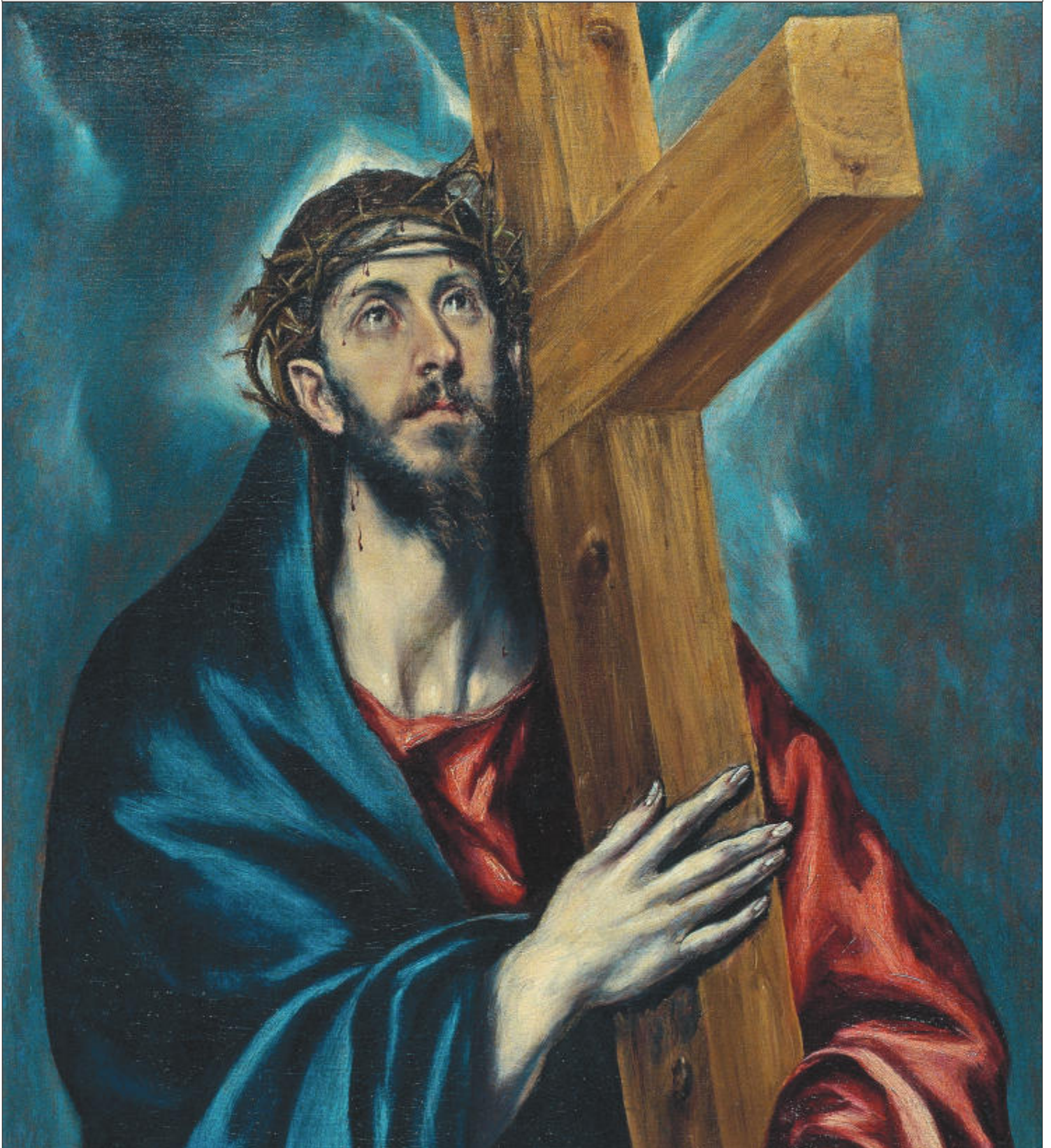




St. Thomas More Church

374 Middlesex Road • Darien, Connecticut • 06820

(203) 655-3303



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

9:00AM to 1:00PM Friday

Parish FAX655-6478
Religious Education & Happiness Preschool FAX.....655-8901
Parish E-mail**office@stmdarienct.org**
Parish Media (Website/Bulletin) .. **STMDarienNEWS@aol.com**

