

St. Mary Church



VIEW FROM HOPMEADOW

Directory

Parish Office: 3 Massaco Street
(860) 658-7627
www.stmarysimsbury.org

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday: 8:30 - 3:00 PM
Friday: 8:30 - 12:00 PM

MASSES:
Monday - Thursday 8:00 AM
Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 PM
Sunday: 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 3:00 - 4:00 PM

VISITORS: Thank you for worshipping with us.
To register with St. Mary's Parish please call
(860) 658-7627 or email us at
parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org

Rev. Frank Matera: Ext. 301

Deacon Arthur Miller: Ext. 113

Parish Office: Ext. 306
Jennifer Almeida and Heather Benedetti
parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org

Finance Manager: Joanne Dunn Ext. 307
financemanager@stmarysimsbury.org

Operations & Facilities: Jay Reynolds Ext. 305
jay.reynolds@stmarysimsbury.org

Religious Education Grades 1-6:
Lori Oleasz Ext. 304
DRELori@stmarysimsbury.org

**Religious Education Grades 7-10
& Youth Ministry:** Kathleen Keating Ext. 302
youthministry@stmarysimsbury.org
Instagram & Facebook:
[@igniteyouthministry831](https://www.instagram.com/igniteyouthministry831)

Stephen Ministry: Linda Duff Ext. 114
stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org

Music Ministry: Gena Sullivan &
Patricia Lepak

St. Mary's School:
Principal Margaret Williamson
(860) 658-9412

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:00 PM	August 4 Rosemary Reynolds Birthday Remembrance By: Her Family
Sunday 8:00 AM	August 5 Thomas Ashe 1st Anniversary By: The Ashe Family
9:30 AM 11:00 AM	People of St. Mary's Parish Robert Roden By: His Family
Monday 8:00 AM	August 6 Joseph Tooley With Love By: Joe & Robin Sparacio
Tuesday 8:00 AM	August 7 People of St. Mary's Parish
Wednesday 8:00 AM	August 8 People of St. Mary's Parish
Thursday 8:00 AM	August 9 Marie Roche
Saturday 5:00 PM	August 11 Joseph Forcucci Anniversary Mass By: His Family
Sunday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	August 12 People of St. Mary's Parish Maureen Godsoe By: The Parish of St. Mary Sally Linko (Living Intention) By: The McCarthy Family

Rosary Volunteers Needed: Volunteers needed to share the Rosary the third Thursday of each month, 11:00 AM at McLean Health Center. Please contact Justine Coleman 860-658-0044 or Kathy Cookson 860-658-3700.

Massaco Street: The Town of Simsbury will be replacing the sewer line on Massaco Street from beyond our Parish Offices going up the street. This work will be complete before school starts. They plan to repave Massaco Street this fall. Parish Offices will be accessible by vehicle at all times.

Are You New to Saint Mary's? If you are new to St. Mary's, we warmly welcome you to our parish community, and we invite you to register with us so that we can know and serve you better. Simply call the Parish Office 860-658-7627.

Parish Announcements

Fr. Matera on Retreat: Father Matera will be on retreat at St. Joseph Abbey in Spencer, MA, from Monday afternoon through Friday.

Weekly Offertory: We thank you for your generous support of St. Mary's Parish without which we would not be able to carry out our many ministries. Last week's offertory was \$12,560. Of this amount, \$5,261 came from 121 E-Givers, and \$7,299 came from envelopes and cash. Please consider E-Giving. On the first week of the month we will provide year to date offertory receipts against budget.

A Potential Saving of \$80,000: A number of families have responded positively to the request to accelerate pledge payments to Campus Connection and we greatly appreciated this. If you are able to help by making pledge payments ahead of schedule, we strongly encourage you to do so since it reduces project financing costs. For example, *if all pledges were to be paid in full by the end of 2018, we would save more than \$80,000 in interest expense!*

Save the Date: On Wednesday, September 5, at 7:00 PM, there will be a "Listening Session" in the Lower Church. The purpose of this "Listening Session" is to help the Archdiocese prepare for its upcoming Synod. You will have an opportunity to address three questions: What is the Archdiocese doing well? What is the Archdiocese not doing so well? What is the Archdiocese not doing that it should be doing? Please join us for this important session so that our parish can help to prepare for the upcoming Synod.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Join us this Monday, August 6 at 7:00 PM- 8:30 PM, in the Lower Church. (The most direct access to the Lower Church during construction is to enter from the rectory side of the Church.) Are you interested in knitting or crocheting? Beginners to experts welcome. We will also meet on September 10th and the first Mondays of October through December. If you cannot attend meetings contact Rhoda at 860-651-4027.

Mercy Shelter: Desserts and fruit are needed to take to Mercy Shelter in Hartford. All items can be dropped off in the Lower Church this Sunday, August 5th before 3:00 PM. The most direct access to the Lower Church during construction is to enter from the rectory side of the Church. Thanks for all the donations!

Jesus the Bread of Life (1) *What We Must Do?*

To understand today's Gospel, we must begin with the first reading from the Book of Exodus. The People of God are wandering in the wilderness, hungry and grumbling against Moses and Aaron. Although God has freed them slavery, they are ready to return to Egypt as slaves for a piece of bread. They have quickly forgotten what God has done for them. And because they have forgotten what God has done for them, they do not trust in the power of God to save them.

