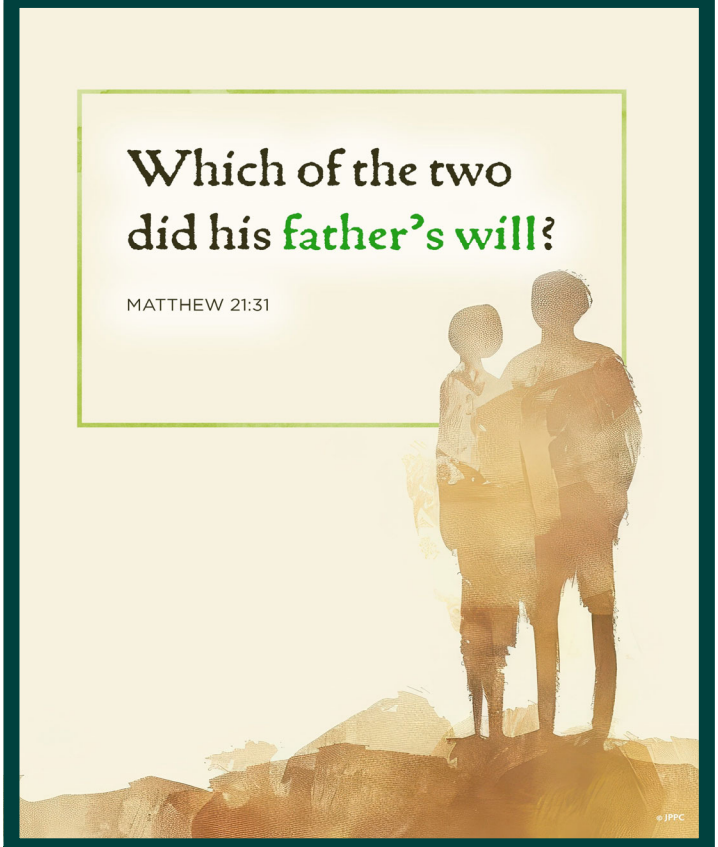
Saint Mary Parish

September 27, 2026

Twenty-sixth 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 HOURS:

9am –1:30 pm, Monday – 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

† What to Know about Fulton Sheen's Beatification The beatification of Archbishop Sheen will take place on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2026, in St. Louis.

Soon Catholics in the United States will have particular reason to celebrate, as Fulton Sheen (1895-1979) is declared Blessed. Almost fifty years after his death, Sheen is still well known for his apostolate of television and radio, through which he reached millions of people long before social media made this type of work common and necessary. He is to be beatified, however, not simply because of his productive apostolic life, but because he lived what he preached.

Early Life

Sheen grew up in Peoria, Illinois, but his eventful life would take him all over the country and indeed the world, as he studied and later taught in Washington, D.C. and Europe and held positions in major cities. His life reads like a dazzling list of achievements: a prize-winning doctorate in philosophy after ordination; a brief time in a parish before prestigious teaching and administrative positions; auxiliary bishop of New York; bishop of Rochester, NY; titular bishop of Newport, Wales. All the while, he developed his radio and television programs, of which the best-known would be his weekly TV series, Life Is Worth Living. Eventually the volume of fan mail rose to thousands of letters a week.

Secret Suffering

Sheen's life should not, however, be judged merely from the outside. Like anyone, especially those in the public square and those devoted to God's service, he experienced his share of suffering. Not only was the sheer amount of activity physically and mentally exhausting, he faced significant opposition, even and especially from fellow Catholics. The fiercest came from Francis Cardinal Spellman, archbishop of New York, after an administrative disagreement, though Sheen never publicly discussed it. Sheen's later years, notably his time as bishop of Rochester, brought difficulties as his health declined and his apostolate with it.

In both success and setbacks, Sheen was like the servant in the parable who was given five talents and made five more (Mt 25:14-21). His gifts and charisma were not for his own benefit but to help others find God; he recognized that and used them accordingly. He kept a daily Eucharistic Holy Hour since the year before his ordination, and not only "gave away millions in royalties, salary and gifts" but "would drop everything to help a single person in need" (Matthew McDonald, National Catholic Register). In his suffering, he turned not to himself but to the Passion of



Jesus; as he said after a surgery, "the Lord … will look to see if we have any physical marks of the Cross" (McDonald). Sheen's devotion to God and to his people not only gave power to his message but formed him as a pastor and a man.

