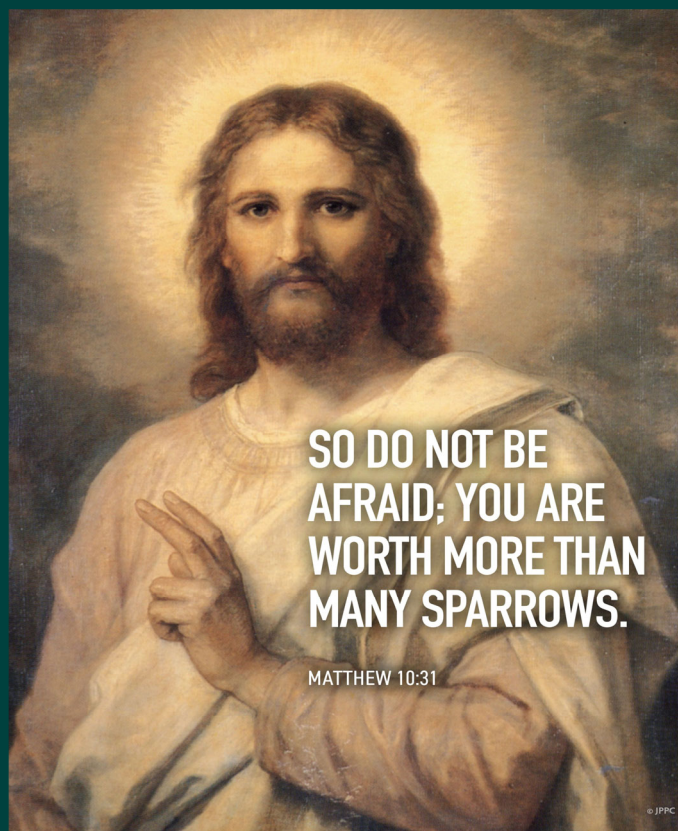


Saint Mary Parish

June 21, 2026

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary
Time



SO DO NOT BE
AFRAID; YOU ARE
WORTH MORE THAN
MANY SPARROWS.

MATTHEW 10:31

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 Fri-
day.

(Closed Weekends and Holidays)

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

Jason Ford, *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

† *By popular request, the following is my Corpus Christi Homily:*

We Catholics and the Oriental Orthodox are so blessed lucky be we have the real presence, the Body and Blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ, to adore and to consume every single day of the year.

In fact, each and every time we come to Mass, we should be excited as little kids on Christmas morning, because we have been given the gift to commune, to eat Jesus so that our bodies, souls, minds and hearts can be nourished and grow.

Most people in the world are starving to feel loved, to feel that they belong, that they are not insignificant. People long for companionship, to have courage and strength, to deal with depression or illness. Unfortunately, so many people, even some in this Church don't realize that the answer is right here.

How I would love to shake souls into understanding that the answer to every problem is right here, I want so much for people to understand that this is not just a law, or an obligation, or a ritual to be observed. This is our lifegiving nourishment that is available every day of our lives.

So how come there are not more people in Church, how come many people come to communion either with mortal sin, unprepared, not properly disposed... how come people come to Mass late or leave early, how come many young people just don't get it.

I think there are many answers to this question and the first is that Jesus has been much too good to us. He has made his love so easy, he has made his mercy so abundant, he has made himself and his gifts so available that so many take it for granted.

The second possibility is that people just don't get it. How can Jesus make his body and blood into bread and wine? Let's say you get a beautiful diamond ring or a Ferrerri or turn on a light switch. Do any of us really question on how it is made or do we just appreciate the gift and use it always. By faith, let's just accept the gift, glory in its beauty, accept it often and use it all the time.

By Baptism, we are all priests and so we come together on the Lord's day and we do two things at the same time, we leave this temporal word and return to the Last Supper where we participate in the first Mass and we join with Jesus our High Priest as he offers himself with all of us, our dreams our troubles our needs and wants... and Jesus offers all of us with himself as the perfect sacrifice for the salvation of the world.

You are not by standers but active participants in the priesthood of Jesus Christ that I was configured to at my ordination and to Jesus in whose priesthood I share.

Another reason I believe is that many people don't prepare for this sacred time when heaven and earth meet for a brief moment.

Sometime the week before we come to Mass we should read the Mass Reading. If you have one of the guides you can use that, you can use a missal, or the United States Council of Catholic Bishops has daily Mass reading on their website. You can simply Google Mass Readings and it will bring you right to it. It is important not to come in cold.

