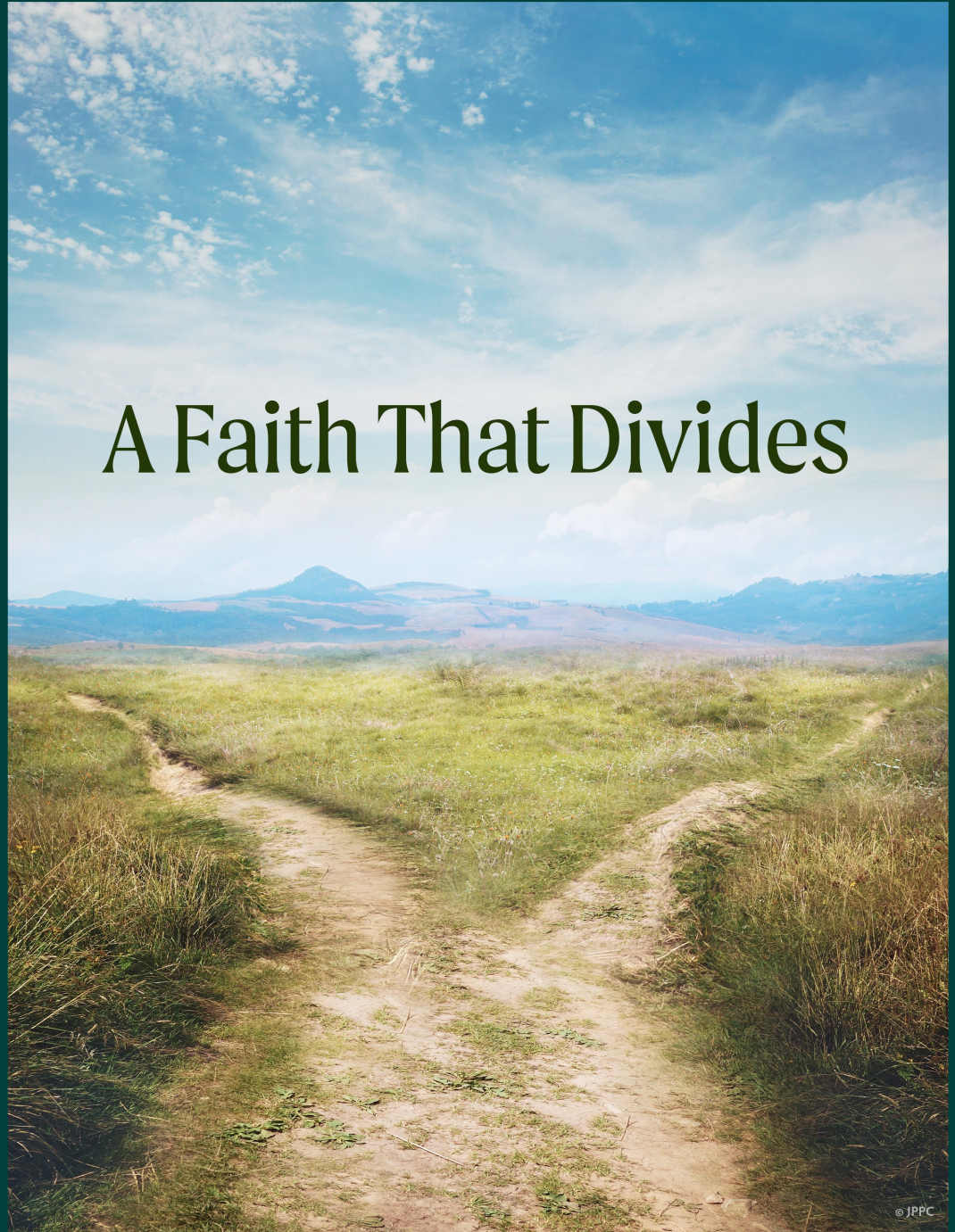


Saint Mary Parish

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 17, 2025



26 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel, CT 06801

Phone: (203)744-5777

Website: www.stmarybethel.org Email: stmaryoffice@comcast.net

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

PARISH SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

9am – 1:00 pm, Mon. – Closed on Fridays

(Closed Weekends and Holidays)

FATHER COREY'S EPISTLE

† Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

The recent election of Pope Leo XIV has sparked new interest in Catholicism, with Google data showing a spike in searches on “how to become Catholic” shortly after the death of Pope Francis in April. Meanwhile, across many dioceses — and especially among young people — anecdotal reports indicate an upswing in people joining the Catholic Church in recent years.