The Needed Miracle

Generally, before both beatification and canonization, a miracle must be found to have taken place through the person's intercession. The miracle for Fulton Sheen's beatification occurred in 2010, in his hometown, Peoria. Newborn James Fulton Engstrom, who was almost declared stillborn after an hour without breath or pulse, suddenly developed normal signs of life. James not only survived but grew with no physical or mental handicaps. Medical personnel were unanimously baffled.

A Long-Awaited Event

In 2019, the miracle was approved. Some complications in the investigation of the cause held up the process, but in March 2026, plans were at last set in motion. The beatification is to take place Thursday, September 24, in St. Louis, MO, with Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle presiding. Some events will be livestreamed. See details of relevant events.

Wherever we are on September 24, we have great cause for thanksgiving as we join in honoring the new Blessed. Like Saint Paul, that great example of preachers, he demonstrates that we can do all things in Him Who strengthens us (Phil 4:13). Through his intercession, may we always center our lives on prayer, especially with the Blessed Sacrament, and share with others what He gives us: the Good News that life is indeed worth living.

Blessed Fulton Sheen, pray for us!



SAT., SEPTEMBER 26
4:30 All Seminarians

SUN., SEPTEMBER 27
7:00 St. Mary Parish
8:30 The Priests at St. Mary — St. Mary Rosary Group
11:00 + Vincent Soegaard — Family

MON., SEPTEMBER 28
9:00 + Beverly Ann Kieras — Gerry Baucher

TUES., SEPTEMBER 29
9:00 + Edward McElroy — Eileen Freebairn & Family

WED., SEPTEMBER 30
9:00 + Jeanette Wundeler — Mary Wagher

THURS., OCTOBER 1
9:00 + Louis Russo — Wife Prudence

FRI., OCTOBER 2
9:00 + Jose Suarez — Marcos Suarez & Mom

SAT., OCTOBER 3
9:00 + Beverly Kieras — Gerry Boucher
4:30 + Greg Willmott *(10th Anniv.)* — Wife & Sons

SUN., OCTOBER 4
7:00 + Rob Ferri — The McCabe Family
8:30 For St. Mary Parish
11:00 + James Hyland, Sr. — The Ruhl Family



*This week the **Sanctuary Lamp** will be lit and prayers will be said before each Mass by the priest for Aura Lopez from Dorothea Gulya-Stasny*

Pray for the Sick



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). If you would like to join our group, send a "Request to Join Prayer Chain" email to Maggie at kentmaggie@sbcglobal.net. Your name will be added to the email chain. Thank you!



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 27
9:30am Religious Education
12:15pm Baptism
12:30pm OCIA
6:00pm United Youth

Monday, September 28
7:00pm Knights of Columbus

Tuesday, September 29
9:30am Women of Faith
4:30pm Religious Education
7:00pm Women of Faith

Wednesday, September 30
5:15pm Youth Choir
7:00pm Adult Choir

Thursday, October 1
4:30pm Religious Education
6:30pm Bible Study

Friday, October 2
1:00pm Blood Drive
5:30pm Bingo

Saturday, October 3
7:00am Men's Ministry
9:00am Cooking with the Saints
3:00pm Confessions
3:00pm Adoration

Sunday, October 4
12:15pm Pre Baptism Class
12:30pm OCIA
6:00pm United Youth



On Sunday, October 4 at 3pm in the Church we will have Exposition of the **BLESSED SACRAMENT AND ROSARY** in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary.

On ***Sunday, October 4th*** we invite all pets and their families to join us on the front lawn of the Church ***(weather permitting)*** at 12:30 pm for the traditional **BLESSING OF THE** ANIMALS in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.

OCTOBER DEVOTIONS to the Blessed Mother will take place on Mondays in October in the Notre Dame Center Chapel at 7pm. Each devotion will have the Rosary, prayers and Litany of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

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.

