

Saint Mary Parish

MAY 4, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

FOLLOW ME

John 21:19



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)

FATHER COREY'S EPISTLE

† The Vacancy of the Holy See (Papal Interregnum) — The Papal Conclave

When a pope passes away or resigns, the Catholic Church follows a sacred process to choose his successor.

This process is called a papal conclave, and it has been used for centuries to ensure that the next pope is chosen through prayer and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

When Does the Process Begin?

After a pope passes away, there is a nine-day mourning period called novendiales, during which the Church prays for his soul. However, preparations for the conclave begin almost immediately. If the pope resigned instead of passing away (as Pope Benedict XVI did in 2013), the process starts soon after his resignation takes effect.

The conclave must begin between 15 and 20 days after the pope's passing or resignation. This allows time for all the cardinals to travel to Vatican City.

Who Chooses the Next Pope?

The new pope is chosen by the College of Cardinals--a group of senior bishops from around the world. Only cardinals under the age of 80 are eligible to vote, and they gather in St. Peter's Basilica before proceeding to the Pauline Chapel, where they sing Veni Creator Spiritus (Come, Creator Spirit), asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Finally, they enter the Sistine Chapel, where the voting takes place under Michelangelo's famous ceiling.

There are usually around 115 voting cardinals from different parts of the world, including Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Asia.

How Long Does the Conclave Last?

A conclave typically lasts one to three days, but it can go longer if there is difficulty reaching a decision. Most modern conclaves are relatively quick--Pope Benedict XVI was elected on the fourth ballot in 2005. However, in 1831, the election took 54 days to conclude.

How Does the Voting Work?

The cardinals take an oath of secrecy and are locked inside the Vatican until a new pope is chosen. They pray, discuss, and then vote by secret ballot.

- A two-thirds majority is required for a candidate to be elected pope.
- If no one is chosen after multiple rounds, the process continues with more discussions and prayers.

Each day, up to four rounds of voting take place--two in the morning and two in the afternoon. If no pope is elected after three days, the cardinals pause for prayer and reflection before resuming voting. If the deadlock continues, additional measures, such as narrowing the vote to the top two candidates, may be taken.

Each time they vote, the ballots are burned:

- If no pope is chosen, black smoke (created by burning the ballots with special chemicals) rises from the Vatican chimney. This tells the world that the Church is still in deliberation.
- When a pope is elected, white smoke appears, signaling that a new leader of the Church has been chosen!

Sunday, 5/4	Monday, 5/5	Tuesday, 5/6	Wednesday, 5/7
7:00am, 8:30am & 11:00am Masses 9:30am Eucharistic Adoration 12:15pm Pre Baptism Class	8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass 7:00pm May Devotions	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

What Happens After a Pope Is Elected?

Once a cardinal receives enough votes, he is asked if he accepts the role. If he does, the Cardinal Dean asks him:

"Quo nomine vis vocari?" (By what name do you wish to be called?)

The new pope chooses a papal name, which is then officially recorded.

He is then led to a small room next to the Sistine Chapel, known as the "Room of Tears." This is where he puts on his white vestments before being introduced to the world. The room gets its name because many newly elected popes feel overwhelmed by the responsibility they are about to take on.

Finally, the senior Cardinal Deacon steps onto the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica and proclaims to the crowd:

"Annuntio vobis gaudium magnum: Habemus Papam!" -- Latin for "I announce to you a great joy: We have a Pope!"

The new pope then steps onto the balcony and gives his first blessing, Urbi et Orbi ("To the City and the World"), to the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square and watching around the world.

The election of a pope is a deeply prayerful and sacred event. It ensures that the leader of the Church is chosen not through politics or ambition, but through faith and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Catholics around the world wait in joyful anticipation, praying for wisdom for the cardinals and for the new shepherd who will lead Christ's flock.

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).

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** is in full swing and always looking for new members in grades 2 and up. They sing 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.

Thursday, 5/8	Friday, 5/9	Saturday, 5/10	Sunday, 5/11
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

If anyone would like to donate hand-knit or crocheted white **BABY BLANKETS** for our newly baptized babies, please drop them off at the Parish Office or call Mary Ferri at (203) 743-4557.

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!



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. 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.



ALTAR SERVERS



- See and learn about everything we do at the Mass.
- Be more actively involved in the Mass.
- We will have fun field trips and gatherings throughout the year.

- Open to students who have received their First Communion in the 4th grade through high school.

TRAINING SESSIONS

> The to-be servers need to attend a training.

CONTACT

> frialfleur@diobpt.org

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**



Please excuse the delay, but the members of the **BETHEL WOMEN'S CLUB GFWC** want to be sure that the parishioners of St. Mary Parish know how much we appreciate your support of our seventeenth annual Community Drive "Support our Veterans". The total collected was approximately \$7,932 in merchandise and monetary donations. St. Mary parishioners donated approximately \$2,796 of that amount. The gifts were delivered, by members of the club also known as "Santa's Elves", to Rocky Hill Veterans Home and to the veterans at the Home for Heroes and Vet House, both located in Danbury. The generosity of the parishioners helped make this drive a huge success and helped our veterans have a very Merry Christmas, so once again, thank you on behalf of all the veterans we were able to serve. Many of our programs, including those involving veterans, are documented in pictures on the Bethel Women's Club GFWC Facebook page. We invite you to take a look

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

Offertory for the Weekend of April 5/6, 2025

Collection: \$9,473.00 On-Line Giving: \$5,268.00

Offertory for the Weekend of April 6/7, 2024

Collection: \$6,871.00 On-Line Giving: \$8,649.00

Offertory for the Weekend of April 12/13, 2025

Collection: \$9,626.00 On-Line Giving: \$4,274.00

Offertory for the Weekend of April 13/14, 2024

Collection: \$15,512.00 On-Line Giving: \$4,302.00

Offertory for the Weekend of April 19/20, 2025

Collection: \$16,918.00 On-Line Giving: \$4,829.00

Offertory for the Weekend of April 21/22, 2024

Collection: \$6,211.00 On-Line Giving: \$4,664.00

Offertory for the Weekend of April 26/27, 2025

Collection: \$8,141.00 On-Line Giving: \$4,282.00

Offertory for the Weekend of April 29/30, 2024

Collection: \$7,421.00 On-Line Giving: \$6,069.00

Thank you for your generosity!

