

Saint Mary Parish

April 12, 2026

Divine Mercy Sunday



26 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel, CT 06801

Phone: (203)744-5777

Website: www.stmarybethel.org Email:
rectoryoffice@stmarybethel.org

Visit us on Facebook: [StMaryChurchBethel](https://www.facebook.com/StMaryChurchBethel)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

9am –1:30 pm, Mon. – Fri.

(Closed Weekends and Holidays)

STAFF Father Corey V. Piccinino, *Pastor*
Father Andrew LaFleur, *Parochial Vicar*
Father Milan Dimic, *Resident*
Deacon John DeRoin
Deacon Eric Keener
Kate Fitzgerald, *Bulletin Editor*
Carolyn Schlichtig, *Parish Secretary*
Maggie Kent, *Office Manager*
Debbie Burke, *Business Manager*
Alex LaFleur, *Property Manager*

ST. MARY SCHOOL (744-2922)

Jason Ford, *Principal*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (743-4557)

Mary Ferri, *Director*

Maggie Kent, *Secretary*

OCIA (203)744-5777 Call if you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing your initiation as a Catholic with Confirmation and/or Eucharist.

UNITED YOUTH MINISTRY Renzo Ortega (203) 240-8059

MUSIC MINISTRY Michael Ferrari, *Music & Choir Director*

FINANCE COMMITTEE (733-7335) Bob Kozlowski, *Chair*

CEMETERY DIRECTOR: Bob DiMatteo (203)744-5777

BAPTISMS: Sundays at 12:15pm (excluding the 1st Sunday of each month). Please call the Rectory at least six weeks in advance to schedule your Baptism and to sign up for the Baptism Class that is required for both parents and Godparents. These classes are offered on the first Sunday of each month. Anyone requesting a Sponsorship form must be a currently registered and practicing Catholic, and they must attend one of the Baptism Classes to receive it. There is a 3-month waiting period for a sponsorship form for the newly registered. **The Catholic requirements for a Godparent/Sponsor are:** you must be at least 16 years old; received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation in the Catholic Church; attend Mass regularly on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation; receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion regularly; sincerely try to follow the moral teaching of the Catholic Church; and if married, were married in the Catholic Church.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARRIAGE: All couples must meet with a parish clergyman at least six (6) months before the marriage is to be celebrated.

PASTORAL CARE AT DANBURY HOSPITAL: Prior to your hospitalization, you or a family member should notify the Catholic chaplain at the Hospital.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK: To any of those who are homebound or hospitalized and interested in having a visit by a priest, or are interested in serving in this ministry, please call the Parish Office at 744-5777.

PRAYER LINE: If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please call our Prayer Line. Our team leader is Maggie Kent (203-731-4738).

SEXUAL ABUSE HOTLINE: ONLINE: www.lighthouse-services.com/diobpt. TOLL FREE TELEPHONE: English speaking USA and Canada: 833-990-0004; Spanish speaking USA and Canada: 800-216-1288 E-MAIL: reports@lighthouse-services.com (must include company name with report). When contacting the hotline, an individual may or may not choose to identify him or herself.

FATHER COREY'S EPISTLE

JESUS ROSE... BUT WHERE WAS HE IN THOSE FIRST MOMENTS?

We celebrate Easter, but the question many wonder is: When Jesus rose, where was He? Was He already in heaven? Was He walking among His disciples? Why did only some see Him first?

1. JESUS ROSE WITH A GLORIFIED BODY

The Resurrection was not just returning to life, it was transforming death into glory. His body became imperishable, spiritual yet real (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).

In those first moments: He was fully alive, but not bound by normal space and time.

He could appear or vanish at will.

The tomb was empty, yet He had not yet revealed Himself to everyone

2. HE HAD NOT ASCENDED, HE WAS STILL WITH THE EARTH

The Ascension (Acts 1:9) came 40 days after Easter. This means that in those first hours and days, Jesus was on earth, glorified, but hidden. Only Mary Magdalene and a few faithful first saw Him (John 20:14-16)

His appearances were purposeful, revealing Himself to those He chose to strengthen faith and prepare for the mission of evangelization.