While the Church’s requirements include some terminology that may be unfamiliar, the process has its roots in the early Church. If you’re looking to become Catholic in 2025, here’s a guide on what you should know — from the stages of spiritual preparation to important terms and historical background on what Christian initiation has looked like over the centuries.

What is OCIA?

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults or “OCIA” is the normative way to receive formation and prepare to enter the Catholic Church. This process was previously known as RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, until the U.S. bishops renamed it in 2021 to reflect a more accurate translation of the original Latin.

OCIA has four phases designed to intellectually form and spiritually prepare participants — who have attained the age of reason (generally around the age of 7) — to become Catholic.

What are the stages of OCIA?

Evangelization and Prechatechumenate: The inquirer learns of Christ and is drawn to the Catholic Church; he or she takes part in a period of searching and takes the first step toward becoming Catholic by conversing with a priest or parish director of Christian initiation to become a catechumen.

Catechumenate: Usually over the course of a year or less, a catechumen or candidate takes this time to learn more about the Catholic faith and what it means for his or her life. The Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens and the Rite of Election take place during this stage.

Purification and Enlightenment: During Lent, a catechumen anticipates his or her initiation into the Catholic Church through prayer and learning. Initiation commonly takes place on the Easter Vigil, which is the culmination of the process where catechumens and candidates receive

the sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist.)

Mystagogy: After being received into the Church, newly initiated Catholics continue to be formed in their faith during what the Church calls the “Period of Mystagogy.” This lasts until Pentecost, the feast 50 days after Easter in which the Church celebrates the birth of the Church, when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples.

What is the ‘Rite of Election’?

The Rite of Election is the stage of Christian initiation before baptism. Catechumens gather with their sponsors and families, usually on the first Sunday of Lent.

During the Rite of Election ceremony, the local bishop asks the catechumens: “Do you wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist?” and they respond: “We do.” Catechumens write their names in the Book of the Elect, further confirming their desire to be baptized.

Through this rite, catechumens become known as “the elect.” Only the unbaptized partake in this rite, because those who are baptized are already known as God’s elect.

What’s the difference between a catechumen and a candidate?

Catechumen: A catechumen is someone who is unbaptized and seeking to become Catholic.

Candidate: A candidate is a baptized Christian seeking to come into full communion with the Catholic Church.

What did Christian initiation look like in the early Church?

While the Second Vatican Council renewed the OCIA process, Christian initiation goes back to the early Church.

In the early Church, before the fourth century, Christian initiation “would have been rather intense,” explained Timothy O’Malley, associate director for research at Notre Dame’s McGrath Institute for Church Life and academic director for the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy.

In its earliest form, Christian initiation would have lasted three years or more.

“There was a real sense of required conversion: If you were an actor (involved with festivals related to the gods) or in the military, you needed to quit,” O’Malley told CNA. “Much catechesis involved moral formation in a new way of life, as well as introduction to the creed.”

FATHER COREY'S EPISTLE

OCIA now is largely based on the fourth- and fifth- century model, where catechumens would have prepared for the sacraments of initiation during Lent and entered the Church during the Easter Vigil.

"During the 40 days, they would have fasted, prayed, and gone to regular sermons," O'Malley said. "We have, for example, sermons on the creed and other dimensions of Scripture."

Once Christianity could be practiced publicly, "there were new options for initiating people," O'Malley explained.

"Great public catechists and preachers," such as Cyril of Jerusalem, John Chrysostom, and Ambrose of Milan, "gave public sermons encouraging people to enroll in the catechumenate leading up to Lent," he added.

O'Malley noted that some of the reason for changes in the initiation process is that Christianity is not as unknown as it once was.

"The complication today, of course, is that we live in a culture in which Christianity, while not necessarily totally well known, isn't the novelty of the fourth and fifth centuries," O'Malley said. "You can get the Lord's Prayer online or look up the words of the creed on your own (both of these were handed on in secret as part of fourth and fifth century initiation)."

But historical Christian initiation is still connected to today in certain ways.

