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# 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](http://www.smcr.org)

February 25, 2024

A Warm & Welcoming Family of Catholic Faith





### The Transfiguration

Sometimes, without even being aware of it, we can get locked into our own little world or situation. We can forget about or lose sight of the fact that we are part of a much bigger world.

In today's gospel Jesus takes some of his friends away from the business of the village and marketplace. He invites them to travel with him as he makes his way up the mountain. This is not unusual. We know from the gospels that Jesus often went off by himself to the mountains to pray. While they were there praying something wild and wonderful happened. Jesus was *transfigured*; he was changed; *his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light*. Imagine how surprised, shocked and taken aback those with Jesus were. Once composed, Peter utters the famous words, '*Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here*'. But more importantly than what was said, is what they heard; '*This is my Son, the beloved, he enjoys my favor, listen to him*'.

These words are as much meant for us today as they were for those who first heard them. Today, we are surrounded if not bombarded by news all the time. We now have twenty-four-hour news on our televisions, news from around the world arrives in seconds to us through the internet and there is no end to magazines and newspapers we can buy. They are filled with news, but not all of it good news; some of it may even be fake news.

The word and message that Jesus speaks to us and offers is life-giving and life changing. The words of Jesus, nourish, nurture, and sustain and us, if we open our hearts and lives to hearing it. As John's gospel reminds us, Lord, you have the message of eternal life.

The Transfiguration gives us a brief and fleeting glimpse of Jesus in all his glory. It is a taste of what is to come. It is offered to encourage and challenge us in our daily lives. It reminds us that our lives are far more than what we see, hear and experience every day. It is not just a matter of getting through the day. Being a follower of Jesus is about living with meaning, purpose and hope. The transfiguration not only offers us a glimpse of Jesus in all his glory, it also offers each of us a foretaste of what God promises each of us in the fullness of the Kingdom.

We may never experience anything as powerful as the Transfiguration. But every day in countless and seemingly small ways God does break into our world and our daily lives. Every time we experience a moment of peace, joy, reconciliation or forgiveness, God is with us. Every time that we reach out to help another person is a moment of transfiguration both for ourselves and for those we help. Each time somebody shows care and concern for us is a moment when God reaches out to us.

This week, let us open our hearts so that we may hear Jesus speaking to us. May we slow down and look for moments of small but important times of transfiguration in our own ordinary daily lives.

*By Michael Moore OMI, oblates.ie*



Monday, February 26th  
 7:00 am Margaret Budney  
 12:00 pm Intentions of Kathy Backus

Tuesday, February 27th  
 St. Gregory of Narek  
 7:00 am Barbara Weinstein  
 12:00 pm Joseph Fajardo

Wednesday, February 28th  
 7:00 am Antoinette Bellacosa  
 12:00 pm Elsie Bartolucci

Thursday, February 29th  
 7:00 am Gloria Vena  
 12:00 pm Johanna Metzker

Friday, March 1st  
 7:00 am Intentions of Christopher Davies  
 12:00 pm Edward J. Smith

Saturday, March 2nd  
 8:00 am Thomas Kolf  
 4:30 pm Mary Elizabeth Keyes - 1st Anniversary

Sunday, March 3rd  
 3rd Sunday of Lent  
 7:30 am Saint Mary Parishioners  
 9:00 am Thomas Kolf  
 10:30 am Angelina Paduano  
 12:00 pm Nora Shively  
 5:00 pm Brian McRedmond



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH.** Call the Parish Office for assistance with Online Giving or go to [www.smcr.org](http://www.smcr.org) or use the QR code to sign up.



### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday at 12:30pm and 7:30pm in the Church

### CONFESSIONS

Monday - Friday  
 11:30 AM  
 Wednesday  
 6:00 - 7:00 PM  
 Thursday  
 6:00 - 7:00 PM  
 (new time added for Lent)  
 Saturday  
 3:00 - 4:00 PM  
 in the Church

### MEATLESS LENTEN FRIDAYS

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat for all those who are 14 and over. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting for those 18-59: one full meal plus two smaller meals and no snacking in between. ☺



### 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 Sue Fernandez [susanmdf@comcast.net](mailto:susanmdf@comcast.net)



### Weekend Retreat for Women

St. Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon, NY.