3. HE WALKED IN THE TENSION BETWEEN DEATH AND GLORY

Those first moments were a bridge between the tomb and heaven.

The world saw empty linens, the grave silent, the

stone rolled away.

But only faith could recognize Him alive.

The Resurrection was not immediate proof for all, God invited belief and witness.

4. WHY ONLY SOME SAW HIM

God did not need to show Himself to everyone at once. The first witnesses, women and disciples, became the first evangelists, carrying the message of life and hope. This teaches us:

Faith often begins in private, hidden encounters.

God chooses timing and audience.

The resurrection is personal before it is public.

5. WHAT THIS TEACHES US TODAY

Even though He was glorified, Jesus' first appearances were measured. This is how God works:

He triumphs quietly at first.

He prepares hearts before revealing the fullness of glory.

He shows that resurrection is not chaos, but ordered, intentional, and transformative.

SO WHERE WAS JESUS?

Not yet in heaven

Walking the earth in a glorified, immortal body

Revealing Himself only to those He called

The empty tomb, the folded linens, the hidden appearances, all testify: the victory over death had already happened, but revelation is gradual.



St. Mary Church
26 Dodgingtown Road
Bethel, CT 06801

We Stand with Christ Phase II

I/We pledge/gift \$1,000.00

I/We pledge/gift \$500.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ ☐ Please send me monthly reminders

☐ Over Ten Months

☐ One Time

☐ Over Ten Months

☐ One Time

Please make check payable to St. Mary Church. Pledge/gift can also be given online at stmarybethel.org/giving. If you don't already have one, follow the prompts to create an account.



Mass Intentions

SAT., APRIL 11

4:30 St. Mary Parish

SUN., APRIL 12

7:00 + Edward Schrak — Family

8:30 + Michael Shanley — Mom & Dad

11:00 + Madeline & Patrick Maccarone — Andrew D'Ambrosio

+ Frank Maugeri — Marie Broccoli

+ Michael Pascuzzi — Fr. Corey Piccinino

+ Arlene Lathrop — The McCabe Family

+ Margitta Savo — The McCabe Family

MON., APRIL 13

9:00 + Rose Mary Infantino — Robert Infantino

TUES., APRIL 14

9:00 + Greg Wilmott — Mom

WED., APRIL 15

9:00 + Sandra Durkin Ballard — Madeline Boughton

THURS., APRIL 16

9:00 + James Michael Leahy — Ellen McShane

FRI., APRIL 17

9:00 + Eleanor & Frank Carter — Gina Ippolito

SAT., APRIL 18

9:00 + Rudolph Luechinger — Susan & David Mallonee

4:30 + Leica Garcia — The Mulligan Family

SUN., APRIL 19

7:00 For the Parish

8:30 + Eleanora Mallonee — Susan & David Mallonee

11:00 + Karen Wallace — The Ruhl Family

**Mass Schedule**Monday-Friday

9:00am

Saturday

9:00am & 4:30pm (Vigil Mass)

Sunday

7:00am, 8:30am, & 11:00am

Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:00-4:00pm

WEEK AT A GLANCE**Sunday, April 12**

12:15pm Baptism

2:30pm Men's Cursillo

3:00pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour

6:00pm United Youth

Monday, April 13

8:20am Rosary

7:00pm Knights of Columbus

Tuesday, April 14

8:20am Rosary

9:30am Women of Faith

7:00pm Women of Faith

Wednesday, April 15

8:20am Rosary

Thursday, April 16

8:20am Rosary

6:30pm Bible Study

Friday, April 17

8:20am Rosary

Saturday, April 18

8:20am Rosary

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Adoration

Sunday, April 19

12:15pm Baptism

9:30am Faith Formation Classes

2:30pm Men's Cursillo

6:00pm United Youth

Pray for the Sick

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please call our PRAYER LINE.



