

(Closed Weekends and Holidays)

St. Mary Catholic Church

Statement from Bishop Frank J. Caggiano on the Election of Pope Leo XIV

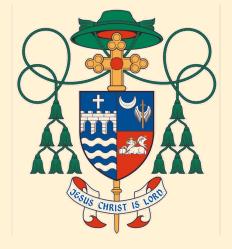
It is with profound joy and deep gratitude to God that we welcome the news of the election of Pope Leo XIV as the 267th successor of St. Peter.

Born in Chicago and having served the Church with distinction around the world — from the missions of Peru to the heart of the Roman Curia — Pope Leo XIV brings to the papacy a rich pastoral heart, a scholar's mind, and a missionary's zeal. His life has been marked by a faithful dedication to proclaiming the Gospel, building up the Church, and accompanying the People of God with wisdom, humility, and courage.

"The Holy Spirit has once again given the Church a shepherd after Christ's own heart," said Bishop Caggiano. "Pope Leo XIV's deep love for Christ and His Church, his commitment to the poor and marginalized, and his experience guiding the Church both locally and globally make him a true gift for the needs of the Church and the world at this time."

As the former Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, Pope Leo XIV (Previously Robert Cardinal Prevost) has demonstrated a fatherly concern for the universal Church, helping to shape a new generation of bishops called to holiness, integrity, and missionary leadership. His pastoral years among the people of Peru have imbued him with a profound sensitivity to the hopes and struggles of everyday Catholics around the world.

"I ask all the faithful of the Diocese of Bridgeport to join me in praying fervently for Pope Leo XIV," Bishop Caggiano continued. "May the Lord grant him strength and wisdom as he assumes the heavy but grace-filled ministry of leading the Church in this new



chapter of her history."

As we rejoice in the election of our new Holy Father, let us renew our commitment to walk together in faith, hope, and charity. May Pope Leo XIV's pontificate be one of renewed evangelization, deeper communion, and a vibrant witness to the beauty of the Gospel in today's world.

"In Pope Leo XIV, we see a pastor who knows the joys and sorrows of the flock, who listens with a heart molded by Christ, and who now steps forward to lead us into the future with confidence in the Lord's promises."

May Mary, Mother of the Church, protect and guide our new Holy Father as he begins his ministry of service to the whole world.

A Mass of Thanksgiving for our new Holy Father will be celebrated on Thursday, May 15 at 7 pm at St. Augustine Cathedral located at 359 Washington Avenue in Bridgeport.

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano Bishop of Bridgeport May 8, 2025

Sunday, 5/18	Monday, 5/19	Tuesday, 5/20	Wednesday, 5/21
7:00am, 8:30am & 11:00am Mass-	8:20am Rosary	8:20am Rosary	8:20am Rosary
es	9:00am Mass	9:00am Mass	9:00am Mass
	7:00pm May Devotions	9:30am Walking with Purpose	5:00pm Children's Choir
		7:00pm Walking with Purpose	7:00pm Adult Choir
CARNIVAL			

May 18, 2025

"Confirmation is not the end, but rather the beginning of our journey as disciples of Christ." - Pope Benedict XVI. Congratulations on your Confirmation

Augustus Augustus Benincasa Willow Teresa D'Alessandro Adam Valentine Day Mia Joanna Dias Victoria Victoria Gonzalez Matthews Padre Pio Leon



Dennis John Miller Emily Elizabeth O'Connor Penelope Veronica Ouellette Logan Luke Palmer Matthew Joseph Paris Gianna Monica Perrone Braden Pasqual Preiss Christopher Sebastian Resende Ashley Teresa Ritacco Uriel Sebastian Rodriguez Payton Joan Ryan Erick Sebastian Sagbay Rooney Padre Pio Sagbay Reginald Abraham Salas Dylan Rafael Sandoval Joshua Lawrence Santamaria Robert Anthony Scungio, III Ile-Eso Benedict Aihiokhai Mia Teresa of Avila Altamirano Sophie Catherine of Siena Arnott Rafal John Paul Branowicz Cole Nicholas Cambareri Jessica Brigid Russo MacKenzie Teresa of the Andes

Thursday, 5/22	Friday, 5/23	Saturday, 5/24	Sunday, 5/25
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

<u>MAY DEVOTIONS</u> 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 *June 14.* 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 <u>YOUNG ADULT</u> group (ages 21-35) meets every 3rd Thursday of the month. Look them up on Instagram at avemarie1882.

The <u>ST. MARY ADULT CHOIR</u> 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 <u>ST. MARY</u> <u>YOUTH CHOIR</u> 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, <u>FIRST SUNDAY</u> <u>ADORATION</u> 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 FindltCT.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 TWIT-TER (@SaintMaryBethel) to see photos and news of the latest happenings at SMS!