Cover: **Christ Carrying the Cross** by El Greco (1590)

ST. THOMAS MORE

Family Photo Days

SATURDAY, SEPT. 25TH WEED BEACH

SUNDAY, SEPT. 26TH TILLEY POND

Register at: stmdarienct.org/familyphoto

10 MINUTE FAMILY MINI SESSIONS

\$50 SITTING FEE

(TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO STM)

Digital Image Prices:

\$40 for one image

\$100 for four images

\$200 for the Gallery



A PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE AND HOPE



Heavenly Father, we remember before you this weekend those whose lives were lost in the catastrophic events of September 11, 2001, and for all those whom we love but no

longer see. We give thanks to you for the selfless courage of those brave souls who ran into burning buildings and who labored in the rubble; may their courage be to us a witness of what is possible when we are guided by love and dedication to our fellow human beings.

We pray today for the continued healing of all those suffering emotional and physical scars. May your spirit breathe new breath into clouded lungs, new life into troubled minds, and new warmth into broken hearts, so that all may feel wrapped in your loving embrace. May we move from suffering to hope, from brokenness to wholeness, from anxiety to courage, from death to life, from fear to love, and from despair to hope.

Guide our feet and inspire us with hope in the way of peace. May we receive this gift, so that we might become instruments of your peace in this world, knowing all people as equally loved, lovingly created, children of God.

Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 11

9:00 AM	Eileen Pomponi	Meghan Lynch
4:30 PM	Jonathan Connors	Rosey Costello

Sunday, September 12

Mass Online at 7:30AM

7:30 AM	Pete Barnes	Rosey Costello
8:45 AM	Vincent & Hedwig Jagodzinski	Jim & Hope Jagodzinski
10:00 AM	Joseph Chudy & Joseph, Jr.	Jo Mitchell
11:30 AM	Mary Catherine & Jim Malone	Their Family
5:15 PM	The People of the Parish	

Monday, September 13

9:00 AM	George Sheridan	Betty & Sean Queally
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Tuesday, September 14

9:00 AM	Steve Lauten	The Fitzpatrick Family
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Wednesday, September 15

9:00 AM	Anna MacKenzie	Lina Donoso & family
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Thursday, September 16

9:00 AM	Brian Giesen	The Desautelle Family
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Friday, September 17

9:00 AM	Philip Napolitano	Nikki Mitchell & Betsy Reilly
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Saturday, September 18

9:00 AM	Alexander Baldwin, Jr	Jim & Hope Jagodzinski
4:30 PM	John E. Chudy & son	Jo Mitchell

Sunday, September 19

Mass Online at 7:30AM

7:30 AM	The People of the Parish	
8:45 AM	Gertrude Dearie Frekko	The Schau Family
10:00 AM	Patricia Rangel de Arellano	Christa McNamara
11:30 AM	Barbara Silberstack	Barbara Coveny Harkins
5:15 PM	Jane Dore Powers	The Lattimer Family

With the full return to Worship, we are pleased to share that we have weekend and weekday times available for Mass Intentions over the summer months, and for the remainder of 2021.

To request a Mass Intention for the faithful departed, please contact Gigi Williams in the Parish Office at: (203) 655-3303 or office@stmdarienct.org.

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory

Contributions for September 5	Actual	Budget	Variance
Weekly Offertory	\$16,058	\$17,500	-\$1,442
Month-to-Date Offertory	\$16,058	\$17,500	-\$1,442
FY-to-Date Offertory	\$163,264	\$158,500	\$4,764

DONUT DAYS ARE BACK!



Please join us this Sunday after the 10:00AM Family Mass, to enjoy donuts & coffee and socialize with fellow parishioners. Donut Days will be hosted on every second Sunday of the month.