Our team leader is Maggie Kent (203-731-4738). If you would like to join our group, send a "Request to Join Prayer Chain" email to Maggie at kentmaggie@sbcglobal.net. Your name will be added to the email chain. Thank you!



**Every Saturday
between 3:00pm
& 4:00pm in the**

EUCCHARISTIC
Adoration

AROUND THE PARISH

The **ST. MARY MEN'S MINISTRY** group meets on Saturdays from 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM in Father McGivney Hall, followed by the 9:00 AM Saturday Mass. For more information, Deacon Eric Keener at dnkeener@diobpt.org.

ST. MARY BOOK GROUP welcomes all adults! "Spiritual reading has made many saints" (St. Josemaria Escriva). We are taking a different approach this time: readers can choose the book...as long as it's about St. Gemma Galgani! You can purchase books online from Catholic booksellers like tanbooks.com and catholiccompany.com; or read about her for free online at us.archive.org. There also is a website stgemmaalgani.com devoted to this Saint. We will meet on Wednesday May 6 at 7 pm in the Quiet Room.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP provides a prayerful experience of mutual support and comfort for those who are confronting the loss of a loved one. Our upcoming zoom meeting is on **May 2**. If you wish to attend, please call the parish office at 744-5777 and ask that a group facilitator call you with more information.

The **St. Mary YOUTH CHOIR** rehearses every Wednesday from 5-6pm in the Parish Hall. For more info, contact Leanna Hinger at youth-choir.st.mary@gmail.com. The **St. Mary ADULT CHOIR** practices in the Parish Hall on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9pm. If you are interested in being part of our Parish Choir, please call the Parish Office.

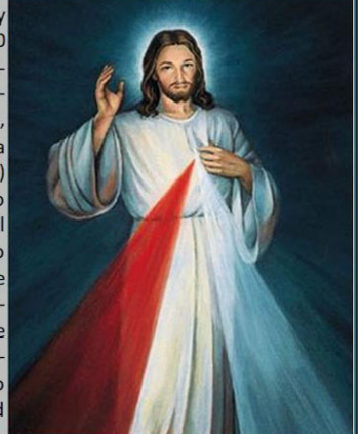
The **YOUNG ADULT** group (ages 21-35) meets every 3rd Thursday of the month with Adoration and a social afterward. Look them up on Instagram at [avamaria1882](https://www.instagram.com/avamaria1882).

If you would like to dedicate **ALTAR FLOWERS** in memory of a loved one at weekend Masses, call the Parish Office at (203)744-5777. Donation would be \$150 and your loved one's name will appear in the bulletin. If you would like the **SANCTUARY CANDLE** to be lit for your departed loved one, we shall publish your loved one's name in the bulletin and the priest, while in the sacristy, will pray for the repose of their soul for 7 days. The stipend is \$10. Call the office to make arrangements.

Are you a Catholic man seeking a closer relationship with Christ? If so, prayerfully consider attending a **3-DAY RETREAT AT GRAYMOOR IN GARRISON, NY**, April 16-19, 2026. Many St. Mary Parish men have already attended! This fulfilling experience is offered by our Diocese's Cursillo Community. For information, please email Peter Baumgartner at pjbaumgart@yahoo.com or call him at 203-240-1365.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Divine Mercy Sunday was declared by St. Pope John Paul II in the year 2000 to be celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter each year. The celebration is based upon the words of Jesus, who appeared several times to a Polish nun (now declared a saint) named Faustina Kowalska. He spoke to her about His love and mercy for all persons. In several of His messages to St. Faustina, Jesus described His desire for a special day dedicated to His Mercy. Pope Francis is encouraging the faithful to know the face of God's mercy — Jesus Christ Incarnate — and to show that face of mercy to the world through our words and actions.



