

Saint Mary Parish

August 16, 2026

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary
Time



O woman, *great is your faith!*
Let it be done for you as you wish.

MATTHEW 15:28

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 SUMMER HOURS:

9am –1:30 pm, Mon. – Thurs.,
closed Friday.

(Closed Weekends and Holidays)

STAFF Father Corey V. Piccinino, *Pastor , Vicar for Clergy & Religious for the Diocese of Bridgeport*
Father Johnson Singarajan, *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)

Michelle Powrie, *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

† Five lesser-known caminos worth walking this autumn

From the fjords of Norway to the limestone hills of Portugal, Europe's pilgrimage network extends far beyond Santiago. Every pilgrimage route began the same way: someone walked somewhere for a reason, others followed, and the path wore itself into the ground. The Camino de Santiago is the most famous example, but it is far from being the only one.

The Way of Saint Olav — Norway St. Olav Haraldsson was a Viking king who united Norway and brought Christianity to Scandinavia, fell in battle at Stiklestad in 1030, and was canonized the following year. His tomb at Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim — the northernmost Gothic cathedral in the world, known as Cor Norvegiae, the heart of Norway — became the most important pilgrimage destination in the Nordic countries throughout the Middle Ages. Nine different routes converge on it, totaling some 3,000 kilometers (1,864 miles) across Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. The main route, the Gudbrandsdalsleden, runs 643 kilometers (400 miles) from Oslo through the Gudbrandsdal Valley, over the Dovrefjell Mountains, and down to Trondheim — the same road that almost every king of Norway traveled in the Middle Ages, and that Olav himself walked in 1021 and 1024. The St. Olavsleden begins in Selånger on the east coast of Sweden, crosses into Norway, and covers 580 kilometers (360 miles) to Trondheim. Best walked between June and September, when the mountain passes are snow-free and the long Nordic light makes every hour feel like afternoon.

The Way of Mary Magdalene — Provence, France According to a tradition rooted in medieval Provence and still very much alive in southern France, Mary Magdalene arrived by boat at Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer on the Camargue coast, evangelized the region around Marseille, and spent her final years in prayer in a cave high in the Massif de la Sainte-Baume — a grotto still tended by Dominican friars, where pilgrims have been climbing since the 13th century. Her relics are venerated in the Basilica of Saint-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume, considered the third vault of Christendom after the Holy Sepulchre and St. Peter's tomb in Rome. The official pilgrimage route covers 222 kilometers (138 miles) in ten stages, winding through the Camargue wetlands, the limestone hills of Provence, and the forests of the Sainte-Baume massif, from the Church of Notre-Dame-de-la-Mer to the Basilica. A shorter five-day version runs from Marseille to Saint-Maximin, covering just over 100 kilometers (62 miles). The feast of Mary Magdalene falls on July 22 — but the route is finest in September, when the Provençal heat has eased and the lavender fields have been cut.

The Hemma Pilgrimage Trail — Austria St. Hemma of Gurk — also known as Emma — was born around 980 as Countess of Friesach-Zeltschach, raised at the court of Emperor Henry II, and widowed young when her husband died returning from a pilgrimage to Rome and both her sons were murdered by miners whose execution they had tried to prevent. Rather than seeking revenge, she gave

her fortune to the Church, founding two Benedictine monasteries — Gurk Abbey and Admont Abbey — and dying in 1045. She was canonized by Pius XI in 1938 and is the patroness of Carinthia, invoked for safe childbirth and the healing of eye diseases. Her tomb in the 100-column Romanesque crypt of Gurk Cathedral has been a pilgrimage destination since the 11th century, and Pope John Paul II visited in 1988. The Hemma Pilgrimage Trail connects her two foundations in seven stages, running approximately 800 kilometers (497 miles) from Admont in Styria through the Alps to Gurk in Carinthia, passing through some of the most spectacular mountain scenery in central Europe. A shorter route starting from Slovenia follows the historic Carniolan pilgrimage path documented since 1607. The trail can be walked in sections, each one ending at a monastery that offers accommodation to pilgrims.

