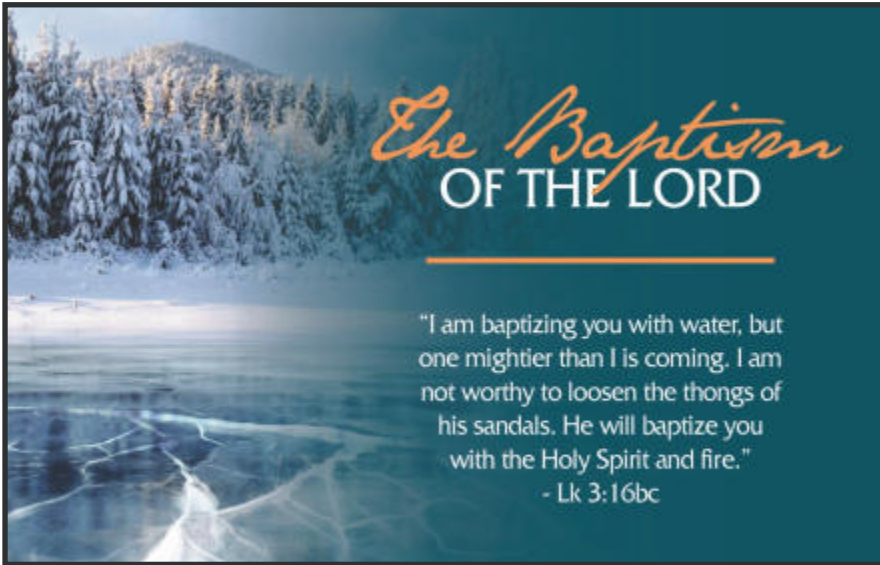


January 9, 2022
St. Mary's Parish & School



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
Saturday5 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

Saturday 5:00 PM	January 8 † Patricia Hogard By: Her Family
Sunday 8:00 AM	January 9 † Mary Ellen Levy By: Her Family
9:30 AM	People of St. Mary's
11:00 AM	† Amy J. Lentz By: Fr. Stephen
Monday 8:00 AM	January 10 † Brian Coyne By: The Potter Family
Tuesday 8:00 AM 9:00 AM	January 11 School Mass
Wednesday 8:00 AM	January 12 †Domenica & Patrick Comotti By: Jack and Noreen Scafuri
Thursday 8:00 AM	January 13
Saturday 5:00 PM	January 15 † Marnie Lawlor By: The Airasian Family
Sunday 8:00 AM	January 16 People of St. Mary's
9:30 AM	†Michael Orzechowski By: His Family
11:00 AM	Elinor Mateczak By: Her Family

Pray for the Sick: Please pray for the following parishioners/loved ones who are sick - Abby Harris & Family, Maria O'Donnell, Jeremy Muinde-Pires & Kay Yazvac.

Deceased: Please pray for those who have recently died in Christ: Margaret Lindberg, & Peter Hanley.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturdays @3:00 –4:00 PM.

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.

Welcome Seminarian Martin Chouinard To St. Mary's
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. If you see Martin around, please introduce yourself 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!



Looking to Read the Bible? Ascension's *Bible in a Year* Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes starting January 1st, 2022. Each 20-25 minute episode includes: 2-3 scripture readings, a reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz and guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word. Unlike any other Bible podcast, this podcast follows a reading plan inspired by the Great Adventure *Bible Timeline*®, a groundbreaking approach to understanding Salvation History developed by Catholic Bible teacher Jeff Cavins.

Hartford Shelters: We will be collecting non-perishable foods this Sunday 01/09. All items can be dropped off in the Magowan Center 8:00AM – 12:00PM .

Bible Study with Deacon Art: Join us 01/12 at 7:00 PM via zoom. Email Deaconartmiller@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Inclement Weather: In the event that schools are closed due to inclement weather, there will be **NO** 8:00 AM Mass and our office will be closed.

Bless Your Door on Epiphany

The gospel tells us that the magi found Christ “on entering the house.” The door to your home is a holy threshold. You can bless those who come in and go out by inscribing above the door in chalk the first two numbers of the year+C+M+B+the last two numbers of the year. Tradition tells us that the letters stand for the names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Adolph Adam points out that it may also mean “Christus mansionem benedicat” or “May Christ bless this dwelling.” It’s appropriate to bless your door in January—janua means “door” and the first month is the door to the new year.

Suggested Blessing for the Home on Epiphany

- The members of the household gather at the main door to the home.
- Read the story of the Magi from Matthew’s Gospel Ch. 2, verses 1-12.
- Inscribe 20+C+M+B+22 above the door with chalk.
- Pray the following blessing prayer:

*God of Bethlehem and Cana, God of Jordan’s leaping waters,
in baptism you bring us into your family.
You wed us and embrace us as your beloved.
May we fill this place with kindness to one another,
with hospitality to guests, and with abundant care for every stranger.
By the gentle light of a star, guide home all who seek you
on paths of faith, hope and love.
Then we will join the angels in proclaiming your praise:
Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and for ever. Amen.*

- Conclude with a song such as *We Three Kings* or *O Come All Ye Faithful*

From the Pastor's Desk...