Come away, by yourselves, to a quiet place and rest a while. The Spiritual Exercises are silent retreats based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Following the original format of the Ignatian retreat, the Spiritual Exercises take you through a profound experience of getting to know Christ. You will see Him with new eyes through a fresh reading of the Scriptures and through a golden silence that weeds out distractions to help you discern God's voice in your soul. More info? Contact Mary Wolff at [marybwolff@gmail.com](mailto:marybwolff@gmail.com) <https://rcnytristate.org/event/spiritual-exercises-for-women/>

**FAITH FORMATION CORNER**

**A Promise of Jesus' Glory**

Each year on the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday of Lent each year, we hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The story of Jesus' Transfiguration is told in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In each of those Gospels, the Transfiguration follows Jesus' first prediction of his death and his teaching about the costs of discipleship. Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory, his Resurrection.

On a mountain in today's reading, a voice affirms that Jesus is God's Son in words reminiscent of the voice at Jesus' baptism. In addition, the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the mountain connects this story with God's relationship to the people of Israel. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word.

The Transfiguration occurs in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples: Peter, James, and John. In Matthew's Gospel, those disciples are among the first whom Jesus calls. The three men are identified as an "inner circle" among Jesus' disciples when Jesus asks them to accompany him to the Garden of Gethsemane just before his arrest. [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com)



**ST. MARY MEN'S MINISTRY**



Are you a father or grandfather? Looking to make a greater commitment to your family this Lent? MM can support you on your Lenten journey. MM meetings offer formative discussions for fathers, grandfathers and husbands of all ages. All are welcome to join 40 other men for our Saturday morning wake-up meetings 6:30-8:00AM in the School Hall.



**EDGE**  
**SPRING 2024 Meeting Dates**  
**Feb 5, Feb 12, Feb 26, Mar 4,**  
**Mar 11, Mar 18, Mar 25, Apr 8, Apr 22**  
**Apr 29- End Of Year Social**  
**No Edge: Feb 19, Apr 1, Apr 15**



**Our High School Youth will be meeting February 25 from 6-8 pm in the School Hall.**



**RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE**

**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 [jstoveken@comcast.net](mailto:jstoveken@comcast.net)

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**July 22-26 – St. Mary Parish Vacation Bible School**



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

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

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

**DISCIPLES 4 LIFE**  
Marilyn Kain 203-994-7808  
kainma56@gmail.com

**DOROTHY DAY HOUSE**  
Monica Taddonio  
monica.taddonio@gmail.com

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**  
Shelley Anderton 203-431-9058  
shelleyanderton6@gmail.com

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kevin8669@aol.com

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bpmartin98@aol.com Kofc.org

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lchristiansen@sbcglobal.net

**MARRIAGE/MARRIAGE PREP**  
Joanne Brown 203-438-6538  
jbrown@smcr.org

**MEN'S MINISTRY**  
Brian Kelley  
humblebk@yahoo.com  
203-947-2858  
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

**PARISH NURSE PROGRAM**  
Colleen Minchik, R.N  
203-438-6538

**PERPETUAL ADORATION**  
Barbara Baughman  
stmaryridgefield22@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**  
John Papa  
Jack Gilchrist – Chair Emeritus

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

**RCIA**  
Sue Fernandez  
susanmdf@comcast.net

**SCRIPTURE STUDY (Evening)**  
Bev Scott 914-763-6243  
bscott@scottassociatesllc.com

**SENIOR CITIZENS**  
Rachel Ambrosio, Principal  
ambrosior@smsridgefield.org

**STEPHEN MINISTRY**  
Gina Carey 203-526-5295  
ginacarey2002@yahoo.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**  
Kristin McSpedon (Chair),  
John Ahle, Felix Cacciato,  
Mike Kane, Brian Kelley,  
Jim Ledwith, Paula Molloy,  
Bob Silveri

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Chris Spahn (Chair), Rachel  
Ambrosio, Catherine Desmarais,  
Steve Fugazy, Becky Hurta,  
Kenneth Kroog, Alex Mendoza,  
Dennis Peckham

**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



**Pastor: Msgr. Kevin T. Royal, MsgrRoyal@smcr.org**  
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Colin Lomnitzer, frlomnitzer@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

