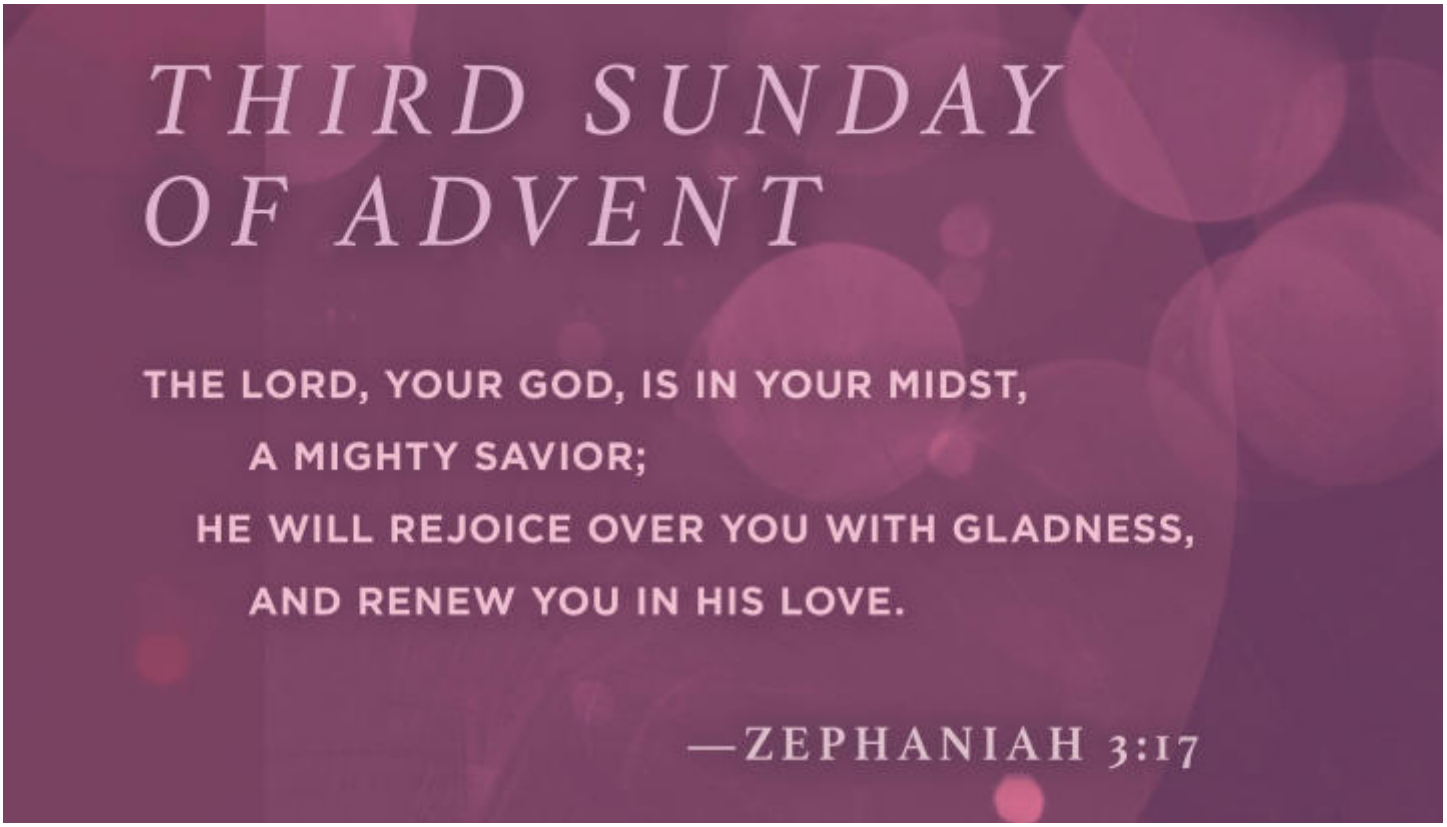
December 12, 2021



Parish Office: 944 Hopmeadow Street
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www.stmarysimsbury.org
parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org

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

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

Baptisms: Sunday 12:15 PM By Appointment

Visitors: Thank you for worshipping with us. To register with St. Mary's Parish please call or email the office.

Rev. Stephen Sledesky: Ext. 301

Deacon Arthur Miller:
Deaconartmiller@gmail.com

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

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

Faith Formation Grades K-6:
Kathy Piggott Ext. 304
reled1-6@stmarysimsbury.org

Faith Formation Grades 7-8:
Lori Ryan Ext. 309
reled7-8@stmarysimsbury.org

Youth Ministry Grades 9-10:
Steve DiMotta Ext. 302
youthministry@stmarysimsbury.org

Stephen Ministry: Ext. 114
Sharon Locandro, Linda McGurn, Linda Duff
stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org

Prayer Line Ministry: 860.658.2118
cmlocandro@gmail.com

Music Ministry: Patricia Lepak & Cynthia Bos

St. Mary's School: 860.658.9412
Principal Margaret Williamson
mwilliamson@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net

