

St. Mary Church



Directory

Parish Office: 3 Massaco Street
(860) 658-7627
www.stmarysimsbury.org

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday: 8:30 - 3:00 PM
Friday: 8:30 - 12:00 PM

MASSES:
Monday - Thursday 8:00 AM
Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 PM
Sunday: 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 3:00 - 4:00 PM

VISITORS: Thank you for worshipping with us.
To register with St. Mary's Parish please call
(860) 658-7627 or email us at
parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org

Rev. Frank Matera: Ext. 301

Deacon Arthur Miller: Ext. 113

Parish Office: Ext. 306
Jennifer Almeida and Heather Benedetti
parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org

Finance Manager: Joanne Dunn Ext. 307
financemanager@stmarysimsbury.org

Operations & Facilities: Jay Reynolds Ext. 305
jay.reynolds@stmarysimsbury.org

Religious Education Grades 1-6:
Lori Oleasz Ext. 304
DRELori@stmarysimsbury.org

**Religious Education Grades 7-10
& Youth Ministry:** Kathleen Keating Ext. 302
youthministry@stmarysimsbury.org
Instagram & Facebook: @ignite.simsbury

Stephen Ministry: Linda Duff Ext. 114
stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org

Music Ministry: Gena Sullivan &
Patricia Lepak

St. Mary's School:
Principal Margaret Williamson
(860) 658-9412

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:00 PM	August 25 Francis Sarnecki By: The Anthony Family
Sunday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	August 26 People of St. Mary's Parish George Sullivan By: The Ryan Family Donaantonia Gerardi
Monday 8:00 AM	August 27 Esther Hylwa By: The Bible Family
Tuesday 8:00 AM	August 28 Francis Gibson
Wednesday 8:00 AM	August 29 People of St. Mary's Parish
Thursday 8:00 AM	August 30 People of St. Mary's Parish
Saturday 5:00 PM	September 1 Ann Forcucci Birthday Remembrance By: Her Family
Sunday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	September 2 Michael, Mary, Elizabeth, and Michael Jr Nenezia By: Barbara & Paul Roderick People of St. Mary's Parish Sally Linko In Loving Memory By: Elisabeth Prabulos

Wedding: Congratulations to Cory Cousart and Erin Fitzpatrick who were married at St. Mary's last week.

Baptism: We welcome Mason Miranda Manuel who was baptized into Christ last week.



Save the Date: On Wednesday, September 5, at 7:00 PM, there will be a "Listening Session" in the Lower Church. The purpose of this "Listening Session" is to help the Archdiocese prepare for its upcoming Synod. You will have an opportunity to address three questions: What is the Archdiocese doing well? What is the Archdiocese not doing so well? What is the Archdiocese not doing that it should be doing? Please join us for this important session so that our parish can help to prepare for the upcoming Synod.

Parish Announcements

Weekly Offertory: We thank you for your generous support of St. Mary's Parish without which we would not be able to carry out our many ministries. Last week's offertory was \$11,086. Of this amount, \$4,713 came from 102 E-Givers, and \$6,373 came from envelopes and cash. Please consider E-Giving. On the first week of the month we will provide year to date offertory receipts against budget. The collection total for The Assumption of Mary was \$1,907.

Learning to Pray: Are you searching for a way to grow in prayer and the spiritual life? Do you want a more intimate relationship with God? Join us for a four part series that Father Matera will give on *Learning to Pray*. The series examines (1) The Prayer of Jesus, (2) Jesus' Teaching on Prayer, (3) The Prayer of the Early Church, (4) Prayer and Liturgy. This series will be held on the Thursdays of September 20, 27, October 4, 11 in the Lower Church at 7:00 PM.

A Potential Saving of \$60,000: A number of families have responded positively to the request to accelerate pledge payments to Campus Connection and we greatly appreciated this. If you are able to help by making pledge payments ahead of schedule, we strongly encourage you to do so since it reduces project financing costs. For example, *if all pledges were to be paid in full by the end of 2018, we would save more than \$60,000 in interest expense!*

At the end of each month, we will update the Budget Thermometer to demonstrate the status of our Campus Connection Project Budget. Please look for this graphic budget thermometer in the vestibule of the Church.

Brick Sponsorship Program is Underway!

Please get your orders in for your personalized brick on the circular path in our new St. Mary's Courtyard. This path will surround our beloved St. Mary statue on a new base between St. Mary's School and our Campus Connection.

Bricks can be purchased on-line through our parish website www.stmarysimsbury.org or you can pick up a brochure at the doors of the church. Order forms are on the back of the brochure and checks can be mailed or dropped at the parish office. For questions, please contact Beth Morgan Canning at robbandbeth@comcast.net.

Last Week's Homily

This week I wrote the first draft of my homily on Monday. I then rewrote it several times so that it would say what I wanted to say. By the end of the week I had the homily where I wanted it. But as the week went on, I realized I could no longer preach that homily. The reports about the sexual abuse crisis that have been in the news all week, every day, first about Cardinal McCarrick, and then the report from the Attorney General's Office in Pennsylvania, have made it necessary for me to address this issue, as painful and embarrassing as it is. Archbishop Blair has also addressed this issue in a letter you will find inserted in today's bulletin. Please be sure to read that letter.