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

Gifts to the Bishop's Appeal support Catholic Charities of Fairfield County

Last year, your donations to the Bishop's Appeal made it possible for Catholic Charities to provide hope and healing to our brothers and sisters in need across Fairfield County. Thanks to the time, talent, and treasure of so many parishioners around the Diocese, Catholic Charities of Fairfield County continues to be one of the largest private social service providers in Connecticut, offering assistance throughout the 23 towns in the Diocese.



Catholic Charities Distributed & Provided:

1,000,000+ meals

3,000 donated toys

6,200+ socks

3,500+ toiletry bags

2,000+ winter coats

5,786 Counseling Sessions

Make your gift to the Bishop's Appeal today! Visit:

www.2025BishopsAppeal.org

Thank you for your support of Catholic Charities through the Bishop's Appeal. Together, as One in Christ, we can continue to support our brothers and sisters who are most in need.

PRAYER FOR THE CONCLAVE

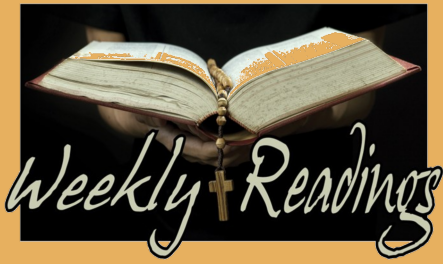
Our God and King, Protect Your Church in this time of transition. Guide the Cardinals in their sacred duty. Grant them Wisdom and Courage, Hope and Charity, and the Faith they need to discern Your Holy Will.

Creator of all that was, is, and is to come— You alone know the heart of the one You have chosen as the next successor to Saint Peter. Reveal Your will to the College of Cardinals. Open their hearts to Your inspirations. Open our hearts to receive, with faith and obedience, the one whom You will raise up to sit on the Chair of Saint Peter.

May he be a man of deepest compassion, a man of profound faith and hope, a man whose charity shines forth, permeating the darkness of this world with the light of Christ.

You are God Most High, the God of the living and the dead, the Great I AM, the Alpha and the Omega, Eternal Being and Source of all that is.

May Your holy will be done, now and forever. Amen. Alleluia.



Sun.: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 Rv 5:11-14 Jn 21:1-19 or Jn 21:1-14

Mon.: Acts 6:8-15 Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 Jn 6:22-29

Tues.: Acts 7:51—8:1a Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab Jn 6:30-35

Wed.: Acts 8:1b-8 Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a Jn 6:35-40

Thu.: Acts 8:26-40 Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 Jn 6:44-51

Fri.: Acts 9:1-20 Ps 117:1bc, 2 Jn 6:52-59

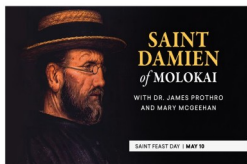
Sat.: 9:31-42 Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 Jn 6:60-69

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



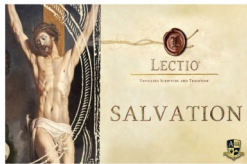
This Week on Formed

Week of May 04, 2025



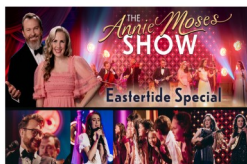
St. Damien of Molokai | Catholic Saints

St. Damien was born in Belgium but spent most of his life ministering to lepers in Molokai, Hawaii. An incredible example of holiness, he dedicated his whole life to spreading the Gospel. Sit down with Dr. James Prothro and Mary McGeehan as they discuss the life and witness of this great saint.



Lectio: Salvation

At every Sunday Mass, Catholics confess that Jesus came down from heaven "for us men and for our salvation." But what does "salvation" mean? In this remarkable 10-part video series, Scripture scholar and theologian Michael Patrick Barber provides a thorough, deeply Catholic, and deeply biblical, answer.



Easter tide Special | The Annie Moses Show

Patterned after classic variety shows, The Annie Moses Show brings together a musical family of singers, players, actors, and creators, unified under one mission: to declare the truth, beauty, and goodness of God.

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.



SAT., MAY 3

4:30 + Vincent Bocchino — Marie Broccoli

SUN., May 4

7:00 + Charlene Reis — Husband Joe

8:30 + Alejandrina Cornejo — Daughter & Family

11:00 + Madeleine & Patrick Maccarone — Andrew D'Ambrosio

MON., MAY 5

9:00 + Earl Willmott — Marie Willmott

TUES., MAY 6

9:00 + Stephen Schmidt — Peter & Roseanne Dardis

WED., MAY 7

9:00 + Catherine Morton — The Morton Family

THU., MAY 8

9:00 + Sal & Josephine Savona — Fulvio & Elide Tramontino

FRI., MAY 9

9:00 + Anna Wenta — Samantha, TJ & Jerry

SAT., MAY 10

9:00 + Theresa Porcu — St. Mary School

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