

ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD



MOVED BY **MERCY**

2017 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL
Kick-Off Weekend



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∞ **Mass Intentions** ∞

Saturday
5:00 PM **March 4**
Thomas Kearney
In Memory of
By: The Potter Family

Sunday
8:00 AM **March 5**
9:30 AM People of St. Mary's Parish
Deacon Art Miller
Living Intention
By: The Evening Bible Study
11:00 AM Dudley Alleman, Jr.
In Memory of
By: The 8th Grade Cate.

Monday
8:00 AM **March 6**
People of St. Mary's Parish

Tuesday
8:00 AM **March 7**
Edward & Teresa McCarthy
In Loving Memory
By: Their Family

Wednesday
8:00 AM **March 8**
Jane Moll
In Memory of
By: Robin & Joseph Sparacio

Thursday
8:00 AM **March 9**
Meg
Living Intention
By: Her Family

Saturday
5:00 PM **March 11**
Dick Blanchard
In Loving Memory
By: The Potter Family

Sunday
8:00 AM **March 12**
9:30 AM People of St. Mary's Parish
Doris Raufeisen
In Memory of
By: The Henault Family
11:00 AM John Francis Roche
In Memory of
By: The Ryan Family



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rosemary Reynolds. May she rest in peace of Christ.

∞ **Parish Announcements** ∞

AAA: This weekend marks the start of the 2017 Archbishop's Annual Appeal in our parish. If you haven't already, you will receive a letter from Archbishop Blair seeking your support. Together we can change the lives of thousands of God's people. The "Good Works" performed by our Church in the areas of social services, healthcare, pastoral services are critical for so many in need.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard in every parish of the Archdiocese on the Mondays of Lent from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Bishop Peter Rosazza will be hearing confessions at St. Mary's with Father Matera.

Abstinence: All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. Catholics who are 14 years and older are asked not to eat meat on Friday.

Stations of the Cross: Stations of the Cross are held on the Fridays of Lent at 7:00 PM.

Weekly Offertory: Last week's offertory was \$11,362.75. Of this amount, \$3,811.25 came from 102 E-Givers, and \$7,551.50 came from envelopes and cash. Please consider E-Giving. To meet our projected budget, our weekly offertory should average \$14,900.

Religious Education Director Search: We are now actively searching for a Director of Religious Education. For more information, contact our Business Manager, Mr. William Heiden at businessmanager@stmarysimsbury.org

Annual St. Patrick's Dinner: Saturday, March 18th at 6:00 PM in the Parish Center. Come and enjoy corned beef & cabbage, potatoes, carrots, Irish soda bread, dessert and beverage and stay for the entertainment and sing along. Tickets will be sold after the weekend Masses on March 4th, 5th, 11th & 12th. Tickets will also be available in the Parish Office after March 1st. Adults- \$15; Children 12 and under- \$7. RSVP no later than March 13th. Get your tickets early, we frequently sell out. No tickets will be sold at the door. Hosted by the Knights of Columbus & St. Mary's Social Committee. For additional info., call (860) 651 4027 or (860) 658 7627.

Mercy Shelter: Desserts and fruit are needed to take to Mercy Shelter in Hartford on Sunday, March 5. All items can be dropped off in the lower church before 3:00 PM. Thanks for all the donations!

Our Parish App: Text 88202, or download "myParish" app from the App Store.

Blood Drive: Two teens from our parish, Megan Russell and Emma Costello, will be hosting a blood drive at St. Mary's on March 18th from 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM. To sign up go to <http://www.redcrossblood.org/> and use the sponsor code MR2017. Please consider donating blood to help replenish the blood supplies for the hospitals in CT. If you have questions please contact Megan Russell (mcruss2525@gmail.com) or Emma Costello (emma.costello37@gmail.com).

The First Sunday of Lent Temptation, Fall, and Redemption

On this first Sunday of the Lent, the Church sets before us the great themes of temptation, fall, and redemption. In the first reading, taken from the book of Genesis, we hear the story of Adam and Eve who disobeyed God's commandment and fell from God's grace. In the Gospel, we hear the story of the New Adam, Jesus Christ, who was tempted by Satan but did not succumb to Satan's temptation. In today's second reading, taken from his letter to the Romans, Saint Paul explains the significance of Adam's disobedience and Christ's obedience. By his act of disobedience, Adam began a history of sin and rebellion that touched all of us. By his act of obedience, Christ has gained eternal redemption for us.

The time of Lent reminds us that we stand between the Old Adam, who introduced sin and death into the world, and the new Adam, Jesus Christ, who introduced grace and life into a fallen world. Indeed, we are always standing between these two figures: one who is the symbol of disobedience and rebellion, the other who is the symbol of obedience and devotion to God. Lent is a time of grace, when we can grow into Christ by following his example of obedience and devotion to God.

What would you like to accomplish this Lent? How would you like to grow in the Christian life? Lent provides us with many opportunities for growth in Christ. First, it calls us to a deeper and more intense prayer. Second, it exhorts us to grow in self-discipline through self-denial and sacrifice. Finally it teaches us to be more charitable and generous with our possessions so that we can assist those in need. Every Lent is a time of grace, a moment to turn to the Lord and grow in God's love and mercy. Do not let this Lent pass without growing in Christ. For, as Saint Paul reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians, "now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation."

