

Saint Mary Parish

August 9, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary
Time



Take **courage**, it is I;
do not be afraid.

MATTHEW 14:27

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

† We are doing some cleanup around the Church. There are a great deal of weeds and dead plants. They will be removed and replaced with mulch. Next year new vegetation will be planted as it is too late to plant this year.

† As requested here is the Homily from Father Corey for the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

There is quite a lot in today's Gospel, so I will break it down for you.

- *Jesus both sympathizes and empathizes with us in our distress. He feels what we feel and comes to our aid.*
- *Second, whenever we come to him, he never casts us away.*
- *Third, He defies all odds in order to make us feel comfortable. He makes the impossible happen just for our good.*
- *Fourth, the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves is a sign the prefigures the superabundance of the unique bread of the Eucharist, and the love of God which sustains us in our journey.*

The love of God continues to heal us in every day of our life. It continues multiplying our loves, and it continues to comfort and satisfy us. When God gives, He gives abundantly.

† Father Flanagan and the Road to Sainthood

Father Edward J. Flanagan, founder of Boys Town, lived a life defined by faith, compassion, and courage. Born prematurely in 1886 in a stone cottage in Ireland, he was not expected to survive the night. With the warmth and prayers of his grandfather, he did, and this set the stage for a life devoted to serving the forgotten.



From early on, young Eddie felt called to the priesthood. Despite chronic health problems that forced him to leave seminary once, he returned and eventually was ordained. In 1917, he established Boys Town in Nebraska, creating a safe haven for at-risk boys. His unwavering belief that "there's no such thing as a bad boy" guided his mission, even when critics challenged his approach. He

welcomed children of every race, religion, and background, standing firm in his convictions at a time when few others would.

After World War II, President Harry Truman asked Father Flanagan to advise on the care of war orphans overseas. While carrying out that mission in Germany, Father Flanagan passed away in 1948, still serving the children he loved so deeply.

On March 23, 2026, Pope Leo XIV declared Father Edward Flanagan Venerable, officially recognizing his heroic virtue and advancing his cause for sainthood. The decree was signed during an audience with Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

This important milestone grants Father Flanagan the title "Venerable." For his cause to move forward, the Church now seeks confirmation of two miracles attributed to his intercession, one required for beatification and another required for canonization.

This recognition affirms what generations of Boys Town youth, staff, and supporters have long known: Father Flanagan lived a life of extraordinary holiness, courage, and love.

The Catholic Church's canonization process is a rigorous, multi-stage journey. Today, Father Flanagan has successfully reached the following stages:

- Pre-Diocesan Phase
- Diocesan Phase
- Roman Phase
- Venerable (declared March 23, 2026)

Next Steps are Beatification which requires one approved miracle and Canonization which requires a second approved miracle.

His Legacy Continues

Father Flanagan was a true visionary whose belief in the potential of every child still shapes Boys Town today. His newly recognized heroic virtue offers renewed inspiration and hope to all who look to his life as a model of compassion, justice, and steady faith.

Mass Intentions

SAT., AUGUST 8

4:30 + Donna Cook — Michelle Mattiacchio

SUN., AUGUST 9

7:00 + Msgr. Richard Scully & Father John Kennedy — St. Mary Parish

8:30 For St. Mary Parish

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

MON., AUGUST 10

9:00 + Helen Arcuri — Children

TUES., AUGUST 11

9:00 + Rory O'Hanlon — Kathleen Aiello

WED., AUGUST 12

9:00 + John Rooney — Pat & John Grunert

THURS., AUGUST 13

9:00 + Roberta Caraluzzi — Bernie Rotunda (*brother*)

FRI., AUGUST 14

9:00 + Leoica Garcia — The Mulligan Family

SAT., AUGUST 15

9:00 + Beverly Kieras — Geraldine Boucher

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



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 9

12:15pm Baptism

2:30pm Men's Cursillo

6:00 United Youth

Monday, August 10

7:00pm Knights of Columbus

Tuesday, August 11

Wednesday, August 12

Thursday, August 13

6:30pm Summer Bible Study

Friday, August 14

Saturday, August 15

1:00pm Young Adults Group

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Adoration

Sunday, August 16

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.

SAVE THE DATE: On Sunday afternoon, September 13 from 2-5pm, we will have a 40th Ordination Anniversary Party for Father Corey at Bennett Park in Bethel. There will be food and refreshments and entertainment to celebrate the years of dedication and service to the people of our diocese!

