# 

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

# **APRIL 27, 2025**

## **POPE FRANCIS** 1936–2025

26 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel, CT 06801 Phone: (203)744-5777 Website: www.stmarybethel.org Email: stmaryoffice@comcast.net Visit us on Facebook: StMaryChurchBethel PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9am –2:00 pm, Mon. – Thurs.; 9am-Noon on Fridays (Closed Weekends and Holidays)

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#### FATHER COREY'S EPISTLE

**† VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- Pope Francis, who died April 21 at the age of 88, gave new energy to millions of Catholics -- and caused concern for some -- as he transformed the image of the papacy into a pastoral ministry based on personal encounters and strong convictions about poverty, mission and dialogue.

U.S. Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, chamberlain of the Holy Roman Church, announced that Pope Francis had died at 7:35 a.m.

"His whole life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and his church," Cardinal Farrell said in a video announcement broadcast from the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where Pope Francis lived.

His gestures -- from tenderly embracing the sick to repeatedly visiting prisoners -- touched millions of hearts. But controversy raged over his denunciations of the excesses of unbridled capitalism, his warnings about the human contributions to climate change and his insistence on accompanying, not judging, gay people.

With bronchitis and difficulty breathing, Pope Francis was admitted to Rome's Gemelli hospital Feb. 14. He was diagnosed with double pneumonia and a complex infection. He had returned to the Vatican March 23 to continue his convalescence.

God's mercy was a constant theme in Pope Francis' preaching and was so central to his vision of what the church's ministry must embody that he proclaimed an extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy for Dec. 8, 2015-Nov. 20, 2016.

Elected March 13, 2013, Pope Francis was the first pope in history to come from the Southern Hemisphere, the first non-European to be elected in almost 1,300 years and the first Jesuit to serve as successor to St. Peter.

In the first three years of his papacy, he published three major documents: "Evangelii Gaudium" ("The Joy of the Gospel"), a detailed vision of the program for his papacy

and his vision for the church -- particularly the church's outreach and its response to challenges posed by secular culture; "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home," on the environment; and "Amoris Laetitia" ("The Joy of Love"), his reflections on the discussions of the synods of bishops on the family in 2014 and 2015.

Holiness was the topic of his March 2018 apostolic exhortation, "Gaudete et Exsultate" ("Rejoice and Be Glad") in which he insisted being holy is not boring or impossible, and that it grows through small, daily gestures and acts of loving kindness.

Following in the footsteps of his predecessors, Pope Francis was an untiring voice for peace, urging an end to armed conflict, supporting dialogue and encouraging reconciliation. The pope described Russia's invasion of Ukraine as "madness" and called on the world's bishops to join him in consecrating Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. When Hamas militants attacked communities in Israel, killing scores of people and taking more than 200 people hostage in late 2023, and Israel retaliated by attacking Gaza, Pope Francis made repeated appeals for the return of hostages, a ceasefire to deliver humanitarian aid, and a real commitment to a negotiated peace.

Promoting peace, solidarity and respect for the Earth, the pope insisted people needed to recognize each other as brothers and sisters and issued an encyclical about that, "Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship." He signed the text at the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi on the saint's feast day, Oct. 4, 2020.

Pope Francis spent much of the first nine years of his pontificate pursuing two ambitious projects: revitalizing the church's efforts at evangelization -- constantly urging outreach rather than a preoccupation with internal church affairs -- and reforming the central administration of the Vatican, emphasizing its role of assisting bishops around the world rather than dictating policy to them.

Sunday, 4/27	Monday, 4/28	Tuesday, 4/29	Wednesday, 4/30
7:00am, 8:30am & 11:00am Mass- es 3:00pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour	8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass 7:00pm Knights of Columbus	8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass 9:30am Walking with Purpose 7:00pm Walking with Purpose	8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass 5:00pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Adult Choir

#### FATHER COREY'S EPISTLE

On March 19, 2022, the ninth anniversary of the inauguration of his papacy, he finally promulgated "Praedicate Evangelium" ("Preach the Gospel"), his complete restructuring of the Roma Curia, highlighting its mission to serve the church's evangelization efforts at all levels.

His simple lifestyle, which included his decision not to live in the Apostolic Palace and his choice of riding around Rome in a small Fiat or Ford instead of a Mercedes sedan, sent a message of austerity to Vatican officials and clergy throughout the church. He reinforced the message with frequent admonitions about the Gospel demands and evangelical witness of poverty and simplicity.

