

Saint Mary Parish

August 30, 2026

Twenty-second Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Take Up Your Cross



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

† This priest was Poland's first martyr of communism

Bl. Władysław Findysz was the first priest to be labeled a "martyr" of the communist regime that ruled Poland. He was killed August 21, 1964.

Polish Catholics suffered much in the 20th century, with their country first being occupied by Nazis, and then being ruled by a communist regime for many decades.

Catholics were severely persecuted during this time and as a result, there were many martyrs who were either imprisoned or immediately killed because of their vocal support of the Catholic faith.

Each year the Catholic Church seems to beatify or canonize another individual who fits that description, but it all started with one Polish priest's beatification in 2005.

Bl. Władysław Findysz Born in 1907 in Krościenko Niżne, a small village in Southern Poland, Władysław experienced great tragedy at an early age, losing his mother when he was five years old.

This was then followed by World War I and World War II. Essentially most of his youth was spent in one of the most war-torn regions of the world in the early 20th century.

Despite such obstacles, Władysław discerned a call to the priesthood and was ordained on June 19, 1932. He ministered to a variety of parishes, always sowing unity and hope wherever he was assigned.

After World War II, it didn't take long for Władysław to be put under surveillance by the communist regime. He was eventually suspended from teaching catechism classes and restricted in his travel.

Once the Second Vatican Council was initiated, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński organized a, "Council Act of Goodness" program in Poland to spiritually support the work of the Council Fathers.

According to Vatican News, the bishops of Poland wrote at the time, "The spirit of forgiveness, reconciliation and harmony, the pardoning of your grievances, whether real or imagined, a brotherly hand extended in friendship, a smile



and a kindly look towards everyone — this is the best and most effective form of help for the unity of Christians."

The program essentially promoted acts of kindness towards everyone, especially among Christians of differing denominations. The goal was to promote spiritual unity as much as possible.

Władysław was a big proponent of this movement and spoke about it quite often in his homilies and letters to parishioners.

In 1963, Władysław was again targeted by the communist government and imprisoned for several months for his promotion of the Catholic faith.

By 1964 Władysław was severely malnourished and was released due to poor health. This led directly to his death on August 21, 1964.

His feast is celebrated in Poland on August 23 and Pope Leo XIV spoke about him in a recent general audience: *I extend a warm greeting to the Polish people! August 23 marks the European Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Stalinism and Nazism. On this day, the liturgy commemorates Władysław Findysz, a priest and the first Pole to be beatified as a martyr of communist persecution. During the Second Vatican Council, he provided spiritual support for its deliberations, engaging the faithful in the "Conciliar Act of Kindness" through works of love and moral renewal. May his witness remind us that a civilization of love is built by forgiving and overcoming evil with good. I bless you all!*

Władysław remains a powerful example of heroic charity, willing to do whatever it takes to remain faithful to Jesus Christ and his Church, even in the midst of persecution.



SAT., AUGUST 29

4:30 + Teresa Francese — The Serensics Family

SUN., AUGUST 30

7:00 St. Mary Parish

8:30 + Bridget A. Birmingham — The Henn Family

11:00 + Matthew Hatcher — The McClellan Family

MON., AUGUST 31

9:00 + Nancy Doyle — The Drury Family

TUES., SEPTEMBER 1

9:00 + Thomas Materazo — The Drury Family

WED., SEPTEMBER 2

9:00 + Helen Roth — Carol Roth & Daughter

THURS., SEPTEMBER 3

9:00 + Joan & Vito Ninivaggi — Andrew D'Ambrosio

FRI., SEPTEMBER 4

9:00 + Father John E. Faye — St. Mary Parish

SAT., SEPTEMBER 5

9:00 + Francis J. Doonan — The Wasp Family

4:30 + Christopher Wagher — Mary Wagher

SUN., SEPTEMBER 6

7:00 + Giovanna Bestetti — The Cazzaniga Family

8:30 St. Mary Parish

11:00 + T. J. Burke — Eleanor Roche



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 30

12:15pm Baptism

2:30pm Men's Cursillo

6:00pm United Youth

Monday, August 31

Tuesday, September 1

Wednesday, September 2

Thursday, September 3

Friday, September 4

Saturday, September 5

9:30am Altar Server Meeting

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Adoration

Sunday, September 6

12:15pm Pre-Baptism

2:30pm Men's Cursillo

6:00pm United Youth

Altar Server Meeting

September 5th 9:30, Parish Hall

Calling all Altar Servers, Parents,
and anyone interested in becoming
an Altar Server in Grades 4 - 12

Please bring your Albs, cleaned.
We look forward to seeing you soon!