The Camino de Santo Domingo de Guzmán — Spain, France, Italy — St. Dominic de Guzmán, founder of the Order of Preachers, was born in Caleruega, a small town an hour south of Burgos in Castile, in the late 12th century. He lived there until the age of seven, when his parents sent him to study with his uncle, the archpriest of Gumiel de Izán — the town where his vocation to the priesthood crystallized. He went on to study theology in Palencia, was ordained at Osma, and eventually founded the Dominican Order in southern France before dying in Bologna in 1221. The Camino de Santo Domingo de Guzmán connects all these places — from his birthplace in Caleruega, through Gumiel de Izán and El Burgo de Osma, north into France and the site of the Order's founding at Prouille near Fanjeaux and Toulouse, and finally east through Carcassonne to Bologna, where his relics rest in the Arca di San Domenico, carved by Nicola Pisano and completed by a young Michelangelo. A shorter version, suitable for a long weekend, runs from Caleruega to Gumiel de Izán — a manageable introduction to a route that, in its full extent, crosses three countries and the full arc of a founding saint's life.

The Tagus Way — Portugal The Tagus Way — Caminho do Tejo — is one of the five official pilgrimage routes to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fátima, and it is the most popular among international pilgrims. It begins at Lisbon's Sé Cathedral, crosses the hill of São Jorge and the ancient Alfama district, and follows the river Tagus north through the fertile floodplains of the Ribatejo — past Santarém, the Gothic capital of Portugal, the castle of Almourol rising from its island in the middle of the river, and the limestone peaks of the Serra de Aire and Candeeiros — before arriving at the Cova da Iria in Fátima, where Our Lady appeared to three shepherd children in 1917. The route covers 143 kilometers (89 miles) in five stages, and a large portion of it coincides with the Portuguese Camino de Santiago, offering the rare possibility of walking two famous pilgrimage routes simultaneously. The Tagus never leaves your sight for long; the river is a constant companion, marking distance and direction in a landscape that changes slowly and rewards patience. The Fátima credential — the Peregrino dos Caminhos de Fátima — is available to all who complete the route.



SAT., AUGUST 15

4:30 + Thomas Hauser — Stephanie McNamara

SUN., AUGUST 16

7:00 + James Moran — The DeMarco Family
8:30 + Rosalie DeMarco — Pat Kuhn & Family
11:00 St. Mary Parish

MON., AUGUST 17

9:00 + John Rooney — Ann & Bob Haig

TUES., AUGUST 18

9:00 + Edward Helgert — Family

WED., AUGUST 19

9:00 + Paul R. Morton — The Morton Family

THURS., AUGUST 20

9:00 + Gertrude Villafuerte — The Cafferty Family

FRI., AUGUST 21

9:00 + Carmen Hurtado-Atayupangi — Janet Fable

SAT., AUGUST 22

9:00 + Christopher Urban — Family
4:30 + Thomas Hauser — Stephanie McNamara

SUN., AUGUST 23

7:00 + Richard Shannon — Family
8:30 + Margaret Brenna — Family
11:00 + Phyllis Rugh — The Ruhl Family
+ Kalista Rajendran



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, August 16

12:15pm Baptism

2:30pm Men's Cursillo

6:00pm United Youth

Monday, August 17

7:00pm Knights of Columbus

Tuesday, August 18

Wednesday, August 19

Thursday, August 20

Friday, August 21

Saturday, August 22

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Adoration

Sunday, August 23

12:15pm Baptism

2:30pm Men's Cursillo

6:00pm United Youth



Use our online option to contribute to our Parish offertory

Convenient!

Secure and Confidential!

Simple!

Efficient!

Create your account TODAY

Go to: www.osvonlinegiving.com/994

or

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

AROUND THE PARISH

Please join us to pray the Rosary every morning from Monday through Friday at 8:20am in the Church.

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.

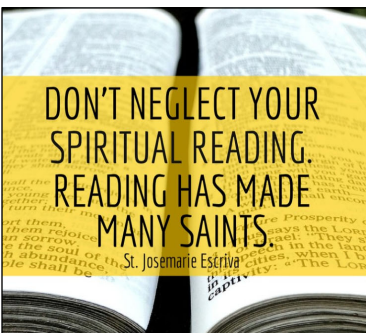
BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP provides a prayerful experience of mutual support and comfort for those who are confronting the loss of a loved one. Our upcoming zoom meeting is on **September 12**. If you wish to attend, please call the parish office at 744-5777 and ask that a group facilitator call you with 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.

Are you a Catholic woman seeking a closer relationship with Christ? If so, prayerfully consider attending a **3-DAY RETREAT** at Graymoor in Garrison, NY, September 17-20, 2026. Many St. Mary Parish women have already attended! This fulfilling experience is offered by our Diocese's Cursillo Community. For information, please email cur-sillonews.fairfieldcounty@gmail.com or call Susan at 203-733-1269.

