

St. Mary's 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:
[@igniteyouthministry831](https://www.instagram.com/igniteyouthministry831)

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	March 10 Jerry Pfau By: His Loving Family
Sunday 8:00 AM	March 11 Paul Sadowski In Loving Memory By: His Family
9:30 AM 11:00 AM	People of St. Mary's Parish John Molloy By: His Loving Family
Monday 8:00 AM	March 12 Holy Souls in Purgatory By: The Ryan Family
Tuesday 8:00 AM	March 13 Holy Souls in Purgatory By: The Ryan Family
Wednesday 8:00 AM	March 14 Holy Souls in Purgatory By: The Ryan Family
Thursday 8:00 AM	March 15 Elizabeth Sheil By: Martin Carroll
Saturday 5:00 PM	March 17 Jean Dexheimer By: The Duff Family
Sunday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	March 18 People of St. Mary's Parish Suzanne Comeau By: Her Family People of St. Mary's Parish

St. Mary's Church Traveling Library: We are pleased to announce the opening of our St. Mary's Church Traveling Library. A selection of seasonal faith-based books, CDs, and DVD's will be available at our Library table in the Parish Center as part of our Coffee and Fellowship Cafe after the 8:00 and 9:30 AM Masses on the following Sundays...March 4th, March 11th, March 18th, April 15th and April 22nd. Please come by for some nourishment for the mind, body and soul!

∞ **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 \$13,530. Of this amount, \$4,176 came from 113 E-Givers, and \$9,354 came from envelopes and cash. Please consider E-Giving. To meet our projected budget, our weekly offertory should average \$14,900.

The Archbishop's Annual Appeal (AAA): The Archbishop's Annual Appeal helps provide the critical funding needed to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, counsel those in despair, offer much-needed assistance to the unemployed, and make medical care available to those without health insurance. Your gift to the 2018 Appeal will help to continue these and other vital ministries, services, and programs that reach out to so many in need.

Confessions during Lent: Mondays at 6:00 PM-7:00 PM and Saturday at 3:00 PM-4:00 PM

Abstinence: The Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. Abstinence means refraining from eating meat. The obligation to abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent applies to all who are fourteen years old or older.

Bereavement Support Group: If you have lost someone and would like support feel free to join our Bereavement Support Group after the 11:00 AM Mass this Sunday, March 11. We will meet in the Lower Church. We hope to see you there.

Mass at Governor's House: Father Matera will be celebrating Mass on Wednesday March 21 at 3:00 at the Governors House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on Firetown Road in Simsbury. Join us as we support and pray for our friends residing at the facility. You do not need to know anyone there, everyone is welcome! Confirmation service hours will be given to any youth who attend. **Because of the delicate health of the residents of Governors House, all visitors must have the flu shot to attend.** Please bring proof of the immunization to Mass or contact Sandy at (860 214 6557) or severett@cox.net with any questions or concerns.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

With the Fourth Sunday of Lent, we draw ever closer to Holy Week and to our celebration of the Paschal Mystery—Christ's passover from death to life. In today's second reading and in the gospel, the death of Christ begins to appear on the horizon. The first reading summarizes the tragic history of Israel, which was the result of not remaining faithful to God's covenant.

First Reading: Punishment for Disobedience (2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23): During the first three weeks of Lent, the Church's Liturgy drew our attention to the covenants God made with humanity and with Israel through Noah, Abraham, and Moses. But on this fourth week of Lent, our attention is drawn to the punishment that came upon Israel for not remaining faithful to these covenants—exile into the land of Babylon. Israel's exile, however, was not God's final word, as today's reading shows; for God's judgment was intended to purify and restore Israel. And so, after the Exile, the people were restored to their land, where God summoned them to be faithful to the covenant with renewed favor. God's judgment in our own lives has a similar purpose. When God punishes our sins it is to purify and restore us to new life.

Second Reading: By Grace We Have Been Saved (Ephesians 2:4-10): Today's second reading is a summary of one of St. Paul's most important teachings—we are saved by God's grace. It is not a matter of what we have done that brings us salvation; it is a matter of what God has done for us in his Son, Jesus Christ. Once we were dead to God's life because of our sins; we had no hope for salvation. But in God's gracious mercy, we were raised in Christ to a new life. In this way God showed us the riches of his grace and love for us. This is not our work; it is God's work on behalf of us. Does this mean that we don't have to do anything since all is grace? No! In restoring us to new life in Christ, God has created us for good works. We have been restored in Christ so that we can live the kind of life that is made possible by God—a life that brings us the fullness of joy and happiness, even now, if we are faithful to God.