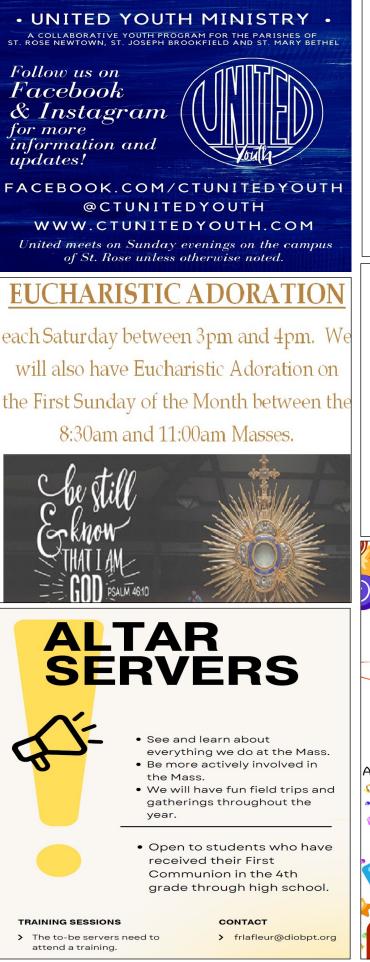


Are you:

- 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 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 dnkeener@diobpt.org.



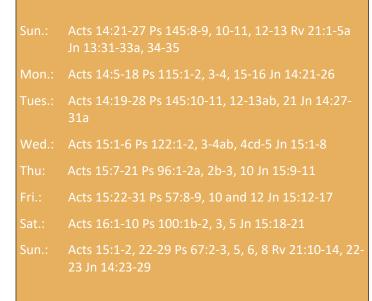


St. Mary Religious Education 24 Dodgingtown Road Bethel, CT 06801 203-743-4557

stmarybethelreliged@gmail.com stmarybethel.org









This Week on Formed

Week of May 18, 2025



Saint Celestine: The Pope Who Quit

This docu-drama investigates the secrecy of this dramatic time in history and reveals a story that involves deadly dealings, apocalyptic maneuverings, and papal intrigue. It uncovers the riveting and mysterious story of Pope St. Celestine V, the pope who retired from the papacy after a very short reign. At the close of the tumultuous Middle Ages, this future monk and pope seemed destined from birth to save the world.



Saint Rita

St. Rita of Cascia is immortalized in this wonderful, deeply moving film. This story is about the brave woman who married her knight, helped him overcome his dark past and convert to faith, happily bore him two children, and later endures immense pain as she losse everything in her life. Her story and love for Christ will inspire you to great holiness!



The Pope | What Catholics Believe

Join Dr. Christopher Mooney, assistant professor of theology at the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, as he answers some of the internet's most popular questions about the pope and the papacy.

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

An offering from the 🐺 AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE



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/D4NLkjqr54I

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.

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.



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

ST. MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS & ST. MARIANNE COPE PARISHES

ANC

OCTOBER 7 - OCTOBER 17, 2025

HIGHLIGHTS:

NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL SACRE-COEUR CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL BASILICA OF ST. THÉRÈSE PARIS, LYON, NEVERS, LOURDES







collette

ST. MARGUERITE HALL FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT HTTPS://GATEWAY.GOCOLLETTE.COM/LINK/1297239 OR CONTACT

MARY ELLEN AT MARYELLENTIERNAN@ICLOUD.COM OR 845.600.5425

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!!

TOGETHER IN FAITH...SUPPORTING OUR RETIRED PRIESTS.



Retired priests, like Msgr. Edward Surilo receive ongoing health care, and those living at the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence in Stamford reside in a comfortable and prayerful living environment.

"From the first day of the conferral of Holy Orders upon me sixty years ago, I recognized the presence of a growth-giving dynamic between myself and the faithful with whom I was interacting. From the

get-go, it was clear to me that the relationship between myself as priest, and the faithful whom I served, was to be a mutual exchange of grace and energy. The needs of the people required a response on my part that served to shape and form me as a work in progress into a more authentic instrument of priestly service." - Msgr. Edward Surwilo, Retired Priest

Thank you for your support of the Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of the Clergy Residence through the Bishop's Appeal. Together as One in Christ, we can continue to support our Clergy in their retirement.

To support this important ministry and work in our Diocese, please consider making your gift to the Bishop's Appeal today! Visit: www.2025BishopsAppeal.org