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  
Music Director: Richard Owen, richard.owen@smcr.org  
Communications Director: Carolyn Haitsch, chaitsch@smcr.org

**Office for Youth & Families – 203-438-7335**  
Pastoral Associate – Laura Danner, ldanner@smcr.org  
Administrative Coordinator – Pamela Jensen oyf@smcr.org

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

**Parish Office Building Open**  
Monday - Thursday 10 AM – 2 PM  
203-438-6538

**Parish Office Hours**  
Monday–Friday 8AM – 4PM



Become a part of our Parish family.  
Go to [www.smcr.org](http://www.smcr.org) to register.

# THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of February 25, 2024



## The Three Temptations with Dr. Brant Pitre

Reflect with Dr. Brant Pitre on the temptations of Jesus in the desert as he gets to the heart of the meaning of Lent.



## The Hour of Our Death | Eternal Rest | Episode 3

The Anointing of the Sick is one of the seven sacraments of the Church. This session, we discover the role of this sacramental anointing in the spiritual struggle during serious illness, the final stages of our temporal life, and the hour of our death.



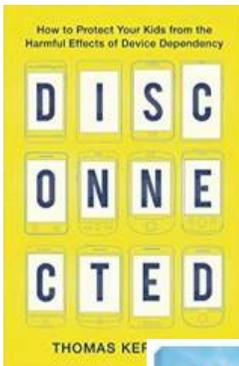
## Talking Back: Scripture's to Answer Common Fears | Fearless | Episode 3

How can the Word of God help us face fear and win back victory from the Enemy's control? Chris continues his conversation with Fr. Dave Pivonka about how people of faith address fear. Scripture provides concrete ways to wield the power of God's Word against the fear of need, abandonment, vulnerability, condemnation, and more. Unlock the means for the Lord to free you from all fear.

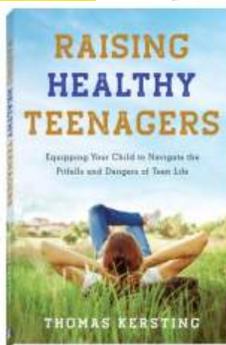
Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](http://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.

# Mental Health, Screen Time, Faith & Family— *Walking with Christ When the World Most Needs Him*

Thursday, February 29th @ 7:00pm



Kids spend more than eight hours per day, seven days a week on electronic devices. The result is a malleable brain that is rewired to assimilate to a cyber-world - not the real world. The byproduct is chronic anxiety, attention deficit, depression, poor social skills, academic failure, and family relationship problems. This lecture is an eye-opener and will include tips to help live in the real world and less in the cyber world.



## This program will provide training and education in:

- Technology use and mental health
- How much screen time is too much?
- Strategies to help your child reduce anxiety
- How much sleep is acceptable for your child?
- Creating leaders, not followers
- Your role as a parent

St Mary Parish Hall  
183 High Ridge Ave  
Ridgefield CT



## MEET TOM KERSTING

Tom Kersting is a nationally renowned psychotherapist and author. He has traveled the country speaking in schools, churches and in corporate settings delivering this important message. He has been on hundreds of television programs such as Today Show, Good Morning America and many more. Tom is a practicing Catholic able to articulate the importance of faith in a media-saturated world and will share all the latest research, studies, and facts about the dangers of device over-use.

*Hosted by the Office for Youth & Families...*

*Funded by a grant from Foundations in Faith...*

*All parishoners are invited and will be warmly welcomed!*





**THE RELICS OF SAINT PIO  
OF PIETRELCINA  
TO VISIT  
SAINT MARY PARISH**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024**

**55 CATOONAH STREET RIDGEFIELD CT 06877**

**VENERATION FROM 12:30 P.M. TO 6:30 P.M.**

**MASS IN HONOR OF SAINT PIO AT 7:00 P.M.**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE, CONTACT THE  
PARISH AT (203) 438-6538, OR VIA EMAIL AT  
JBROWN@SMCR.ORG**

*The Relics of Padre Pio*



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# SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

## SENIOR LUNCHEON

12 Noon Mass  
in the School  
Hall

**TUESDAY,  
MARCH 12,  
2024**

Lunch  
Immediately  
Following

Kindly Reserve by 3/7/24

203-438-7288

Suggested Donation \$8

Questions, contact Andrea Wolf 203-644-4526





# CONNECTICUT MARCH FOR LIFE

Bus leaves St. Mary Ridgefield 10:20AM March 20.  
Go to [www.smcr.org](http://www.smcr.org) for the link to sign up. 55 seats  
are available.

