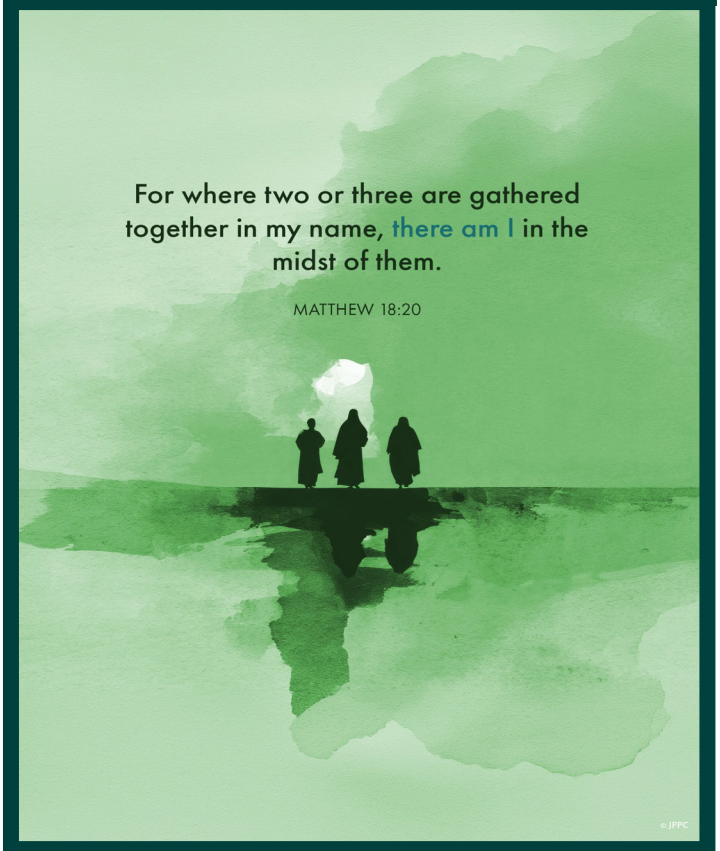
Saint Mary Parish

September 6, 2026

Twenty-third 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

† From my Facebook Post last week:

I just heard a disturbing story from my new priest here at St. Mary Parish. Fr Johnson who is a dark skinned Indian was walking in Meckauer Park and a man in his forties walking a dog spit on him and cursed him many times. Father Johnson didn't reply, and the only reason I found out about this is because a treadmill arrived yesterday because Father doesn't wank to walk in public. I know that there is nothing that can be done but I wanted to let everyone know. We can agree this should not happen in Bethel. Thank you. Fr. Corey

On Friday, September 11 at 5:00pm I invite all parishioners to walk with Father Johnson at Meckauer Park. This is the day of the week and time that the event happened, and we as a parish want to make a statement. Signs are acceptable and there is parking at the park and at Bennett Park.

August 30, 2026

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In recent days, many families throughout Fairfield County, in Danbury, in Stamford, and in other of our communities, have lived through moments of real fear as immigration enforcement activity has intensified in our area. I have heard of husbands and fathers taken from their cars on the way to work, of spouses unable to find where a loved one has been brought, and of neighbors who no longer feel at ease walking to the store, dropping off a child at school, or simply going about the ordinary business of the day. Whatever one believes about the just enforcement of our nation's laws, no person of faith can look upon this kind of suffering with indifference.

As your Bishop, I want you to know that the entire Diocese of Bridgeport is close to you in this moment. We are one Church, one Body in Christ, and when one member suffers, all of us suffer with him/her. To every family that has been separated this week, to every spouse searching for news of a husband or wife, to every child who wonders whether a parent will come home, I say clearly: you are not alone. This diocese holds you in constant prayer, and I hold you in my heart as your father in faith. You are daily in my prayers, especially when I celebrate Mass, the height of Christian prayer.

I do not write to make a political statement, nor is it the place of a Bishop to dictate the particulars of civil policy that belong properly to lawmakers and to citizens acting according to their conscience. But I write as a pastor who cannot remain silent while members of our human family are suffering, while families are separated, and while fear has entered our schools, our workplaces, and our streets. Every person, whatever his or her country of birth or immigration status, is made in the image and likeness of God and possesses a dignity that no earthly power may set aside.