Mass Intentions

Saturday	**December 11**
5:00 PM	Jean Gazzola By: Jane & Ken Stevenson
Sunday	**December 12**
8:00 AM	The People of St. Mary's Parish
9:30 AM	Peter Carey By: The Henault Family
11:00 AM	Edna Schreindorfer 100th Birthday(Living Intention) By Her Family
Monday	**December 13**
8:00 AM	Italo Difronzo By: Dennis & Joyce Custer
Tuesday	**December 14**
8:00 AM	Marie Drapeau By: Her daughters, Jean and Cathy DeSimas
Wednesday	**December 15**
8:00 AM	Rosie Voorvaart & Hank Voorvaart By: Their Family
Thursday	**December 16**
8:00 AM	Peg & Tom Whelan By: Peggy Furey
Saturday	**December 18**
5:00 PM	Jean Gazzola By: Granny's Attic Volunteers
Sunday	**December 19**
8:00 AM	The People of St. Mary's Parish
9:30 AM	Peter Dennis Gosselin By: Allyson, Richard, Lillian Gosselin
11:00 AM	Zim Anthony By: Judith McCarthy

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary is every Thursday after the 8:00 AM Mass. You are encouraged to recite the Rosary *privately* for the welfare of the Church and Country.

Pray for the Sick: Please pray for the following parishioners/loved ones who are sick - Barbara Vaina, Mary Kunycky, Kay Coffey, Kathy Lloyd, Nancy Conley & Mary Jensen.

Prayer Requests: To request prayers for a family member or friend, email their name to the Parish Office. Names will be announced for one month. For continual prayers, contact the Prayer Line Ministry cmlocandro@gmail.com or 860 658 2118.

Deceased: Please pray for those who have recently died in Christ: Mary Ellen Levy and Brian Coyne.

2022 Calendar: Calendars for the New Year are located in the Magowan Center.

Celebrating Advent

Dynamic Catholic: Spiritual ways to have the "Best Advent Ever". Go to the Dynamic Catholic website to sign up for daily inspirational emails.

Advent Series: The Gift of the Incarnation: Why God Became Flesh; Sundays 12/12 & 12/19 @ 6:00–7:30 PM & repeated on Mondays 12/13 & 12/20 (following morning Mass). What is the meaning of the Incarnation? Why does God choose to become human in the person of Jesus? Come reflect with Fr. Stephen on the awesome gift of incarnation—God enfleshed—and enrich your walk through Advent and Christmas this year.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: During Advent: Mondays 12/13, 12/20 @ 5:30 –6:30 PM and Saturdays @3:00 –4:00 PM.

The Giving Tree: This is the last weekend. Please help our parish to reach the homebound, homeless and less fortunate members of our community this Christmas. Simply pick a gift tag from our Christmas tree in the front of our church and return the gifts under the tree by December 12th. Please call the office if you have any questions. Thank you again for your generosity.

Gift Card Purchases: Gift cards for the Giving Tree or holiday shopping, can be purchased through the Choice Program at St. Mary's School. Thank you for your support.

Advent Taize Prayer Service: Wednesday 12/15 @ 7:00 PM, please join us for an evening of meditative prayer and song inspired by the Monks of Taize.

Women's Guild: The Women's Guild invites the women of the parish to take a handmade ornament from the baskets in the Magowan Center. These were beautifully crafted by the Guild for your enjoyment. Merry Christmas !

Parish Announcements

Fr. Matera Faith Formation Fund: If you wish to contribute to the Fund, please complete a Restricted Gift Form to accompany your donation (the form is available on the Parish website or in the Parish Office).

Second Collection (12/12): The second collection this weekend is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Mass Book 2022 is Now Open: The Mass Book for 2022 is now open. Please call the Parish Office to schedule a Mass. The recommended offerings are $10.00 for a weekday Mass and $25.00 for a weekend Mass.

Offertory: The offertory collection for November was 61,200.

From the Pastor's Desk...

This weekend we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent, known as "**Gaudete Sunday**", from the Latin word for "Rejoice!" St. Paul in today's second reading tells us, *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice! Indeed the Lord is near."* (Phil. 4:4-5). John the Baptist reminds us in today's gospel that the Lord is coming, the one "*mightier than I*" who will baptize "*with the Holy Spirit and fire*" (Luke 3:16). This theme of rejoicing is picked up again in our first reading from the Prophet Zephaniah: "*Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel!*" (Zeph. 3:14).