"But the challenge, in some sense, is always the same: How do you invite people to experience genuine conversion toward discipleship?" O'Malley said. "Christian conversion is not reducible to studying but involves a wholesale change of life: and that we possess in common with the Fathers of the Church."

How do I join an OCIA program?

To join an OCIA program, reach out to a local Catholic parish. If you have Catholic friends, they may be able to help you with this. A priest or parish leader of Christian initiation may want to meet with you to discuss your desire to become Catholic and help to guide you through the next steps of the process. *(Credit: Kate Quiñones, Aleteia)*

Call the Parish Office for more information!

**Like us on Facebook at
'StMaryChurchBethel'**



SAT., August 16

4:30 People of St. Mary

SUN., August 17

7:00 + Frank Briscoe — Family

8:30 + John Beckert — Dave & Mary Fancher

11:00 + James Hyland, Jr. — The Ruhl Family

MON., August 18

9:00 + Edward Helgert — Family

TUES., August 19

9:00 People of St. Mary

WED., August 20

9:00 + Paul Morton — The Morton Family

THU., August 21

9:00 + Mary Legnard — Paul & Diana Statkowski

FRI., August 22

9:00 + Mary Anne Seward — Kathy Aiello

SAT., August 23

9:00 + Margaret Brenna — Daughter

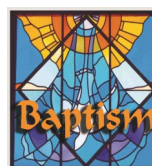
4:30 + Christopher Urban — Family

SUN., August 24

7:00 + Richard Shannon — Family

8:30 + Harrison Waterbury — Eileen Freebairn

11:00 + Phyllis Ruhl — The Ruhl Family



God Bless those recently Baptized

*Alexander Joseph Matturo
Hailey Dolores Sandoval*

AROUND THE PARISH

Because of the lack of attendance, **FIRST SUNDAY ADORATION** will be discontinued for the summer and will be revisited in the Fall. Saturday Adoration at 3pm will continue.

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 6**. If you wish to attend, please call the parish office at 744-5777 and ask that a group facilitator call you with more information.

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 BOOK GROUP welcomes all adults! "Spiritual reading has made many saints" (St. Josemaria Escriva). Our next book is Confessions by Saint Augustine. In addition to being a true Catholic classic, it's a good book to read now as our new Pope is an Augustinian. We will meet on **Wednesday September 17 at 7 pm** in the Quiet Room. You can borrow a copy with your Library card through interlibrary loan, or purchase a copy online from a Catholic bookseller.

HELP NEEDED

As our last volunteer moved away, we are in need of someone to wash and press the altar cloths. The task would be once a month and we would instruct you how to do it. There is a little catching up to do and it's up to you whether you want to do it at home or at the Church. Please call the Parish Office at (203) 744-5777. Thank you!

Like us on Facebook at
'StMaryChurchBethel'



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 17

12:15pm Baptism

Monday, August 18

8:20am Rosary

9:00am Icon Workshop

Tuesday, August 19

9:00am Rosary

8:30am Icon Workshop

6:00pm Icon Presentation

Wednesday, August 20

9:00am Rosary

8:30am Icon Workshop

Thursday, August 21

8:20am Rosary

9:00am Icon Workshop

Friday, August 22

9:00am Rosary

8:30am Icon Workshop

Saturday, August 23

8:20am Rosary

3:00pm Adoration

3:00pm Confessions



BANNS OF MARRIAGE

||— John Thomas Dolan & Ashley Marie Tineo

Offertory for the Weekend of August 9/10, 2025

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

Offertory for the Weekend of August 10/11, 2024

Collection: \$6,781.00 On-Line Giving: \$4,273.00

Thank you for your generosity!

St. Mary School

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



Registration is still open for the 2025-2026 school year - there is availability for most grades, PreK 3 to Grade 8 with some classes having waiting lists.

To inquire or set up a tour, please visit www.stmarybethelct.org or email: Admissions@stmarybethelct.org.

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

Saint Mary School
24 Dodgingtown Road
Bethel, CT 06801

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.

We are also looking for part-time employees on a regular schedule for our AfterSchool Club, (after school care for our students). Hours are 2pm-5:30pm on days school is in session.

For information about either of these opportunities, please email the school office at office@stmarybethelct.org.



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

Go to stmarybethel.org and click on the Religious Education tab to fill out the necessary forms. You can also pick up a hard copy in the vestibule of the Church. Beginning the week of June 15 the Religious Ed office is closed. Please call in (203)743-4557 to leave a message will be answered in a timely manner.