To our immigrant brothers and sisters throughout Fairfield County, whether or not you are Catholic, whether or not you have ever set foot in one of our parishes, please know that the Church stands with you. Our parishes, our Catholic Charities, and our Office of Hispanic Ministry remain, as they have always been, places of welcome and refuge, and no one need fear that the doors of our churches will ever be closed to them.

I am asking every parish of the diocese to include a prayer for immigrant families and for all those affected by these events at every Mass in the days ahead.

Let us remember the word the Lord speaks to us again and again in Scripture: *do not be afraid, for I am with you* (cf. Is 41:10). Fear is real, but it does not have the final word. Christ walks with every suffering family in Fairfield County each day, and He asks each of us, as His Church, to walk with them as well. May Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the migrant and consolation of the afflicted, wrap her mantle around every family who suffers in this hour. And may Almighty God bless and keep you all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+frank caggiano

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP | 100 Beard Sawmill Road | Suite 650 | Shelton, Connecticut 06484 | 203-416-1352



SAT., SEPTEMBER 5
4:30 + Christopher Wagher — Mary Wagher

SUN., SEPTEMBER 6
7:00 + Giovanna Bestetti — The Cazzaniga Family
8:30 St. Mary Parish
11:00 + T. J. Burke — Eleanor Roche

MON., SEPTEMBER 7
9:00 The American Workforce

TUES., SEPTEMBER 8
9:00 + John Rooney, Pat & Ken Stevens

WED., SEPTEMBER 9
9:00 + Anna & John Hafner — Family

THURS., SEPTEMBER 10
9:00 + Andrea McGranahan & James Ninivaggi — Andrew D'Ambrosio

FRI., SEPTEMBER 11
9:00 + The Neylon Family — Sue Dolan

SAT., SEPTEMBER 12
9:00 + Mary Luechinger — Susan & David Mallonee
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



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 6
12:15pm Pre-Baptism
2:30pm Men's Cursillo
6:00pm United Youth

Monday, September 7

Tuesday, September 8

Wednesday, September 9
5:15pm Youth Choir
7:00pm Adult Choir

Thursday, September 10

Friday, September 11

Saturday, September 12
7:00am Men's Ministry
9:30am Altar Server Training
3:00pm Confessions
3:00pm Adoration

Sunday, September 13
12:15pm Baptism
2:30pm Men's Cursillo
6:00pm United Youth

Altar Server Meeting

September 5th 9:30, Parish Hall

Calling all Altar Servers, Parents, and anyone interested in becoming an Altar Server in Grades 4 - 12

Please bring your Albs, cleaned.
We look forward to seeing you soon!

Email Mrs.Keener to r.s.v.p.
eajkeener@gmail.com
by September 3rd

Save the dates:
Server Trainings
September 12th 9:30
September 26th 12:30 (*updated)







AROUND THE PARISH



THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MON., SEPT. 7 IN HONOR OF LABOR DAY.

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.



*This week the **Sanctuary Lamp** will be lit and prayers will be said before each Mass by the priest for Fr. Mychal Judge, OFM, Chaplain, FDNY*

Saint Mary SCHOOL

FAITH • FAMILY • ACADEMICS

Contact admissions@stmarybethelct.org to schedule a visit.

24 Dodgingtown Road | Bethel, Connecticut 06801

203-744-2922 | www.st.marybethelct.org

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

BUILDING WITH GREAT LOVE

This Labor Day, we give thanks for the generations of hard-working men and women whose dedication and sacrifice have helped build and strengthen our country. We also recognize the many people whose work continues to serve our families, schools, parishes, and communities each day.

At Saint Mary School, we are joyfully building the next chapter of our school one small step and one loving action at a time.

Inspired by Saint Teresa of Calcutta, our theme for this school year is "Do small things with great love." This spirit can be found throughout our school: in the way our teachers care for each child, in the way our students serve and encourage one another, and in the way our families come together as a community of faith.

We are strengthening our Catholic identity, raising academic expectations, improving our school environment, and creating a place where every child is known, loved, and encouraged to discover their God-given potential.

There is something special being built at Saint Mary School, and we invite your family to become part of it.

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 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. You can find online registration on our website @stmarybethel.org. ***Registration is due by September 1. After that you must register in person at the Religious Ed office.***

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.

Your Voice Has a Place Here.

Join the Saint Mary Youth Choir and discover faith, friendship, and the joy of serving through music!