Jesus I Trust in You

On this day, you may be granted a plenary indulgence* if you:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1
go to confession
 | 2
receive Holy Communion
 | 3
pray for the pope's intentions
 |
|---|--|---|

4
take part in the prayers and devotions held in honour of Divine Mercy in any church or chapel **OR** recite the Our Father, the Creed and a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament

* THE REMISSION OF TEMPORAL PUNISHMENT DUE FOR SINS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN FORGIVEN

Join us on

Sunday, April 12

at 3pm in the Church

for a Holy Hour including Song, Adoration and the Divine Mercy Chaplet



The Bible Timeline

The Story of Salvation

Begins Thursday, April 9 in the
Notre Dame Center at 6:30 pm



St. Mary Faith Formation
24 Dodgingtown Road
Bethel, CT 06801
203-743-4557

All children must attend Mass each week. There, the child must fill out the Mass Attendance slip available in the vestibule of the Church. The child then puts the slip in the in the collection basket.



*This week the **Sanctuary Lamp** will be lit and prayers will be said before each Mass by the priest in memory of Piedad Arboleda — Gladys & Sisters*



St. Mary School

A Catholic School of Academic Excellence for Pre-K to 8th Grade

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR IS NOW OPEN! We are now accepting applications for Pre-K -- Grade 8. Please visit our admissions page at www.stmarybethelct.org to apply. We do anticipate waitlists in many grades so please apply early. If you have any questions, contact Geraldine Henn, Enrollment Director, at admissions@stmarybethelct.org or call 203-744-2922.

St. Mary School, Bethel, CT is looking for individuals interested in substitute teaching this coming school year on an as needed basis (not daily). Qualifications for this position are a background check, VIRTUS training and a Bachelor's degree.



Do you want to grow in your faith? Connect with other women? Explore ways that the wisdom of Scripture can help us cope with the challenges of modern life?

St. Mary Church offers Walking with Purpose, a Bible study for women. With over 600 parishes participating, Walking with Purpose has helped more than 70,000 women deepen their relationship with Christ!

Why not join us this spring at St. Mary's? If you've never participated before, it's easy to jump in! No Bible study experience is necessary, and there's no pressure to attend every meeting.

Morning and evening groups begin on Tuesday, April 7. We meet in the Father McGivney Church Hall.

Evening Group at 7 pm: We are continuing Discovering Our Dignity - A Study of Women of the Bible. Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26, June 2.

Morning Group at 9:30 am: We are following A Study of 2 Timothy - Passionate Discipleship. Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26.

Please register by Tuesday, March 17 to allow enough time for us to order books and assign tables.

TO REGISTER FOR THE MORNING OR EVENING GROUP, Call 203-300-1486 . YOU DO NOT NEED TO ATTEND EVERY SESSION! JUST COME WHEN YOU CAN!

Questions? Contact Caroline LaFleur: Phone: 203-300-1486 or Email: la_fleur@sbcglobal.net We look forward to seeing past participants and meeting new ones!

ST. MARY SCHOOL FAMILY NIGHT OUT

10% TOTAL FOOD PURCHASE GOES TO SMS. MAKE SURE TO MENTION THIS PROMOTION!

DINE IN AND TAKEOUT APRIL 22, 2026
TEXAS ROADHOUSE IN DANBURY

FROM 03:00 PM – 10:00 PM

St. Mary School Carnival, Bethel, CT

SAVE THE DATE: May 13-17, 2026

CROSS ROADS

Monthly Regular Meetings
Community Service Opportunities
Retreats and Other Events

Email StMaryCrossroads@gmail.com to get on
the email list for upcoming event schedule

Middle School Ages

FAITH | COMMUNITY | FUN



STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE

JULY 10-12, 2026

Inviting high schoolers into a
life-changing encounter with Christ!

Registration now
open!