NEW DAY BEREAVEMENT BEGINS OCT 6



Why is it so unbearable for us when that dear one dies! Is there any way to cope and learn to feel that life can be good again...peaceful, joyful? "New Day" provides the necessary steps we all have to take so we can once again reach that time we need in our life. If you are bereaved because of the loss of a loved one, you need to give yourself some time to work through the natural process of grieving. "New Day" is a program in which you can deal with this pain in a confidential atmosphere of care and understanding.

Some of the topics that are addressed in the program include:

- Understanding the aspects of your loss
- Taking the necessary steps to adapt to your loss
- The journey from sadness to peace and joy
- Creating cherishable memories
- The spiritual journey of grief

Created by Maureen O'Brien O.P., St. Thomas More Church has offered this nine-week program in the spring and fall, regularly since the mid-1990s. It is offered to our parishioners and to all faiths in Darien and our neighboring communities. "New Day" is appropriate for individuals dealing with the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, relative, colleague or beloved friend. Certified and trained thanatology facilitators will conduct the seminar. They are not counselors; rather they are people who have also experienced grief in their lives and are able to move with the group through the tasks of grief. The program is totally confidential, and the privacy of all are protected.

This fall, we begin our Wednesday 7:30PM meetings on October 6 through December 1 in the Rectory Annex, learning how to manage the challenges of complete, successful mourning. Trained bereavement counselors, with you and others, will work out these important steps. There is no cost for this program, however, registration is required. For information on how to join the seminar and the particulars of the program, please call Lillian Toll at 966-9367 or the Parish Office at 655-3303.

ST. THOMAS MORE RCIA UPDATE

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which non-Catholic adults become fully initiated into the Catholic Church. The RCIA serves the unbaptized and those baptized in another Christian tradition, as well as baptized Catholics who have not received the sacraments of the Eucharist or Confirmation. Those interested in learning more about the RCIA program should contact the Parish Office and Jim Davis (via email at davis.jim1957@gmail.com).

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Join us in the Rectory Annex beginning Tuesday, September 14 from 9:30AM to 11:00AM for a study of the book of Psalms. Meeting dates to follow are September 21 and 28; October 5, 12, 19 & 26; November 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 and December 7, 14 & 21. Meetings are led by Maryann Knag, MAT, MAR, a trained catholic Bible scholar who teaches under the Magisterium. For questions and more info, contact Maryann at (203) 213-4809 or mmknag@aol.com. We look forward to seeing you and sharing the Word with you. Visit stmdarienct.org/bible for more information and a Zoom link remote option.

WALKING WITH PURPOSE

Are you stretched and would like a way to refuel and be refreshed while making authentic connections with others? Would you like to have a better understanding of your faith and learn more about God? Walking with Purpose is a woman's Catholic Bible study that aims to bring women to a deeper, more personal relationship with Christ by offering personal study and small group discussions that link our everyday challenges with solutions given to us through the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church.

Do you desire lasting and abiding friendships? Do you want to move beyond the past hurts of relationships gone wrong? **Reclaiming Friendship: God's Plan for Deep Connection** was written for any woman who wants a true and deep connection that lasts. Explore what it takes to stay close for the long haul, what to look for in a friend, and how to navigate toxic relationships. There is a way to protect your heart without closing yourself off from future intimacy. The key is found in discovering God's plan for friendship, which was meant to be a foretaste of Heaven.

In a world plagued by loneliness, you are invited to encounter God personally through Scripture. Let God reshape how you see and experience intentional relationships, deal with your past friendship wounds, and become a woman who is capable of the lifelong bond of true friendship.

Reclaiming Friendship, our six-lesson Bible study, is ideal if you:

- Are lonely and desire lasting friendships
- Need to know and understand what it means that God created each of us in His image
- Crave an authentic community, the kind in which we experience His joy and goodness

Visit stmdarienct.org/wwp to register, view our syllabus and obtain a study guide. If you have any questions, email Carmela Alberga: carmela.alberga@gmail.com. Sessions are on Thursday mornings and evenings September 30 through November 18.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES NEEDED

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

The EMHC is a lay member of the faithful who has been appointed to help distribute Holy Communion when a sufficient number of ordinary ministers (clergy) are not present, available or when the celebrant has determined that pastoral need requires their help based on the size of congregation celebrating Mass. Parishioners are commissioned to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion after completing the mandated diocesan training.

