

Saint Mary Parish

July 26, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary
Time

The kingdom of heaven is like
a treasure buried in a field.

Matthew 13:44



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

† The Catholic Bishop of Oslo, Norway, His Excellency Fredrik Hansen, has begun preparations for a canonization cause for the Catholic writer Sigrid Undset.

Undset, a Catholic convert and lay Dominican, won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1928 and is considered one of the foremost writers of the 20th century. Hansen's announcement means the Catholic Church will begin a formal investigation to determine if Undset lived a life of heroic virtue in such a way that she can be declared a saint officially.

After examining Undset's life and finding clear signs of devotion, Bishop Hansen presented the case to the Nordic Bishops' Conference and to experts on the life of Sigrid Undset. He said the formal process will begin this fall.

The announcement was made July 8 during an annual pilgrimage Mass for the feast of St. Sunniva on the island of Selja, where hundreds of Catholic pilgrims were gathered.

Speaking from the ruins of an ancient monastery where the annual Mass is celebrated, Bishop Hansen described the famed writer, saying: *She is far more than an author and Nobel Prize laureate. "For us, she is a model of Christian faith, of a life lived in virtue, and of the pursuit of holiness.*

She showed a constant and practical concern for the poor. She gave of herself in caring for her daughter, in her commitment to life and to the sanctity of life.

Through her many books she has shaped countless believers, inspired them to live in Christ, and borne witness to our medieval saints."

Aleteia Magazine reached out to Fr. Mathias Ledum, who is the first priest to come from Undset's home parish in 500 years, and is known for his popular #MakeScandinaviaCatholicAgain social media campaign.

Ledum feels a strong connection to Undset and already asks her to pray for him. He said: *I regard Sigrid Undset almost as a godmother. I have actively prayed for her intercession for two years already, and I know that others have been doing the same.*

Undset paved the way for the Catholic community of my home area in Gudbrandsdalen and specifically formed a prayer group that prayed for Norwegian vocations. We can assume that she even prayed and hoped for a priestly vocation from this area that she held so dearly.

Given his history with Undset and her beloved status among the Norwegian Church, Ledum said the local

Catholic community received the news *"with great joy and enthusiasm!"*

While cautioning that the process is in its very earliest stages, he said, "I agree with the bishop that it's the right time to look into this, and for all of us to rediscover the person of Sigrid Undset and what she has to offer us Catholics today, through her brilliant authorship and through the strong testimony of her life."

Ledum is something of a local expert on Undset. *"The last couple of years I have grown in my knowledge of her and friendship with her,"* he said.

Because of his personal connection to her, local organizations, both Catholic and secular, frequently invite Ledum to speak about Undset. He has given talks at the Undset museum, in parishes and churches, and at local history associations. He even celebrated Mass at the parish in Lillehammer where Undset lived, wearing vestments she had donated to the parish more than a century before.

Ledum told Aleteia of a recent incident that seems almost uncannily prophetic in hindsight: *"During the celebration of Olsok (solemnity of St. Olav, which was her favorite feast!), I got to speak to a huge crowd about her devotion to St. Olav and why he was her favorite saint. So many Lutherans and non-believers were there and they listened with great attention to what was basically an explanation of Catholic theology on the saints, through the lens of Undset. I even proposed that we might have Undset herself as one of our canonized saints one day!"*

The non-Catholic attendees' reaction is consistent with something he's seen repeatedly: *"Everywhere I go and speak about Undset, she seems to have a huge impact on many Protestants. Her writings often help them in understanding better the Catholic faith, and even in being received into full communion with the Church."*

Undset herself was an adult convert to Catholicism, entering the Church the same year she won the Nobel Prize. Undset is a *"bridge builder,"* he said, among the different Christian denominations in Scandinavia. Her life and witness are strengthening the Christian faith in Norway and helping many to rediscover its Catholic roots—and "how we can still connect with those roots for the benefit of our country and our culture."

