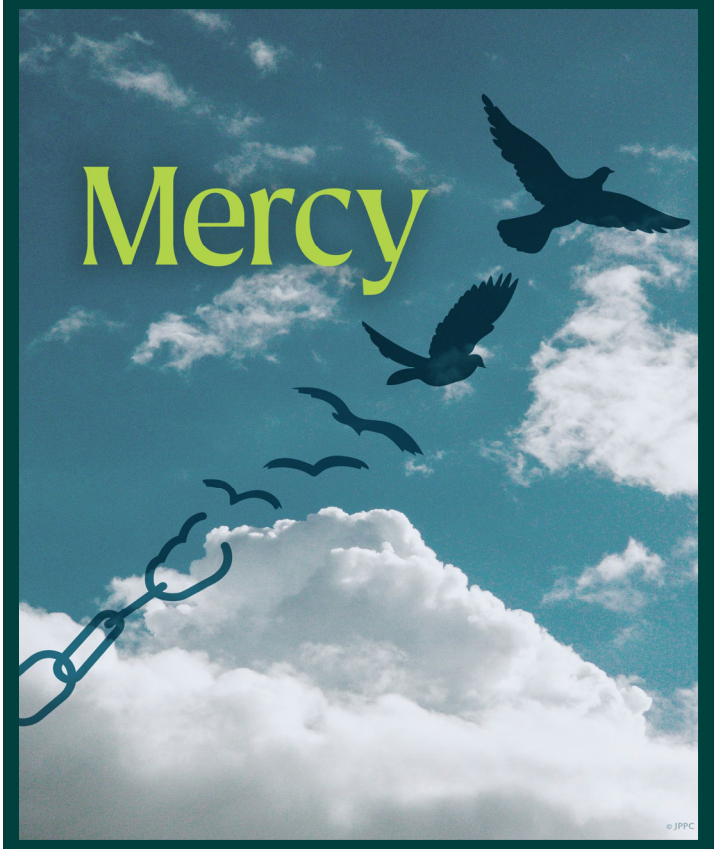
Saint Mary Parish

September 13, 2026

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



26 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel, CT 06801

Phone: (203)744-5777

Website: www.stmarybethel.org Email: rectoryoffice@stmarybethel.org

Visit us on Facebook: StMaryChurchBethel

PARISH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS:

9am –1:30 pm, Mon. – Thurs., closed Friday.

(Closed Weekends and Holidays)

STAFF **Father Corey V. Piccinino, *Pastor , Vicar for Clergy & Religious for the Diocese of Bridgeport***
Father Johnson Singarajan, *Parochial Vicar*
Father Milan Dimic, Resident
Deacon John DeRoin
Deacon Eric Keener
Kate Fitzgerald, *Bulletin Editor*
Carolyn Schlichtig, *Parish Secretary*
Maggie Kent, *Office Manager*
Debbie Burke, *Business Manager*
Alex LaFleur, *Property Manager*

ST. MARY SCHOOL (744-2922) **Michelle Powrie, Principal**

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

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

UNITED YOUTH MINISTRY **Renzo Ortega (203) 240-8059**

MUSIC MINISTRY **Michael Ferrari, *Music & Choir Director***

FINANCE COMMITTEE (733-7335) **Bob Kozlowski, Chair**

CEMETERY DIRECTOR: **Bob DiMatteo (203)744-5777**

BAPTISMS: **Sundays at *12:15pm (excluding the 1st Sunday of each month)*. Please call the Rectory at *least six weeks in advance* to schedule your Baptism and to sign up for the *Baptism Class that is required for both parents and Godparents*.** These classes are offered on the first Sunday of each month. Anyone requesting a Sponsorship form must be a currently registered and practicing Catholic, and they must attend one of the Baptism Classes to receive it. There is a 3-month waiting period for a sponsorship form for the newly registered. **The Catholic requirements for a Godparent/Sponsor are**: you must be at least 16 years old; received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation in the Catholic Church; attend Mass regularly on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation; receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion regularly; sincerely try to follow the moral teaching of the Catholic Church; and if married, were married in the Catholic Church.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARRIAGE: All couples must meet with a parish clergyman at least six (6) months before the marriage is to be celebrated.

