

Saint Mary Parish

MAY 11, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

I know them
They follow me



© JPPC

26 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel, CT 06801

Phone: (203)744-5777

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

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

9am –2:00 pm, Mon. – Thurs.; 9am-Noon on Fridays

(Closed Weekends and Holidays)


*May you grow in the light and love that comes from
our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Congratulations on your First Holy Communion

*Trey Aponte
Jackson Beaulieu
Roger Brumano
Maxwell Bruno
Cameron Carr
Avery Clough
Hailey Cuevas
Joseph DeSpirito
Delaney Devlin
Benjamin DiFalco
Bellamy Duran
Aerin Faucher
Rosie Fernandez
Frank Fiore
Bryan Galindo
Elena Gallo
Samantha Garcia Uzhca
Easton Glowicki
Karla Gonzalez
George Goudy
Cecilia Gozzi
Gabriel Gualpa
Luca Kavanagh
Emma Kennedy*



*Ryan Kozlowski
Ciro LaBadia
Emily Lima Cabrera
Carmine Macera
Jaylani Mendez
Elisa Mutz-Vila
Angelia Nunez
Sydney Ritch
Jaclyn Rivera
George Rohonczy
Nickole Sagbay
Marck Sagbay
Ariana Salas
Victor Santana
Wyatt Seidell
Aliyah Belle Sequeira
Henry Simms
Leon Slusarczyk
Leo Sveda
Jade Tricarico
Leonardo Tricarico
Josephine Verdejo
Ethan Yopez
Logan Yopez*

Sunday, 5/11	Monday, 5/12	Tuesday, 5/13	Wednesday, 5/14
7:00am, 8:30am & 11:00am Masses	8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass 7:00pm May Devotions 7:00pm Knights of Columbus	8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass 9:30am Walking with Purpose 7:00pm Walking with Purpose	8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass 5:00pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Adult Choir
			

FATHER COREY'S EPISTLE

† **From the commentary on the first letter of Peter by Saint Bede the Venerable, priest** — *A chosen race, a royal priesthood*

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood. This praise was given long ago by Moses to the ancient people of God, and now the apostle Peter rightly gives it to the Gentiles, since they have come to believe in Christ who, as the cornerstone, has brought the nations together in the salvation that belonged to Israel.

Peter calls them a chosen race because of their faith, to distinguish them from those who by refusing to accept the living stone have themselves been rejected. They are a royal priesthood because they are united to the body of Christ, the supreme king and true priest. As sovereign he grants them his kingdom, and as high priest he washes away their sins by the offering of his blood. Peter says they are a royal priesthood; they must always remember to hope for an everlasting kingdom and to offer to God the sacrifice of a blameless life.

They are also called *a consecrated nation, a people claimed by God as his own*, in accordance with the apostle Paul's explanation of the prophet's teaching: *My righteous man lives by faith; but if he draws back, I will take no pleasure in him. But we, he says, are not the sort of people who draw back and are lost; we are those who remain faithful until we are saved.* In the Acts of the Apostles we read: *The Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the Church of God which he bought with his own blood.* Thus, through the blood of our Redeemer, we have become *a people claimed by God as his own*, as in ancient times the people of Israel were ransomed from Egypt by the blood of a lamb.

In the next verse, Peter also makes a veiled allusion to the ancient story, and explains that this story is to be spiritually fulfilled by the new people of God, so that, he says, they may declare his wonderful deeds. Those who

were freed by Moses from slavery in Egypt sang a song of triumph to the Lord after they had crossed the Red Sea and Pharaoh's army had been overwhelmed; in the same way, now that our sins have been washed away in baptism, we too should express fitting gratitude for the gifts of heaven. The Egyptians who oppressed the people of God, and who can also stand for darkness or trials, are an apt symbol of the sins that once oppressed us but have now been destroyed in baptism.