Undset is a meaningful force in Ledum's campaign to "Make Scandinavia Catholic Again," and no doubt this fresh attention through the opened cause for canonization will bring her personal witness and powerful writings to many more Scandinavians—and people around the world. (Theresa Civantos Barber — Aleteia)



SAT., JULY 25

4:30 St. Mary Parish

SUN., JULY 26

7:00 Alfred Frank (*Blessings*) — Carmel O'Brien Frank

8:30 + Patricia Shean — Family

+ Joanne Stefkovich — Parish

+ Donald Lukas — Ronald Murray

11:00 + Helen Carmelo Broccoli — Family

MON., JULY 27

9:00 + Paul DiMarzio — The Brennan Family

TUES., JULY 28

9:00 + Ryan Levesque — Susan & David Mallonee

WED., JULY 29

9:00 + James Coffee — Family

THURS., JULY 30

9:00 + Patricia Shean — Family

FRI., AUGUST 1

9:00 + Francis Piccinini — Family

SAT., AUGUST 2

9:00 + Rose Mary Infantino — Robert Infantino

4:30 + Salvatore DeMarco — Michelle Mattiaccio

SUN., AUGUST 3

7:00 For St. Mary Parish

8:30 + Lourdes Rivera & Prospero Riveras, Sr. & Teresita DeJesus & Eduardo DeJesus — The Rivera Family

11:00 + Rose Hardy — The Ruhl Family



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, July 26

12:15pm Baptisms

2:30pm Men's Cursillo

6:00pm United Youth

Monday, July 27

Tuesday, June July 28

Wednesday, July 29

Thursday, July 30

6:30pm Summer Bible Study

Friday, August 1

Saturday, August 2

3:00pm Confessions

3:00pm Adoration

Sunday, August 3

12:15pm Pre Baptism Class

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 **August 15**. 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 BOOK GROUP welcomes all adults! "Spiritual reading has made many saints" (St. Josemaria Escriva). NEW time, NEW place! Read and talk about the timeless Christian classic, The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis. The book is readily available through interlibrary loan and from online booksellers. Many Catholic commentators have recommended it as a must-read; and there's a lot of Catholic commentary published about it. We will meet on Wednesday July 29 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.

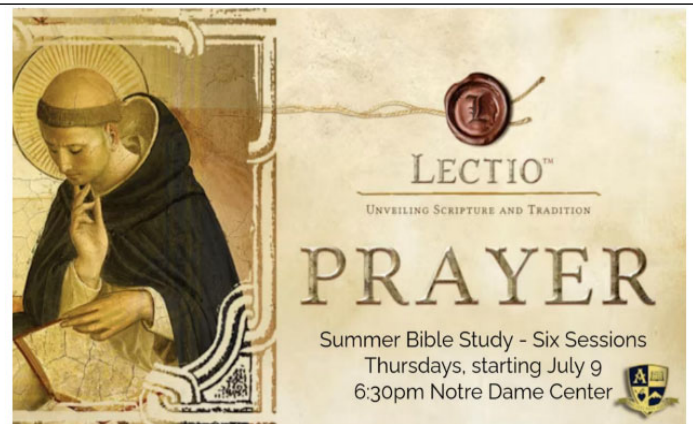
If you would like to dedicate **ALTAR FLOWERS** in memory of a loved one at weekend Masses, call the Parish Office at (203)744-5777. Donation would be \$150 and your loved one's name will appear in the bulletin. If you would like the **SANCTUARY CANDLE** to be lit for your departed loved one, we shall 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.

SAVE THE DATE: On Sunday afternoon, September 13 from 2-4pm, 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



Are you:

- A person who has not been baptized but recognize a need for spirituality in your life and have expressed an interest in learning more about Jesus?
- A Baptized Christian of another denomination who would like to learn about and possibly join the Catholic tradition?
- A Baptized Roman Catholic who has not received the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist and/or Confirmation and would like to become a full participant in the life of the Church?
- Married to a Catholic and attend Mass but just don't know what the next step is to become on of the Catholic faithful

If your answer is yes to any of these questions, come and discover, or re-discover, the truth, wonder and mystery of our Catholic faith! The OCIA program prepares you to be received as members of the Catholic Church.