An overnight weekend retreat on
the campus of Franciscan
University in Steubenville, Ohio.

steubenvilleconferences.com/mc3

INFORMATION



Open to teens entering high school in the fall of 2026
through 2026 graduates

Cost: \$300 (for teens belonging to United parishes St. Rose, St. Mary
Bethel, St. Joseph Brookfield) | \$350 (for non-United)

youth@strosechurch.com

St. Pauly Used Clothing Drop Off Shed



Located by the Hall Parking Lot area

- * Please put all clothes in plastic bags no larger than tall kitchen bag size
- * Please tie bags shut
- * Never put in loose clothing
- * No household goods, toys, fabric scraps or pillows



Are you:

- A person who has not been baptized but recognize a need for spirituality in your life and have expressed an interest in learning more about Jesus?
- A Baptized Christian of another denomination who would like to learn about and possibly join the Catholic tradition?
- A Baptized Roman Catholic who has not received the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist and/or Confirmation and would like to become a full participant in the life of the Church?
- Married to a Catholic and attend Mass but just don't know what the next step is to become on of the Catholic faithful

If your answer is yes to any of these questions, come and discover, or re-discover, the truth, wonder and mystery of our Catholic faith! The OCIA program prepares you to be received as members of the Catholic Church.

Our new sessions begin in September and we meet on Sundays in the Notre Dame Center from 12:30-2pm.

If you are interested in participating our learning more about OCIA, call (203)744-5777 or email Deacon Eric Keener at dnkeener@diobpt.org.



Use our online option to contribute to our Parish offertory

Convenient!

Secure and Confidential!

Simple!

Efficient!

Create your account TODAY

Go to: www.osonlinegiving.com/994

or

www.stmarybethel.org and click on the online giving link



Spring Info Session - Wednesday, April 29th @ 6:30PM

Whether you're a current 6th or 7th grader just beginning to explore future high school options or you're having last-minute thoughts about where you'd like to attend next year, our April 29 Spring Info Session is a great place to start. Our spring event offers a meaningful first look at the pillars of an Immaculate education and guidance through the admissions process, along with a great opportunity to meet members of our school community. We can't wait to meet you!

Register today at https://immaculatehs.fsenrollment.com/portal/public_calendars/spring_information_session



New Day Bereavement Program Spring Session Registration Now Open April 21 – June 16 Tuesday evenings 4:30 – 6:00pm

Your loss may be recent or long ago. We are here to help you on your journey to healing where you are invited to share your story, and to find comfort in a supportive, confidential environment.

God will support you in your sorrow, and He will walk with you as you begin your journey through loss to healing.

Meetings take place in a small-group confidential setting at

St. Mary Church
26 Dodgingtown Rd.
Bethel

Meetings are led by trained bereavement facilitators. There is no charge.

St. Mary Church is partnering with the Bereavement initiative of the Fairfield County Catholic Cemeteries to offer this program. Please go to their website to submit a Program Inquiry Form or you can contact Carolyn Killian at 203-404-0023.

www.Thegrief.org

Once the form is submitted, you will hear from one of our bereavement ministers regarding the next steps.

2026 Holy Family Women's Retreat April 17-19

THEMED RETREAT: Pilgrims of Hope



Faith is a journey! Last year, just months before his passing, Pope Francis called for a jubilee year, and he announced the theme would be Pilgrims of Hope.

As "pilgrims of hope," we must be willing to take risks, to make the effort to understand God's call, and to grow in our faith. The pilgrim doesn't travel aimlessly but allows God to be the North Star, leading us to discover that God is at the heart of our journey.

We invite you to join us this year at Holy Family for your annual retreat as we celebrate our 75th anniversary of ministry. Together, as part of God's beloved creation, we can pursue that blessed goal – life with God as beloved companions and pilgrims of hope.

Visit holyfamilyretreat.org/themed-retreats for more info and to register or call us at 860.760.9705. Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center - West Hartford, CT.