Although he repeatedly said he did not like to travel, he made 47 foreign trips, taking his message of Gospel joy to North and South America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina's capital city, Dec. 17, 1936. He earned a chemical technician's diploma from his high school and entered the Jesuit novitiate in March 1958. After studying liberal arts in Santiago, Chile, he returned to Argentina and earned his licentiate in philosophy from the Colegio San Jose in San Miguel.

He was ordained a priest Dec. 13, 1969, and after his perpetual profession as a Jesuit in 1973, he became master of novices at the Seminary of Villa Barilari in San Miguel. Later that same year, he was appointed superior of the Jesuit province of Argentina, a role in which by his own account he proved a divisive figure because of an "authoritarian and quick manner of making decisions." In May 1992, Father Bergoglio was named an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires. He was appointed coadjutor archbishop five years later and became archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998; Pope John Paul II named him to the College of Cardinals in 2001.

As leader of an archdiocese with more than 2.5 million Catholics, Cardinal Bergoglio strove to be close to the people. He rode the bus, visited the poor, lived in a simple apartment and cooked his own meals.

His international reputation was enhanced by his work at the 2007 assembly of the Latin American bishops' council, CELAM, and particularly by his role as head of the committee that drafted the gathering's final document on reforming and reinvigorating the church's evangelizing efforts on the continent.

Cardinal Bergoglio was a known and respected figure within the College of Cardinals, so much so that no one disputed a respected Italian journal's report that he received the second-highest number of votes on all four ballots cast in the 2005 conclave that elected Pope Benedict XVI.

Eight years later, Pope Benedict retired. At the cardinals' meetings prior to the 2013 conclave to elect his successor, the need to reform the Vatican bureaucracy was a common theme of concern.

Addressing the gathering, Cardinal Bergoglio warned against "self-referentiality and a kind of theological narcissism" in the church and argued the next pope "must be a man who, from the contemplation and adoration of Jesus Christ, helps the church to go out

Thursday, 5/1	Friday, 5/2	Saturday, 5/3	Sunday, 5/4
8:20am Rosary	8:20am Rosary	7:00am Men's Ministry	7:00am, 8:30am & 11:00am Masses
9:00am Mass	9:00am Mass	8:20am Rosary	9:30am Eucharistic Adoration
6:30pm Scripture Study		9:00am Mass	12:15 Pre Baptism Class
		3:00pm Adoration	
		3:00pm Confessions	
		4:30pm Mass	

# **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.

On this day, you may be granted a plenary indulgence\* if you: 3 61 pray for the receive Holy go to pope's confession Communion intentions 100 recite the Our Father. take part in the prayers and the Creed and a devotions held in OR devout prayer to the honour of Divine merciful Lord Jesus Mercy in any in the presence of the church or chapel Blessed Sacrament

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#### Jesus I Trust in You

Join us on

Sunday, April 27 at 3pm in the Church

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

#### FATHER COREY'S EPISTLE

to the existential peripheries" to spread the Gospel.

His election March 13 came on the second day of the conclave, on its fifth ballot. He chose the name Francis to honor St. Francis of Assisi, "the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation," he said.

"Go out" was Pope Francis' constant plea to every Catholic, from curial cardinals to the people in the pews. More than once, he told people that while the Bible presents Jesus as knocking at the door of people's hearts to get in, today Jesus is knocking at the doors of parish churches trying to get out and among the people.

But he faced criticism for what many saw as a lack of consistency in dealing forcefully with the clerical sexual abuse crisis, especially when it came to holding bishops accountable for handling allegations and removing priests credibly accused of abuse.

And while his pontificate marked major progress in the Vatican's attempts to reach an agreement with China's communist government on the appointment of Catholic bishops, a provisional accord signed in September 2018, and renewed in 2020, 2022 and 2024, was denounced by critics as a betrayal of Catholics who risked their lives for refusing any cooperation with the communists.

Like his predecessors, Pope Francis was a strong defender of the sacredness of human life. Meeting Catholic physicians in November 2014, for example, he insisted that in "the light of faith and the light of correct reason, human life is always sacred and always of 'quality.' There is no human life that is more sacred than another" and no "human life qualitatively more significant than another."

For Pope Francis, helping the defenseless also meant paying special attention to prisoners, victims of war and, particularly, Christians and other religious minorities persecuted for their faith.

When Islamic State forces and other terrorist groups began specifically targeting Christians and other religious minorities in Syria and Iraq, and later in North Africa, Pope Francis demanded the international community act. 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.

