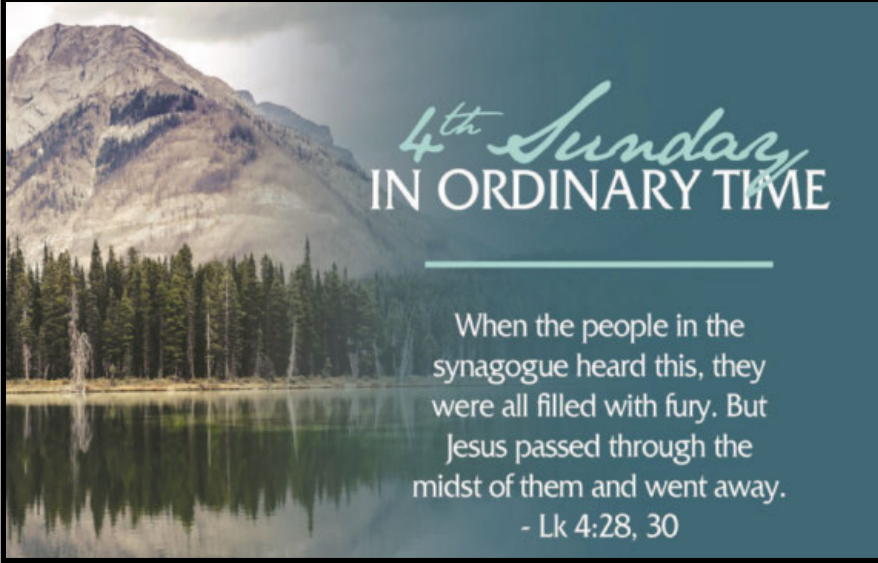


January 30, 2022
St. Mary's Parish & School



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 29 † Norma Austin By: Pat & Diane Albergo
Sunday 8:00 AM	January 30 † Peter Brown
9:30 AM	† David & Grace Comeau By: Their Family
11:00 AM	People of St. Mary's
Monday 8:00 AM	January 31 † Phyllis Bellotti By: Kristin Potter
Tuesday 8:00 AM 9:00 AM	February 1 School Mass
Wednesday 8:00 AM	February 2
Thursday 8:00 AM	February 3
Saturday 5:00 PM	February 5 People of St. Mary's
Sunday 8:00 AM	February 6 † Arthur Viens
9:30 AM	† Deceased Members of Troop 175
11:00 AM	† Janet Barnes By : People of St. Mary's

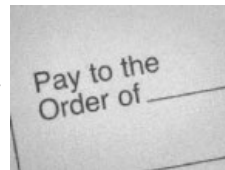


Pray for the Sick: Please pray for the following parishioners/loved ones who are sick - Abby Harris & Family, Maria O'Donnell, Richard Valence & Jeremy Muinde-Pires.

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

The Mass Book for 2022
Please call the Parish Office to schedule a Mass. Dates are filling up, so if you have special date in mind, please give us a call so we can accommodate your request. The recommended offerings are \$10.00 for a weekday Mass and \$25.00 for a weekend Mass.

Checks Payable To: A gentle reminder that all collection checks should be made payable to St. Mary's Church. Thank you for your continuous support.



Inclement Weather: In the event that schools are closed or delayed due to inclement weather, mass will be **livestreamed only**. Our office and church will be closed. Sunday Mass will continue as scheduled but please use your best judgement when venturing out.

Blessing of the Throats: February 3rd is the Feast Day of St. Blaise. At the end of the 8 AM Mass parishioners are invited to participate in the Blessing of the Throats.



Prayer Shawls: Prayer Shawls are available from the Parish Office. If you know someone who would benefit from a shawl from our parish, please stop by. We are also looking for people who knit. This can be done from your home. We supply the yarn and you supply the talent. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

Catholic High School Collection

WE ARE GRATEFUL! Catholic high school students in the Archdiocese of Hartford send their deepest gratitude and thanks to all who participated in the 2022 Catholic High School Collection. Your support will further enhance the outstanding educational experience our secondary schools offer and help students prepare for leadership roles



Scouting Sunday: Calling all Scouts, including Cub Scouts, Brownies, Girls Scouts and Scouts. Please plan to join us and wear your uniform on Sunday, February 6th at the 9:30 Mass. Our Scouts will be helping in many aspects of the Mass.

Diaper Drive: Thank you to all Faith Formation families, St. Mary School families, St. Mary's Parishioners and families from our surrounding community who donated diapers for our Second Annual Diaper Drive. Also, a special thank you to Kathleen Miklus, the Perera family and Fitzgerald's Foods for your support in getting the word out there and sorting and counting the diapers. The diapers will be distributed to Gifts of Love and Mercy Housing.

Lenten Series with Father Matera (3/3, 3/10, 3/24, 3/31)

How do we meet God in our lives? How is God revealed to us? In this four-part Lenten series Father Matera discusses how Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, and St. Paul encountered the elusive presence we call "God," and how their experience helps us to meet God in our lives this Lenten series. We will meet in the church at 7:00 PM. Each night will be Livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person.

From the Pastor's Desk...

This week our Church celebrates Catholic Schools' Week. This is an opportunity for us to celebrate the great treasure that Catholic School education is for us, historically, and now in this present time. As a beneficiary of Catholic Schools myself from the 5th grade on, I am well aware personally of the value of Catholic Schools. The challenging and stimulating academic expectations and the religious and spiritual formation I received was foundational to my current success in life, and I'm sure was instrumental in my discovering my vocation, my call to priesthood. I don't think it is an exaggeration to say that had I not attended Catholic School, someone else would be writing this column to you right now!

