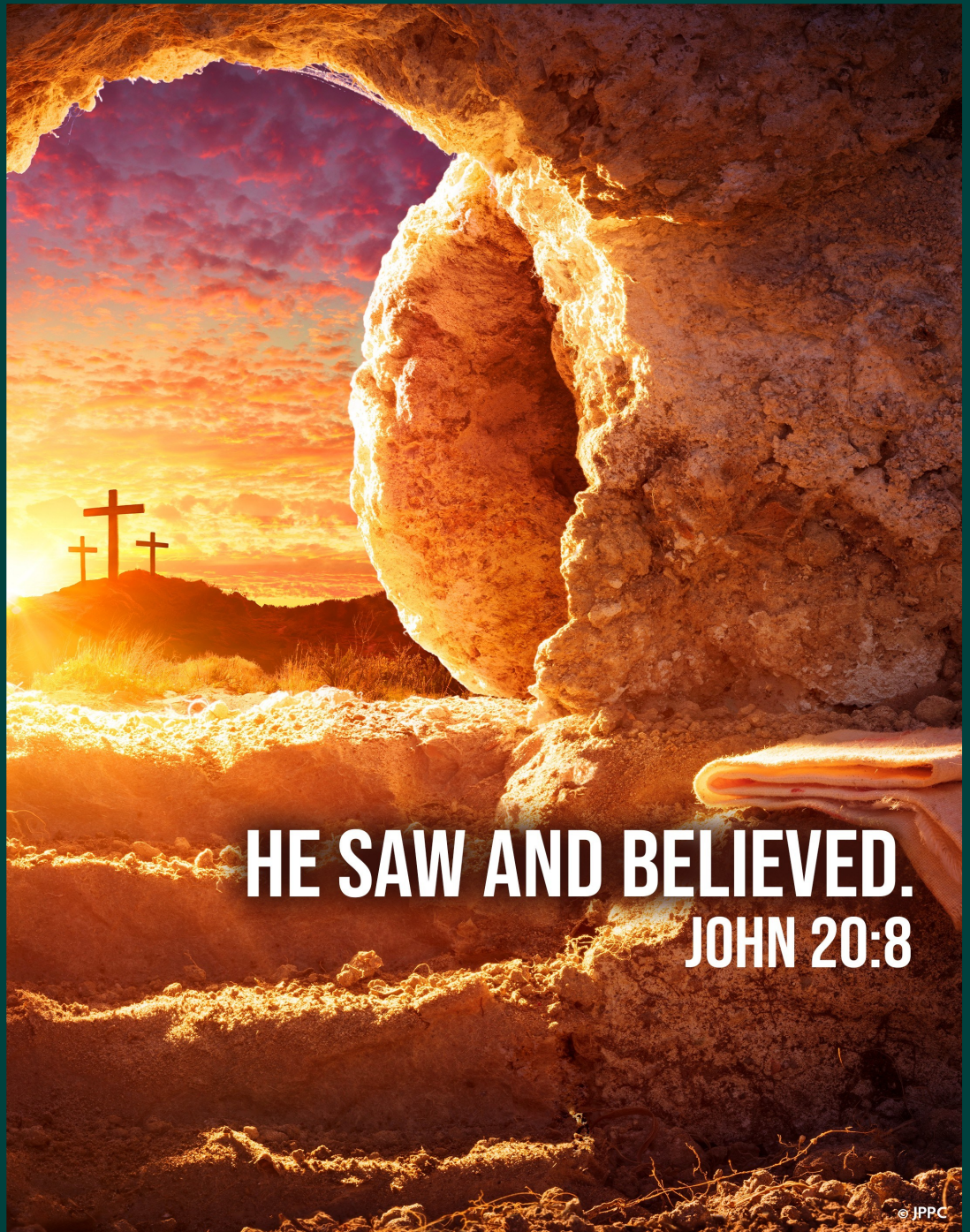


Saint Mary Parish

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD APRIL 20, 2025



HE SAW AND BELIEVED.
JOHN 20:8

26 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel, CT 06801

Phone: (203)744-5777

Website: www.stmarybethel.org Email: stmaryoffice@comcast.net

Visit us on Facebook: [StMaryChurchBethel](https://www.facebook.com/StMaryChurchBethel)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

9am –2:00 pm, Mon. – Thurs.; 9am-Noon on Fridays

(Closed Weekends and Holidays)

FATHER COREY'S EPISTLE

† **Happy Easter!** The Lord is Risen, He is risen indeed! This most beautiful homily is a tradition in the Church, both the Catholic Church, the Orthodox and the Anglican Church. I share it every Easter. Let this homily be a part of your daily meditations.