**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* **17.** 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 <u>YOUNG ADULT</u> group (ages 21-35) meets every 3rd Thursday of the month. Look them up on Instagram at avemarie1882.

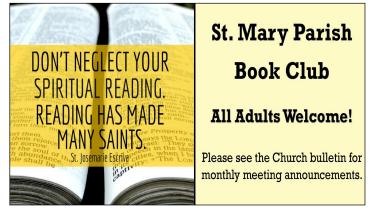
The **ST. MARY ADULT CHOIR** practices in Father McGivney Hall on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9pm. If you are interested in being part of our Parish Choir, please call the Parish Office.

The **ST. MARY YOUTH CHOIR** is in full swing and always looking for new members in grades 2 and up. They sing once a month and rehearse every Wednesday from 5-6pm in Father McGivney Hall. For more info contact Leanna Hinger at Youth-Choir.StMary@gmail.com.

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 **<u>SANCTUARY CANDLE</u>** 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.

If anyone would like to donate hand-knit or crocheted white **<u>BABY BLANKETS</u>** for our newly baptized babies, please drop them off at the Parish Office or call Mary Ferri at (203) 743-4557.



#### Religious St. Mary Religious Education Education 24 Dodgingtown Road Bethel, CT 06801 203-743-4557

#### stmarybethelreliged@gmail.com stmarybethel.org

Religious Education classes have resumed. Registration is ongoing.

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.



## St. Mary School

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

**REGISTRATION FOR 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR IS NOW OPEN** We are now accepting applications for PreK-- Grade 8. Please visit our website at www.stmarybethelct.org and click on "Apply Now". We do anticipate waitlists in many grades so please apply as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Geraldine Henn, Enrollment Director, at admissions@stmarybethelct.org or call 203-744-2922.

Please visit us on FACEBOOK ("St. Mary School, Bethel"), INSTAGRAM ("stmaryschoolbethel"), and TWIT-TER (@SaintMaryBethel) to see photos and news of the latest happenings at SMS!



Use our online option to contribute to our Parish offertory

Convenient!

Secure and Confidential!

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Efficient!

Create your account TODAY

Go to: www.osvonlinegiving.com/994

or

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

UNITED YOUTH MINISTRY

A COLLABORATIVE YOUTH PROGRAM FOR THE PARISHES OF ST. ROSE NEWTOWN, ST. JOSEPH BROOKFIELD AND ST. MARY BETHEL

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram for more information and updates!



FACEBOOK.COM/CTUNITEDYOUTH @CTUNITEDYOUTH WWW.CTUNITEDYOUTH.COM

United meets on Sunday evenings on the campus of St. Rose unless otherwise noted.

#### **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

each Saturday between 3pm and 4pm. We will also have Eucharistic Adoration on the First Sunday of the Month between the 8:30am and 11:00am Masses.



### ALTAR SERVERS

- See and learn about everything we do at the Mass.
- Be more actively involved in the Mass.
- We will have fun field trips and gatherings throughout the year.
- Open to students who have received their First Communion in the 4th grade through high school.

The to-be servers need to attend a training.

CONTACT

> frlafleur@diobpt.org



#### Gifts to the Bishop's Appeal support Catholic Charities of Fairfield County

Last year, your donations to the Bishop's Appeal made it possible for Catholic Charities to provide hope and healing to our brothers and sisters in need across Fairfield County. Thanks to the time, talent, and treasure of so many parishioners around the Diocese, Catholic Charities of Fairfield County continues to be one of the largest private social service providers in Connecticut, offering assistance throughout the 23 towns in the Diocese.



#### Catholic Charities Distributed & Provided:



1,000,000+ meals 3,000 donated toys 6,200+ socks 3,500+ toiletry bags 2,000+ winter coats 5,786 Counseling Sessions

Make your gift to the Bishop's Appeal today! Visit: www.2025BishopsAppeal.org

Thank you for your support of Catholic Charities through the Bishop's Appeal. Together, as One in Christ, we can continue to support our brothers and sisters who are most in need.

#### **Prayer for Pope Francis**

God, Who, in Your ineffable providence, did will that Your servant Francis should be numbered among the high priests; grant, we beseech You, that he, who on earth held the place of Your only-begotten Son, may be joined forevermore to the fellowship of Your holy pontiffs. Through the same Jesus Christ, You Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end.

Amen.



Sun.: Acts 5:12-16 Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 Rv 1:9-11a, 12 -13, 17-19 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.: 1 Cor 15:1-8 Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 Jn 14:6-14
- Sun.: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 Rv 5:11-14 Jn 21:1-19 or Jn 21:1-14



\$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.