PASTORAL CARE AT DANBURY HOSPITAL: Prior to your hospitalization, you or a family member should notify the Catholic chaplain at the Hospital.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK: To any of those who are homebound or hospitalized and interested in having a visit by a priest, or are interested in serving in this ministry, please call the Parish Office at 744-5777.

PRAYER LINE: If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please call our Prayer Line. Our team leader is Maggie Kent (203-731-4738).

SEXUAL ABUSE HOTLINE: ONLINE: www.lighthouse-services.com/diobpt. TOLL FREE TELEPHONE: English speaking USA and Canada: 833-990-0004; Spanish speaking USA and Canada: 800-216-1288 E-MAIL: reports@lighthouse-services.com (must include company name with report). When contacting the hotline, an individual may or may not choose to identify him or herself.

FATHER COREY'S EPISTLE

† On Tuesday, September is the feast of **Our Lady of Sorrows,** a title for the Virgin Mary that honors the intense maternal grief and spiritual pain she experienced during the life and crucifixion of Jesus.

When we picture the Blessed Virgin Mary, we often think of moments filled with joy—the Annunciation, the Nativity, or the Wedding at Cana. But Scripture also shows us another side of Mary's life: a mother who loved deeply, suffered greatly, and remained faithful through it all. This is the heart of the devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows.

Rather than focusing only on Mary's suffering, this devotion invites us to see how she trusted God even in life's darkest moments. Her example reminds us that sorrow and hope can exist together and that no suffering is wasted when it's united with Christ.

The title Our Lady of Sorrows comes from the profound suffering Mary experienced throughout the life of Jesus.

Long before the Crucifixion, the elderly Simeon foretold that "and you yourself a sword will pierce" (Luke 2:35). Those words became a reality as Mary witnessed the hardships, rejection, and ultimate sacrifice of her Son.

Even in the midst of unimaginable grief, Mary never turned away from God's plan. She remained faithfully at the foot of the Cross, offering her sorrow to the Lord with complete trust.

Because of this, Catholics honor Mary under the title Our Lady of Sorrows, recognizing her as a mother who understands suffering and lovingly accompanies us through our own.

The devotion centers on seven significant moments in Mary's life, commonly known as the Seven Sorrows of Mary. These events help us reflect on both Christ's Passion and Mary's unwavering faith:

1. The prophecy of Simeon.
2. The flight into Egypt.
3. The loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple.
4. Mary meets Jesus carrying His Cross.
5. The Crucifixion and death of Jesus.
6. Jesus is taken down from the Cross and placed in Mary's arms.
7. The burial of Jesus.

Each sorrow reveals Mary's deep love for her Son while reminding us that faith often requires perseverance through suffering. Rather than dwelling on sadness alone, meditating on the Seven Sorrows of Mary teaches us how to trust God even when His plans are difficult to understand.

One of the most beloved ways to enter into this devotion is by praying the **Seven Sorrows Rosary.**

Unlike the traditional Rosary, which focuses on the joyful, luminous, sorrowful, and glorious mysteries, this chaplet specifically invites us to meditate on each of Mary's seven sorrows.

As we pray the Seven Sorrows Rosary, we're not only reflecting on Mary's pain—we're asking her to help us remain faithful through our own crosses.

Many Catholics turn to this devotion during seasons of grief, uncertainty, illness, or difficult transitions because it reminds them they are never alone in their suffering. Mary has walked that road before us.

It's easy to think this devotion is only for people experiencing great loss. In reality, Our Lady of Sorrows has something to teach every one of us. She reminds us that:

- Faith doesn't eliminate suffering.
- Trust often grows through difficult seasons.
- God is present even when we don't understand His plan.
- Hope can exist alongside grief.
- Love is often expressed through quiet perseverance.

Mary never pretended that suffering wasn't painful. Instead, she continued saying "yes" to God even when it cost her everything. Her example gives us courage to do the same.

Modern life often encourages us to avoid suffering at all costs. The devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows offers a different perspective. It reminds us that suffering is not the end of the story.

