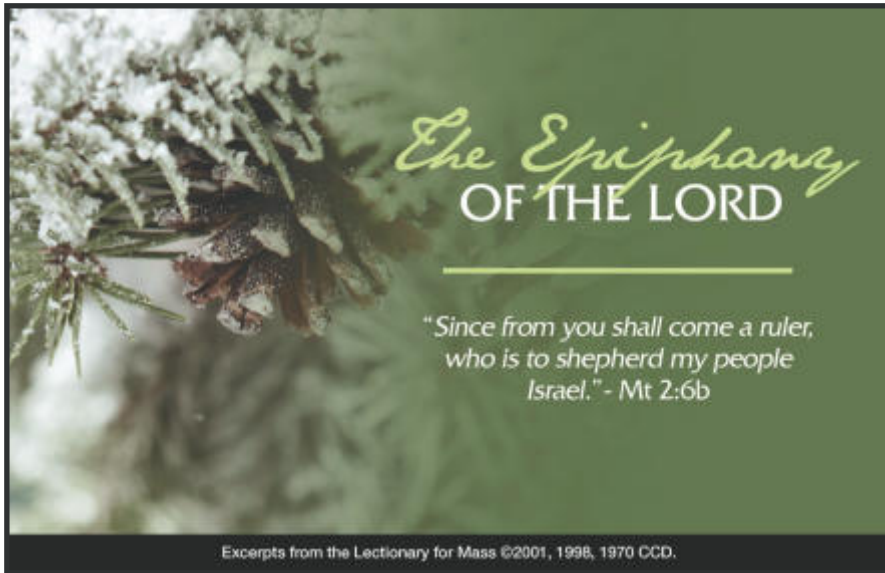


**January 2, 2022**  
**St. Mary's Parish & School**



944 Hopmeadow Street  
www.stmarysimsbury.org  
parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org

Parish Office .....(860) 658-7627  
School Office .....(860) 658-9412  
Prayer Line .....(860) 658-2118

**Office Hours:** M-Th 8:30 - 3:00 PM; Fri 8:30 - 12:00

**Mass Times**

Mon—Th . . . . . 8 AM  
Saturday . . . . . 5 PM  
Sunday . . . . . 8, 9:30 and 11 AM

**Reconciliation:** Saturday 3-4 PM

**Baptisms:** Sunday 12:15 PM By Appointment

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary**

Thursday after the 8:00 AM Mass. You are encouraged to recite the Rosary *privately* for the welfare of the Church and Country.

**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.



**Staff Directory**

**Pastor**

Father Stephen Sledesky ▪ Ext. 301

**Deacon**

Art Miller

Deaconartmiller@gmail.com

**Finance Manager**

Joanne Dunn ▪ Ext. 307

financemanager@stmarysimsbury.org

**Parish Office**

Heather Benedetti ▪ Ext. 306

parishoffice@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**

cmlocandro@gmail.com

**Music Ministry**

Patricia Lepak & Cynthia Bos

**St. Mary's School**

Principal Margaret Williamson

mwilliamson@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net

## Mass Intentions

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Saturday</b><br>9:00 AM<br>(No Vigil Mass) | <b>January 1</b><br>People of St. Mary's  |
| <b>Sunday</b><br>8:00 AM<br>9:30 AM           | <b>January 2</b><br>People of St. Mary's<br>† Zejacz Family<br>By: Susana       |
| 11:00 AM                                      | † Sean Niland<br>By: Savarese Family  |
| <b>Monday</b><br>8:00 AM                      | <b>January 3</b><br>† Joan Adams  |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br>8:00 AM                     | <b>January 4</b><br>† Catherine Lafontaine<br>By: Noreen & Jack Scafuri         |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br>8:00 AM                   | <b>January 5</b><br>People of St. Mary's  |
| <b>Thursday</b><br>8:00 AM                    | <b>January 6</b><br>† Alfred I. Geiger<br>By: Fr. Stephen                       |
| <b>Saturday</b><br>5:00 PM                    | <b>January 8</b><br>† Patricia Hogard<br>By: Her Family                         |
| <b>Sunday</b><br>8:00 AM<br>9:30 AM           | <b>January 9</b><br>† Mary Ellen Levy<br>By: Her Family<br>People of St. Mary's |
| 11:00 AM                                      | † Amy J. Lentz<br>By: Fr. Stephen   |

**Baptism:** We welcome Eva Nunez, Benjamin Petry who were baptized into Christ last week.

### Pray for the Sick:

Please pray for the following parishioners/loved ones who are sick - Dawn Wilson, Abby Harris & Family, & Maria O'Donnell

### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturdays @3:00 –4:00 PM.

### 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.

**Parish Office Hours:** The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, 01/03 due to the holiday.

### Seminarian Coming to St. Mary's

*This January, we are privileged to host one of our Archdiocesan seminarians, **Mr. Martin Chouinard**, for two weeks during his winter break. Experiencing life in a parish is an important aspect of his seminary training. Due to the early bulletin deadline, I don't have more biographical information or details to share, but will do so as soon as possible. Join me in joyful anticipation of his visit here with us, and continue to pray not only for him in his vocation, but to pray for more young men to consider a vocation to priesthood for the future!*



**Fr. Matera Faith Formation Fund:** Thank-you to everyone who has been so generous with their donations to this fund in honor of Father Matera. We have collected \$37,585 which will be used for Faith Formation.

**Thank You::** The VFW thanks our parishioners who donated so generously to the holiday clothing drive, which was a huge success.