ST. MARY PARISH BOOK GROUP welcomes all adults! "Spiritual reading has made many saints" (St. Josemaria Escriva). Our next book is Peter: Keys to Following Jesus by Tim Gray. It's readily available from Ignatius Press and other online book stores. Or easily listen to the audiobook on FORMED, a free resource available courtesy of St. Mary Parish (go to signup.formed.org and select our parish name). Please join us on ***Wednesday October 21*** at 6:00 pm in the Notre Dame Center.

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 ***October 10.*** 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 5:15-6pm 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.

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.

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



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 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 Mrs. Michelle Powrie Principal, Saint Mary School

It has been another wonderful and busy week at Saint Mary School!

Our students continue to settle into the new school year, growing not only academically but also in faith, friendship, and service to one another. This week, our teachers and staff spent time working together as we continue preparing for our upcoming NEASC accreditation process and reflecting on how we can make Saint Mary School even stronger for our children and families.

One of the greatest joys of each day is watching our students live out this year's theme, "Do Small Things with Great Love." Whether it is helping a classmate, participating in prayer, showing kindness in the hallway, or simply giving their best effort in the classroom, our children remind us that small acts done with love can make a tremendous difference.

We are so grateful for the prayers and continued support of our Saint Mary Parish community. If you or someone you know is looking for a school where children can grow academically, spiritually, and personally, I warmly invite you to come and see Saint Mary School for yourself. Come visit us, meet our teachers, walk through our classrooms, and experience the faith, warmth, and sense of family that have long been at the heart of Saint Mary School. We would love to welcome you!

Please continue to keep our students, families, faculty, and staff in your prayers.

May God bless our Saint Mary School and Parish family!

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 Sunday classes will be:**

Sunday, September 27 – 9:30-10:45am

In-person Registration for the Sacraments are as follows. Please remember to bring your payment:

First Reconciliation will be on October 6 at 6:30 @ pm in the Church

First Communion Registration is on October 7 at 6:30pm in the Church

Confirmation Registration is on October 14 at 6:30pm. Parent & Child must attend.

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 19/20, 2026

Collection: $6,591.00 On-Line Giving: $$4,519 .00

Last year's offertory for the Weekend of Sept. 20/21, 2025

Collection: $6,441.00 On-Line Giving: $5,165 .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

Online Giving

Be grateful. Give generously.

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



Sun.: Ezekiel 18:25-28 / Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 / Philippians 2:1-11 or Philippians 2:1-5 / Matthew 21:28-32

Mon.: Job 1:6-22 / Psalms 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7 / Luke 9:46-50

Tues.: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12ab / Psalms 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5 / John 1:47-51

Wed.: Job 9:1-12, 14-16 / Psalms 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15 / Luke 9:57-62

Thu: Job 19:21-27 / Psalms 27:7-8A, 8B-9abc, 13-14 / Luke 10:1-12

Fri.: Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5 / Psalms 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab / Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Sat.: Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17 / Psalms 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130 / Luke 10:17-24

Sun.: Isaiah 5:1-7 / Psalms 80:9, 12-16, 19-20 / Philippians 4:6-9 / Matthew 21:33-43

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!!

formed
Forming Catholics for Life.

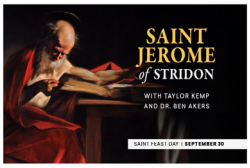
This Week on Formed

Week of September 27, 2026



St. Therese | Littlest Saints

Which flower in Jesus's garden is the best? The most beautiful? St. Therese gives us her "little" answer to these questions.



St. Jerome | Catholic Saints

An early Church Father from the 4th century, St. Jerome translated the Bible into Latin with the desire to make Scripture more accessible. St. Jerome is the patron of biblical scholars, translators, and archivists and famously said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."



Who Are the Archangels?

Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein discuss archangels and what role they have in our lives.

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



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 OCTOBER

For mental health ministry Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.



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

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

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.

Parents Prayer for Vocations

Almighty and eternal God,

In your unfailing love you provide
ministers for your Church.
We pray for those whom you call
to serve the Church of St. Mary
as priests
Inspire in them a generous response.
Grant them courage and vision to
serve your people
May their lives and service call your
people to respond to the presence
of your Spirit among us
that, faithful to the Gospel and
hope of Jesus the Christ, we may:
announce glad tidings to the poor
proclaim liberty to captives,
set prisoners free
and renew the face of the earth.

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.