Mary's sorrow led to the joy of the Resurrection. Her faith remained steadfast because she trusted that God would fulfill His promises, even when she couldn't yet see how. That same hope is available to us. When we bring our own struggles to Christ through Mary's loving intercession, we discover that our crosses can become places where grace quietly transforms us.

Every Marian devotion ultimately leads us to Christ, and Our Lady of Sorrows is no exception.

As we meditate on the Seven Sorrows of Mary, pray the Seven Sorrows Rosary, and entrust our hearts to Mary's care, we learn to imitate her steadfast faith.

She teaches us that holiness isn't found only in moments of celebration. It's also found in trusting God through uncertainty, remaining faithful in suffering, and believing that resurrection always follows the Cross.

Our Lady of Sorrows doesn't ask us to carry our burdens alone. She simply invites us to walk beside her as she leads us, always and unfailingly, to her Son.



SAT., SEPTEMBER 13
4:30 + Charles Elias — The Morton Family

SUN., SEPTEMBER 13
7:00 + Steven Donnelly — The LoVerme Family
8:30 + Richard P. Kerivan — Sister Tara
11:00 St. Mary Parish

MON., SEPTEMBER 14
9:00 + John Nyikos — Kelly & Brian Hargraves

TUES., SEPTEMBER 15
9:00 + Margaret O'Reilly — Gina & Dan Ippolito

WED., SEPTEMBER 16
9:00 + Gabriel Astrologo — The Pedone Family

THURS., SEPTEMBER 17
9:00 + Hue Vu Teraxa — Sister

FRI., SEPTEMBER 18
9:00 + Patricia Ackerman — Ellen McShane

SAT., SEPTEMBER 19
9:00 + Kevin Fitzgerald — Wife Kate
4:30 St. Mary Parish

SUN., SEPTEMBER 20
7:00 + Msgr. Edward B. Karl — St. Mary Parish
8:30 + Carol Ann Frascione — The Salierno Family
11:00 + Doris Goodman — Dave & Mary Fancher

St. Mary Religious Education
24 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel, CT 06801
203-743-4557
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:30am-2pm
stmarybethelreliged@gmail.com
stmarybethel.org

Registration forms for the 2026/27 year have gone out in the mail for current families. After September 1 you must register in person at the Religious Ed Office. **The first day of class will be:**

Tuesday, September 22 – 4:30-5:45pm

Thursday, September 24 – 4:30-5:45pm

Sunday, September 27 – 9:30-10:45am



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, September 13
12:15pm Baptism
2:30pm Men's Cursillo
2:00pm Father Corey 40th Anniversary Celebration
6:00pm United Youth

Monday, September 14
7:00pm Knights of Columbus

Tuesday, September 15

Wednesday, September 16
5:15pm Youth Choir
6:00pm Book Club
7:00pm Adult Choir

Thursday, September 17
7:30pm Ave Maria Young Adults

Friday, September 18

Saturday, September 19
7:00am Men's Ministry
3:00pm Confessions
3:00pm Adoration

Sunday, September 20
12:15pm Baptism
2:30pm Men's Cursillo
6:00pm United Youth



AROUND THE PARISH

Please join us to pray the Rosary every morning from Monday through Friday at 8:20am in the Church.

The **ST. MARY MEN'S MINISTRY** group meets on Saturdays from 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM in Father McGivney Hall, followed by the 9:00 AM Saturday Mass. For more information, Deacon Eric Keener at dnkeener@diobpt.org.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP provides a prayerful experience of mutual support and comfort for those who are confronting the loss of a loved one. Our upcoming zoom meeting is on ***September 12.*** 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 youthchoir.st.mary@gmail.com. The **St. Mary ADULT CHOIR** practices in the Parish Hall on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9pm. If you are interested in being part of our Parish Choir, please call the Parish Office.

ST. MARY PARISH BOOK GROUP welcomes all adults! "Spiritual reading has made many saints" (St. Josemaria Escriva). Let's read and talk about Saint Dominic Savio. The Life of Dominic Savio, written by St. John Bosco, is our selection. Get it through a Catholic online bookstore or amazon.com. However, any resource about him will work for our discussion, including donboscowest.org, or download a free pdf at archive.org. Please join us on Wednesday September 16 at 6:00 pm in the Notre Dame Center.

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.