The deliverance of the children of Israel and their journey to the long-promised land correspond with the mystery of our redemption. We are making our way toward the light of our heavenly home with the grace of Christ leading us and showing us the way. The light of his grace was also symbolized by the cloud and the pillar of fire, which protected the Israelites from darkness throughout their journey, and brought them by a wonderful path to their promised homeland.

MAY DEVOTIONS to the Blessed Mother will take place on Mondays in May at 7pm in the Chapel at the Notre Dame Center.

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 **May 17**. 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 **YOUNG ADULT** group (ages 21-35) meets every 3rd Thursday of the month. Look them up on Instagram at [avemarie1882](https://www.instagram.com/avemarie1882).

Thursday, 5/15	Friday, 5/16	Saturday, 5/17	Sunday, 5/18
8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass 6:30pm Scripture Study	8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass	7:00am Men's Ministry 8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass 3:00pm Adoration 3:00pm Confessions 4:30pm Mass	7:00am, 8:30am & 11:00am Masses
			

The **ST. MARY ADULT CHOIR** practices in Father McGivney 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 **ST. MARY YOUTH CHOIR** sings once a month and rehearse every Wednesday from 5-6pm in Father McGivney Hall. For more info contact Leanna Hinger at Youth-Choir.StMary@gmail.com.

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.

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

ST. MARY BOOK GROUP welcomes all adults! "Spiritual reading has made many saints" (St. Josemaria Escriva). Our next book is A Song for Nagasaki: The Story of Takashi Nagai by Paul Glynn, S.M. Read about the inspiring life of this Japanese scientist, Catholic convert, and survivor of the atomic bomb, who was named a Servant of God in 2021. We will meet on June 4 at 7 pm in the Quiet Room. You can listen to the audiobook on the Hallow app and on Formed. You can borrow a copy with your Library card through a special interlibrary loan request using FindItCT.org. Or you can purchase a copy online from Ignatius Press or Amazon.

St. Mary School

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

REGISTRATION FOR 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR IS NOW OPEN We are now accepting applications for PreK-- Grade 8. Please visit our website at www.stmarybethelct.org and click on "Apply Now". We do anticipate waitlists in many grades so please apply as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Geraldine Henn, Enrollment Director, at admissions@stmarybethelct.org or call 203-744-2922.

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



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

stmarybethelrelied@gmail.com
stmarybethel.org

Religious Education classes have resumed. Registration is ongoing.

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.



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 one of the Catholic faithful?

If your answer is yes to any of these questions, come and discover, or rediscover, the truth, wonder and mystery of our Catholic faith! The RCIA program prepares you to be received as members of the Catholic Church. Our new sessions are **from 12:30-2:00pm in Father McGivney Hall** every Sunday thereafter.

If you are interested in participating or learning more about the RCIA program, call (203)744-5777 or email Deacon Eric Keener at dnkeen-er@diobpt.org.

• 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.*

St Mary's
Bethel

CROSS ROADS

Monthly Regular Meetings
Community Service Opportunities
Retreats and Other Events

Email StMaryCrossroads@gmail.com to get on
the email list for upcoming event schedule

Middle School Ages

FAITH | COMMUNITY | FUN

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

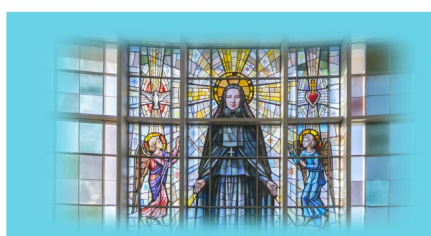
each Saturday between 3pm and 4pm. We
will also have Eucharistic Adoration on
the First Sunday of the Month between the
8:30am and 11:00am Masses.



Save the
Date!
Join us
for a
daytrip to

**Cloisters Museum and
Mother Cabrini Shrine**
June 28, 2025

More Info
to
Follow



St. Mary Church Community
presents...