The Knights of Columbus are looking for Catholic men of faith to help in our mission of charitable works to support St. Mary Parish and the greater Bethel community. If you're at least 18 years of age, we invite you to join us! To watch a video about what we do, see the link or QR code below.

#### https://youtu.be/D4NLkjqr54I

To contact us, call our Grand Knight Lang Reese at 410-693-6795 or email us at gkofpavia@gmail.com



#### THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF <u>MAY</u>

For working conditions Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

**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 of furniture or household goods so that we can continue to move people Off The Streets!

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.



<u>MALTA HOUSE</u> is the only transitional living program in the state of Connecticut where a mom can stay with her baby for long-term support and a "hand-up"

as she journeys to independence and hope. We need your help...

Since opening our doors in 1998, we have welcomed over 700 mothers and babies to our home. But we're not done yet. We are always looking for new volunteers to join our team! Please consider volunteering with us and making a difference in the lives of mothers and babies.

If you are interested in lending your skills and sharing your heart with our moms and babies, please contact Claudia Escalante at cescalante@maltahouse.org.



Join us for St. Mary Vacation Bible School				
June 23-27, 2025				
9:00-11:45				
St. Mary Parish Hall				
\$55.00				
Ages 3-10				
Child				
AgeGender				
Parent Name				
Phone Number				
Parent email				
Allergies, medical condition or special need				
In case of Emergency, contact				
Phone number				
For more info contact Mary Ferri 203 743 4557 or				
faithformation@stmarybethel.org				
I understand that neither St. Mary Church, nor any of its employees or volunteers is responsible for any injury sustained by my child. I accept full responsibility for any medical expenses as a result of any such injury sustained.				
Parent/Guardians				
(Signature)				

# To Jesus Through Mary

#### Mass Schedule

<u>Monday-Friday</u> 9:00am <u>Saturday</u> 9:00am & 4:30pm (Vigil Mass) <u>Sunday</u> 7:00am, 8:30am, 11:00am

#### Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:00-4:00pm



#### SAT., APRIL 26

4:30 + John Petruzzello — The Wakeman Family

#### SUN., APRIL 27

- 7:00 + Raymond & Magie Montgomery Fulvio & Elide Tramontina
- 8:30 + Margaret Nied The Guertin Family
- 11:00 + Melissa Surace Janet & Richard Surace

#### MON., APRIL 28

9:00 + The Dardis-Tomaino Family — Family

#### TUES., APRIL 29

9:00 + Waldermar Miniewicz — Family

#### WED., APRIL 30

9:00 + Luisito Narbaiz — Helen Yee

#### THU., MAY 1

9:00 + Elaine Hudson — Bill & Mary Walsh

#### FRI., MAY 2

9:00 + Elizabeth & Anthony Ippolito — Gina & Dan Ippolito

#### SAT., MAY 3

9:00 + Michael Zelensky Elias — The Morton Family 4:30 + Vincent Bocchino — Marie Broccoli

#### SUN., May 4

- 7:00 + Charlene Reis Husband Joe
- 8:30 + Alejandrina Cornejo Daughter & Family
- 11:00 + Madeleine & Patrick Maccarone Andrew D'Ambrosio

STAFFFather Corey V. Piccinino, PastorFather Andrew LaFleur, Parochial VicarDeacon John DeRoinDeacon Eric KeenerKate Fitzgerald, Bulletin EditorSue Dolan, Parish SecretaryMaggie Kent, Office ManagerDebbie Burke, Business ManagerAlex LaFleur, Property Manager

ST. MARY SCHOOL (744-2922)Scott Smith, PrincipalRELIGIOUS EDUCATION (743-4557)Mary Ferri, Director

Maggie Kent, Secretary

<u>RCIA (203)744-5777</u> 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 <u>MUSIC MINISTRY</u> Michael Ferrari, *Music & Choir Director* <u>FINANCE COMMITTEE (733-7335)</u> Bob Kozlowski, Chair <u>CEMETERY DIRECTOR:</u> 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.

**<u>ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARRIAGE:</u>** 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.lighthouseservices.com/diobpt. TOLL FREE TELEPHONE: English speaking USA and Canada: 833-990-0004; Spanish speaking USA and Canada: 800-216-1288 E-MAIL: reports@lighthouseservices.com (must include company name with report). When contacting the hotline, an individual may or may not choose to identify him or herself.