Here at St. Mary's we are so privileged to have a vibrant Catholic School as part of our parish ministry. I wish to thank all of you, our parishioners, for making this possible by your faithful support of our school through your financial contributions, your participation in our various social outreach and fundraising opportunities, and most importantly for entrusting your daughters and sons, your granddaughters and grandsons to us for their education. St. Mary's School offers a top-rate academic education that rivals that of private academies. Our students score from one and a half to two grade levels ahead of their actual grade level in standardized testing. Because of this we have been named a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education.

The academic excellence we achieve through our dedicated teachers and challenging curriculum are just a part of what we have to offer. In an age when many values that are counter to our Catholic faith are part and parcel of the curricula offered in other schools, Catholic Schools provide our children with a firm foundation in the beliefs and practices of our Catholic faith. With religion classes built into the curriculum, and faith values permeating the whole of our students' experience here, our young people learn the teachings and traditions of the Catholic faith, begin and end their day in prayer, and learn how to live the example Jesus gave us in their interactions with others. Each day as we recite our St. Mary's School Pledge, our students promise to "live my life knowing that God surrounds me and all those I meet. I will be kind and respectful to others by treating everyone the way I want to be treated and I will help those in need. I will study hard and continue to learn all my life." St. Mary's students participate in student Masses every month, in which they proclaim the Scriptures and lead the singing, and they lead morning prayer each morning, giving them confidence with public speaking in front of their peers and other adults. They prepare to receive the Sacraments and participate in outreach projects that benefit the poor in our community. By doing these things they learn not only *about* their Catholic faith, but how to *live out* that faith in their daily lives.

If you have children who are eligible to be enrolled at St. Mary's School (Grades Pre-K -8), check out what we offer! There is an Open House this weekend, or a tour can be arranged at any time. A St. Mary's School education is surprisingly affordable and priceless in value and tuition assistance is available for those who may need it. Let's celebrate the beautiful gem we have in St. Mary's School this Catholic School's Week, and continue to support the mission of Catholic School Education for decades to come!

~ Father Stephen

Saint of the Week

St. Blaise



Very little is known about St. Blaise, other than he was a bishop of the early Fourth century in Sebaste, Armenia. It is believed that a young boy with a fish bone caught in his throat was rushed by his mother to Bishop Blaise for help. Blaise lit two candles, held them in the form of a cross under the child's chin, recited prayers and blessed the boy. The fish bone was miraculously dislodged and removed. Because of this, the Church maintains a blessing of throats on his feast day to the present time.

Persecuted for the faith, Blaise was forced to flee to the back country to avoid being arrested. A group of hunters stumbled upon him and were surprised to see him kneeling serenely in prayer surrounded by patiently waiting wolves, lions and bears. The hunters hauled Blaise off to prison. The local Roman governor tried to persuade Blaise to sacrifice to pagan idols but he refused and was tortured. When asked again to act against his Christian faith, he again refused and was beheaded around the year 316. He is patron of wool combers and those suffering ailments of the throat. His feast day is February 3rd.

Mercy Shelter (2/6): We will be collecting fruits and desserts Sunday 2/6. Items should be dropped off in the Magowan Center between 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Thank you for your support.

Bible Study With Deacon Art (2/9):

Join us on 2/09 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom. Email Deacon-artmiller@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Marriage Celebration (2/13): Please plan to join us at the 9:30 AM Mass to renew your wedding vows. All anniversaries are important to celebrate.

Women's Guild Book Club:

We will be kicking off a 7 week book club on February 1st; *Walk in Her Sandals: Experiencing Christ's Passion through the Eyes of Women* by Kelly M. Walquist. We will offer Tuesdays at 7:00 pm via Zoom and Wednesdays at 8:45 am in person. Please email us if you're interested @ stmary-womensguild@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.



Steubenville East Conference: Calling all High School students:

Are you interested in attending the Steubenville East Conference this summer? It has been a couple of summers since we have been able to go, but this summer is looking more likely. Go to the Youth Ministry webpage to watch the promo video. If you are interested please contact Steve DiMotta.

High School Students: Have you considered being a Peer Minister?

New members welcome, must be a junior or senior in high school. Contact Steve for more information.

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



Grades K-6: Regular class schedule 1/30 and 2/6.

Grades 7-8: Jr High will meet on 2/6 from 6:00 - 7:30. 7th grade: If Jesus Was Jewish, Why Are We Catholic? 8th grade: Scavenger Hunt.

Jr High will meet on 2/13 from 6:00 - 7:30. Teachers will be presenting Child Lures and we will have Question and Answers with Father Stephen.

Grades 9-10: On 2/6, the website registration will open to schedule your class for the month of February.

Teaching Mass: On Sunday 3/13, we will have a Teaching Mass with Fr. Stephen. All confirmation students should plan on attending from 6:00-7:30pm.

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! Scan the QR code and register today! (Snow date: 2/6)



Catholic School Week Faith. Excellence. Service. As we kick off Catholic Schools Week we are so grateful for St. Mary's Church staff and parishioners! Your continuing partnership and support is greatly appreciated. Thank you for all you do to help us with our continuing success!



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