Also, what are you bringing to Mass — how is your health, who needs your prayers, how are your loved ones, what do you need? That takes time and preparation. You shouldn't come in empty handed to the sacrifice and banquet. Preparation means that Mass should be intentional. It is something you put into your schedule. We should be dressed up a little more, it takes as much time to put on a special outfit then it does jeans, t-shirts, yoga pants and sweat-shirts. If we dress up, it might give us a feeling of entering something special, something different then our everyday lives, something exciting.

I do see people who come to Mass, who don't say or do anything. That could be because they are in deep prayer or they are simple spectators. They are not even fans at an athletic game, they are just checking off a box. If I gave you Knick ticket, I sure you wouldn't be sitting there with your arms folded. We all should be answering the prayers so we immerse ourselves into what is happening. We should be singing, (I don't know the song, so follow along in the book so you can learn it), I don't have a good voice, well that

FATHER COREY'S EPISTLE

hasn't stopped you from singing Sinatra, Lady Gaga, a do-wop from the fifties, or the hip hop or rap song you listen to in the car.

This Sunday I have thought of three songs as we celebrate the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ: *Jesus my Lord my God and my All*, a beautiful traditional Catholic hymn. I use a line from this hymn every time I receive Holy Communion, Lord how can I love you as I ought and then I add Lord help me to love myself as you love me. We all need to use this or similar prayers because we really need to better in both of these areas.

The second hymn is: *Let all Mortal flesh keep Silence*. It has a haunting melody that really can touch your heart and the words sum up our entire experience of the Mass and Holy Communion.

The third song may seem a bit odd to you as it seemed a little odd to you. It is Willie Nelsons, *You are Always on My Mind*... Here are the lyrics: Think of it as a dialogue between you and God.

*Maybe I didn't love you
Quite as often as I could have
And maybe I didn't treat you
Quite as good as I should have
If I made you feel second best
I'm sorry I was blind
... You were always on my mind
You were always on my mind
... And maybe I didn't hold you
All those lonely, lonely times
I guess I never told you
I'm so happy that you're mine
Little things I should have said and done
I just never took the time
But you were always on my mind
You were always on my mind
... Tell me
Tell me that your sweet love hasn't died
And give me
Give me one more chance to keep you satisfied
I'll keep you satisfied
... Little things I should have said and done
I just never took the time
But you were always on my mind (you were always on my mind)*

In the old days when I was a young-un, after receiving Holy Communion, we would kneel down and cover our faces with our hands to have an intimate one on one with Jesus who is living with in you and me. Maybe we should resurrect that practice.

Jesus is our love. Let's make every effort to love Him in return - you will be amazed how good this relationship can be.

† The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport will celebrate the Annual Diocesan Wedding Jubilee Mass on Saturday, October 3, 2026 at 11:00am 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 for call (203) 416-1454 and she will provide information on how to register.

† As I mentioned at 11am Mass yesterday, I think everyone was pleased to be greeted and receive the Sacred Heart of Jesus holy Card.

If anyone would like to volunteer to greet people before the Mass you attend, I would love to hear from you. This is a Ministry I would love to start. Please call the Parish Office at (203)744-5777.

† **We Stand With Christ Phase 2** At this point because of your generosity we still owe \$42,500 from the beginning amount of \$375,000. Thank you so much! We are still in need of funds to pay this loan, so if you can help out, no matter how small, we would be so grateful.

† **We thank Michael Sheehan** and family for his generous gift of the statue of our Lady of Fatima. She will find a new and loving home in the Notre Dame Chapel.

**HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY**

Mass Intentions

SAT., JUNE 20

4:30 + Edward Ruhl — The Ruhl Family

SUN., JUNE 21

7:00 + Rob Ferri — The McCabe Family

8:30 Saint Mary Parish

11:00 + Kevin Fitzgerald — Children

MON., JUNE 22

9:00 + Daniel Kryzanski — The Barnett Family

TUES., JUNE 23

9:00 + Margaret Brenna — Family

WED., JUNE 24

9:00 + Marion & Vincent Spina—The McCabe Family

THURS., JUNE 25

9:00 + Rosalie DeMarco — Bill & Mary Walsh

FRI., JUNE 26

9:00 + Henrietta & Lawrence Tirella — Eleanor Roche

SAT., JUNE 27

9:00 + Martha Greco — Marie & Paul Shanley

4:30 + Jennifer Ponzoni — The Wakeman Family

SUN., JUNE 28

7:00 + Phyllis Ponzoni — The Wakeman Family

8:30 + Julianne & Jack MacGregor — The MacGregor Family

11:00 Saint 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, June 21

12:15pm Baptisms

2:30pm Men's Cursillo

6:00pm United Youth

Monday, June 22

7:00pm Knights of Columbus

Tuesday, June 23

Wednesday, June 24

Thursday, June 25

6:30pm Bible Study

Saturday, June 27

3:00pm Confessions

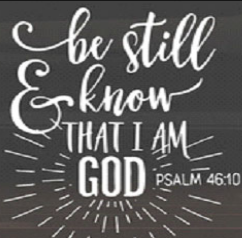
3:00pm Adoration

Sunday, June 28

12:15pm Baptisms

2:30pm Men's Cursillo

6:00pm United Youth



**Every Saturday
between 3:00pm
& 4:00pm in the**

**EUCHARISTIC
Adoration**



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

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 **July 11**. 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.