Our new sessions begin in September and we meet on Sundays in the Notre Dame Center from 12:30-2 pm.

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



BANNS OF MARRIAGE

III — Peter Michael Kent & Son Nguyen
Ngoc Ai



God Bless those recently Baptized

Mason Derek Kaptein

• 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.*

Offertory for the Weekend of July 18/19, 2026

Collection: \$7,535.00 On-Line Giving: \$4,926 .00

Last year's offertory for the Weekend of July 19/20, 2026

Collection: \$6,592.00 On-Line Giving: \$5,274.00

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

St Mary's
Bethel

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.

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!

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>





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>



This Week on Formed

Week of July 26, 2026



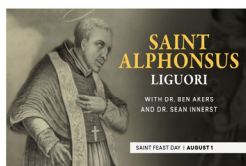
The Violinist: Stories of Solanus Casey

The Violinist is a must-watch documentary that chronicles the inspiring life of a humble Capuchin friar known for his deep faith, simplicity, and profound impact on those he served. Featuring personal stories from the people who knew Bl. Solanus, the film showcases his remarkable ability to inspire others, sharing heartwarming anecdotes about his modest lifestyle and passion for playing the violin.



Ignatius of Loyola

This film brings to life the story of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits. Often called "The Saint of Second Chances," St. Ignatius was transformed from a self-obsessed sinner to a loyal and passionate soldier-saint.



St. Alphonsus Liguori | Catholic Saints

Born to a noble Italian family and known as the "Prince of Moral Theologians," St. Alphonsus Liguori was a great preacher, lawyer, bishop, theologian, and Doctor of the Church. In this episode of Catholic Saints, Augustine Institute professors Dr. Sean Innerst and Dr. Ben Akers discuss this holy man, drawing wisdom from his life and works to aid Catholics today.

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!!



AUGUST 19-23, 2026
IVES STREET · DANBURY, CT

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
2025 PEOPLE'S CHOICE
TRIBUTE BAND
THURSDAY

THE ZOO
FRIDAY

MULLET
BOY 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



Grand Marshal
Anthony M. Rizzo Jr.

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.danburysangennaro.com)



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.: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12 Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 Rom 8:28-30 Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

Mon.: Jer 13:1-11 Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21 Mt 13:31-35

Tues.: Jer 14:17-22 Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13 Mt 13:36-43

Wed.: Jer 15:10, 16-21 Ps 59:2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18 Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Thu.: Jer 18:1-6 Ps 146:1B-2, 3-4, 5-6ab Mt 13:47-53

Fri.: Jer 26:1-9 Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14 Mt 13:54-58

Sat.: Jer 26:11-16, 24 Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34 Mt 14:1-12

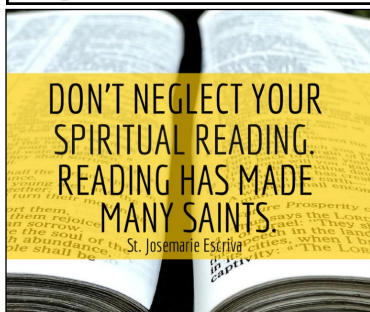
Sun.: Is 55:1-3 Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18 Rom 8:35, 37-39 Mt 14:13-21

St. Pauly Used Clothing Drop Off Shed



Located by the Hall Parking Lot area

- * Please put all clothes in plastic bags no larger than tall kitchen bag size
- * Please tie bags shut
- * Never put in loose clothing
- * No household goods, toys, fabric scraps or pillows



St. Mary Parish Book Club

All Adults Welcome!

Please see the Church bulletin for monthly meeting announcements.

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.