St. Mary Religious Education

24 Dodgingtown Road

Bethel, CT 06801

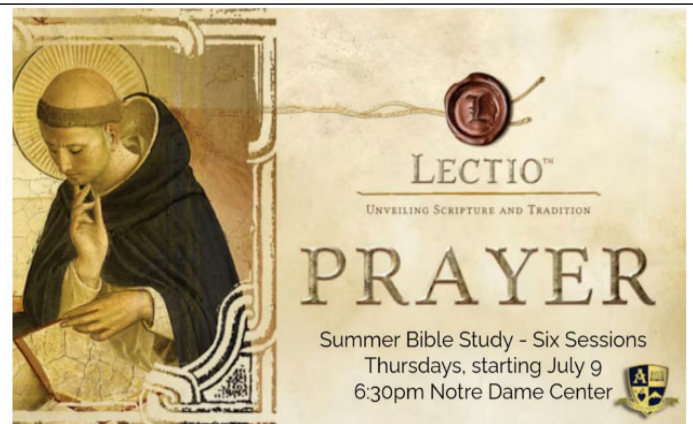
203-743-4557

stmarybethelreliced@gmail.com

stmarybethel.org

Registration forms for the 2026/37 year have gone out in the mail for current families. You can find online registration on our website [@stmarybethel.org](http://stmarybethel.org).

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.



With the clear teaching and artistry of the Augustine Institute's Lectio series, Dr. Tim Gray masterfully uses the discipline of Lectio Divina to show you how to make prayer an effective effort of love and intimacy.

In six video sessions, Lectio: Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God captures the secret to opening our hearts and minds to Scripture as the means to hear from God and then respond in conversation, basking in his presence and resolving to live in and through his love.

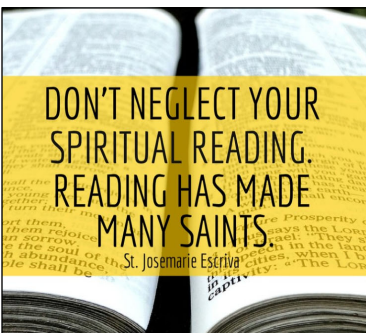
Engaging and accessible, Prayer: Finding Intimacy With God includes:

- The Lectio Divina approach of Reading, Reflecting, Responding, and Contemplating
- Penetrating questions and insights for the six video sessions
- Additional resources for a fuller understanding and application
- Daily reflections to deepen the meaning of prayer in your life

Join us on Thursday evenings in the Notre Dame Center at 6:30pm

July 9, 16, 23, 30

August 6, 13



St. Mary Parish Book Club

All Adults Welcome!

Please see the Church bulletin for monthly meeting announcements.



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.

Saturday, August 15 is the **Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. It is a Holy Day, but as it falls on a Saturday it is not a day of obligation. While you do not have to go to Mass under pain of sin, the feast is still celebrated on that day, and you are encouraged to attend 9am Mass.



*This week the **Sanctuary Lamp** will be lit and prayers will be said before each Mass by the priest for Linda DaSilva from Pat Kuhn & Family*

• 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](https://www.facebook.com/CTUNITEDYOUTH)

[@CTUNITEDYOUTH](https://www.instagram.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 1/2, 2026

Collection: \$8,894.00 On-Line Giving: \$5,132.00

Last year's offertory for the Weekend of August 2/3, 2026

Collection: \$8,121.00 On-Line Giving: \$5,048.00

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

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

2026 PARISH RAFFLE

1st PRIZE: \$20,000 American Express Gift Card

2nd PRIZE: \$6,000 American Express Gift Card

3rd PRIZE: \$4,000 American Express Gift Card

4th PRIZE: \$1,000 AMEX Gift Card

5th PRIZE: \$1,000 AMEX Gift Card

6th PRIZE: \$1,000 AMEX Gift Card

7th PRIZE: \$1,000 AMEX Gift Card

8th PRIZE: \$1,000 AMEX Gift Card

9th PRIZE: \$1,000 AMEX Gift Card

10th PRIZE: \$1,000 AMEX Gift Card

11th PRIZE: \$1,000 AMEX Gift Card

12th PRIZE: \$1,000 AMEX Gift Card

13th PRIZE: \$1,000 AMEX Gift Card

thirteen (13) prizes to be awarded; totaling \$40,000.00

Tickets are \$25 each

-Extra tickets available at the parish office-

DRAWING:

August 15, 2026 at 11pm

Streamed LIVE at www.parishraffle.com

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.



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



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 09, 2026



Triumph of the Heart

In the harrowing confines of Auschwitz's starvation cell, Catholic priest St. Maximilian Kolbe volunteers to die in place of another prisoner, joining nine others condemned by the Nazis.



