

# St. Mary Church



## Directory

**Parish Office:** 3 Massaco Street  
(860) 658-7627  
[www.stmarysimsbury.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org)

**Finance Manager:** Joanne Dunn Ext. 307  
[financemanager@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:financemanager@stmarysimsbury.org)

**Operations & Facilities:** Jay Reynolds Ext. 305  
[jay.reynolds@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:jay.reynolds@stmarysimsbury.org)

**Religious Education Grades 1-6:**  
Lori Oleasz Ext. 304  
[DRELori@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:DRELori@stmarysimsbury.org)

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

**Stephen Ministry:** Linda Duff Ext. 114  
[stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org](mailto:stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org)

**Music Ministry:** Gena Sullivan &  
Patricia Lepak

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

## Mass Intentions

<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 PM	<b>November 24</b> Wentworth Hamilton
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 AM 9:30 AM  11:00 AM	<b>November 25</b> People of St. Mary's Parish Philomena Spatcher By: Her Family Phoebe Ouellette Family & Friends By: Cynthia
<b>Monday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>November 26</b> Kenneth Forcucci By: His Family
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>November 27</b> Jane Fischetti
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>November 28</b> Mark Farley
<b>Thursday</b> 8:00 AM	<b>November 29</b> Michael Leonka By: Hania & Frank Pazdzierski
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 PM	<b>December 1</b> People of St. Mary's Parish
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	<b>December 2</b> Robert Hirnyk By: His wife, Diana Shirley Richardson Deceased Members of the Robert P. Gallagher Family

**Baptism:** We welcome Tessa Bodell, Jack Brittell, Sydney Heagney, Kaelyn Heagney, Liam McIntyre, Ryan Roche who were baptized into Christ last week.

**New to Saint Mary's?** Please call or stop by the office to register.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Every Monday there is adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:30 to 9:30 AM. Please join us.

**Free Rosary Repair:** We have lots of parts! Send your broken rosaries in a padded envelope to: Betty and Dick Holden 7930 Estero Blvd., Apt. 502, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931. They will be repaired and returned to you within the week of receipt. Donations of old and broken rosaries are also accepted which will be repaired and sent on to the missions. Include a note indicating repair and return to me or that this is a donation. Please email: HoldenBnD@comcast.net with any questions.

## Parish Announcements

**For Sale:** The Saint Mary's Parish Office building on 3 Massaco Street is for sale. If you or someone is interested in this space, please call or text "Sam" at 860-803-9760.

**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 \$15,380. Of this amount, \$6,991 came from 126 E-Givers, and \$8,389 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. The total for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development was \$5,484. Of this amount \$1,205 came from 4 E-Givers and \$4,279 came from envelopes and cash.

**Pledge Update:** Thank you for the generous pledges you have made to our Campus Connection Project. To date \$3,164,707 has been pledged, of which 85% has been paid in full. By completing your pledge, you will reduce any interest costs we may incur.

**Christmas Youth Choir:** The Christmas Youth Choir will rehearse on three Thursdays, December 6, December 13, and December 20 from 4:30 - 5:15 PM inside the church. All youth old enough to learn the words to traditional carols are invited to participate. The choir sings on Christmas Eve prior to the 6:00 PM Mass, starting at 5:30. Please see music director Gena Sullivan after Mass if you have any questions.

**Nativity Story Puppet Show:** Saturday, December 8th, 9:30 - 11:00 AM. The show will be offered in our Parish Center and is most appropriate for Preschool to Grade 2 aged children. Older siblings are welcome to attend. This special gathering will include a sing-a-long, craft and snack. We hope you will join us! Please contact Lori Oleasz, Director of Religious Education, at 860-658-7627 for more information and to RSVP so that the appropriate amount of supplies and snack can be provided.

**You're invited!** On Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, our children and teens will bring the Nativity story to life following the 5:00 PM Vigil Mass from 6:00-6:30 PM. Let's gather in the church on this blessed evening for a *Night in Bethlehem* to mark the beginning of the Season of Advent. All are welcome!

**Brick Sponsorship Program:** Please get your orders in for you personalized brick on the circular path in our new St. Mary's Courtyard. Order forms can be found at the doors of the Church or by going online to [www.stmarysimsbury.org](http://www.stmarysimsbury.org). The sponsorship program ends December 31st.

Witnessing To Our  
**F A I T H**  
*in Christ*



### *The Feast of Jesus Christ the King*

Today is the feast of *Jesus Christ the King*, a feast we celebrate every year at the end of the Church's Year of Grace. This Year of Grace began last December with the season of Advent when we waited in joyful hope for the coming of Christ in Christmas mystery and at the end of the ages. It continued with our celebration of Christmas and Epiphany, during which we reflected on the mystery of the Incarnation: the mystery of the eternal Word of God made flesh in Jesus Christ. Then we entered the season of Lent so that we could renew and purify ourselves for the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. Having been purified by works of almsgiving, prayer, and fasting we celebrated the Lord's Resurrection for fifty days. Then on the fiftieth day, Pentecost, we rejoiced in God's gift of the Spirit. Since then we have been in the season of "Ordinary Time," a time of extraordinary grace for us as we meditated on our Lord's life and ministry as recounted in the Gospel of Mark.

But today we enter the last week of Ordinary Time and with this celebration of Christ the King, the Church's Year of Grace draws to a close. Next week will be the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of yet another Year of Grace.