A SIMPLE PRAYER TO GOD

Father,

When I feel ignored, unseen or uncared for, please remind me that

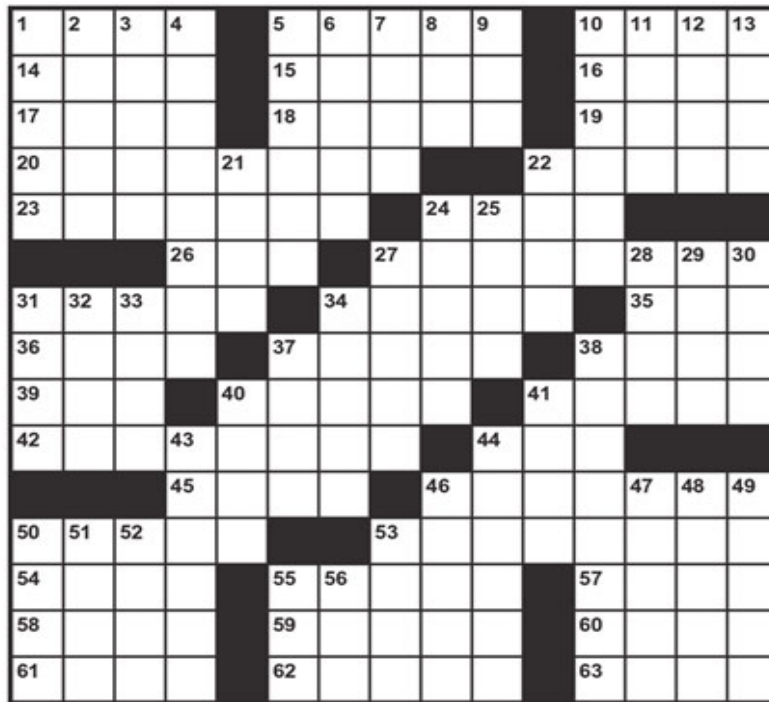
You see me, You love me, and You are always present. Help my heart rest in Your constant care.

In Jesus’ name,

Amen.

SUMMER CATHOLIC

CROSSWORD PUZZLE 3



www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

Across

1. Adam was made from this
5. Genesis tower
10. Southern US state, familiarly
14. 1974 Wimbledon champ
15. Run away with a lover
16. Vinegar (comb.)
17. Futile
18. Uproar
19. Alphabet string
20. Saint of Loyola
22. Lower portion of the small intestine
23. Move down
24. Type of art
26. Start of the Christian era
27. Saint who founded an order of monks
31. In some versions of The Lord's Prayer, trespasses are called these
34. Greek island
35. Middling grade
36. Solely
37. He housed Paul and Silas in Thessalonica
38. Long, cylindrical piece of wood
39. Wood sorrel
40. He established Notre Dame, Fr Edward ____, CSC
41. Banana, for example
42. Debater's comeback
44. Wet spongy ground
45. Shem's father
46. St. Isidore was from here
50. Parable of the Lost ____
53. Word of praise and joy
54. Verdi opera
55. Wife of Abram

57. Frozen treats
58. Limbs
59. Diminish
60. Trigonometric function
61. Deuce edger
62. Score symbol
63. Untidy condition

Down

1. Solomon's father
2. Long-continued practice
3. Lower legs
4. Perseverance
5. At the rear of
6. Spoken
7. Audience reaction
8. NT epistle
9. Meadow
10. Simple song
11. Peak
12. List from which to choose
13. Minute quantity
21. Green and Pekoe
22. Ancient Roman day
24. A fallen angel
25. Soon
27. A Doctor of the Church
28. NT epistle
29. Monastery chamber
30. Casual tops
31. Jubilee spot
32. Differ ending
33. Spill the beans
34. 55A, later
37. Spanish dance
38. Boxing

40. "...they did not ____ teaching and proclaiming the Messiah, Jesus." (Acts 5:42)
41. Bay
43. Insecure
44. Faith
46. It may be blank
47. President Johnson's daughter who converted to Catholicism
48. Property claims
49. Relaxes
50. Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of this
51. In this spot, to Gottfried
52. Verge
53. Asian inland sea
55. Thespians' labor org.
56. Phone button letters



Solution to Crossword Puzzle No. 3

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. 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 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. 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. 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.

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