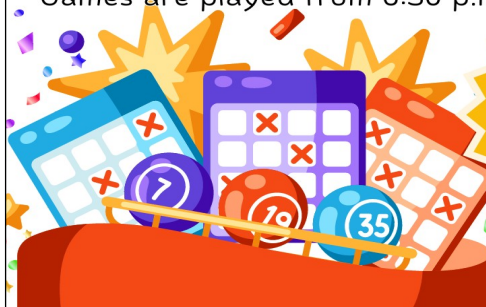
BINGO NIGHT

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 48

MAY 30, 2025

\$20 entry fee covers all regular games
Additional games & food available for purchase
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Games are played from 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

**THIS IS
AN 18+
EVENT**



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
PATIA 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





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



Today the Church throughout the world prays for vocations. Will you make a special effort to ask the Lord for vocations to the priesthood and religious life? Pray for the priests who have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and dead. Encourage your children, grandchildren, or other young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother or sister. Pray a rosary for more young men and women in our diocese to respond to God's call.

Offertory for the Weekend of May 3/4, 2025

Collection: \$7,229.00 On-Line Giving: \$5,123.00

Offertory for the Weekend of April 4/5, 2024

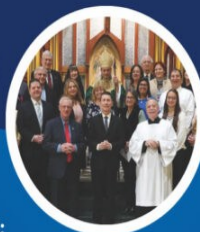
Collection: \$8,619.00 On-Line Giving: \$5,301.00

Thank you for your generosity!

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



MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH RECURRING GIVING TO THE BISHOP'S APPEAL



RECURRING GIFTS ARE:



EASY &
AUTOMATIC



FLEXIBLE &
SECURE*



CONVENIENT



SUSTAINING



REWARDING

Recurring giving to the Bishop's Appeal allows us to unite as One in Christ and provide works of charity, formation in faith, education, and catechesis.

Sign up for recurring giving today! Visit: www.2025BishopsAppeal.org

*Recurring giving may be discontinued as needed when your financial circumstances change.

A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS



Mary, on this day when we honor all mothers, we turn to you. We thank the Lord whom you serve for the great gift of motherhood. Never has it been known that anyone who sought your intercession was left unaided by grace. Dear Mother, thank you for your "Yes" to the invitation of the angel which brought heaven to earth and changed human history. You opened yourself to God's word and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Dear Mother, intercede for all of our mothers. Ask your Divine Son to give them the grace of surrendered love so that they could join with you in giving their own "Fiat." May they find daily strength to say yes to the call to the sacrificial love- the very heart of the vocation of motherhood. May their love and witness be a source of great inspiration for all of us called to follow your Son. On this Mothers Day, Mother of the Word Incarnate, pray for us who have recourse to you. In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Sun.: Acts 13:14, 43-52 Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5 Rv 7:9, 14b-17 Jn 10:27-30

Mon.: Acts 11:1-18 Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 Jn 10:1-10

Tues.: Acts 11:19-26 Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 Jn 10:22-30

Wed.: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 Jn 15:9-17

Thu.: Acts 13:13-25 Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 Jn 13:16-20

Fri.: Acts 13:26-33 Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab Jn 14:1-6

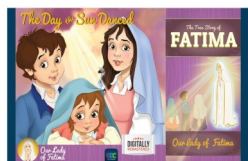
Sat.: 9:31-42 Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 Jn 6:60-69

Sun.: Acts 14:21-27 Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13 Rv 21:1-5a Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35



This Week on Formed

Week of May 11, 2025



The Day the Sun Danced: The True Story of Fatima

In 1917, three children in Fatima, Portugal, saw the Blessed Mother, shared her message, and witnessed the miracle of the sun dancing in the sky. Their faith inspired the world. Experience this miracle in this great film the entire family will enjoy.



The 13th Day

In a world torn apart by persecution, war, and oppression, three children in Fatima were chosen by God to offer an urgent message of hope to the world. Based on the memoirs of the oldest seer, Lucia Santos, The 13th Day dramatizes the true story of three young shepherds who experienced six apparitions of Our Lady, which culminated in the final prophesied miracle on October 13.