**Wednesday, March 20, 2024**

**Rally – 12:00pm**

**March – 1:00pm**

Connecticut State Capitol  
210 Capitol Ave.  
Hartford, CT 06106



## Join a local bus trip



The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring reduced fares for round-trip bus rides from locations throughout Connecticut. Use the QR code or visit [rally.co/ct-march-for-life](http://rally.co/ct-march-for-life) to sign up.



**Visit [marchforlife.org/Connecticut](http://marchforlife.org/Connecticut)  
for more information.**



Seeking...

# Volunteers for Our Adult Choir

Ages 16+ - All invited. No prior  
experience necessary.

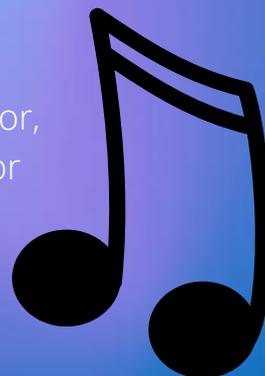
Chorus rehearses Thursdays 7-8pm and sings  
at the 9am Sunday Mass as well as feasts  
during the year.



## More Information :

Please reach out to our Music Director,  
Richard Owen, if you're interested or  
would like more information:

[Richard.Owen@smcr.org](mailto:Richard.Owen@smcr.org)



*Singing is the most primary and beautiful of all art forms; it  
contributes to health, peace of mind, and glorifies the Lord.  
As Saint Augustine said, "Singing, is praying twice!"*

# Loaves & Fishes

A LENTEN OFFERING TO FEED  
OUR STRUGGLING NEIGHBORS



"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." - Matthew 25:35



Help your most vulnerable neighbors struggling to feed their families due to the rising cost of food, gas and housing. Catholic Charities is the leading provider of food resources throughout the Diocese, serving **over 1.5 million meals** each year to individuals, children, families and the homebound elderly!

*YOU can transform lives with your Lenten offering!*



Catholic Charities' food service programs provide critically needed assistance via our soup kitchens, food pantries, and meal deliveries to the elderly.

These programs are a lifeline to the most vulnerable populations:

- Morning Glory Breakfast Program - Danbury
- New Covenant Center - Stamford
- Room to Grow Preschool Food Pantry - Norwalk
- Senior Nutrition - Norwalk and Stamford
- The **NEW** Thomas Merton Family Center - Bridgeport



*Make your Loaves & Fishes donation TODAY!*

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238 Jewett Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06606





ST. MARY PARISH  
DISCIPLES 4 LIFE  
ADULT RETREAT

You are invited to be part of St. Mary’s Disciples 4 Life Parish Retreat! This personal retreat is open to all adult men and women. Lent is the perfect time to grow more deeply in our faith and get closer to our Lord.

*“Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28*

The weekend schedule includes talks on spirituality, reconciliation, the Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and quiet time. Make a decision to change your life today!

**Friday, April 5 - Sunday April 7**

Starts Friday at 7:00 PM and concludes Sunday, after the 5:00 pm Mass in the Church.

**Seton-Neumann Center, Danbury, CT**

Rooms are single person occupancy, unless specifically requested otherwise.

Please contact Marilyn Kain at [kainma56@gmail.com](mailto:kainma56@gmail.com) or (203) 994-7808 for more info or with any questions.

Reservations accepted on a first-come, first served basis. *Reservations are limited, so don’t delay.*

----- (Tear Here) -----

Please complete the following, include a check for \$150 per person payable to St. Mary Parish, and return to

St. Mary Parish  
Attn: D4L  
55 Catoonah Street  
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: St. Mary  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*A confirmation letter with more details will be mailed to you one week before the retreat.*

Team members: Dianne Doyle, Paul Janerico, Marilyn & George Kain, Dorian Peckham, Cathy & Tom Savoca, Kip Schibli, Carol Schirm and Lynn Tidgwell.

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