**Mercy Shelter:** Desserts and fruits are needed to take to Mercy Shelter in Hartford this Sunday 01/02. All items can be dropped off in the Magowan Center 8:00AM –12:00PM .

**Help Needed:** St. Mary's school is looking for a person to fill a paid position to assist with lunch supervision and recess duty. The hours are 11 am to 1:10 pm every day. If interested, please contact Mrs. Williamson. [mwilliamson@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net](mailto:mwilliamson@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net)

**Bible Study with Deacon Art:** Join us 01/12 at 7:00 PM via zoom. Email [Deaconartmiller@gmail.com](mailto:Deaconartmiller@gmail.com)

*We wish to thank our wonderful parishioners who so kindly gave of their time and talents during this holiday season to decorate our Church and Parish Center. Joanne Russell, Dennis and Linda Duff, Jay and Diane Reynolds, fantastic job .*



*We also wish to thank the Scouts from our parish for setting up the beautiful outdoor nativity in front of the church, and the children and their teachers from our school who offered us a lovely presentation of Lessons and Carols.*

*Finally we thank all of our liturgical ministers – our lectors, eucharistic ministers, altar servers, ushers, musicians, cantors, choir and visiting clergy – for making our celebration of Christmas so meaningful and beautiful!*

## *From the Pastor's Desk...*



As we begin this New Year, I wish to **thank you all** for so generously caring for so many people in need during both the Thanksgiving and Christmas Season. Your generosity with food, gifts and monetary donations helped to make a real difference in the lives of so many right here in Simsbury and in the surrounding region. Christmas is a time when we celebrate the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World. You have brought His light to brighten the lives of the homeless, jobless and hungry in our community. Thank you for your amazing generosity!

I am also grateful to our Readers, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Collectors, Vocalists and Instrumentalists, and Visiting Clergy who made our Liturgical celebrations of Advent and Christmas here at St. Mary's most fitting for celebrating the birth our Savior-King. Thank you for the many hands who helped to adorn our worship space inside and out! It is all so beautiful!

I continue to be grateful for your ongoing support of our parish throughout the year with your generous gifts of time, talent and treasure. Many of you throughout the year give of your time in our various ministries to make this a vibrant community of faith, both internally and in the community around us! Visitors always remark at how active and welcoming a parish we are!! Your faithful support of our regular parish collections, **Food Collections**, and special needs collections make our entire ministry and outreach here at St. Mary's possible. Finally, Deacon Art, the parish and school staff and I are most grateful for the many personal cards, gifts and goodies you shared with us for Christmas. They have brought great joy to us all! **Again, thank you all!**

After the Magi shared their gifts with the Christ child, they brought the Good News of his birth back to their friends and neighbors back home. May we embrace the opportunity in this New Year 2022 to be an "epiphany" of Christ to others, continuing to share the gifts and blessings we have received from the Lord, and sharing the Good News of His life, death and resurrection with those dear to us, with our community, our **Church** and our world!

~Fr. Stephen



## Bulletin Updates

Due to the early deadlines for holiday bulletins, please be sure to check the weekly email sent from the Parish on Fridays for the most updated information. If you are not receiving these emails, please visit our website to sign-up.

## Altar Server Training

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](mailto:ServerLeader@StMarySimsbury.org)).



## 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](mailto:MensMinistryStMary@gmail.com).

**St. Mary's Women's Guild** Become a member by sending your contact information to [stmarywomensguild@gmail.com](mailto:stmarywomensguild@gmail.com).



*Happy New Year and wishes for a year full of blessings from St. Mary's Faith Formation team.*

**Grades K-6:** Faith Formation Sessions resume on 01/02. **SAVE THE DATE** - Our January Family Service Project will be a Diaper Drive the week of 01/9 - 01/16.

**First Reconciliation Retreat** - 01/8, Church and Parish Center from 1pm - 3:30pm. Please meet in Church.

**Grades 7-8:** Faith Formation for Jr High program will meet next on 01/9 6:00 PM- 7:30 PM.

7th grade: Season 1, Episode 8 I Am Here 59:27

8th grade: Season 2, Episode 8 Beyond Mountains 56:51

**Grades 9-10:** Confirmation Class: Signups available on the website 01/02 for class in January. All students must attend the Human Trafficking presentation on January 23rd, in the Church, from 6:00-7:30pm.



**High School Peer Ministers:** will be meeting 01/06 @8:00PM on zoom. New members welcome, must be a junior or senior in high school. Contact Steve for the zoom link.

**Jr. High and High School Youth Group:** This month we will hold our annual inter-faith dodgeball tournament. St. Mary's is the defending champion. We are putting together our teams now. If you would like to sign up please email Steve. On 01/03 @ 6:30-8:00 we will be designing our shirts (bring your own shirt, color is royal blue). Tournament is 01/08 @ 5:00-8:00pm in the parish center.

**New Members:** Consider joining us! Fun events, community service projects and just hanging out with friends. Contact Steve or the parish office for more information.

## St. Mary's School National Blue Ribbon

### Happy New Year from the Staff and Volunteers at St. Mary's School.

**Help Needed:** St. Mary's school is looking for a person to fill a paid position to assist with lunch supervision and recess duty. The hours are 11 am to 1:10 pm every day. If interested, please contact Mrs. Williamson. [mwilliamson@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net](mailto:mwilliamson@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net)

**Thank You:** Thank you to all who helped support our CHOICE program with the generous purchase of gift cards for the Giving Tree and the holiday season. We are so grateful for your participation!

**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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