For more info call Mary Ferri — 203 743 4557 (Women's Retreat)



FORMED TO SERVE: SUPPORTING OUR DEACONS



For years, **Deacon David Flynn** quietly sensed a call to the diaconate, until a simple question from his sister gave him the confirmation he had long prayed for. Through **five and a half years of formation**, his wife, Anita, and trusted spiritual guides walked with him, teaching that "to preach well, you have to pray."

Deacon Flynn's ministry has deepened his relationship with Christ and strengthened his family's faith. He accompanies **parishioners, OCIA candidates, and all who seek a closer encounter with God**. Formation programs, retreats, spiritual direction, and diocesan resources continue to nourish his vocation, preparing him to serve as a witness of truth, healing, and unity.

The Bishop's Appeal supports the formation and ongoing training of deacons like Deacon Flynn, helping them serve the Church's mission and bringing us together as **One in Christ**.

SUPPORT OUR DEACONS TODAY!
2026BISHOPSAPPEAL.ORG



The Knights of Columbus are a Catholic fraternal service order founded by Blessed Michael McGivney in 1882. We support the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity & Patriotism in the Parishes of St. Mary Bethel, St. Patrick Redding & nearby communities. Charity is the first principle of the Knights of Columbus, and we are Catholic men of charitable action. If you're at least 18 years of age, we invite you to join us. Our meetings are held every second and fourth Monday at 7pm in Father McGivney Hall.

To contact us, call Alan Gambino at (203)910-3733 or Email us at gkofpavia@gmail.com

To watch a video about what we do, use the link or QR code below.

<https://youtu.be/mqkfLnpZwhl>



This Week on Formed

Week of April 12, 2026



Divine Mercy Chaplet | Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

Consider praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in a new way with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. This video on Formed includes breathtaking footage of Catholics across the world performing works of mercy and asking God to have mercy on us.



Pope John Paul II

Starring Jon Voight and Cary Elwes, this epic film follows Karol Wojtyla's journey from his youth in Poland through his late days on the Chair of St. Peter.



Divine Mercy with Fr. Michael Gaitley

Renowned speaker and author Fr. Michael Gaitley tells the dramatic history of God's love and mercy as interwoven through the transformative message of St. Faustina, the miraculous appearance of Mary at Fatima, the witness of Maximilian Kolbe, and the world-changing papacy of Pope St. John Paul II.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.



BROTHERHOOD IN ACTION Thank you for your generous support of the Brotherhood in Action. The generous donations of the people of St. Mary's makes it possible for our organization to exist and be able to give those in our community a sense of hope for happy holidays and year-round. If you wish to continue to help our mission throughout the year, monetary donations may be sent to: Brotherhood in Action, P.O. Box 582, Bethel, CT. 06801. Thank you again for your generosity!!

OFF THE STREETS is an all volunteer organization that assists those in need of housing. For those individuals that demonstrate a willingness to get off the streets, we provide security deposits, furniture and household items. We ask you to consider a donation to Off The Streets so that we can continue to provide money for security deposits. The cost of apartments in our area is excessive and there is a shortage of low cost housing. A security deposit could be the deal breaker for someone seeking shelter. On the first Saturday of every month we collect donations between ten and noon at South Street Self Storage located at 39-A South St in Danbury. You can contact Mike at otsdanburymr@gmail.com with any questions you may have or scan the code for a list of items we can accept.

If you would like to support our work, please send contributions to: Off the Streets, PO Box 591, Bethel CT 06801. or donate online by cut and pasting the link below into your browser <https://gofund.me/baa5b98d>



Offertory for the Weekend of March 28/29, 2026

Collection: \$9,878.00 On-Line Giving: \$3,930.00

Offertory for the Weekend of March 29/30, 2025

Collection: \$8,051.00 On-Line Giving: \$3,489.00

Thank you for your generosity!

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

For priests in crisis Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.