ALTAR SERVER MEETINGS Calling all Altar Servers, Parents, and anyone interested in becoming an Altar Server in Grades 4 - 12. Next Server Training Class – September 26th 12:30pm in the church. (If you didn't attend the September 12 you must attend this one): We look forward to seeing you soon!

For more info, contact Mrs. Keener at;

eajkeener@gmail.com



REGISTRATION FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR IS NOW OPEN! We are now accepting applications for Pre-K -- Grade 8.

Important Upcoming Dates

Back-to-School Nights
Kindergarten–Grade 8 — Wednesday, September 9

St. Mary School is looking for individuals interested in substitute teaching this coming school year on an as needed basis. Qualifications for this position are a Bachelor's degree, VIRTUS training and a background check.

We are also seeking part-time employees on a regular schedule (days can vary) for our After School Care Club. Hours are 2pm-5:30pm on days school is in session.

For information about either of these positions, please email the school at office@stmarybethelct.org, or call 203-744-2922.

FROM MICHELLE POWRIE, PRINCIPAL, SAINT MARY SCHOOL

"A new school year brings new teachers, new classmates, new challenges, and countless opportunities to learn and grow.

As the new principal of Saint Mary School, I am grateful that we begin each day together in prayer. Our students are reminded that faith is not simply one part of their education. Faith shapes how they learn, how they treat one another, how they respond to challenges, and how they use their God-given gifts in service to others.

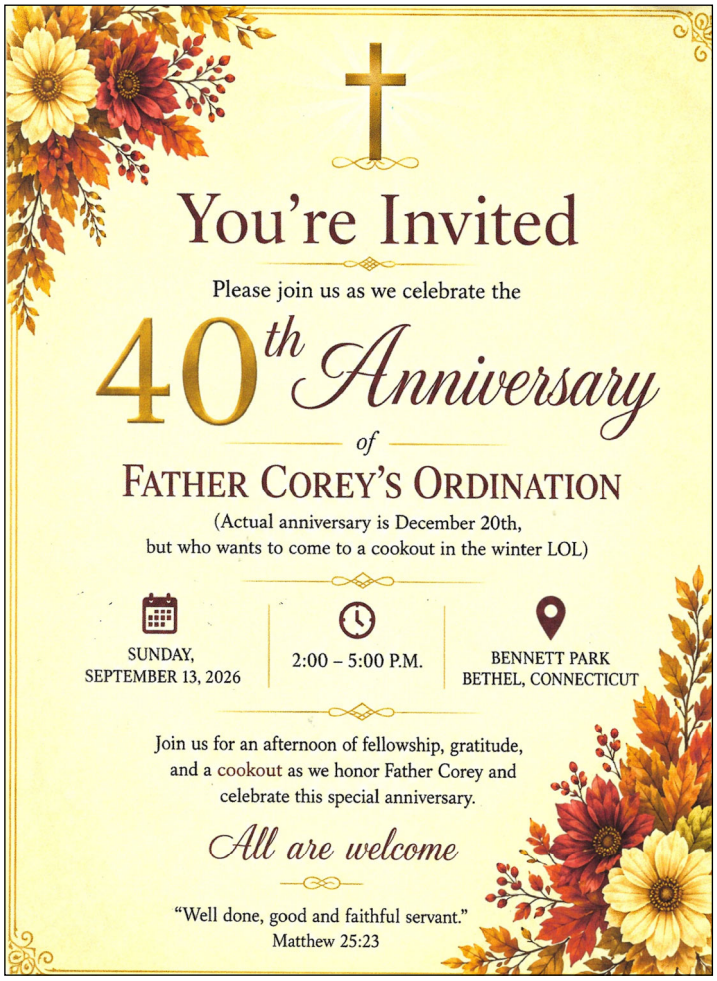
Although we have only been back for a short time, our classrooms are already filled with laughter, friendship, joy, and learning. As we embark upon this new year of growth in faith and knowledge, we ask our families, parishioners, and friends to continue to keep our students, teachers, staff, and school community in their prayers.

May we always keep our eyes fixed on our Lord Jesus Christ and trust in His guidance and protection throughout the year ahead.

If you are interested in learning more about Saint Mary School, please contact our school office. We would be delighted to welcome you!"