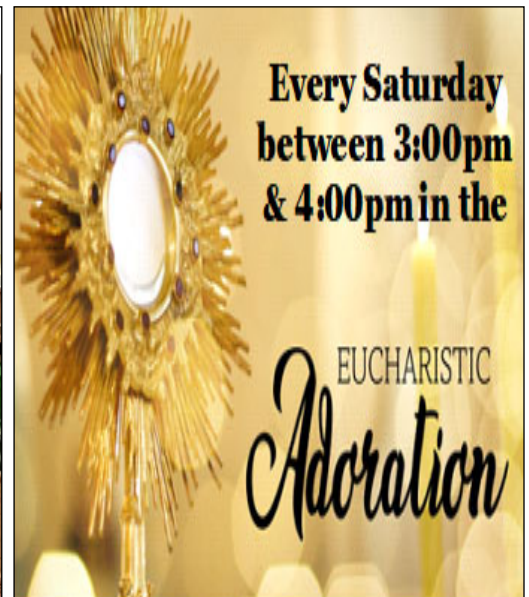
Email Mrs. Keener to r.s.v.p.
eajkeener@gmail.com
by September 3rd

Save the dates:

Server Trainings

September 12th 9:30

September 26th 12:30 (*updated)



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.

ST. MARY PARISH BOOK GROUP welcomes all adults! "Spiritual reading has made many saints" (St. Josemaria Escriva). Let's read and talk about Saint Dominic Savio. The Life of Dominic Savio, written by St. John Bosco, is our selection. Get it through a Catholic online bookstore or amazon.com. However, any resource about him will work for our discussion, including donboscowest.org, or download a free pdf at archive.org. Please join us on Wednesday September 16 at 6:00 pm in the Notre Dame Center.

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.



*This week the **Sanctuary Lamp** will be lit and prayers will be said before each Mass by the priest for Fr. Vincent Capodanno MM, Chaplain, USMC*



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

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR IS NOW OPEN! We are now accepting applications for Pre-K -- Grade 8.

Important Upcoming Dates

Back-to-School Nights

Preschool — Tuesday, September 1

Kindergarten–Grade 8 — Wednesday, September 9

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.

St. Mary Religious Education
24 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel, CT 06801
203-743-4557
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:30am-2pm
stmarybethelreliged@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. **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.

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

CAN'T COMMIT
 NOW?
 NEW MEMBERS
 ALWAYS WELCOME
 NO MATTER THE
 TIME OF YEAR!

Questions?

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



Offertory for the Weekend of August 22/23, 2026

Collection: \$5,542.00 On-Line Giving: \$4,181.00

Last year's offertory for the Weekend of August 23/24, 2025

Collection: \$7,389.00 On-Line Giving: \$4,676.00

Thank you for your generosity!



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 Women of Faith

Join Us This Fall!
Conversations on Sunday
Scriptures and Sermons



St. Mary's Women of Faith group studies will resume on Tuesday, September 22, 2026. We are starting something new: **Conversations on Sunday Scriptures and Sermons.** We'll be discussing the readings and homilies from the previous Sunday's masses.

No homework! Just come prepared for meaningful conversation and fellowship with other faith-filled women!

Meetings will be held on eight **Tuesdays, from September 22 to November 10** in the Notre Dame Center. You can choose to attend either the **Evening Meetings** at 7 pm or the **Morning Meetings** at 9:30 am.

Registration is not required but will help us with a headcount for refreshments. Please register by Sept. 15.



You can register online by going to <https://tinyurl.com/WoFFall2026> or by scanning the QR code to the left.

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



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

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport will celebrate the **Annual Diocesan Wedding Jubilee Mass on Saturday, October 3, 2026 at 11:00 AM at the Cathedral of Saint Augustine** in Bridgeport.

Couples celebrating their 25th, 40th, 45th, 50th and more years of marriage are eligible to attend. All couples who are recognized at the Mass will receive a commemorative certificate in recognition of this important milestone in their married life in addition to pictures with the Bishop.

Sharon Colihan is coordinating the registration process for the Mass and is available to answer whatever questions you may have. She can be reached at Sharon.Colihan@diobpt.org or (203) 416-1454 and she will provide instructions on how to register.

This Week on Formed

Week of August 30, 2026



Cabrini

From Alejandro Monteverde, award-winning director of Sound of Freedom, comes the powerful epic of Francesca Cabrini, an Italian immigrant who arrives in New York City in 1889 and is greeted by disease, crime, and impoverished children. With broken English and poor health, Cabrini builds an empire of hope unlike anything the world had ever seen.



