsztul@jesusguild.org or 203.482.6797
30 Church Street, Redding, CT | 203.544.8245 | info@jesusguild.org | www.jesusguild.org



Twine & Chat Ladies Night Continues

Come join us and learn how to make
Twine Knotted Chaplets to give to
those in need of prayer.

Great opportunity to make new friends,
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as we knot!

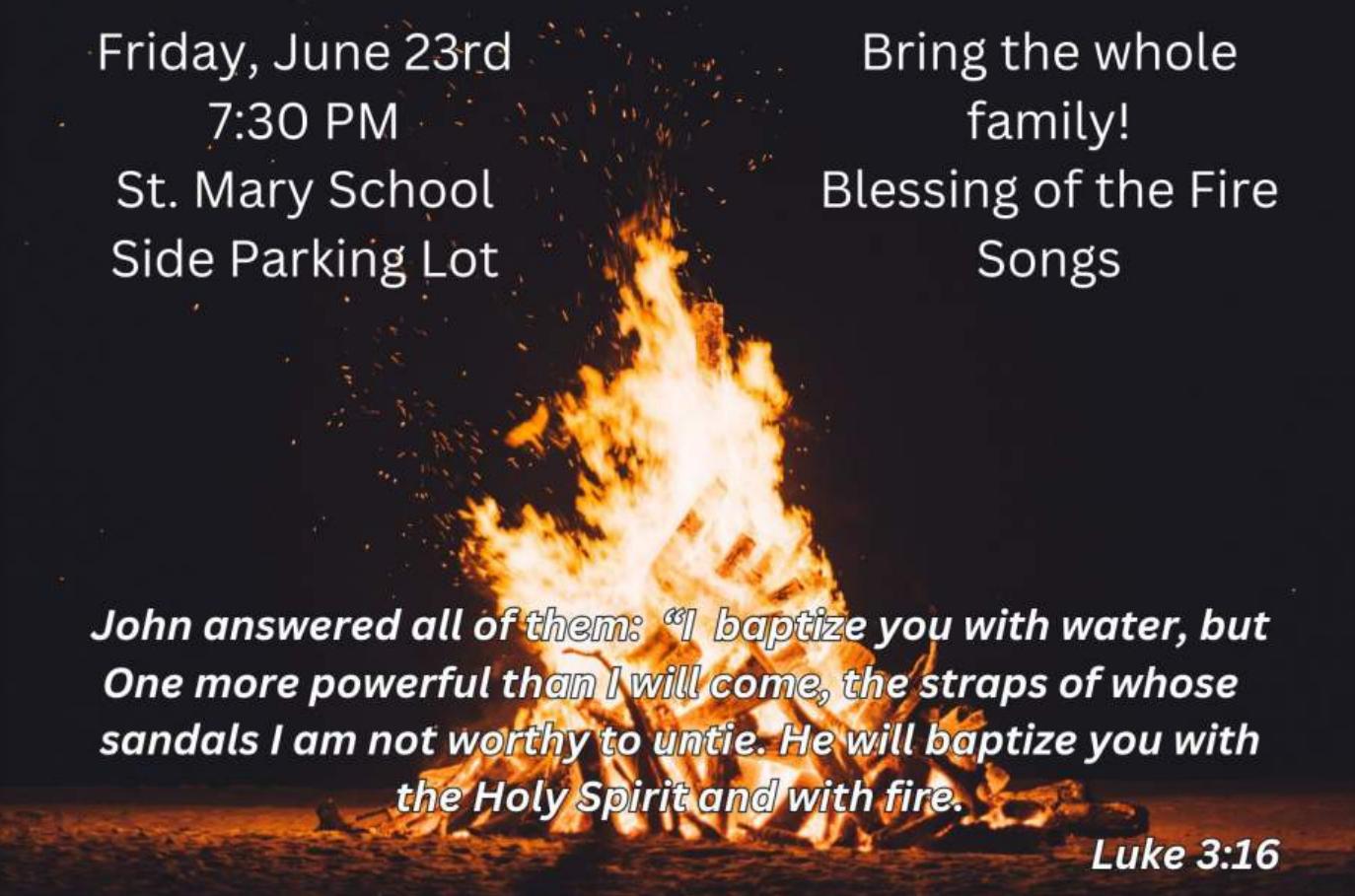
Next few dates...6/21, 7/26, 8/23
Sign up at www.smcr.org
Holy Family Hall 7-9PM

St. John's Eve **FAMILY BONFIRE**

Sunset on June 23rd begins the Feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist. Join us after dinner for a family bonfire and dessert.
Bring a chair and dessert to share!

Friday, June 23rd
7:30 PM
St. Mary School
Side Parking Lot

Bring the whole family!
Blessing of the Fire Songs



John answered all of them: "I baptize you with water, but One more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

Luke 3:16



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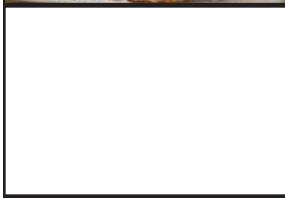
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Barbara Baughman and Kate Kubisek
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