Easter Homily by St. John Chrysostom

Let all pious men and all lovers of God rejoice in the splendor of this feast; let the wise servants blissfully enter into the joy of their Lord; let those who have borne the burden of Lent now receive their pay, and those who have toiled since the first hour, let them now receive their due reward; let any who came after the third hour be grateful to join in the feast, and those who may have come after the sixth, let them not be afraid of being too late; for the Lord is gracious and He receives the last even as the first. He gives rest to him who comes on the eleventh hour as well as to him who has toiled since the first: yes, He has pity on the last and He serves the first; He rewards the one and praises the effort.


Come you all: enter into the joy of your Lord. You the first and you the last, receive alike your reward; you rich and you poor, dance together; you sober and you weaklings, celebrate the day; you who have kept the fast and you who have not, rejoice today. The table is richly loaded: enjoy its royal banquet. The calf is a fatted one: let no one go away hungry. All of you enjoy the banquet of faith; all of you receive the riches of his goodness. Let no one grieve over his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed; let no one weep over his sins, for pardon has shone from the grave; let no one fear death, for the death of our Saviour has set us free: He has destroyed it by enduring it, He has despoiled Hades by going down into its kingdom, He has angered it by allowing it to taste of his flesh.

When Isaias foresaw all this, he cried out: "O Hades, you have been angered by encountering Him in the nether

world." Hades is angered because frustrated, it is angered because it has been mocked, it is angered because it has been destroyed, it is angered because it has been reduced to naught, it is angered because it is now captive. It seized a body, and, lo! it encountered heaven; it seized the visible, and was overcome by the invisible.

O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? Christ is risen and you are abolished. Christ is risen and the demons are cast down. Christ is risen and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen and life is freed. Christ is risen and the tomb is emptied of the dead: for Christ, being risen from the dead, has become the Leader and Reviver of those who had fallen asleep. To Him be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.



Sunday, 4/20	Monday, 4/21	Tuesday, 4/22	Wednesday, 4/23
7:00am, 8:30am & 11:00am Masses 12:30pm RCIA 6:30pm United Youth 	8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass	8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass 9:30am Walking with Purpose 7:00pm Walking with Purpose	8:20am Rosary 9:00am Mass 5:00pm Children's Choir 7:00pm Adult Choir

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

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP provides a prayerful experience of mutual support and comfort for those who are confronting the loss of a loved one. Our upcoming zoom meeting is on **May 17**. If you wish to attend, please call the parish office at 744-5777 and ask that a group facilitator call you with more information.

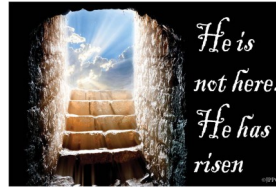
The **YOUNG ADULT** group (ages 21-35) meets every 3rd Thursday of the month. Look them up on Instagram at [avemarie1882](https://www.instagram.com/avemarie1882).

ST. MARY BOOK GROUP welcomes all adults! "Spiritual reading has made many saints" (St. Josemaria Escriva). Our next book is *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Henri Nouwen. Explore the great parable of forgiveness through a masterpiece painting--this is a perfect read for your Lenten journey. We will meet on Wednesday April 16 at 7 pm in the Quiet Room. Copies are available to borrow with your Library card, through Bibliomation or FindItCT.org. Or you can purchase a copy online from The Catholic Company or Amazon. (Note that the subtitles vary, but it is the same book.)

The **ST. MARY ADULT CHOIR** practices in Father McGivney Hall on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9pm. If you are interested in being part of our Parish Choir, please call the Parish Office.