CAN'T COMMIT NOW? NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME NO MATTER THE TIME OF YEAR!

No experience necessary

Open to children in grades 3-12

Flexible attendance requirements with advanced notice

Weekly Wednesday Rehearsals from **5:15pm-6:00pm** in Father McGivney Hall

Sing once a month at the 8:30am Mass including Christmas and Easter!

First Rehearsal, Wednesday, September 9

Questions?
Email Youth Choir Director, Leanna Hinger
youthchoir.st.mary@gmail.com



Offertory for the Weekend of August 29/30, 2026

Collection: $8,833.00 On-Line Giving: $3,240.00

Last year's offertory for the Weekend of August 30/31, 2025

Collection: $8,277.00 On-Line Giving: $4,520 00

Thank you for your generosity!

OCIA
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

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.

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

You're Invited

Please join us as we celebrate the

40th Anniversary

of

FATHER COREY'S ORDINATION

(Actual anniversary is December 20th,
but who wants to come to a cookout in the winter LOL)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026	2:00 – 5:00 P.M.	BENNETT PARK BETHEL, CONNECTICUT

Join us for an afternoon of fellowship, gratitude, and a cookout as we honor Father Corey and celebrate this special anniversary.

All are welcome

Please bring a chair!!

"Well done, good and faithful servant."
Matthew 25:23

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.

formed
Forming Catholics for Life.

This Week on Formed

Week of September 06, 2026



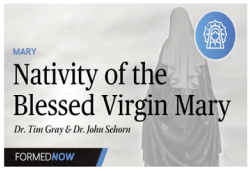
What Catholics Believe About Mary: Immaculate Conception, Virginity

Join Dr. Edward Sri as he answers some of the internet's most asked questions about Mary. Who is Mary? Why do Catholics pray to Mary? How could she be a virgin if Jesus had brothers and sisters according to the Bible? Find out answers to these and more questions in this episode of What Catholics Believe.



Mary of Nazareth

What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.



Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In this episode, Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn discuss the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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

An offering from the Augustine Institute

• 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.

K OF C

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

ST. MARY SCHOOL RAFFLE

How this raffle works:
A drawing will take place once a month from September until June.
Each draw will be a $300 winning ticket!

Each winning ticket gets put BACK into the pot for the following month's drawing, so every ticket has the potential to *win 10 times!*

$20 per ticket
Tickets available until September 20

www.stmarybethelct.org

ST. MARY CHURCH COMMUNITY PRESENTS...

18+

BINGO NIGHT

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 48

September 25, 2026

$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.
St. Mary School Gym, Bethel, CT

Weekly Readings

Sun.: Ez 33:7-9 Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 Rom 13:8-10 Mt 18:15-20

Mon.: 1 Corinthians 5:1-8 / Psalms 5:5-6, 7, 12 / Luke 6:6-11

Tues.: Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30 / Psalms 13:6ab, 6c / Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23

Wed.: 1 Corinthians 7:25-31 / Psalms 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17 / Luke 6:20-26

Thu: 1 Corinthians 8:1b-7, 11-13 / Psalms 139:1B-3, 13-14ab, 23-24 / Luke 6:27-38

Fri.: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22b-27 / Psalms 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12 / Luke 6:39-42

Sat.: 1 Corinthians 10:14-22 / Psalms 116:12-13, 17-18 / Luke 6:43-49

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

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.



HSPT Prep Session & Parent Info Session - Saturday, September 12th @ 9:00am

Our High School Placement Test Prep Session offers students the opportunity to learn more about the HSPT, review the math and verbal sections, along with sample questions and familiarize themselves with the format and focus of the test. Every student in attendance will receive an HSPT Prep Book to take home.

Parents are invited to attend an Information Session at 9am. No registration is necessary. A $40 (cash or check payable to Immaculate High School) will be collected at entrance to the exam.

Register today at https://immaculatehs.fsenrollment.com/portal/public_calendars/hspt_prep_session

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 Prayer for Tolerance and Understanding

Dear Heavenly Father,

Please fill our hearts with love so there is no room for hate. Fill our minds with understanding so there is no room for fear.

Grant us the wisdom to listen more than we speak, and to understand before we react. Help us see the unique worth in every person rather than finding strangeness in our differences.

Soften our hearts when we feel frustrated or impatient. Give us the grace to replace judgment with compassion, so we may live together in peace and mutual respect.

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.