Liturgy of the Word: Readers

When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in His word, proclaims the Gospel. The one who serves as a reader in Liturgy of the Word during Mass is the person designated to proclaim Sacred Scripture (with the exception of the Gospel). This person would also proclaim the psalm response (in the absence of a cantor), and the Universal Prayer or, as it is commonly known, the Prayer of the Faithful (in the absence of a deacon). Parishioners are trained and commissioned to serve as readers at Mass.

Please contact the Parish Office (office@stmdarienct.org) or Anne and Jim Davis (stmlectorem@gmail.com) for more information and to sign up for these vital ministries.

HAPPINESS PRESCHOOL

AFTERNOON 2^S PROGRAM



Saint Thomas More Happiness Preschool
is now offering an afternoon drop off
2s program

Please contact the Director, Maria Hillman
at stmhappyschool@aol.com
or call (203)655-6053 for more information.



- 3-day program on
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and
Thursdays
- 12 noon to 2:45pm
- Beginning September 2021

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Lourdes in a Day



All, especially the sick, handicapped and frail are welcome to join us for Washing in the Water of Lourdes, Mass, Sacrament of the Sick, Confessions, Adoration, Benediction and the Rosary. Talks for the Malades and the Caregivers we will delivered along with a complimentary lunch. Saturday, September 18, 2021 from 9:30AM to 3:00PM at St. Peter Claver Church, 47 Pleasant Street in West Hartford. Contact Mark Sullivan at 860-523-1405 or slvnchrth@gmail.com for questions and to make a reservation.

Save the date for Diocesan Blue Mass - September 19

The Annual Diocesan Blue Mass honoring fire, police and rescue workers will be held on Sunday, September 19, 10:30AM at St. Catherine Church, Riverside. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will be the main celebrant along with diocesan priests who serve as police and fire chaplains in Fairfield County.

Wedding Anniversaries in our Diocese

All those celebrating 25 years of marriage to 50+ years of marriage are invited to gather at St. Matthew's Parish on Saturday, September 25, 2021 at either 10:30AM or 1:00PM for a Mass celebrated by Bishop Caggiano. Register at: formationreimagined.org/event/celebrating-wedding-anniversaries.

Malta House Golf Marathon



Please join us from sunup to sundown on September 27 at Innis Arden Golf Club and play as many holes as you can! For non-golfers, there will also be a miniature golf "mini-thon" at Norwalk Cove Marina, so there is something for everyone!

For more information or to RSVP, please email Kathleen Rowland at krowland@maltahouse.org by September 17 or call (203) 857-0088.

2021 AETNA GOLF CLASSIC

An event to benefit Catholic Charities of Fairfield County

The Patterson Club
1118 Cross Highway | Fairfield, Ct 06824

September 20, 2021
Event Co-Chairs: Bill Tommami and Jon Vaccarella

ENJOY A COMPLETE PROGRAM OF SPECIAL EVENTS

- 18 holes of golf, including cart, format (best ball)
- One caddy per foursome
- Food throughout the day with open bar - top shelf liquor
- Hand-rolled cigars
- Putting competition on the practice green
- On course contests include: Putting Contest, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, & Hole-in-One

Register to become a sponsor at: www.ccfairfield.org/event/golfclassic/
or contact Amy Zajac: (203) 416-1336 • azajac@ccfc-ct.org

Seeking After School Program Director

St. Aloysius is looking to hire an After School Program Director. The daily program runs from 2:30PM-5:30PM in the school building and will include a snack, homework assistance and recreation time. Please see details below and contact our Principal, Mr. Michael Marasco (mmarasco@sasncct.org) if you are interested.

- 2:00PM to 6:00PM everyday school day (except half days)
- Practicing Catholic
- Organized, responsible, and flexible
- 18 years of age or older
- Would need to do Virtus Training and Livescan

NEW CONSTRUCTION

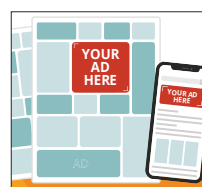


Pardon our appearance over at the St. Thomas More Education Center. Concrete footings have been poured for our ramp entrance.