PRAYER FOR STUDENTS DURING EXAMS

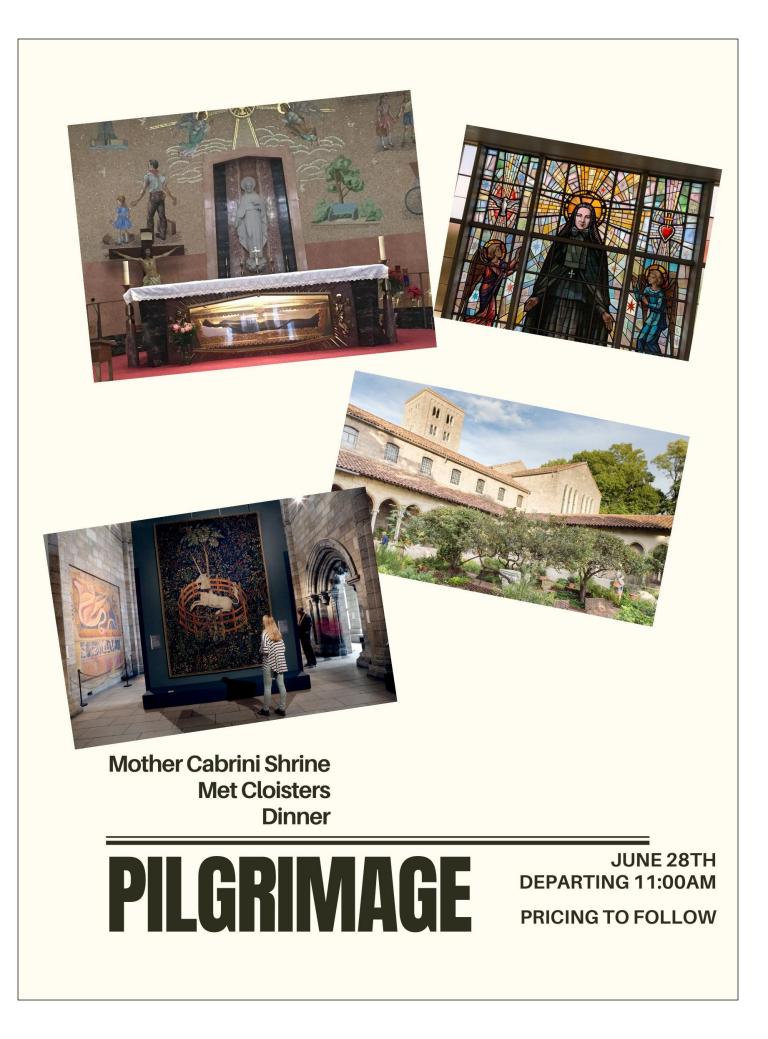
Lord, I pray for students who are taking final exams this time of the year, those I know and those I do not know. You alone know how I experienced similar times with a sense of loneliness, challenge, anxiety and stress.

Reach out and touch the hearts and minds of students with a sense that you are will them; with confidence to face the challenge; and with the realization that their anxiety and stress can be a positive energy in their pursuit of excellence.

Give them insight to understand what they have studied and help them to remember it when the time comes.

Help them to keep in perspective the many gifts and talents you have already given them that they may use them for the greater honor and glory of God.

Amen.



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				
AgeGender				
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

<u>Monday-Friday</u> 9:00am <u>Saturday</u> 9:00am & 4:30pm (Vigil Mass) <u>Sunday</u> 7:00am, 8:30am, 11:00am

> Reconciliation Saturdays 3:00-4:00pm



SAT., MAY 17

To Jesus Through Mary

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

MON., MAY 19 9:00 + Richard Kuhn — Wife & Sons

TUES., MAY 20 9:00 + Father Patrick F. Connors — The Parish

WED., MAY 21

- 9:00 + Joan Dolan Carol Roth
- THU., MAY 22
 - 9:00 + RoseMary Infantino Robert Infantino & Family

FRI., MAY 23 9:00 Our Seminarians (*Blessings*) — The Nelson Family

SAT., MAY 24

- 9:00 + Mieczyslaw Miniewicz Family
- 4:30 + Joan Dolan Family

SUN., May 25

- 7:00 For the People of St. Mary
- 8:30 + Rosemary Mele Family
- 11:00 + Salvatore Alongi The Alongi Family

a constant

This week the **Sanctuary Lamp** will be lit and prayers will be said before each Mass by the priest in memory of Margaret Brenna from her daughter STAFFFather Corey V. Piccinino, PastorFather Andrew LaFleur, Parochial VicarDeacon John DeRoinDeacon Eric KeenerKate Fitzgerald, Bulletin EditorSue Dolan, Parish SecretaryMaggie Kent, Office ManagerDebbie Burke, Business ManagerAlex LaFleur, Property Manager

ST. MARY SCHOOL (744-2922)Scott Smith, PrincipalRELIGIOUS EDUCATION (743-4557)Mary Ferri, Director

Maggie Kent, Secretary

<u>RCIA (203)744-5777</u> 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 <u>MUSIC MINISTRY</u> Michael Ferrari, *Music & Choir Director* <u>FINANCE COMMITTEE (733-7335)</u> Bob Kozlowski, Chair <u>CEMETERY DIRECTOR:</u> 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.lighthouseservices.com/diobpt. TOLL FREE TELEPHONE: English speaking USA and Canada: 833-990-0004; Spanish speaking USA and Canada: 800-216-1288 E-MAIL: reports@lighthouseservices.com (must include company name with report). When contacting the hotline, an individual may or may not choose to identify him or herself.