Today the Church celebrates the **Baptism of the Lord**. In our Christian tradition, Jesus' baptism marks the beginning of his public ministry and is one of three "epiphanies" of Jesus: the first we celebrated last week with the visit of the magi; the baptism is the second epiphany when the voice from heaven identifies Jesus as "beloved Son;" and Jesus' first miracle changing water into wine at the wedding in Cana which we will hear proclaimed next Sunday is the third. All three events in one way or another manifest Jesus as the Son of God. In today's account of the baptism, Luke intentionally highlights the **Holy Spirit** coming down on Jesus in a bodily form. This Holy Spirit will direct Christ's ministry and mission throughout Luke's gospel until, from the cross, Jesus "commends" his spirit back to the Father. In Acts, the continuation of Luke's Gospel, it is that same Spirit that returned to the Father upon Jesus' death, Who will come rushing upon the apostles at Pentecost, to guide and direct the growth of the Christian Church.

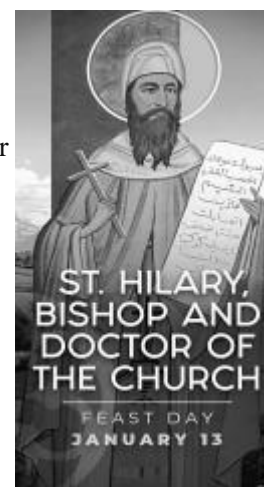
When we were baptized, it too was a public beginning. Being brought to church by our families, our life in Christ was begun. Plunged into the waters of baptism, we died with Christ so that we might also live with him (cf. Rom 6:3-4). We were given new life – unending life – in these powerful waters. Our participation in **Original Sin** was washed clean and we were given a new beginning of innocence. As St. Paul indicates in his letter to Titus, we were "saved through the bath of rebirth" not because of anything we had accomplished or done, but because of God's merciful gift. Paul goes on to note that the Holy Spirit was "richly poured out on us" so that we might become heirs to the hope of eternal life. Wow!!!! This is why baptism is such an important Sacrament in our faith tradition. As members of the Church and the family of God, we now live as adopted sons and daughters of God. As the "gateway" sacrament, no other sacraments can be validly received until we have been baptized.

Yet how many of us are aware of where and when we were baptized? We certainly keep and celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, and appropriately so. But what about our baptism anniversary? Given all that it means in terms of our eternal life and status as children of God, wouldn't it be appropriate for us to at least know, if not celebrate, our baptism day? Perhaps in this next week or two, we can do a little research to find out our own baptism date and place if we don't already know that. If we are parents, we can help our children to know and appreciate their baptismal anniversary. As we celebrate Jesus' baptism, let's recall how important our own baptism is, and celebrate the new and eternal life we share in Christ Jesus!

Since it is a new year, we are introducing a feature as space permits in the bulletin called "Saint of the Week." Each week we will feature a short biography of a Saint whose memorial/feast day occurs during the week.

Saint of the Week

St. Hilary was born around the year 310 into a pagan family in what is present day France. He grew up with a classical education in Latin and Greek, Greek philosophy and the Bible. Gradually he awakened to the truth of the Christian faith and was baptized along with his family in 345. Around 353, the people of Poitiers called for Hilary to be made their bishop. His greatest contribution was as a scholar on the nature of Christ. Although the great Council of Nicaea in 325 had formally declared Arianism (the belief that Jesus was only human, not divine) to be heretical, it was still being shared and taught. Hilary wrote extensively to defend the true teaching on Jesus' divinity and humanity and crafted his most important work "On the Trinity," demonstrating the Biblical basis for this belief. After a brief exile imposed by the Emperor Constantius II, Hilary was able to return to his diocese at Poitier where he died in 367. He was regarded a saint by the church and in 1851 formally declared a Doctor of the Church. His feast day is celebrated on January 13.



Altar Server Training

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
(ServerLead-er@StMarySimsbury.org).



High School Peer Ministers: Have you considered being a Peer Minister? New members welcome, must be a junior or senior in high school. Contact Steve for more information.

Marriage Celebration: 02/13 @ 9:30

Mass: Please plan to join us to renew your wedding vows. All anniversaries are important to celebrate.

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.

St. Mary's Women's Guild Become a member by sending your contact information to stmarywomensguild@gmail.com. Consider joining in our Women's Retreat, March 11-13, 2022. More details to follow.



Grades K-6: Faith Formation Sessions will meet on 01/09.

Diaper Drive - 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 this Sunday, 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 for class in January.

January 23rd Mandatory Meeting: All students must attend the Human Trafficking presentation on January 23rd, in the Church, from 6:00-7:30pm.

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. 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

Open House!:

Sunday, January 30th 1:00 - 3:30 pm
Now enrolling for Full Day Prek4 thru 8th grade for the 2022-2023 school year! Meet faculty and staff, visit classrooms & learn more about how our students are creating, collaborating and climbing to new heights!
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