The **ST. MARY YOUTH CHOIR** is in full swing and always looking for new members in grades 2 and up. They sing once a month and rehearse every Wednesday from 5-6pm in Father McGivney Hall. For more info contact Leanna Hinger at Youth-Choir.StMary@gmail.com.

If you would like to dedicate **ALTAR FLOWERS** in memory of a loved one at weekend Masses, call the Parish Office at (203)744-5777. Donation would be \$150 and your loved one's name will appear in the bulletin.



The Parish Office will be closed for Easter from Thursday, April 17 through Monday, April 21. We will reopen on Tuesday, April 22. Happy Easter!

St. Mary Church Community presents...

BINGO NIGHT

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 48

APRIL 25, 2025

St. Mary School Gym
24 Dodgingtown Rd, Bethel, CT

\$20 entry fee, covers all regular games.
Additional games and food available for purchase.
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Games are played from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

★ This is an 18+ event. ★

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?



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.

Thursday, 4/24	Friday, 4/25	Saturday, 4/26	Sunday, 4/27
8:20am Rosary 7:00pm Mass of the Last Supper	8:20am Rosary 12n Ecumenical Way of the Cross 3:00pm Friday of the Passion of the Lord 7:00pm Stations of the Cross	7:00am Men's Ministry 8:20am Rosary 12:n Blessing of the Easter Food 8:00pm Great Vigil of Easter	5:30am Mass at Blue Jay Orchards (weather permitting) 7:00am, 8:30am & 11:00am Masses

He is Risen!

Inactive Catholics You're Invited Home!

There's an old saying that goes, "Once a Catholic, always a Catholic." Maybe you have been away from the Church for a little while or for quite some time, but now you feel a tug at your heart calling you back to the Catholic Church. Listen to that tug. It's your Heavenly Father reaching His arms out to you, the Holy Spirit whispering in your ear, hoping to draw you home.

*No matter how long you have been away, for whatever reason,
you are always welcome.*

We hope you accept this as your invitation to rediscover the truth, wonder and mystery of the Catholic faith. As your brothers and sisters in our worldwide Catholic family, we want you back. We've missed you, and our Church is not the same without you.

Regardless of why you left or got out of the habit of going to Mass, you can always come home and return to the practice of the sacraments and the fullness of relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church He founded. Visit our website at stmarybethel.org and visit us in person. You are most welcomed to our community!

Welcome Home!



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Divine Mercy Sunday was declared by St. Pope John Paul II in the year 2000 to be celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter each year. The celebration is based upon the words of Jesus, who appeared several times to a Polish nun (now declared a saint) named Faustina Kowalska. He spoke to her about His love and mercy for all persons. In several of His messages to St. Faustina, Jesus described His desire for a special day dedicated to His Mercy. Pope Francis is encouraging the faithful to know the face of God's mercy — Jesus Christ Incarnate — and to show that face of mercy to the world through our words and actions.



Jesus I Trust in You

On this day, you may be granted a **plenary indulgence*** if you:

①

go to confession



②

receive Holy Communion



③

pray for the pope's intentions



④

take part in the prayers and devotions held in honour of Divine Mercy in any church or chapel

OR

recite *the Our Father*, *the Creed* and a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament

* THE REMISSION OF TEMPORAL PUNISHMENT DUE FOR SINS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN FORGIVEN

Join us on

Sunday, April 27

at 3pm in the Church

for a **Holy Hour** including **Song, Adoration and the Divine Mercy Chaplet**



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

stmarybethelrelied@gmail.com
stmarybethel.org

Religious Education classes have resumed. Registration is ongoing.

All children must attend Mass each week. There, the child must fill out the Mass Attendance slip available in the vestibule of the Church. The child then puts the slip in the in the collection basket.

REMINDER When the Bethel School System cancels school and/or after school activities, Religious Education is also cancelled. Please check on our website or on our Facebook page for clarification.