Further improvements will feature:

- A handicap ramp with a wider landing
- New railings and rebuilt stairs are being constructed
- New entrance doors, with handicap accessible push-button electronic door openers
- Additional exterior lighting will be added for better visibility and safety around the entrance

CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING



Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Robin Ungaro from LPI, our bulletin printer, is working to secure new ads for our church. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and website.

Contact Robin at 203-747-5671 or rungaro@4lpi.com.

2021/2022 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IMPORTANT DATES

Classes Begin **September 19**

Religious Education Office Hours

Monday to Thursday - 9:00AM to 5:00PM

**Nikki Mitchell, Director of Religious Education &
Coordinator, Grades 1-6**

stmreled@gmail.com or 203-655-3077

Lisa Schofield, Confirmation Coordinator, Grades 7 & 8
msc@stmdarienct.org or 203-655-6295

Paul Brunner, Youth Minister, Grades 9-12
yg@stmdarienct.org

Betsy Reilly, Assistant Grades 1-8
readmin6-9@stmdarienct.org or 203-655-6295

Program Options

- Classroom Based "Traditional" Instruction - Grades 1 to 8
- Home Based Learning - Available to non-sacramental preparation years only (grades 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Tuition Assistance

If you believe that you will need tuition assistance or a payment plan please complete the form found on our website now prior to registration, or contact the office with any questions.

Please refer to our website for registration forms:

stmdarienct.org/registration

Registration ended September 9

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord God, Creator of body and mind and heart; you have sent the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge to guide your people in all their ways.

At the beginning of this new school year, in this time of uncertainty and anxiety, we implore your mercy.

Bless and protect our students, teachers, staffs, their families, and especially our teachers, staff and administrators. Give wisdom to the decision makers, be they in our schools or in our homes.

Expand the horizons of our minds, and deepen our commitment to seek the truth of your ways. Enliven our faith to reach out to those in need, particularly those isolated and lonely.

In these days when so much has changed, help us to trust in the love of your Son Jesus, our Divine Teacher, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Amen.

BECOMING A CATECHIST

Please consider becoming a catechist - here are some of the details and our specific needs:

- One-hour/week
- 24 weeks/year
- Small class size - 10/class
- All materials provided

1st Grade

Monday 4:15-5:15 - 1 catechist needed

2nd Grade

Sunday 8:45-9:45 - 1 catechist needed

Monday 4:15-5:15 - 1 catechist needed

Wednesday 4:15-5:15 - 2 catechists needed

Thursday 4:15-5:15 - 1 catechist needed

3rd Grade

Wednesday 4:15-5:15 - 1 catechist needed

4th Grade

Wednesday 4:15-5:15 - 1 catechist needed

5th Grade

Monday 4:15-5:15 - 1 catechist needed

Thursday 4:15-5:15 - 1 catechist needed

6th Grade

Thursday 4:15-5:15 - 1 catechist needed

7th Grade

Tuesday 6:30-7:30 - 2 catechists needed

8th Grade

Monday 6:00-7:00 - 2 catechists needed

As a reminder all catechists with enrolled children qualify for a \$200 reduction on tuition - please contact the office for further information and to register as a Catechist!

CATECHIST AIDES NEEDED FOR 2021-22

High School Students Volunteer Opportunity

Each year we welcome approximately 20 High School young men and women as Catechist Aides in our Religious Education department. It is a wonderful, spiritual and fulfilling endeavor. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Betsy Reilly in the Faith Formation office: 203-655-3077 or **stmre7-8@stmdarienct.org**. You can select a time and day which best suits your schedule!

YOUTH GROUP NEWS



High Schoolers are invited to grow in faith and serve others in need. Join fellow teens at Mass and Meetings on Sundays.

Visit **stmdarienct.org/youthgroup** to register. If you have any questions, contact Paul Brunner at **yg@stmdarienct.org**.

WILLIAM J.
FESSLER, DDS



William J. Fessler D.D.S.
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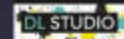
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