By celebrating this feast we proclaim our faith that Jesus Christ is the goal and the purpose of God's redemptive plan. God has created all things in and for Jesus Christ. Everything that has been created has been created through Jesus Christ. The goal of God's creation is Jesus Christ. This means we already know that outcome of God's redemptive plan for our salvation. We know that at the end of the ages, Jesus Christ will reign supreme. We know that at the end of the ages, Jesus Christ will be victorious over the powers of Sin and Death that threaten our lives. We know that at the end of the ages, all will be well because all things will be fulfilled in Christ.

In today's first reading from the Book of Daniel, God's Word points to the eternal kingship that God bestows upon Christ and all who have been faithful to him. Then in today's second reading, taken from the Book of Revelation, God's Word assures us that Christ, the faithful witness of God, will return to bring salvation to the elect. Finally, in today's Gospel, Jesus affirms before Pontius Pilate that he is a king. But his kingdom is not of this world. His kingdom is the kingdom of God. The Preface of today's Mass provides us with a description of this kingdom: "*a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, peace, and love.*"

Throughout this year we have been focusing on witnessing our faith. Just as Jesus was a faithful witness to God, so we must be faithful witnesses to Jesus. How can we be such witnesses? We can be such witnesses by living in this world as if it were the kingdom of God. Living in this world as if it were the kingdom of God means living for what is true and life giving, living in holiness and grace, living a life of justice, peace, and hope. Let us witness to the kingdom of God by living in this way.

Today begins the end of one Year of Grace and the beginning of a new Year of Grace. As we end one Year of Grace, we look forward to another Year of Grace, and we witness to our faith in Jesus Christ our King.

*Father Matera*

***Write the names of your beloved dead in our Book of Deceased and we will remember them at Mass during the month of November.***

**November 25, 2018**

## **Religious Education**

**No Religious Education:** Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, Religious Education classes will not be held on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Classes resume on December 2nd. Thanksgiving Blessings to you and yours from the Religious Education Team!

**Reconciliation Room Tour for Grade 2 Students:** On Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00PM, Second Grade Religious Education Program students will meet in the Church for a tour of the Reconciliation Room and discussion with Father Matera in preparation for receiving the Sacrament. The children should be accompanied by at least one parent. Thank you!

**First Penance and Reconciliation:** Grade 2 students from our Religious Education program and Saint Mary's School will receive the Sacrament of First Penance and Reconciliation on Saturday, December 1st. Please lift up our second grade students in your prayers. Thank you!

**Grade Level Mass:** Grades 1-3 will be featured at the 9:30 AM Mass on Sunday, December 2. All are welcome!

## **Adult Enrichment**

**Save the Dates:** Men's Retreat is March 15-17, 2019 and the Women's Retreat is April 5-7, 2019. Both retreats will be held at the Holy Family in West Hartford.

## **Outreach**

**Mercy Shelter:** Desserts and fruit are needed to take to Mercy Shelter in Hartford. All items can be dropped off in the Lower Church before 3:00 PM Sunday, December 2.

**St. Justin-St. Michael Food Pantry/ Simsbury Food Pantry:** On Sunday, Dec. 2, we will have our monthly food collection of canned goods, pasta, and other non-perishables at all Masses. The collection for was October was very generous. Thank you to Bob Moran for his time and effort in collecting and delivering the items to the pantry every month.

**Simsbury Social Services Dept:** The Town of Simsbury has requested folks to assist in picking up food in Avon and Simsbury for Simsbury Food Pantry. They are also in need of folks to assist in stocking the shelves. Please call Lorraine Rippel at 860-658-6438 or [rippel@aol.com](mailto:rippel@aol.com) if you can help in any way.

## **St. Mary's School A Blue Ribbon School**

**Christmas is only a month away!** Get all of your gift cards on your list through the St. Mary's School Choice program. Stop in the office any time during school hours to purchase. A large assortment from Amazon to Starbucks are available. Call the school office for more information 860-658-9412

**Accepting Applications:** Looking to make a mid year change in school? St. Mary's School is still accepting applications for the 2018-19 school year. We can provide a seamless transition for your child in a welcoming and supportive community. Schedule a tour today and learn more about all of the advantages a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School can provide your child. Limited openings in PreK thru 8th Grade. Contact Toni Chagnon at 860-658-9412 or email [tchagnon@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net](mailto:tchagnon@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net)

**8th Grade Fundraising Needs You!!!** Need a night off from cooking? Puerto Vallarta, Avon will donate a percentage of sales on Thursday, Nov. 29th for both dining in and takeout! Just mention St. Mary's School when ordering!

## **Women's Guild**

**Monthly Meeting:** The December monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 11 at 6:00 PM followed by a Cookie Exchange at 7:00 PM in the Lower Church. All women are welcome.

**Save the Date:** Breakfast with Santa will be on Saturday, December 15th.

## **Other**

**Gingerbread Fair:** St. Patrick's Church in Collinsville will be hosting a two day holiday fair on Saturday, December 1 from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM and Sunday, December 2 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. You will find Unique Hand-Crafted Items, Gift Baskets, Bake Table, Teacup Auction & more!

**Divine Mercy Holy Hour:** The Divine Mercy Holy Hour will be celebrated at St. Ann in Avon on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM. Jesus told St. Faustina, "I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy. Please join us for this powerful devotion."