Are you:

- A person who has not been baptized but recognize a need for spirituality in your life and have expressed an interest in learning more about Jesus?
- A Baptized Christian of another denomination who would like to learn about and possibly join the Catholic tradition?
- A Baptized Roman Catholic who has not received the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist and/or Confirmation and would like to become a full participant in the life of the Church?
- Married to a Catholic and attend Mass but just don't know what the next step is to become on of the Catholic faithful?

If your answer is yes to any of these questions, come and discover, or rediscover, the truth, wonder and mystery of our Catholic faith! The RCIA program prepares you to be received as members of the Catholic Church. Our new sessions are **from 12:30-2:00pm in Father McGivney Hall** every Sunday thereafter.

If you are interested in participating or learning more about the RCIA program, call (203)744-5777 or email Deacon Eric Keener at dnkeen-er@diobpt.org.

St. Mary School

A Catholic School of Academic Excellence for Pre-K to 8th Grade

REGISTRATION FOR 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR IS

NOW OPEN We are now accepting applications for PreK-- Grade 8. Please visit our website at www.stmarybethelct.org and click on "Apply Now". We do anticipate waitlists in many grades so please apply as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Geraldine Henn, Enrollment Director, at admissions@stmarybethelct.org or call 203-744-2922.

Please visit us on FACEBOOK ("St. Mary School, Bethel"), INSTAGRAM ("stmaryschoolbethel"), and TWITTER (@SaintMaryBethel) to see photos and news of the latest happenings at SMS!



Use our online option to contribute to our Parish offertory

Convenient!

Secure and Confidential!

Simple!

Efficient!

Create your account TODAY

Go to: www.osvonlinegiving.com/994

or

www.stmarybethel.org and click on the online giving link

• UNITED YOUTH MINISTRY •

A COLLABORATIVE YOUTH PROGRAM FOR THE PARISHES OF ST. ROSE NEWTOWN, ST. JOSEPH BROOKFIELD AND ST. MARY BETHEL

*Follow us on
**Facebook
 & Instagram**
 for more
 information and
 updates!*



FACEBOOK.COM/CTUNITEDYOUTH
@CTUNITEDYOUTH
WWW.CTUNITEDYOUTH.COM

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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

each Saturday between 3pm and 4pm. We will also have Eucharistic Adoration on the First Sunday of the Month between the 8:30am and 11:00am Masses.



ALTAR SERVERS



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

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

TRAINING SESSIONS

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

CONTACT

- > frlafleur@diobpt.org

THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL



For the use of the new technologies Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

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.

TOGETHER IN FAITH ...

FORMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES OF ACCOMPANIMENT ACROSS THE DIOCESE THROUGH NEWLY ESTABLISHED GUILDS.

CURRENT GUILDS:

- ✓ Guild of the Blessed Sacrament for Eucharistic Adoration
- ✓ Sacred Heart Guild for the Sacred Arts
- ✓ Saint Luke Guild for Healthcare Workers
- ✓ Saint Paul Guild for Evangelical Outreach
- ✓ Morning Star Guild in Devotion to Our Lady



NEW GUILDS FOR 2025:

- ✓ St. Thomas More Guild for Lawyers
- ✓ St. Timothy Guild for Young Adults

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



Saint Mary Parish

2025 Bishop's Appeal as of 4/4/25

Bishop's Appeal Goal:	\$142,500
Total Pledged:	\$151,511 (106%)
Donors to Date:	172 Donors



To make a gift, or for more information, please visit us at 2025BishopsAppeal.org, call (203) 416-1470 or scan with your phone.

Saint Gregory's Easter Prayer

It is only right, with all the powers of our heart and mind, to praise You Father and Your Only-Begotten Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Dear Father, by Your wondrous condescension of Loving-Kindness toward us, Your servants, You gave up Your Son. Dear Jesus You paid the debt of Adam for us to the Eternal Father by Your Blood poured forth in Loving-Kindness. You cleared away the darkness of sin by Your magnificent and radiant Resurrection. You broke the bonds of death and rose from the grave as a Conqueror. You reconciled Heaven and earth. Our life had no hope of Eternal Happiness before You redeemed us. Your Resurrection has washed away our sins, restored our innocence and brought us joy. How inestimable is the tenderness of Your Love! Amen.