In response to the grumbling of the people, God feeds the people with "bread from heaven," a food called "manna." And so, we sing in today's Responsorial Psalm, "The Lord gave them bread from heaven." Psalm 78 remembers this wonderful event, when it proclaims, "He commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven; he rained *manna* upon them for food and gave them heavenly food."

This brings us to today's Gospel. Jesus has fed the crowd in the wilderness, and the next day they are back for more! It was such an abundant feast that they want him to do it again. But Jesus intends to take them to another level of understanding. He wants to bring them to faith in himself as the Bread of Life. And so, he tells them, "Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life."

The people do not know what Jesus is talking about because they do not understand the "sign" of the bread he gave them when he fed them in the wilderness. The feeding of the 5000 was a "sign" pointing to something more important. It was a "sign" pointing to Jesus, the true Bread of Life who has come down from heaven.

The people do not understand, and they ask Jesus for a "sign" as if he had not already given them a sign. They say, our ancestors ate manna in the desert, what kind of "sign" can you give us. It is at this point that Jesus begins his "Bread of Life Discourse," which we will be hearing the next several weeks. He says, "I am the Bread of Life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

Jesus is the true Bread of Life. Other food will satisfy us for only a moment. After it has relieved our hunger and quenched our thirst, we will be hungry again. But the food Jesus gives is different. He is the Bread of Life who satisfies our deepest need—our longing for what is enduring and permanent, our longing for God. But we must place our faith and trust in him. We must do the work of God, which is to believe in the One whom God sent into the world. When we do this, we understand the "sign" of the loaves. We understand because we believe that Jesus is the true Bread of Life that comes down from heaven.

Campus Connection Update

Thanks to the generous services of Dan Carr, the Boy Scouts, and other parishioners, parking has been smooth and orderly thus far. I am grateful to all of you who are taking the "extra step."

The "deep dig" for the elevator that will service the elderly and handicap is underway, and this week work has begun on the road behind the church and school that will improve traffic flow. While there will be inconveniences along the way, it is exciting to see our project take place. Keep your eyes on the prize.

Fr. Matera

August 5, 2018

Religious Education

Pilgrimage/Retreat to Lourdes Shrine in Litchfield - Grades 4-7: A very special extracurricular experience is planned for **Friday, August 17th** for students enrolled in our Religious Education program! Students who will enter grades 4-7 this fall are invited on a Pilgrimage/Retreat to Lourdes Shrine in Litchfield.

Our Director of Religious Education, Lori Oleasz, will lead the children and chaperones on this day trip where they will:

- +Visit the "Church without Walls" (a replica of the Grotto in Lourdes France)
- + Join in prayer during the outdoor Grotto Mass
- + Participate in a woodland Stations of the Cross walk
- + Enjoy Rubber Duck races down the Shrine stream
- + Have the opportunity to visit the Shrine gift shop and Grotto Cafe (amazing burgers and homemade cookies can be purchased there or bring your own brown bag lunch)
- + Engage in contemplative journaling about their pilgrimage experience.

There is no fee for this trip due to the generosity of an "Angel Donor" ;)

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity for your child! Space is limited so please sign up early. Reservations are on a first come first served basis.

Please contact Lori Oleasz, DRE at (860)-658-7627 or drelori@stmarysimsbury.org

Other

A Summer Evening at Montfort House: This fundraising event to benefit the Shrine of Lourdes in Litchfield, will be held on the terrace and grounds of Montfort House, Rte. 118, 83 Montfort Rd., (top of the hill), Litchfield, CT 06759 on Saturday, August 18, 2018.

This delightful evening will feature cocktails and select wines and fine hors d'oeuvres from local products. Delectable desserts will also be served. This event will be held with live music from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM with food being served throughout the evening. Guests may arrive anytime between 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM. The price for this fundraiser is \$50 per person; reservations should be made and payment received by **Saturday, August 11th**. For details or to purchase tickets, call 860-485-0279 or e-mail: gbuchas@snet.net.

RCIA

Entrance into the Church: RCIA stands for "The Rite of Christian Initiation." It is the process by which those who are not Catholic and wish to become Catholic enter the Church. If you are not Catholic and have been thinking of becoming a Catholic, or if you know someone who would like to become a Catholic, please contact Fr. Matera.

The RCIA is for (1) people who were never baptized, (2) non-Catholics who would like to become Catholics, (3) Catholics who were baptized but never catechized and confirmed.

If you have questions or want further information, please speak with Fr. Matera by calling the Parish Office at 860-658-7627.

St. Mary's School

Accreditation Report

The Commission states: "The Visiting Team Report identified many areas for commendation. The Commission particularly commends the entire school community for the overall health of the School with its effective leadership, strong Catholic identity and programs and the commitment of the faculty and staff. It is clear that all adults are working together to create an effective, healthy, safe and meaningful experience for each child. In addition, the Commission commends the various ways in which St. Mary's is evolving the program to meet the needs of today's children."

Part of the process for accreditation is to help schools assess where they could improve. We are pleased that the major recommendations of the Visiting Team echoed our own concerns. Those include, focusing on our admissions, marketing and student recruitment practices to ensure that St. Mary's remains robust and healthy; planning around the topics of diversity, equity and inclusion and extending our Technology Plan to include financial implications of device replacement, software upgrades and new initiatives.

St. Mary's School is a very special place. This third-party assessment is validation of the many efforts of everyone to maintain an excellent school. Walk-In Wednesdays will continue through the summer. Please call the school for enrollment information!