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.



St. Mary Parish Book Club

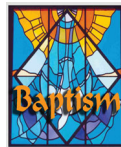
All Adults Welcome!

Please see the Church bulletin for monthly meeting announcements.

St. Mary Religious Education
24 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel, CT 06801
203-743-4557
stmarybethelrelied@gmail.com
stmarybethel.org

Registration forms for the 2026/27 year have gone out in the mail for current families. You can find online registration on our website [@stmarybethel.org](http://stmarybethel.org). **Registration is due by September 1. After that you must register in person at the Religious Ed office.**

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.



God Bless those recently Baptized

Joseph Freebairn
Martello Miller
Kieran Cullen

YOUR VOICE HAS A PLACE HERE.

Join the Saint Mary Youth Choir and discover faith, friendship,
and the joy of serving through music!

No experience necessary

Open to children in grades 3-12

Flexible attendance requirements with advanced notice

Weekly Wednesday Rehearsals from 5:15pm-6:00pm in Father McGivney Hall

Sing once a month at the 8:30am Mass including Christmas and Easter!

First Rehearsal, Wednesday, September 9

Questions?

Email Youth Choir
Director, Leanna Hinger
youthchoir.st.mary@gmail.com





You're Invited

Please join us as we celebrate the

40th *Anniversary*
of

FATHER COREY'S ORDINATION

(Actual anniversary is December 20th,
but who wants to come to a cookout in the winter LOL)



SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



2:00 – 5:00 P.M.



BENNETT PARK
BETHEL, CONNECTICUT

Join us for an afternoon of fellowship, gratitude,
and a cookout as we honor Father Corey and
celebrate this special anniversary.

All are welcome

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

Matthew 25:23



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 12:30-2 pm.

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



*This week the **Sanctuary Lamp** will be lit and prayers will be said before each Mass by the priest for Richard Schlemmer from his wife Judy.*

• 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!*



[@CTUNITEDYOUTH](https://www.facebook.com/CTUNITEDYOUTH)

[@CTUNITEDYOUTH](https://www.facebook.com/CTUNITEDYOUTH)

WWW.CTUNITEDYOUTH.COM

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

Offertory for the Weekend of August 8/9, 2026

Collection: \$7,653.00 On-Line Giving: \$4,069.00

Last year's offertory for the Weekend of August 9/10, 2025

Collection: \$7,913.00 On-Line Giving: \$4,853.00

Thank you for your generosity!



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

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.

☐ Over Ten Months

☐ One Time

☐ Over Ten Months

☐ One Time



Saint Mary SCHOOL

FAITH • FAMILY • ACADEMICS

**Enrolling
Now**

Experience all that St. Mary School has to offer

- PreK-8th grade
- Personalized learning
- Small class sizes
- Academic excellence



Contact admissions@stmarybethelct.org to schedule a visit.

24 Dodgingtown Road | Bethel, Connecticut 06801
203-744-2922 | www.st.marybethelct.org

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 is looking for individuals interested in substitute teaching this coming school year on an as needed basis. Qualifications for this position are a Bachelor's degree, VIRTUS training and a background check.

We are also seeking part-time employees on a regular schedule (days can vary) for our After School Care Club. Hours are 2pm-5:30pm on days school is in session.

For information about either of these positions, please email the school at office@stmarybethelct.org, or call 203-744-2922.



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>



formed™
Forming Catholics for Life.

This Week on Formed

Week of August 16, 2026



Saint Bernard of Clairvaux | Catholic Saints

Who was St. Bernard of Clairvaux? In this FORMED Now episode, Dr. Ben Akers is joined by Dr. John Sehorn to discuss this great saint and Doctor of the Church.



The Queen Mother | Lectio: Mary | Episode 4

Mary serves as our Queen Mother. What does that mean? Join Dr. Brant Pitre as he explores the scriptural roots of this title.



Pope Saint Pius X | Catholic Saints

Join Dr. Ben Akers with Lucas Pollice as they discuss the life of Pope St. Pius X and his work to restore all things in Christ.