This Year's Lenten Series The Epistle to the Hebrews

This Thursday, March 8th, I am beginning a Lenten Series that will focus on the Epistle to the Hebrews. The series will be held in the Lower Church, beginning at 7:00 PM, for four weeks.

Although the Epistle to the Hebrews is not familiar to most people, it is one of the most important writings of the New Testament because of the way in which it presents Jesus as a high priest who offered himself in sacrifice.

If you would like to know more about meaning of Jesus' death on the cross, please join us for this Lenten Series.

Father Matera

March 5, 2017

∞ **Religious Education** ∞

2nd Grade Eucharist Retreat: Second Grade Eucharist Retreat is Saturday, April 1st in the Parish Center. Children are scheduled by groups determined by their last name. One parent is required to attend the retreat with their child.

GROUP 1: A, B, C, D, F, G, H, J, Z

GROUP 2: K, L, M, P

GROUP 3: O, S, T, V, W

Sacramental Preparation: Confirmation candidates, please keep an eye on the timeline in your guide. Official candidate profiles and sponsor affirmation forms will be collected in small group tonight (March 5). For updates, visit our parish website and click Faith Formation, Sacraments, and Confirmation.

∞ **Adult Enrichment** ∞

Adult Enrichment: The parenting panel series continues today in the Parish Center at 8:30 and 10:40 AM, with a focus on middle-school aged children. If you are a new parent, have passed this stage or are a grandparent currently, we encourage you to come over and share your stories or ask the questions you may have about what is to come.

Next Week: The 6th Grade class will be working on their service projects. Coffee and refreshments served in the Parish Center.

∞ **Retreats & Days of Reflection** ∞

St. Mary's Men's Retreat: This year's men's retreat will be held the weekend of March 17-19th at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford. For more information call Jerry Graham (860) 651 6621.

Retreat Scholarship: Holy Family Monastery has given us one retreat scholarship, valued at \$315, for the Men's Retreat on March 17-19th. If you would like to attend this year's retreat, please contact Fr. Matera. First come, first served!

Men of St. Mary's: For Men, Four Saturday evenings during Lent (6:00-7:30, March 4, 11, 25 and April 1, Parish Center); let's gather for dinner, fellowship, a talk, and some time to reflect. No pressure, an opportunity to make Lent a more vigorous journey. Come for one or come for all. Bring a friend - all men are welcome.

Holy Family Women's Retreat: On Wednesday, March 29th at 6:00 PM, Author Gunilla Norris will talk on "Where kindness begins, with you." There will be dinner, presentation and a prayer service. Join us for this evening of reflection. For more information, contact Ellen Graham (860) 651 6621.

∞ **St. Mary's School** ∞

School Board: The Saint Mary's School Board Nominating Committee has started our process to identify potential school board members for next year. Potential candidates may self-nominate or be nominated by someone else. There is no requirement for board members to have children at Saint Mary's School. We want to ensure we have the best talent serving on the board. The needs we will be looking to address for the upcoming term will include individuals with a financial or CPA background skills or individuals with skills focused on advancement, marketing and strategic planning. Potential candidates must believe and support Catholic education and be willing to serve a three year term. If you are interested in being considered to serve on the School Board, please contact Claude Howard at claudeo@gmail.com. Please include in your e-mail information about your Parish (Town), Occupation, if you have, or had, students at Saint Mary's School, and your specific talents available to offer the board.

∞ **Granny's Attic** ∞

Granny's Attic & Granny's Boutique: This year, in addition to our usual item list, we will also be accepting clean gently used coats and clothing. Antiques or collectibles will be specially priced. We encourage families to donate unwanted treasures they no longer need. Items must be in good to excellent condition and clean. If you are donating an item that has a cord or remote, please tape it to the item. Items that we will not accept due to state regulations and/or are not of interest for buyers are: automobile tires, computers, monitors, printers, old computer software, paint, chemicals, fertilizers, batteries, full size appliances, magazines, Reader's Digest, textbooks, encyclopedias, mattresses, TV's, skis, car seats, heavy exercise equipment, trunks, dorm refrigerators and disposable or personal items such as cosmetics, electric razors or toothbrushes. Location will be the Wagner Showroom, thanks to the generosity of Rick and Carole Wagner. **Collection dates:** Wednesday, April 19th, Thursday, April 20th and Friday, April 21st 4:00-7:00 PM; Saturday, April 22nd and Sunday, April 23rd 9:00 AM - 4:00PM. **Granny's Attic will be open to the public:** Monday, April 24th through Saturday, April 29th. For times, please refer to St. Mary's website: www.stmarysimsbury.org. If you have questions and/or would like to volunteer to collect, sort and assist in selling, please contact Jane Stevenson (860) 651 5017 or email at stevenje@comcast.net or Stephanie McIntyre (860) 651 3862 or email at smcintyre190@gmail.com

End of Bulletin

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