Sun.: Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8 Jn 20:1-9

Mon.: Acts 2:14, 22-33 Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 Mt 28:8-15

Tues.: Acts 2:36-41 Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22 Jn 20:11-18

Wed.: Acts 3:1-10 Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 Lk 24:13-35

Thu.: Acts 3:11-26 Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 Lk 24:35-48

Fri.: Acts 4:1-12 Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a Jn 21:1-14

Sat.: Acts 4:13-21 Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21 Mk 16:9-15

Sun.: Acts 5:12-16 Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 Jn 20:19-31

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.

Subscribe to our new channel
[YouTube.com/@TheLiteraryCatholic](https://www.youtube.com/@TheLiteraryCatholic)

Engaging discussions with experts, writers, and authors to inspire your faith and ignite your imagination



a collaboration between the **Diocese of Bridgeport**
Sacred Heart University and Guild of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



The Knights of Columbus are looking for Catholic men of faith to help in our mission of charitable works to support St. Mary Parish and the greater Bethel community. If you're at least 18 years of age, we invite you to join us! To watch a video about what we do, see the link or QR code below.

<https://youtu.be/D4NLkjq54I>

To contact us, call our
 Grand Knight Lang Reese at 410-693-6795
 or email us at gkofpavia@gmail.com



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!!



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.

Like us on Facebook at
'StMaryChurchBethel'

Join us for St. Mary Vacation Bible School



June 23-27, 2025

9:00-11:45

St. Mary Parish Hall

\$55.00

Ages 3-10

Child_____

Age_____Gender_____

Parent Name_____

Phone Number_____

Parent email_____

Allergies, medical condition or special need_____

In case of Emergency, contact_____

Phone number_____

For more info contact Mary Ferri 203 743 4557 or
faithformation@stmarybethel.org

I understand that neither St. Mary Church,
nor any of its employees or volunteers is responsible for any injury sustained
by my child. I accept full responsibility for any medical expenses as a result
of any such injury sustained.

Parent/Guardians_____

(Signature)



Mass Schedule

Monday-Friday

9:00am

Saturday

9:00am & 4:30pm (Vigil Mass)

Sunday

7:00am, 8:30am, 11:00am

Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:00-4:00pm

STAFF Father Corey V. Piccinino, *Pastor*
 Father Andrew LaFleur, *Parochial Vicar*
 Deacon John DeRoin
 Deacon Eric Keener
 Kate Fitzgerald, *Bulletin Editor*
 Sue Dolan, *Parish Secretary*
 Maggie Kent, *Office Manager*
 Debbie Burke, *Business Manager*
 Alex LaFleur, *Property Manager*

ST. MARY SCHOOL (744-2922) Scott Smith, *Principal*

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

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

UNITED YOUTH MINISTRY Renzo Ortega (203) 240-8059

MUSIC MINISTRY Michael Ferrari, *Music & Choir Director*

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

CEMETERY DIRECTOR: Bob DiMatteo (203)744-5777

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

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

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

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

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

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



SAT., APRIL 19

8:00pm The Great Vigil of Easter

SUN., APRIL 20

7:00

8:30

11:00



MON., APRIL 21

9:00 + Jeannette Helgert — Family

TUES., APRIL 22

9:00 + Mary Ellen Nelson — Family

WED., APRIL 23

9:00 + Kelly Erwin — John & Rosa Rooney

THU., APRIL 24

9:00 + Maryann Cardillo — Bob & Carol DiMatteo

FRI., APRIL 25

9:00 + Cynthia Perez — Helen Yee

SAT., APRIL 26

9:00 + Charles & Elizabeth Morton — The Morton Family

4:30 + John Petruzzello — The Wakeman Family

SUN., APRIL 27

7:00 Mass for the People of St. Mary

+ Raymond & Magie Montgomery — Fulvio & Elide Tramontina

8:30 + Margaret Nied — The Guertin Family

11:00 + Melissa Surace — Janet & Richard Surace



*This week the **Sanctuary Lamp** will be lit and prayers will be said before each Mass by the priest in memory of **Margaret Brenna** from her daughter*