• 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)
WWW.CTUNITEDYOUTH.COM

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

St Mary's
Bethel

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

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

For mutual coexistence Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.



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.

ST MARY'S SCRIPTURE STUDY LOOKS AHEAD TO ITS FALL SERIES

Propelled by the desire to explore their Faith and know God more deeply, members of St Mary's Scripture Study group have been participating in a guided pro-gram that examines the Word of God as revealed in the Old and New Testament. New participants are welcome.

The program consists of 8-10 week sessions in the Spring and Fall. Each cluster focuses on a particular theme. To date, these have included Mary: The Bible and the Mother of God, Eucharist: Discovering the Mass in the Bible, and most recently God: The Mystery of the Trinity in the Bible.

Each session lasts approximately one hour and consists of a 30-45 minute video lecture by Catholic biblical scholars, followed by an opportunity for brief discussion. The lectures are engaging, enlightening, and thought provoking. Although the sessions build upon one another, you do not need to attend every session to benefit. The program is not aimed at "Bible Scholars"; it is valuable for anyone who wishes to expand their understanding and increase their love of God.

Stay tuned for information about dates, times, and study topics for the Fall.

ONLINE GIVING

**BRIGHTER DAYS
BIGGER MISSION**

Inviting gracious hearts to give during the warmth of summertime

Summer sunshine offers us time and opportunities for spiritual building. That is why our church offers Online Giving as an additional option to support our ongoing mission and ministries. Our church is a spiritual home for all of us which relies on our time, talent, and treasure to fulfill that mission.

Online Giving helps support our church by allowing you to make donations, payments, and pledges via your mobile phone, smart device, or computer to our church.

Set up your gift today or consider an additional gift via our Online Giving link on your smart device.

Visit our church website today to sign up and get started.

ST. MARY'S WOMEN OF FAITH

Walking with Purpose

St. Mary's Women of Faith **Walking with Purpose Bible Study** will resume on Tuesday, September 16 and continue into mid-November.

We're continuing **Discovering Our Dignity, a Study of Women of the Bible**. The fee for the session is \$20.

Morning Meetings are held on Tuesdays at 9:30 am.
Evening Meetings are held on Tuesdays at 7 pm.
All meetings are held in the Father McGivney Church Hall.

If you haven't participated with us before, it's easy to jump in! You simply need to register by **September 2** to ensure that you receive the book on time. You don't need to attend every meeting to participate!

You can register online by going to <https://bit.ly/StMaryFall2025> or by scanning the QR code below.



If you have questions or would like to register via phone or email, contact Caroline LaFleur at 203-300-1486 or la_fleur@sbcglobal.net.



Knights of Columbus®

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 faith and men of charitable action. If you are at least 18 years of age, we invite you to join us. To contact us call Alan Gambino at (203)910-3733 or Email knightsofcolumbus48-bethelct for more information. Like us on Facebook.com/Pavia48!

4TH ANNUAL DANBURY
San Gennaro FESTIVAL
AUGUST 20-24, 2025
IVES STREET - DANBURY, CT

WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
5:00 PM - 11:00 PM	1:00 PM - 11:00 PM	1:00 PM - 10:00 PM

AUTHENTIC ITALIAN FEAST
Beer WINE ITALIAN FEAST
—laser light shows—
LIVE MUSIC RIDES GAMES Statue Procession

Join us for Mass and Grand Procession
Wednesday, August 20th

4:00PM: Join Bishop Frank J. Caggiano as he celebrates Mass and offers a Blessing of the San Gennaro Statue at St. Peter Church.

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

Grand Marshal
Tonina Chieffato

@DANBURYSANGENNARO DANBURYSANGENNARO.COM

Prayer for College Students

Loving God, I thank you for giving me the opportunity of coming to college. Lead me to mature more in my prayer life and knowledge of you. Help me to always put you first and not idolize grades, competitions, and friends.

Surround me with good friends who challenge and support me to grow into who you created me to be. Let me spend my time well and grow in the service of others.

As I am away from home, please be with my family and keep me close to your heart. Take care of my parents/guardians who have done so much for me and poured their lives into me.