The **YOUNG ADULT** group (ages 21-35) meets every 3rd Thursday of the month with Adoration and a social afterward. Look them up on Instagram at [avamaria1882](https://www.instagram.com/avamaria1882).

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

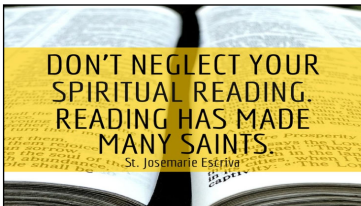


stmarybethelrelied@gmail.com

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).

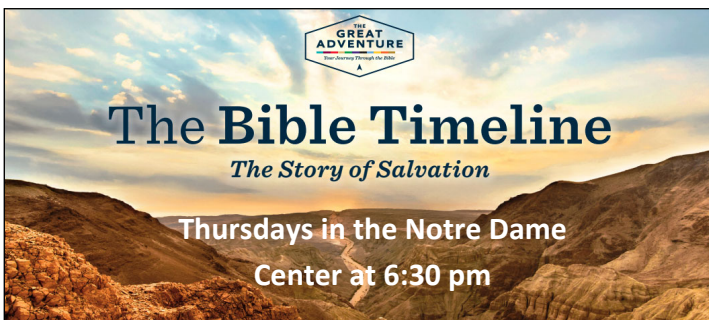
All children must attend Mass each week. There, the child must fill out the Mass Attendance slip available in the vestibule of the Church. The child then puts the slip in the in the collection basket.



St. Mary Parish Book Club

All Adults Welcome!

Please see the Church bulletin for monthly meeting announcements.



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).

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



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.

Offertory for the Weekend of June 6/7, 2026

Collection: \$8,631.00 On-Line Giving: \$8,014 .00

Offertory for the Weekend of June 7/8, 2026

Collection: \$7,044.00 On-Line Giving: \$3,912.00

Offertory for the Weekend of June 13/14, 2026

Collection: \$8,415.00 On-Line Giving: \$4,198 .00

Offertory for the Weekend of June 14/15, 2026

Collection: \$6,247.00 On-Line Giving: \$4,965.00

Thank you for your generosity!

**STUEBENVILLE
YOUTH CONFERENCE**
JULY 10-12, 2026

Inviting high schoolers into a life-changing encounter with Christ!

Registration now open!

An overnight weekend retreat on the campus of Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio.

steubenvilleconferences.com/mc3

INFORMATION

Open to teens entering high school in the fall of 2026 through 2026 graduates

Cost: \$300 (for teens belonging to United parishes St. Rose, St. Mary Bethel, St. Joseph Brookfield) | \$350 (for non-United)

youth@strosechurch.com



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

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.

Look out for your raffle tickets coming in the mail soon!

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



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
PAVIA COUNCIL 48

&



MALTA HOUSE
HOPE FOR LIFE

Bottles for Change



Collect your change
and return between
Mothers Day and
Fathers Day to the
collection box after
mass to Support
Malta House

This is the 4th year for this important campaign in support of babies and motherhood. Over the last 3 years, the St Mary community has donated well over \$ 10,000 to this worthy effort. We thank you for your support to date and look forward to your participation this year

The Diocese of Bridgeport's Campus and Young Adult Ministry, overseen by the Office for Campus and Young Adult Ministry, serves students across the public universities within the diocese. Our mission is to meet young adults where they are in their faith journey, provide them with the tools and formation to deepen their relationship with Christ, lead them to a personal encounter with Him, and send them forth to live as witnesses of spiritual friendship among their peers.

In a similar way, we accompany young adults throughout the diocese to strengthen the growing communities within our parishes, provide leadership formation, and create opportunities for retreats, spiritual growth, and mentorship. The Office for Campus and Young Adult Ministry emphasizes the importance of spiritual friendship, a deeper intimacy with the Lord, and the call to become fully equipped and engaged disciples.