Sun.: Acts 2:42-47 Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 1 Pt 1:3-9 Jn 20:19-31

Mon.: Acts 4:23-31 Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 Jn 3:1-8

Tues.: Acts 4:32-37 Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 Jn 3:7b-15

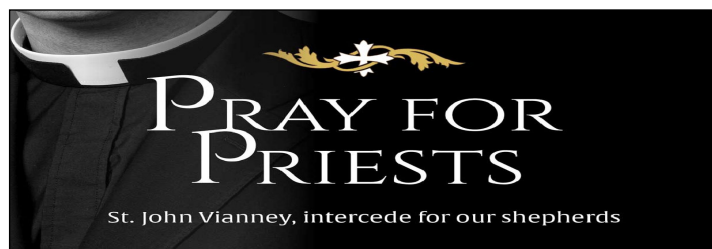
Wed.: Acts 5:17-26 Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Jn 3:16-21

Thu.: Acts 5:27-33 Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 Jn 3:31-36

Fri.: Acts 5:34-42 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Jn 6:1-15

Sat.: Acts 6:1-7 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 Jn 6:16-21

Sun.: Acts 2:14, 22-33 Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 1 Pt 1:17-21 Lk 24:13-35



Diocese of Bridgeport Project Rachel Ministry – Jesus Keeps on Loving You, No Matter What

"As we approach Lent, please allow me to speak to all who carry the unbearable sadness and guilt of an abortion experience. Be assured that Jesus keeps on loving you, no matter what. I pray that God plants a seed of hope in every heart that is overwhelmed by sadness and despair from participation in abortion. This Lent, the Lord's mercy awaits you. Allow Him to heal you and lift your sadness into joy." – Bishop Daniel E. Thomas, Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

The Diocese of Bridgeport's Project Rachel Ministry is here to help you. For confidential assistance or information on upcoming events, please contact Maureen at 203-416-1619 or projectrachel@diobpt.org. There is hope after abortion.

St. Mary Church Community presents...



APRIL 24, 2026

\$20 entry fee covers all regular games
Additional games & food available for purchase
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Games are played from 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.
St. Mary School Gym- 24 Dodgingtown Rd- Bethel



DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Start with the Sign of the Cross.

Optional Opening Prayers: "You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us." (Repeat three times)

.Opening Prayers: Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and the Apostles' Creed.

On the Large Beads (Before each decade): "Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world".

On the 10 Small Beads (The Decade): "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world".

Repeat: Repeat steps 4 and 5 for all five decades.

Closing Prayer (After 5 Decades): "Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world" (Repeat three times).

Optional Closing Prayer: "Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us..."

Final Prayer: "O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You!"

MINISTRIES AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LITURGY

Adult Acolyte Provide adult altar service at funerals and memorial services. Rectory Office (203) 744 - 5777

Altar Server Support the community in the Church's weekly liturgical celebrations. Father Andrew LaFleur FrLaFleur@diobpt.org

Lector Proclaim the scriptures and read the petitions at Mass. Rectory Office (203) 744 - 5777

Eucharistic Minister Assist in the distribution of Holy Communion on weekdays and Sundays. Rectory Office (203) 744 - 5777

Usher Assist with greeting, seating, and the collection at Mass and services. Rectory Office

Cantors/Choir Lead and assist in the music for the 11am Mass and major feasts through the year. Mr. Michael Ferrari music.saintmary@gmail.com

Youth Choir Grade 2+ - will develop vocal skills and musicianship through the singing of chants, hymns and psalms at Masses and special events. Youthchoir.st.mary@gmail.com. (Leanna Hinger)

YOUTH

CrossRoads Middle School Youth Group Join youths (grades 6-8) in the early formative years of their faith by participating in regular meetings, prayer, and social activities. Chaperones and adult aides welcome (must have completed Virtus Training). Ms. Rosie Lifreiri & Mr. Tom Reese stmarycrossroads@gmail.com

UNITED High School Youth Group (St. Mary - St. Joseph - St. Rose parishes) Join other youths (grades 9-12) in the effort to grow in their relationships with Christ and their Catholic Faith, participate in opportunities for service, fun and games, and fellowship. Chaperones and adult aides welcome (must have completed Virtus Training). Mr. Renzo Ortega (203) 240-8059