Our Lady of Fatima | Brother Francis and Friends

Brother Francis and Sister Imelda tell the story of the three shepherd children from Fatima who saw visions of Mary, later to be known as Our Lady of Fatima. Learn about the courage and faith these children exhibited and how they were rewarded with an amazing miracle!

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



The Knights of Columbus are looking for Catholic men of faith to help in our mission of charitable works to support St. Mary Parish and the greater Bethel community. If you're at least 18 years of age, we invite you to join us! To watch a video about what we do, see the link or QR code below.

<https://youtu.be/D4NLkqr54I>

To contact us, call our
Grand Knight Lang Reese at 410-693-6795
or email us at gkofpavia@gmail.com



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

For working conditions Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.



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.

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.



47th Annual

ST. MARY SCHOOL CARNIVAL



MAY 14-18, 2025

RIDES, GAMES, RAFFLE, FOOD & FUN!



Bethel Municipal Center
1 School Street - Bethel



Scan here to pre-purchase
your carnival bracelets and
skip the long lines at the
ticket booth!



Bracelets are \$30 each and MUST be used on the day they are picked up. Pick up at the Pre-Purchase Tent (next to the Raffle Tent) on the School Street side of the gazebo.

Join us for St. Mary Vacation Bible School



June 23-27, 2025

9:00-11:45

St. Mary Parish Hall

\$55.00

Ages 3-10

Child_____

Age_____Gender_____

Parent Name_____

Phone Number_____

Parent email_____

Allergies, medical condition or special need_____

In case of Emergency, contact_____

Phone number_____

For more info contact Mary Ferri 203 743 4557 or
faithformation@stmarybethel.org

I understand that neither St. Mary Church,
nor any of its employees or volunteers is responsible for any injury sustained
by my child. I accept full responsibility for any medical expenses as a result
of any such injury sustained.

Parent/Guardians_____

(Signature)



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

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

ST. MARY SCHOOL (744-2922) Scott Smith, *Principal*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (743-4557) Mary Ferri, *Director*
 Maggie Kent, *Secretary*

RCIA (203)744-5777 Call if you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing your initiation as a Catholic with Confirmation and/or Eucharist.

UNITED YOUTH MINISTRY 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.

Mass Intentions

SAT., MAY 10

4:30 + Florence & James Santos — Don & Annmaria Santos

SUN., May 11

7:00 + Gilberto DiBernardo — Fulvio & Elide Tramontino

+ Mary Legnard — Eileen Freebairn & Family

+ Richard Schlemmer — The DeRoin Family

+ Paul DiMarzio — The Nelson Family

+ David Benko — The DeRoin Family

+ Jack Dowling — Carmel and John Frank

+ Mary Carroll — Pat & Marie Kerrigan

+ Charles Grant — Pat Pollard & Family

Mike & Bernie Dowling (*Blessings*) — Carmel & John Frank

8:30 + Michael Shanley (*10th Anniv.*) — Mom & Dad

11:00 + Catherin Fisher — The Ruhl Family

MON., MAY 12

9:00 + Michael Shanley (*10th Anniv.*)

TUES., MAY 13

9:00 + Mary B. Elias — Elias & Morton Family

WED., MAY 14

9:00 + Michael Keegan (*45th Anniv.*) — Nelson Family

THU., MAY 15

9:00 + Bob Jones — Fulvio & Elide Tramontina

FRI., MAY 16

9:00 + Jamie Marazzi Taylor — Beth Bosses

SAT., MAY 17

9:00 + Glauberto Wanderly, Jr. — St. Mary School

4:30 + George Aiello — Eileen Colarossi

SUN., May 18

7:00 + For the People of St. Mary

8:30 + Josephine & Erberto Frieri — Children

11:00 + Charles Ruhl — The Ruhl Family