The Gospel: God Sent His Son to Save the World (John 3:14-21): Why did God send his Son into the world? Did God send his only Son, his beloved Son, to condemn the world? St. John answer this question in today's Gospel. God sent his Son into the world to save the world so that all who believe in the Son of God might have the light of eternal life. The Son of God comes into the world to expose the darkness that is Sin and to reveal the Truth that is God. The Son comes to separate the light from the darkness, the truth from what is a lie. Christ does not condemn us. God does not condemn us. We condemn ourselves when we refuse to live in the light and the truth that Christ brings into the world.

The Time Is Short: We are half way through Lent. Shortly we will be celebrating Holy Week. Are you ready? Have you made the most of this Lent? Have you grown in prayer, almsgiving and fasting? Have you received the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

Campus Connection – Weekly Update

As the pace picks up and we get closer to early summer construction, we will be updating the parish on progress. Recent highlights include:

- A site visit by a representative of the Archdiocese, which offered a chance to review the details of our revised plan and financials. We received a favorable response.
- Continued work with the construction manager and architect to bring costs in line with the new project scope.
- The major remaining open question is whether or not we can raise sufficient additional funds to allow us to retain the parish offices on Masacco Street and thereby maximize meeting space in the new building.
- Fundraising continues with new pledges coming in and sponsorship opportunities remain available. More than 400 of our total families have pledged support to date.

What can you do to help? Increase your gift by accelerating your pledge! This will help us reduce financing costs. Thereby your gift will be enhanced!

March 11, 2018

Religious Education

Grade 6 Ministry Learning Project: On March 18th, Grade 6 Religious Education students, their parents and grandparents will be gathering during class time to complete their Ministry Project. We ask God to bless the work of their hands and hearts as they work together to serve those in need.

Youth Program: Confirmation Prep small groups are in session this Sunday, March 11. Our next Middle School Religious Ed session will take place on Sunday, March 18.

Youth Ministry

Game Night: On Wednesday, March 14, IGNITE will host the Sisters of Charity for game night in the youth lounge. Their postulants, novices, and junior professed Sisters are competitive. Come ready to play! We will also be surprising them with donations of gallons of juice and boxes of granola bars for their food pantry.

Adult Enrichment

Wednesday Bible Study: Bible Study with Deacon Art: Join Deacon Art in the Parish Center beginning at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 21. Prior to Bible Study join us at 6:10 PM for Lectio Divina and/or 6:45 PM for Prayers for Healing and Special Intentions. Please bring your Bible and a friend. All are welcome!

Saint Mary's Women's Guild

Easter Dinners: "Easter Dinners" will be provided for parishioners in need of an Easter meal this year. Items will be collected by the guild members and distributed to families the evening of March 28th. If you need a meal, or know of someone in need, please contact Donna Nolan (donna.nolan410@gmail.com) by March 14.

Easter Baskets: Women's Guild is making Easter Baskets for children in need. Please pick up an egg on your way out of church. Inside each egg is a requested item. ***Please return your newly purchased item after any of the masses, March 17-18.*** Guild members will deliver the Easter Baskets to children at South Park Inn, ABC House and CCMC during Holy Week.

Women's Book Club: Please join us for our first Book Club on Sunday, March 18th from 3-4:30. We will be discussing the book *Lent, Season of Transformation* by Amy Ekeh. Books are available in the parish office for \$10. Contact Diana Kalamaradies (womensguild@stmarysimsbury.org) with questions.

Granny's Attic

Granny's Attic & Granny's Boutique: This year 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 11th, Thursday, April 12th and Friday, April 13th 4:00 PM -7:00 PM - Saturday, April 14th and Sunday, April 15th 9:00 AM -4:00 PM. **Granny's Attic will be open to the public:** Monday, April 16th to Sunday, April 22nd. For times 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) stenvenje@comcast.net or Stephanie McIntyre (860 651 3862) smcintyre190@gmail.com or Ann O'Donnell (860 658 2120) annno@snet.net.

Annual St Patrick's Dinner

Join us on Saturday, March 17th at 6:00 PM 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 at Church on March 3rd 4th 10th & 11th. Also available in the Parish Office after Mar 1st. Adults - \$15; Children 12 and under- \$7. RSVP no later than March 12th. 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 Parish. For additional info, call (860 651 4027) or (860 658 7627).