COMMUNITY

Bereavement Support Group Offers a prayerful experience of mutual support and consolation for those who are confronting the difficulties of losing a loved one. Rectory Office

Faith and Family Nights/Social Committee Join in and assist at various celebrations and social events of the Church year. Rectory Office

Men's Ministry Join other Catholic men in a positive Christian fellowship and learn ways to better strengthen one's personal faith journey. Deacon Eric Keener dnekeener@diobpt.org

Women of Faith/Walking with Purpose A women's ministry dedicated to offering a variety of activities for spiritual growth, fellowship, support, and outreach. Mrs. Caroline LaFleur la_fleur@sbcglobal.net

Knights of Columbus Promote fraternal ties among other Catholic Men and participate in various charitable activities both at the Church and in the local community. Mr. Alan Gambino (203)910-3733 or Email gkofpavia@gmail.com

Ave Maria - Young Adults Where card games, Wii Tourneys, drinks and appetizers meet adoration, rosary, and catechesis. Fr. Andrew LaFleur frlafleur@diobpt.org

Just Desserts Help in the catering of baked goods and treats for parish celebrations. Rectory Office

Book Club ST. MARY BOOK GROUP welcomes all adults! "Spiritual reading has made many saints." (St. Josemaria Escriva). Rectory Office

SERVICE

Homebound Eucharistic Ministers Bring Communion to the home-bound and those in local nursing homes. Rectory Office

Matthew 25:35 Provides meals for either groups outside of parish (ex, Dorothy Day) or for families in need within the parish. Rectory Office

Parish Hospitality Committee/Photographers Volunteer to help set up, serve, and clean up for Parish receptions. Record events in church or photography of events. Rectory Office

Prayer Line Prayer society that receives intentions and prays regularly for them. Mrs. Maggie Kent Mrs. Deana Chamberlin (203) 731 - 4738 (203) 482 - 7149

Pro-Life Committee that strives to build a culture of life, upholding and promoting the dignity of human life. Rectory Office

Altar Linen Committee Provide regular care for the various linens used at Mass. Rectory Office

St. Martha Cleaning Society Assist in the regular cleaning and upkeep of the Church. Rectory Office

Rectory Volunteer Aides Assist the rectory staff with mass mailings and various projects. Rectory Office

Prayer Shawl and Baby Blanket Making Ministry Mary Ferri 203-743-4557

Religious Articles Store & Catholic Book Fair One weekend in both the Fall & the Spring, as well as Christmas, to help with the distribution of religious goods for purchase. Mrs. Maggie Kent (203) 743 - 4557

EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS

Religious Education Catechist Share the Catholic Faith with the children of our parish. Mrs. Mary Ferri (203) 743 - 4557

RCIA Catechist/RCIA Sponsor Accompany and share the faith with those seeking to join the Catholic Church or complete their sacraments. Deacon Eric Keener (203) 744-5777

Missionaries to the Family & Mysteries of the Rosary Mission to support revitalizing the domestic church within our families. Catechesis & programming to help you live out holiness in your marriage and home. Santos Oyola and Juliana Restrepo julyres@hotmail.com

Pre-Baptism Preparation Help teach parents and Godparents of their responsibilities to prepare for Baptism. Rectory Office

Vocations Ministry prays for, encourages, educates and accompanies those discerning any vocation to which God is calling them. Father LaFleur FrLaFleur@diobpt.org

Adult Faith Formation Series Join in ongoing adult faith formation to deepen our understanding and appreciation of the Catholic Faith. Shani Burke-Specht (203)744-5777

Parish Vocation Ministry prays for, encourages those in their vocation, accompanies those discerning their vocation, celebrates all vocations and educates youth and adults about the beauty of the Catholic vocations of sacramental marriage and family, the priesthood, diaconate and the religious life. Mike Roberts telecom0711@gmail.com.

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