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



Sun.: Is 56:1, 6-7 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Rom 11:13-15, 29-32 Mt 15:21-28

Mon.: Ez 24:15-23 Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21 Mt 19:16-22

Tues.: Ez 28:1-10 Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab Mt 19:23-30

Wed.: Ez 34:1-11 Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Mt 20:1-16

Thu.: Ez 36:23-28 Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 Mt 22:1-14

Fri.: Ez 37:1-14 Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Mt 22:34-40

Sat.: Ez 43:1-7ab Ps 85:9ab, 10, 11-12, 13-14 Mt 23:1-12

Sun.: Is 22:19-23 Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8 Rom 11:33-36 Mt 16:13-20

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>



OTS HELP PAGE



VACATIONERS - If you are visiting other areas and would like information regarding Churches in that area, you may either call 1-800-Mass-Times or visit the website [www. Masstimes.org](http://www.Masstimes.org).



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!!



WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY
5:00 PM - 11:00 PM

SATURDAY
1:00 PM - 11:00 PM

SUNDAY
1:00 PM - 10:00 PM

AUTHENTIC ITALIAN FEAST • RIDES • GAMES • LIVE MUSIC
BEER • WINE • LASER LIGHT SHOW • STATUE PROCESSION

ENTERTAINMENT



Join us for Mass
and Grand Procession
Wednesday, August 19th

4:00PM: Mass and Blessing of San Gennaro Statue at St. Peter Church

5:00PM: Grand Procession down Main Street to festival on Ives Street



WEEKEND SHUTTLE SERVICE

On FRIDAY, SATURDAY, and SUNDAY ONLY

Park for FREE at the Western CT State University parking garage on 5th Avenue off of White Street and use our FREE Shuttle Service. Shuttle runs every 15 minutes. The last shuttle leaves the festival at 11:30 PM on Fri & Sat and 10:30 PM on Sunday.

OTHER PARKING OPTIONS

AVAILABLE ALL WEEK
The City of Danbury utilizes ParkMobile for convenient payment. Park for a fee at the Patriot Garage, Bardo Garage, Metro-North Station, or available street parking. 1 Ives Street, Danbury, CT 06810.

@DANBURYSANGENARO

LOOKING
FOR
SOMETHING



If you are missing a pair of glasses, a key, a jacket, a book, a toy, or some other item, you may have left it in the Church. Be sure to check out the boxes in the Usher's room. If you find anything in the Church, please leave it in a box in the Usher's room.

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST



For evangelization in the city Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.



HSPT Prep Session & Parent Info Session - Saturday, September 12th @ 9:00am

Our High School Placement Test Prep Session offers students the opportunity to learn more about the HSPT, review the math and verbal sections, along with sample questions and familiarize themselves with the format and focus of the test. Every student in attendance will receive an HSPT Prep Book to take home.

Parents are invited to attend an Information Session at 9am. No registration is necessary. A \$40 (cash or check payable to Immaculate High School) will be collected at entrance to the exam.

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

Mustang for a Day Shadow Visits - Begins Monday, September 21st

We invite all prospective students to shadow a current student and live a day in the life at our school as a Mustang For a Day. While spending a day is not mandatory as part of the application process, it is an excellent way for students to learn more about what it's like to be an Immaculate High School student.

Visiting students will meet their Student Ambassador host in the main office upon arrival. At dismissal, students will meet with our Director of Enrollment to discuss their day and ask any questions they may have. Register today at immaculatehs.org/visit.

Join us on Sunday, October 18, for our annual Open House at Immaculate.

This event will allow students and parents to meet with faculty, administrators, athletic staff and current students, as well as tour the classrooms, newly renovated science labs, dining hall, Chapel and Fitness Center. You will learn about our athletic, fine arts, spiritual life and extracurricular offerings. Register today at immaculatehs.org/visit

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.

MALTA HOUSE 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.

PRAYER FOR COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS

Dear Lord, please wrap my mind and heart in your peace. As I start this new journey in college, calm my fears and quiet my anxiety. Help me trust that you are with me in every new classroom, dorm, and hallway. Give me the courage to step out with confidence.

Give me a sharp mind and a clear focus. Help me manage my time well, work hard with honesty, and understand what I study. When tests and projects feel too heavy, give me grace, peace of mind, and the ability to remember what I have learned.

Guide me to safe and true friends who lift me up. Give me the strength to turn away from bad choices and temptation. Help me stand strong in who I am and be a light of kindness and love to the people around me.

Quiet my fears, give rest to my soul, and be my help.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

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. Kathleen Keener eajkeener@gmail.com

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 mu-sic.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 dkeener@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. Rectory Office

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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