Kind Regards, Michelle Powrie, Principal

Enrollment remains open for the 2026–2027 school year. To learn more or schedule a personal tour, please contact admissions@stmarybethelct.org or contact Geraldine Henn, Enrollment Director at 203-744-2922.



St. Mary's Women of Faith



Join Us This Fall!
Conversations on Sunday Scriptures and Sermons

St. Mary's Women of Faith group studies will resume on Tuesday, September 22, 2026. We are starting something new: **Conversations on Sunday Scriptures and Sermons**. We'll be discussing the readings and homilies from the previous Sunday's masses.

No homework! Just come prepared for meaningful conversation and fellowship with other faith-filled women!

Meetings will be held on eight **Tuesdays, from September 22 to November 10** in the Notre Dame Center. You can choose to attend either the **Evening Meetings** at 7 pm or the **Morning Meetings** at 9:30 am.

Registration is not required but will help us with a headcount for refreshments. Please register by Sept. 15.

You can register online by going to **https://tinyurl.com/WoFFall2026 or by scanning the QR code to the left**.

If you have questions or to register by phone or email, contact Caroline LaFleur at 203-300-1486 or la_fleur@sbcglobal.net

OCIA
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

New Classes Begin Sept. 20th in the Notre Dame Center 12:30-2:00

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 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 September 5/6, 2026

Collection: $8,599.00 On-Line Giving: $5,259.00

Last year's offertory for the Weekend of September 6/7, 2025

Collection: $7,722.00 On-Line Giving: $4,706.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Come Discover the Story of Scripture...
Come Grow in Faith...
Come Experience God's Word in a New Way...
Come When You Can!

You do not need to attend every session to benefit. Whether you join us for a few evenings or the entire series, you will grow in your understanding of God's Word and His plan for your life.

Thursdays, October 1 – November 19, 2026
6:30 PM - Notre Dame Center

This fall's study explores the story of Israel's desert wandering through the Exile of Judah, revealing how the trials, challenges, and faithfulness of God's people remain deeply relevant to us today.

Each session includes:

- ☑ **An engaging video presentation**
- ☑ **Group discussion and fellowship**
- ☑ **Deeper understanding of Sacred Scripture**

Featuring renowned Catholic author and scholar Jeff Cavins, a former Protestant pastor whose teachings have helped thousands better understand the Bible and the Catholic faith.

In the newly refilmed *Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation*, author Jeff Cavins, alongside many other trusted Catholic presenters, will show you how fourteen of the Bible's narrative books tell the biblical story, from Genesis to Revelation. Presenters include these incredible experts:

- Fr. Mike Schmitz
- Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio
- Dr. Jeffrey Morrow
- And many more!

Using updated workbooks, videos, and a unique color-coded chart, you will learn about the major people, places, and events of the Bible and discover how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our Catholic Faith. The presenters will guide you through more than fifty extraordinary sites across several key locations:

- The Holy Land
- Egypt
- Rome
- And more!

The new version of *The Bible Timeline* offers fresh, practical tools to help you read and understand the Bible and introduces you to its powerful narrative in a way that will transform your life.

> *"This class informed us about the connection between the Old and New Testaments, especially how Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled through Jesus."*
>
> *"I come because it is exciting and enlightening. It breathes new life into my faith and helps me realize how rich our Church's history is."*
>
> *"This study encouraged me to read more of the Bible more often." – St Mary Scripture Study Participants*



Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport will celebrate the **Annual Diocesan Wedding Jubilee Mass on Saturday, October 3, 2026 at 11:00 AM 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 or (203) 416-1454 and she will provide instructions on how to register.



New Day Bereavement Programs
Fall Session Registration Now Open

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Church, Brookfield Sept. 17 – Nov. 12
Thursday afternoons 2:00 – 3:30pm

St. Mary Church, Bethel Oct. 13 – Dec. 8
Tuesday afternoons 4:30 – 6:00pm

Your loss may be recent or long ago. We are here to help you on your journey to healing where you are invited to share your story, and to find comfort in a supportive, confidential environment.

God will support you in your sorrow, and He will walk with you as you begin your journey through loss to healing.

Meetings take place in a small-group confidential setting

Meetings are led by trained bereavement facilitators. There is no charge.