I have no special insight I can give you apart from what I know from the gospel. I see no value in trying to defend what is indefensible, what is evil. I see no value in blaming others, certainly not the press. They are doing what they are supposed to do. The blame lies squarely with us, the Church, which has not yet fully addressed this issue, despite the progress it has made in recent years. The blame lies especially with its clergy, with its priests and its bishops.

After a period in which we thought we had a handle on this problem, we find ourselves at another critical moment in the life of our Church. There will be further hemorrhaging as people fall away from the faith because they have been scandalized in the fullest sense of the word. A stumbling rock has been placed before them making it difficult for them to believe, and who can blame them.

What we need to do as a Church should be clear to us. We need to care for and respond to those who have been abused. We need to address and resolve this issue once and for all. We need to know the whole story, as painful and shameful as that story is. We need full accountability.

In the months ahead, we will have to ask ourselves who and what we believe in. Do we believe merely in an institution, whether it is right or wrong, or do we believe in the gospel, in the person of Jesus Christ? If we merely believe in an institution, our faith will surely falter. The institution will disappoint us and fall short of our hopes and expectations. But if we believe in the gospel, if we believe in the person of Jesus Christ, then it may be possible—by God's grace, and only by God's grace—to move forward.

But before we move forward, something must die so that something can be reborn, and this will take time. For, only when the seed is planted in the ground and dies can it bring forth new life—resurrection life. Our old ways of doing business, the clerical way, the secretive way, the institutional way, must die so that we become the Church that lives in the Truth and the Light that is Jesus Christ.

These are discouraging days for all of us. They are embarrassing days. They are days of judgment. If we hope to move forward, if the Church hopes to become a light to the world, if we hope to regain our moral authority, Christ must be born anew within us and the Church.

It is not easy to be a Catholic these days, not because we are being persecuted, that we could endure, that would strengthen us, but because there has been such a betrayal of trust. Regaining that trust will take time, a very long time, and we may never regain it again. But if the Church repents and dies to sin, it may live again. Let us pray for those who have been abused. Let us pray for a profound conversion of heart. Let us pray that God will show us the way, as painful as it may be, and let our prayer lead to concrete action that will purify and renew us.

I would have preferred to speak about today's Gospel in which Jesus, the Bread of Life, tells us that unless we eat his body and drink his blood we will not have life. I would have preferred to speak of what is most sacred and central to our faith: the Eucharist. But if we are to celebrate the Eucharist as the Lord wants, we need to be open and truthful. We need to die with Christ so that we can rise with Christ to new life.

Father in heaven, have mercy on us. Father in heaven, have mercy for we have sinned.

Father Matera

August 26, 2018

Parish Announcements

(Continued)

Simsbury Food Pantry: Our next collection for the Simsbury Food Pantry will be on September 9th at all Masses. We are in need of canned good and non-perishables. Thank you for your generosity!

Volunteers Needed for Alter Linen Committee: Our Committee is responsible for picking up the alter linens (not the vestments) from the sacristy each week, washing, drying, ironing and returning them to the sacristy. Your commitment would be for about 2 hours only 6 times a year. Please call Linda Mullane 860-651-0646 if you can help with this special service for the celebration of the Mass.

Scheduling Space for the Coming Year: All groups, without exception, that use the Parish Center, the Lower Church, or the Parish Office for meetings and activities must schedule space by emailing the Parish Office at parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org. If you do not schedule space for you activity, even if you have used a particular room in the past, the room will not be reserved for you.

Are You New to Saint Mary's? If you are new to St. Mary's, we warmly welcome you to our parish community, and we invite you to register with us so that we can know and serve you better. Simply call the Parish Office 860-658-7627.

St. Mary's Website: Our website contains important information about our parish, its activities, as well as links to other important sites. The Parish Web page is constantly changing and being updated with new information. If you haven't visited us lately, visit us at www.stmarysimsbury.org.

We Welcome Children who Cry! If your child cries in church, please do not worry. We welcome children, especially when they are crying because it is a sign of new life for our parish. Think of their crying as their prayer of praise.

Youth Ministry

Calcutta Project: IGNITE will return to the shelter on Monday, August 27. A team of teens and adults will cook, transport, and serve the meal. Join the mission! The Calcutta Project is an outreach effort our ministry. For details, visit stmarysimsbury.org/ignite

Catholic Biblical School

This week is the last chance this year to enroll in the Catholic Biblical School. Join the thousands of Catholics like you who have come to know Jesus in the Bible. Orientation is September 8th and classes start the following week and will be in Waterbury, New Britain, East Haven and Bloomfield. Call the Pastoral Center in Bloomfield (860-242-5573) for phone and website information.

RCIA

How to Become a Catholic: RCIA stands for The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. It is the way those interested in the Catholic Faith are initiated into the Church.

The RCIA is open to three groups: (1) Those who have never been baptized but now want to become Christian, (2) Christians baptized in another church who wish to enter the Catholic Church. (3) Catholics who were baptized but never received Eucharist and Confirmation.

The RCIA meets two Sundays a month, 9:30—10:45 AM, October to April. Time is spent in teaching, discussion, prayer, and reflection. More than a course of study, the RCIA is a way to experience what it means to be a Catholic.

If you have been thinking about becoming Catholic, or if you know someone who is, this is the time to learn more about the RCIA. There will be an information session after 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 AM Mass in the Lower Church on Sunday, September 16.