

St. Mary Church



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

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 18 David Carter Sr. By: The Potter Family
Sunday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	August 19 People of St. Mary's Parish Immigrants, their families, and all those in the United States Robert Wise
Monday 8:00 AM	August 20 Francis Gibson By: His Daughter, Susan
Tuesday 8:00 AM	August 21 Vic Daley Living Intention By: His Friends
Wednesday 8:00 AM	August 22 Marie Roche
Thursday 8:00 AM	August 23 Robert Hirnyk By: His Wife, Diana
Saturday 5:00 PM	August 25 Francis Sarnecki By: The Anthony Family
Sunday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	August 26 People of St. Mary's Parish George Sullivan By: The Ryan Family Dona & Antonia Gerardi

Brick Sponsorship Program is Underway! Please see the perspective view of the St. Mary Courtyard on this week's cover of the bulletin for the location of the circular brick path around our beloved Mary statue. Bricks can be purchased on-line through our parish website www.stmarysimsbury.org or you can pick up a brochure at the doors of the church. Order forms are on the back of the brochure and checks can be mailed or dropped at the parish office. For questions, please contact Beth Morgan Canning at robbandbeth@comcast.net.

Parish Announcements

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 \$15,580. Of this amount, \$7,495 came from 131 E-Givers, and \$8,085 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.

Learning to Pray: Are you searching for a way to grow in prayer and the spiritual life? Do you want a more intimate relationship with God? Join us for a four part series that Father Matera will give on *Learning to Pray*. The series examines (1) The Prayer of Jesus, (2) Jesus' Teaching on Prayer, (3) The Prayer of the Early Church, (4) Prayer and Liturgy. This series will take held on the Thursdays of September 20, 27, October 4, 11 in the Lower Church at 7:00 PM.

Construction Update: Thank you for your cooperation during our Campus Connection construction project. Retaining walls are going up behind the school in preparation for the new access road to the North parking lot and foundation walls are being poured for the elevator and lower level lobby access to the lower church. In September we will give an overview of the project with finish material boards and we will introduce new and exciting sponsorship opportunities.

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.

On Retreat at Saint Joseph Abbey, Spencer

Last week, I was on retreat at Saint Joseph Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts. I have been going there for several years. Except for one conference in the morning, the retreat consists of participating in the Liturgy with the Monks (Morning Prayer, Mass, Midday Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Night Prayer) and time alone to read, to reflect, and to pray. Meals are taken in silence, and those on retreat are expected to observe silence.

The setting is spectacularly beautiful. The monastery is at the top a hill that allows one to look in wonder at the beautiful surrounding countryside. I walked up and down that hill several times a day, reflecting and praying. The best part of the retreat for me was to be away—away from the telephone, away from email, away from television, away from the news, just away.

This year I wanted to focus on prayer: what does it mean to pray, how should I pray. So I brought a number of books on prayer with me. But every year, the retreat provides me with a surprise, something I did not or could not anticipate. This year it was the discovery of the writings of a German woman, the mystic Adrienne von Speyer who lived in the first half of the 20th century.

I had always known about her, but I never read anything by her. To be quite honest, I thought she was a bit strange. But the retreat master introduced her writings, and quite by chance (or was it by divine providence?) I found a small book by her in the monastery library entitled *Elijah*. I read and read, and I was taken aback. Her insights to the story of Elijah (which I had read so many times) gave me a new appreciation of this biblical text and how God works in our lives.

This seems to happen whenever I go on retreat. I begin by setting the agenda, but God has another plan for me. This year it was the writings of Adrienne von Speyer. What it will be next year, I do not know.

This retreat was an important moment for me. I needed to step back from all that is happening and regain my balance. That is what the retreat did for me. It helped me to see myself and my work in a fresh perspective, from God's perspective I hope. It taught me to slow down a bit and not take myself so seriously. It reminded me to focus on what is important and enduring: a deep and abiding relationship with God. That is what I did on my retreat this year. When you see me getting frantic and hectic again, remind me of my retreat.

Father Matera

August 19, 2018

Parish Announcements

(Continued)

Volunteers Needed for Alter Linen Committee: Our Committee is responsible for picking up the alter linens (not the vestments) from the sacristy each week, washing, drying, ironing and returning them to the sacristy. Your commitment would be for about 2 hours only 6 times a year. Please call Linda Mullane 860-651-0646 if you can help with this special service for the celebration of the Mass.

Simsbury Food Pantry: Our next collection for the Simsbury Food Pantry will be on September 9th at all Masses. We are in need of canned good and non-perishables. Thank you for your generosity!

Immacare: The next serving date is Monday, August 20th. Please let Tracey know if you will be able to contribute to the meal. The donation can be delivered to 71 Hayes Rd, Tariffville or we can arrange to pick up your donation. Meal donations: pork chop or chicken meal (please let Tracey know if you need the recipe), bananas, milk, loaf of white bread, and cookies/brownies. For questions, please email Roderickllc@gmail.com or call Tracey at 860-218-5478 (you are welcome to text).

Scheduling Space for the Coming Year: All groups, without exception, that use the Parish Center, the Lower Church, or the Parish Office for meetings and activities must schedule space by emailing the Parish Office at parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org. If you do not schedule space for you activity, even if you have used a particular room in the past, the room will not be reserved for you.

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.

St. Mary's Website: Our website contains important information about our parish, its activities, as well as links to other important sites. The Parish Web page is constantly changing and being updated with new information. If you haven't visited us lately, visit us at www.stmarysimsbury.org.

We Welcome Children who Cry! If your child cries in church, please do not worry. We welcome children, especially when they are crying because it is a sign of new life for our parish. Think of their crying as their prayer of praise.

Youth Ministry

Eucharistic Adoration: On Tuesday, August 21 and August 28, we will gather in the church for a time of Adoration. All teens and young adults are welcome to join us for this time of prayer!

Calcutta Project: IGNITE will return to the shelter on Monday, August 27. A team of teens and adults will cook, transport, and serve the meal. Join the mission! The Calcutta Project is an outreach effort our ministry. For details, visit stmarysimsbury.org/ignite

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.