Mother Teresa: No Greater Love

Mother Teresa: No Greater Love is a soaring tribute to a spiritual icon, a powerful witness of authentic Christian charity, and a guidepost for all who seek hope in our turbulent times: Mother Teresa of Calcutta. This film reveals not just who Mother Teresa was, but how her singular vision to serve Christ in the poor continues to be realized through the Missionaries of Charity today.



Mother Teresa

See Mother Teresa in the slums of Calcutta as she mingled closely with her people, dispensing help, joy, and smiles to everyone in this moving film.

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

An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

2026 Parish Raffle Winners

- 1st Prize. \$20,000 – Jody Miska - St Mary's Parish Greenwich
- 2nd Prize. \$6,000 – Jose Lugi St. Joseph Shelton
- 3rd Prize. \$4,000 – Anibal Reyes - St Maurice Stamford Ticket
- 4th Prize. \$1,000 – Victor Iraola - St Roch Greenwich
- 5th Prize. \$1,000 – Stephen Posner - St Roch - Greenwich
- 6th Prize \$1,000 - Linus Cooke - Our Lady of Fatima - Wilton
- 7th Prize \$1,000 - Brian Hatcher - St. Edward the Confessor
- 8th Prize. \$1,000 – Carmon Montoya - St Roch - Greenwich
- 9th Prize. \$1,000 Veronica Hernandez – Our Lady of Fatima - Wilton
- 10th Prize. \$1,000 – Tom Larkin - St Paul - Greenwich
- 11th Prize. \$1,000 – Rudy Mendez - St Peters - Bridgeport
- 12th Prize. \$1,000 – Nancy Borchetta - St Roch - Greenwich

• 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.*



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>



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!



Sun.: Jer 20:7-9 Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 Rom 12:1-2 Mt 16:21-27

Mon.: 1 Cor 2:1-5 Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102 Lk 4:16-30

Tues.: 1 Cor 2:10b-16 Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14 Lk 4:31-37

Wed.: 1 Cor 3:1-9 Ps 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21 Lk 4:38-44

Thu.: 1 Cor 3:18-23 Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Lk 5:1-11

Fri.: 1 Cor 4:1-5 Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40 Lk 5:33-39

Sat.: 1 Cor 4:6b-15 Ps 145:17-18, 19-20, 21 Lk 6:1-5

Sun.: Ez 33:7-9 Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 Rom 13:8-10 Mt 18:15-20

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



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!!



ST. ROSE OF LIMA
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED
CATHOLIC SPEAKER & AUTHOR

DR. EDWARD SRI

FOUR POWERFUL
PRESENTATIONS

FREE TO ATTEND
FREE WILL
DONATIONS
APPRECIATED

SCAN TO REGISTER



FRIDAY EVENING
PRAYER & VIRTUE

SATURDAY MORNING
MARRIAGE & LOVE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026
7-9 PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026
9-11 AM

1 WHEN YOU PRAY
Trust, Surrender and the Transformation of Your Soul

2 THE ART OF LIVING
The Cardinal Virtues and the Freedom to Love

3 THE GOOD, THE MESSY, AND THE BEAUTIFUL
The Joys and Struggles of Real Married Life

4 MEN, WOMEN & THE MYSTERY OF LOVE

ABOUT DR. EDWARD SRI

Dr. Edward Sri is a theologian, author and internationally renowned Catholic speaker who presents to tens of thousands of people around the world each year, including clergy, parish leaders, catechists, and laity. He is a founding leader with FOCUS and serves as Sr. Vice President of Apostolic Outreach. He is the host of the "All Things Catholic" podcast and an adjunct professor at the Augustine Institute

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.strosechurch.com/news

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 SEPTEMBER



For the care of water Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

PRAY FOR
PRIESTS

IMMACULATE HIGH SCHOOL

EMPOWER YOUR FUTURE

**HSPT
PREP SESSION**

AND
PARENT
INFO
SESSION

**SATURDAY
SEPT. 12
9am**

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.

BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER

Dear Lord,

As our students begin a new school year,
I pray that you will keep them in your care.

Send your Spirit to open their minds
to all that is true and beautiful and good

Help them to see the gifts and talents
you have given them and to use them well.
Help them to grow in knowledge and wisdom.

Help them to be kind to others
and lead others to be kind to them.

Give their teachers patience and understanding
and help them teach what is just and true.

Send your angels to guide and guard our
children and to keep them from all harm.

Open their young hearts to your presence
and enfold them in your peace and protection.

Hold them in the palm of your hand
and bring them home safely at day's end.

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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