

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:
[@igniteyouthministry831](https://www.instagram.com/igniteyouthministry831)

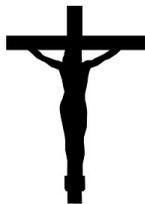
Stephen Ministry: Linda Duff Ext. 114
stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org

Music Ministry: Gena Sullivan &
Patricia Lepak

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

∞ **Mass Intentions** ∞

Saturday 5:00 PM	April 14 Patricia Curtiss In Memory By: Jane & Ken Stevenson
Sunday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	April 15 People of St. Mary's Parish David Comeau By: His Family St. Mary's Confirmation Class
Monday 8:00 AM	April 16 Martin Berg By: Paul Berg
Tuesday 8:00 AM	April 17 Patricia Conley By: The Conley Family
Wednesday 8:00 AM	April 18 Samuel Galope 2nd Anniversary By: His Wife & Children
Thursday 8:00 AM	April 19 Steven Arnold Birthday Remembrance By: His Mother
Saturday 5:00 PM	April 21 Edward Archer By: The Croke & Archer Families
Sunday 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM	April 22 People of St. Mary's Parish Catherine Lyons By: The Brennan Family Catherine Tomasello By: The Nolan Family



Wedding: Congratulations to Ashley Smith and David Wilbur who were married at St. Mary's last week.

Baptism: We welcome Maben and Charlotte Tyler who were baptized into Christ last week.

Deceased: Please pray for Richard Graham May he rest in the peace of Christ.

∞ **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 \$11,980. Of this amount, \$4,366 came from 113 E-Givers, and \$7,614 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 changes lives through service. In addition to assisting the underserved of our communities, your gift helps those discerning a vocation to the priesthood. Your gift to the Appeal is an investment in the future of our Church and our faith. Thank you to the parish families who have made a gift or pledge to the 2018 Archbishop's Annual Appeal. If you have not yet participated, please prayerfully consider a gift today. Please know that every dollar of your gift will have a positive impact in someone's life.

Second Collection: Today is the Peter's Pence Collection, a worldwide collection that supports the charitable works of Pope Francis. Funds from this collection help victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. Take this opportunity to join with Pope Francis and be a witness of charity to our suffering brothers and sisters. Please be generous today. For more information, visit www.usccb.org/peters-pence.

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 today Sunday, April 15. We will meet in the lower church. We hope to see you there.

Parish Council Nominations: Nominations for (2) At Large Members of the Parish Council are currently being accepted. Nominations can be submitted using the ballots found in the pews, or via the parish website at www.stmarysimsbury.org. All nominations must be submitted by Sunday, April 15.

Spring Marriage Anniversary Mass- Saturday, April 28th 5:00 PM: If you celebrate your wedding anniversary during the months of March, April or May join us at the 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday, April 28th, so we can bless your marriage and you can renew your marriage vows. All anniversaries are important, be it the first or the fiftieth, so please join us on April 28th. A Wine and Cheese Social open to everyone in the congregation will follow in the Parish Center. If your marriage anniversary falls during March, April or May please join us!

We Are Witnesses of This

If you have ever been called to jury duty, you know what it means for someone to testify and give witness to what they have seen and heard. In a court of law, there is nothing more important than determining the veracity of a witness. Depending on the testimony the witness gives the defendant will be convicted or acquitted.

Testimony and witness play an important role in the readings we hear at Mass today. In the first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter delivers a speech in the courtyard of the temple after he has healed a lame man. In the midst of this speech, he proclaims, you denied the Holy and Righteous One ... but God raised him from the dead; *of this we are witnesses*. Peter and the apostles bear witness to the resurrection. They testify before the world that God raised Jesus from the dead. In word and example and by the way they live, they witness to the resurrection.

In today's Gospel the risen Christ appears to his disciples and opens their minds so they can understand the scriptures that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead. Then he says to them: *You are witnesses of these things*. The disciples, to whom the risen Lord appears, are to be his witnesses to the world that he is risen and alive. Yes, he was crucified. Yes, he was buried. But God raised him from the dead. He is risen and alive, and we are his witnesses.

During the past year, we have focused on the theme of *Faith on Fire*, which we brought to a climax at our parish mission. I am now searching for a new theme to guide our life in Christ in the year ahead. And lately I have been reflecting on the importance of *witnessing to Christ* by giving testimony to his resurrection. *Witnessing to Christ* is the natural outcome of last year's theme, faith on fire. For if our faith is on fire, we want to witness to others what we have experienced in our lives.