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys & St. Mary are partnering with the Bereavement initiative of the Fairfield County Catholic Cemeteries to offer this program. Please go to the website to submit a Program Inquiry Form or you can contact Carolyn Killian at

203-404-0023.

www.Thegrief.org

Click on "New Day Ministry"

Once the form is submitted, you will hear from one of our bereavement ministers regarding the next steps.



• 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!

UNITED Youth

FACEBOOK.COM/CTUNITEDYOUTH

@CTUNITEDYOUTH

WWW.CTUNITEDYOUTH.COM

United meets on Sunday evenings on the campus of St. Rose unless otherwise noted.

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/mqkfLnpZwhI

The Knights of Columbus of Pavia Council # 48, would like to thank the parishioners of St Mary for their generous support of the "Bottles for Change" campaign that was held from Mother's Day through Father's Day.

As a result of your generosity, we will be presenting a check for $ 3,185.55 to the Malta House in Norwalk Connecticut. This amount represented over 125 pounds of coins and bills. This donation supports a transitional living situation, where moms can stay with their baby with support and a "hands up" toward independence and hope with their child.



Sun.: Sirach 27:30-28:7 / Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 / Romans 14:7-9 / Matthew 18:21-35

Mon.: Numbers 21:4b-9 / Psalms 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 / Philippians 2:6-11 / John 3:13-17

Tues.: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31a / Psalms 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 / John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35

Wed.: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 / Psalms 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22 / Luke 7:31-35

Thu: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 / Psalms 118:1B-2, 16ab-17, 28 / Luke 7:36-50

Fri.: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 / Psalms 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15 / Luke 8:1-3

Sat.: 1 Corinthians 15:35-37, 42-49 / Psalms 56:10c-12, 13-14 / Luke 8:4-15

Sun.: Isaiah 55:6-9 / Psalms 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 / Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a / Matthew 20:1-16a

OFF THE STREETS is an all volunteer organization that assists those in need of housing. For those individuals that demonstrate a willingness to get off the streets, we provide security deposits, furniture and household items. We ask you to consider a donation to Off The Streets so that we can continue to provide money for security deposits. The cost of apartments in our area is excessive and there is a shortage of low cost housing. A security deposit could be the deal breaker for someone seeking shelter. On the first Saturday of every month we collect donations between ten and noon at South Street Self Storage located at 39-A South St in Danbury. You can contact Mike at otsdanburymr@gmail.com with any questions you may have or scan the code for a list of items we can accept.

If you would like to support our work, please send contributions to: Off the Streets, PO Box 591, Bethel CT 06801. or donate online by cut and pasting the link below into your browser https://gofund.me/baa5b98d

OTS HELP PAGE



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!!



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 SEPTEMBER



For the care of water Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.



Mustang for a Day Shadow Visits - Begins Monday, September 21st

We invite all prospective students to shadow a current student and live a day in the life at our school as a Mustang For a Day. While spending a day is not mandatory as part of the application process, it is an excellent way for students to learn more about what it's like to be an Immaculate High School student.

Visiting students will meet their Student Ambassador host in the main office upon arrival. At dismissal, students will meet with our Director of Enrollment to discuss their day and ask any questions they may have. Register today at immaculatehs.org/visit.

Join us on Sunday, October 18, for our annual Open House at Immaculate.

This event will allow students and parents to meet with faculty, administrators, athletic staff and current students, as well as tour the classrooms, newly renovated science labs, dining hall, Chapel and Fitness Center. You will learn about our athletic, fine arts, spiritual life and extracurricular offerings. Register today at immaculatehs.org/visit



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 NIGHT-TIME PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank You for the blessings of this day.

Tonight, please be close to anyone who is hurting, worried, lonely, or afraid.

Bring healing to where it is needed, comfort those missing someone they love, and keep our families safe through the night.

May we close our eyes with grateful hearts and wake to another beautiful day.

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. Kathleen Keener eajkeener@gmail.com

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 dnkeener@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. Rectory Office

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 homebound 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

Bible Study Spring and fall for 8 weeks each. Peter Baumgartner (pjbaumgart@yahoo.com) or Rich Bruno (bruno11955@gmail.com)

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.