The New Eve | LECTIO: Mary | Episode 1

The Book of Genesis begins with the story of Adam and Eve, whose sin of disobedience breaks their relationship with God. God does not abandon his people, but gradually prepares them for the coming of his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus, the promised "seed" of Genesis 3:15 is the "New Adam," and his mother, the promised "woman," is the "New Eve."



Clare and Francis

This outstanding movie is unique among films about St. Francis because of the historical accuracy of the story and its authentic spirit of joy and piety so characteristic of Francis, as well as the major role played by Clare. Both founded major religious orders, and together they inspired many to follow their radical call to live the Gospel.

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

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE



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

- HEADLINERS**
- BEYOND PURPLE**
DINO PURPLE & WHITEHAWK
THURSDAY
 - THE ZOO**
FRIDAY
 - MULLET**
BOB ROCK & ROLL BAND
SATURDAY
 - SHOOTING STAR**
A TRIBUTE TO BAD COMPANY
SUNDAY
 - VITO LOMBARDO**
WED - THU
 - VITTORIO DI CARLO**
"THE GRACEFUL TENDRIL"
FRI & SUN
 - LOUIS AND JOAHN AND THE UPTOWN BAND**
SATURDAY
 - DJ DEAN**
PERFORMING THROUGHOUT THE EVENT



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](https://www.instagram.com/danburysangennaro)

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.



Sun.: Is 55:1-3 Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18 Rom 8:35, 37-39 Mt 14:13-21

Mon.: 2 Cor 9:6-10 Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9 Jn 12:24-26

Tues.: Ez 2:8—3:4 Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131 Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

Wed.: Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22 Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 Mt 18:15-20

Thu: Ez 12:1-12 Ps 78:56-57, 58-59, 61-62 Mt 18:21—19:1

Fri.: Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 or 16:59-63 Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 Mt 19:3-12

Sat.: Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16 1 Cor 15:20-27 Lk 1:39-56

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

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).

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.

Food for thought:

Sin Killed Jesus

Lust kills love.

Fear kills faith.

Anger kills gratitude.

Laziness kills purpose.

Distraction kills focus.

Now read it backwards.

Welcome to our new Principal of St. Mary School Mrs. Michelle Powrie!

Dear St. Mary School Families,

It is an honor and a true blessing to introduce myself as the new Principal of St. Mary School. I am grateful for the opportunity to join this faith-filled community and look forward to getting to know the students, families, faculty, staff, and parish that make St. Mary such a special place.

For the past eleven years, I have been blessed to serve as a principal in Catholic schools throughout New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Each school has strengthened my faith, shaped my leadership, and re-affirmed my belief in the life-changing gift of Catholic education. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to continue my ministry at St. Mary School and become part of this wonderful community.

On a personal note, I am the proud mother of twins, both of whom were blessed to receive a Catholic education from preschool through high school. Watching them grow academically, spiritually, and personally deepened my appreciation for the extraordinary gift of Catholic education. As both a principal and a parent, I understand the tremendous trust families place in us each day. It is a trust I never take for granted, and I consider it a privilege to partner with you in the education and faith formation of your children.

Catholic education is far more than my profession, it is my vocation. It allows me to combine my love for children, my passion for learning, and my faith in Jesus Christ.

As I begin this journey at St. Mary School, my first priority is to listen, learn, and build meaningful relationships. Every school has its own traditions, strengths, and unique story. I look forward to learning about the traditions that have shaped this community, listening to your hopes and dreams for its future, and building upon the strong foundation that already makes St. Mary such a special place.

If there is one thing I hope every family comes to know about me, it is this:

I believe every child deserves to be seen, known, loved, and encouraged to become the person God created them to be.

Relationships have always been at the heart of my leadership. I believe the strongest schools are built through faith, trust, collaboration, open communication, and a shared commitment to children. Every decision I make begins with one simple question:

“What is best for our children?”

Together, I look forward to building upon the wonderful foundation that already exists while embracing the opportunities that lie ahead for our school. My door will always be open, and I welcome the opportunity to work alongside each of you as partners in this important mission.

Please know that I will keep the students, families, faculty, staff, and parish of St. Mary School in my prayers as we begin this new chapter together. I look forward to meeting each of you in the weeks ahead and getting to know your children—the greatest blessing entrusted to our care.

May God continue to bless you and your families, and may He continue to bless St. Mary School.

I look forward to meeting many of you soon. I will be speaking at Mass August 15 - 16 and would love the opportunity to greet you after mass.

With gratitude and prayers,

Mrs. Michelle M. Powrie

Principal

“Do small things with great love.”

— Saint Teresa of Calcutta

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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