We light the **rose colored candle** of our Advent wreath as a sign of our joy. Although many things in our lives and in the world around us give us reason to worry and even be sad, there are many ways to discover joy as well. Marie Kondo's popularity around the world suggests that we are all seeking joy in our lives. Her mantra for decluttering is to ask, does this item still "spark joy" in me? If not, we discard it or give it away. We who are people of faith know that lasting joy is never found in material things. Just as the KonMari method suggests, material possessions may bring us happiness for a while, but their staying power is always short-lived, and then they eventually end up in a tag sale, at Goodwill, or in the trash. What produces lasting joy? Generally, it's those "intangibles" of life: **the love we have in our lives, the kindness we show to others, the giving away of ourselves.**

John the Baptist hints at this in the Gospel when asked by the people who have embraced his preaching and been through his baptism of repentance, "What should we do?" John suggests simply, to do what is just in dealing with others, to share with those in need. Jesus himself brings joy to us through his coming into the world (think of our Christmas carols like, Joy to the World), and bringing us his "Good News" of salvation, and of everlasting life. Perhaps this week we might take some time to think about what truly "sparks joy" in our lives. Do we notice the paradox that we find more joy in giving than in receiving? That when someone we love is happy, we too find fulfillment? Let us be particularly attentive this week to those things dispel the anxiety and sadness that the world around us can bring, and allow that joy to lift us up and give us hope! Gaudete!

Advent Series: The Gift of the Incarnation: Why God Became Flesh
Sundays 12/12 & 12/19 @ 6:00 –7:30 PM
Repeated on Mondays 12/13 & 12/20 (following morning Mass)

Community Outreach

Veteran's Annual Holiday Gift Drive: The collection box listing requested items is in the Magowan Center 11/11—12/11. New items are needed such as new men's and women's seasonal clothing and personal care items (soap, shampoo, shaving cream, etc.), batteries, and umbrellas. Thank you for your support of all the men and women who so bravely served our country!

Hartford Shelters: This Sunday, 12/12 we will be collecting non-perishable food, coffee, sanitizing supplies, personal hygiene items and paper products. Please drop off donations *this Sunday* morning 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM in the Magowan Center. Thank you for your generosity during this critical time of need! Contacts: lrippel@aol.com, livings10@yahoo.com.

Gift Card Donations: If you are looking to donate gift cards to the church for those in need, please consider purchasing cards from Stop & Shop, local gas stations, or $10 Subway or Jersey Mike's for those that may need an occasional meal to go.

Nativity: Thank-you to Troop 175 for putting up the beautiful creche in front of the church. Stop by to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Save The Date

Christmas Mass Schedule: Please join us for one of our Christmas Masses: Friday 12/24 @ 4 PM (Church & Parish Center) 6PM, & 10 PM. Christmas Day 9 AM and 11 AM. No reservation required.

New Year's Day Mass: Join us at 9 AM for Mass (This year it is not a holy day of obligation because it falls on a Saturday; There will be no vigil Mass).

Altar Server Training For New Servers: We are in need of new servers to join this wonderful ministry at St. Mary's. All youth in 4th Grade or above are welcome to participate in our annual training program, which will be a three-session class (*please plan to attend all three sessions*) on **1/2, 1/9 & 1/16** from 12 PM—1 PM. We invite you to join us at the 11 am Mass, with training classes taking place following Mass. Please register via our website or by email (ServerLeader@StMarySimsbury.org).

The ABCs of Annulment will be held Saturday, 1/22 @10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Saint Margaret Parish, Madison, CT. Follow-up Annulment Workshops to help participants write their applications will be 1/29, 2/12 & 2/19 @10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. The event is open to all at no cost, no registration required. For more info contact Br. Larry 475 221 8464 or brolarlus300@gmail.com.

Come Join Us

St. Mary's Women's Guild: There is no charge to join! Become a member by sending your contact information to stmarywomensguild@gmail.com.

St. Mary's Men's Ministry: Are you looking for a way to connect with other men and talk about your faith? Join via Zoom Saturday mornings 8:00 - 9:30 AM. Receive the meeting ID and password at MensMinistryStMary@gmail.com.

Tuesday AM Bible Study: Join us after the 8 AM Mass to read and reflect on the coming Sunday's readings. We meet in the Parish Library.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation (Gr. K-6): Classes will meet this weekend.

Faith Formation (Gr. 7-8): Classes will meet this weekend.

Jr.& High Youth Group: Join us in the Faith Formation Center for our Christmas Party Youth Group "Christmas Rapping". We will be having a gingerbread house contest, name that Christmas Carol, Gift Wrapping Contest, etc. Monday December 20, 6:00-7:30PM.Pizza will be served. Register on the website or email Steve so we can get the correct amount of supplies needed.

St. Mary's School
National Blue Ribbon

Thank You: The SMS Class of 2022 thanks everyone who ordered poinsettias. Your support is greatly appreciated! Merry Christmas!

Lessons & Carols Prayer Service: Please join us for our Lessons & Carols Prayer Service in the church on Monday, Dec. 20th at 1:45 PM for our one and only service for 2021.

Christmas Instrumental Recital: Come enjoy the sounds of the season at our Christmas Instrumental Recital on Monday, Dec. 13th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center.

Open House! Sunday, January 30, 2022
1:00 PM to 3:30 PM .Come see how our students are creating, collaborating and climbing to new heights! Register today! Now enrolling for the 2022-2023 school year, PrK–grade 8.

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