Bless my professors and teachers with wisdom to guide us. Let me remain in you more than in the college social scenes. Calm my fears and anxieties. If I fall short, help me with strength to get back up and do better.

You have led me thus far. Please never allow me to walk alone. Bless my efforts and studies with your grace. Lead me through these critical years of my young adult life. I entrust my college years into your loving hands. Keep your joy in me. Please be with me, Lord.

Amen.

PLEASE JOIN US

for a talk being given by Veronica Royal,
Master Iconographer

The Different Faces of Mary in Iconography

Open to St. Mary's Parish and the Public



Date: August 19th

Time: 6:00-7:30 PM

Location: Fr. McGivney Hall
St. Mary's Parish of Bethel, CT

Veronica Royal will be giving this talk as an extension of her teaching the iconography workshop for the icon Our Lady of Sorrows, August 18th to August 22nd at St. Mary's Church. Iconographer Veronica Royal has studied icon writing since 1995. She has been painting commissioned works for private individuals and public institutions worldwide. Royal Icon Studio has been featured in: EWTN, National Catholic Register, Catholic Herald

Any inquiries about the icon workshop or the Iconography talk, should be directed to Ewa Krepsztul at 203.482.6797

We hope you can make it to this special, faith-filled opportunity to learn more about icons!

Icon Retreat 2025

August 18th to 22nd, 2025



Icon Retreat Returns to St. Mary Church for 2025!

The 2025 ICON Retreat at St. Mary Church is just a few months away, so don't delay in securing your place as we are joined by world-renowned Iconographer Veronica Royal!

This retreat offers a unique opportunity for spiritual renewal, deep reflection, and personal growth in an intimate setting. You'll experience powerful teachings, meaningful discussions, and a chance to connect with our Lord on a deeper level.

This year, we will be writing the powerful Icon Our Lady of Sorrows.

Why You Should Join Us:

1. Intimate experience with limited spots available
2. Transformative spiritual growth surrounded by peaceful beauty
3. Write & keep your Icon of Our Lady of Sorrows

Spaces are filling quickly, and we wouldn't want you to miss out on this opportunity.

Register today to ensure your spot at the 2025 ICON Retreat!

We look forward to seeing you!

August 18th to 22nd, 2025
9AM-5PM

St. Mary Church 26 Dodgingtown
Rd, Bethel, CT, 06801

Contact Ewa Krepsztul at ewa@eviacordis.com
or 203.482.6797
for additional info and registration

AROUND THE DIOCESE

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!!

DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT PROJECT RACHEL MINISTRY – *Jesus Keeps on Loving You, No Matter What* 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.

SACRED HEART AND SAINT PATRICK PARISH PRESENTS

Oktoberfest

SATURDAY, 9-27-25

3:00PM - 8:00PM

169 BLACK ROCK TPKE, REDDING

A FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUNDRAISING EVENT FEATURING
AUTHENTIC GERMAN BEER AND FOODS, MUSIC, AND
CHILDREN'S MENU AND ACTIVITIES



www.sacredheart-stpat.org



Sun.: Jer 38:4-6, 8-10 Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18 Heb 12:1-4 Lk 12:49-53

Mon.: Jgs 2:11-19 Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44 Mt 19:16-22

Tues.: Jgs 6:11-24a Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14 Mt 19:23-30

Wed.: Jgs 9:6-15 Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 Mt 20:1-16

Thu: Jgs 11:29-39a Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 Mt 22:1-14

Fri.: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22 Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10 Mt 22:34-40

Sat.: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17 Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 Mt 23:1-12

Sun.: Is 66:18-21 Ps 117:1, 2 Heb 12:5-7, 11-13 Lk 13:22-30



This Week on Formed

Week of August 17, 2025



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.



Mary, Queen of Heaven | Brother Francis

Based on the historical records and the personal testimony of his fellow friars, this is the amazing true story of the life of the famous stigmatic monk, St. Padre Pio, a contemporary saint who died in 1968.

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

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

ST. MARY SCHOOL (744-2922) Scott Smith, *Principal*
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (743-4557) Mary Ferri, *Director*
Maggie Kent, *Secretary*

RCIA (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 972*227 2222 -22
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.

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. Mrs. Susan Dolan (203) 744 - 5777

Eucharistic Minister Assist in the distribution of Holy Communion on weekdays and Sundays. Mrs. Susan Dolan (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. Lang Reese gkofpa-via@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.