The Bishop's Appeal helps make this ministry possible by providing essential resources that nurture the faith of young adults, inspire future leaders, and build vibrant communities of faith throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport. Thank you for your support of young adults across our Diocese through the Bishop's Appeal.

To learn more please visit:
www.2026BishopsAppeal.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>



This Week on Formed

Week of June 14, 2026



Jesus Thirsts: The Miracle of the Eucharist

This visually stunning film takes viewers on a global journey to uncover the transformative power of the Eucharist. Engaging in profound dialogue with prominent Catholic leaders, the film explores the biblical origins of the Eucharist and shares powerful personal stories of lives transformed by the Blessed Sacrament.



How to Grow in Eucharistic Devotion (Even When You're Busy)

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life—but how do we actually grow in devotion to it in the middle of everyday life? In this episode of Practicing Catholic, Taylor Kemp and Scott Hefelfinger explore the beauty of the Eucharist and simple, practical ways to deepen your relationship with Christ.



St. Dominic Savio

In this episode, Brother Francis tells the story of St. Dominic Savio, a brave young man who gave his life to God. In a world full of difficulties, his joyful faith and courage shone like a light—proving that even the youngest hearts can achieve greatness.

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!!

Change Lives on a Couple Saturday Mornings with Off The Streets !

Would you consider giving 2-3 hours on a Saturday morning of your choice to help deliver or collect furnishings or household items? Your help means that we can say "Yes!" to an individual or family who needs basic furnishings for their new home! We call these deliveries Moves. They begin at 10:00 AM each Saturday from Prime Storage in Danbury, and typically take about two hours. Tasks include helping to move everyday household items, and such apartment sized pieces as mattresses, end tables, chairs, single dressers, & loveseats.

Using only volunteers, Off The Streets helps those experiencing homelessness who are referred by local social services, and have a way to pay rent going forward. We help fund security deposits, and provide basic apartment sized furniture to help create a comfortable home. Most Saturdays, we help individuals or families to make a fresh start.

We really need YOU! You can help as an individual, a family, an organization or a business. Please, would you give it a try? We also have a number of other volunteer opportunities that do not include all the heavy lifting.

Ask any OTS volunteer – it's a blessing to do this work. It's perfect for families with teens too! If you would like to volunteer or learn more than you can contact Mike Roberts at 203-249-3586.



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 JUNE

For the values of sports Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.



Sun.: Jer 20:10-13 Ps 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35 Rom 5:12-15 Mt 10:26-33

Mon.: 2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18 Ps 60:3, 4-5, 12-13 Mt 7:1-5

Tues.: 2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36 Ps 48:2-3Ab, 3cd-4, 10-11 Mt 7:6, 12-14

Wed.: Is 49:1-6 Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15 Acts 13:22-26 Lk 1:57-66, 80

Thu.: 2 Kgs 24:8-17 Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9 Mt 7:21-29

Fri.: 2 Kgs 25:1-12 Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 Mt 8:1-4

Sat.: Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19 Ps 74:1b-2, 3-5, 6-7, 20-21 Mt 8:5-17

Sun.: 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a Ps 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19 Rom 6:3-4, 8-11 Mt 10:37-42



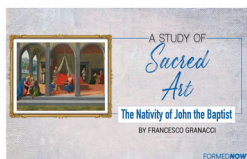
This Week on Formed

Week of June 21, 2026



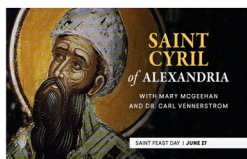
Saint Thomas More: The Age of the Author

This engaging series delves into the lives of the saints who led the Catholic Counter-Reformation. In this episode, learn about St. Thomas More, a patient witness to the faith who endured a heroic martyrdom at the hands of Henry VIII.



The Nativity of John the Baptist

On the Nativity of John the Baptist, join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they sit down and discuss a piece of Sacred Art depicting this holy event.



St. Cyril of Alexandria | Catholic Saints

During the Nestorian Controversy of the fifth century, heroic saints like Cyril of Alexandria defended the truth of Christ's divinity. In this episode, Dr. Carl Vennerstrom and Mary McGeehan discuss the Nestorian heresy and how St. Cyril's humble, courageous spirit aided the Church during a time of discord.

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

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 FATHER'S DAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

You entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, His foster father. Bless all fathers and grandfathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience, give them ability to love in a way that reflects your love. Support them in the work they have to do, protecting those who look to them, as we look to you for love and salvation. Help us to love them in a way that would bring honor to You and them. Bless and heal all those wounded by the imperfections of their fathers and grant an eternal rest to our fathers you have called from this life to yourself, through Jesus Christ Lord.

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. 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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'StMaryChurchBethel'*