To witness to Christ means to bear witness to his death and resurrection. It is a process of testifying to each other and to the world that Christ is risen and alive. It is a process of testifying that Christ makes a difference in our life. Indeed, Christ makes *the* difference, and without him we cannot live.

In the weeks and months ahead, I will return to this theme in my homilies and columns. I will testify why I believe, and I also hope you will do the same. I am convinced the best way to keep our faith on fire is by witnessing to Christ.

Father Matera

St. Mary's Campus Connection Update

We are closing in on our goal for our Campus Connection project! We are 93% of the way to reaching our goal of raising \$4.2 million. Our Capital Campaign is continuing and activities include:

Seeking new pledges and donations: We ask those families in our parish who have not yet supported the project for their prayerful reconsideration.

Acceleration of pledges: We thank those families who have generously accelerated their pledges. This effort will reduce our finance costs for the project. We encourage other families to accelerate their pledge if possible and thank you for your kind consideration.

Please visit our Parish website (www.stmarysimsbury.org) for updated Campus Connection information and graphics: Our architect has prepared renderings that represent the floor plan, exterior and interior views as we develop design drawings for construction. These spaces include the St. Mary Courtyard, the St. Mary Alcove, classrooms, and rosary floor pattern that will be in the Reception and main corridors. To donate, click on the "Donate Now" button found on the homepage. As always, thank you for your generous support.

April 15, 2018

Religious Education

Welcome Back! Religious Education classes resume this weekend on April 15th!

Grade Level Mass: Grades 4-6 will be featured at the 9:30 AM Mass on Sunday. All are welcome!

Second Grade Eucharist Retreat: Will be held on Saturday, April 21st in the Parish Center. One parent is required to attend the retreat with their child. Children are scheduled in groups by their last name. An email was sent to families with their designated time.

Youth Ministry

Serving the Homeless: IGNITE served 75 men at the shelter on Friday, March 23. A team of teens and adults gathered to cook, transport, and serve the meal. The Calcutta Project is an outreach effort of our ministry. We will return to the shelter on Friday, May 25. For details, visit stmarysimsbury.org/ignite

Bake Sales: IGNITE will be selling baked goods after all Masses on April 21-22 and April 28-29. This fundraiser will help to cover costs for our annual trip to the Steubenville East Catholic Youth Conference. Over the past five years, our parishioners have been very supportive. We are grateful for your generosity!

XL Center Road Trip: On Saturday, May 5 IGNITE will be taking a road trip to the XL Center to see Chris Tomlin and Matt Maher perform live. Bus transportation is provided. Sign up before April 23 to reserve a seat! This event is open to middle school students. Find ticket info and/or sign up at stmarysimsbury.org/ignite

Adult Enrichment

Wednesday Bible Study: Join Deacon Art in the Parish Center beginning at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, April 18. 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!

Adult Education: The Adult Education committee invites you to join us on **Saturday, April 28th at 3:30 PM** in the Parish Center for a talk on ***Growing in Wisdom and Grace at Each Stage of our Lives***. Lay Ecclesial Minister, Judy Talvacchia, will speak on exploring the lives of Mary and Elizabeth, who point the way to wisdom and holiness throughout life. Light refreshments will be provided. The talk will conclude prior to the 5:00 PM Mass.

St. Mary's Women's Guild

Team Trivia Night: Hosting a Team Trivia Night on Friday, May 4th at Masonic Hall 991 Hopmeadow St. presented by Keith Alan Productions. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Game starts promptly at 7 pm. Come join the fun, test your skill and win prizes. It's stimulating, interactive trivia that uses today's technology. Form your own team up to 4 members or come and be paired that night. Tickets will be sold after masses the weekend of April 28/29. Also available in the parish office after April 26th or until sold out. Limit 80 people. \$10/person, must be 21 or over. We will provide snacks and soda. BYOB Beer or Wine. Questions call (860 658 7627) or (860 670 0600).

Granny's Attic

Volunteers Needed: It is here! Granny's Attic begins **this Monday April 16th** and it is not too late to volunteer to help. Friends are needed from April 16-April 22. Positions range from managing the sales floors to packing treasures. Teens through senior adults are encouraged to come help and meet new friends! Please follow the link <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0545abac238-grannys1> or go to our parish website and follow the link there. Thanks again for all your help. Last year Granny's Attic raised over \$20,000.00! If you would like help signing up, please contact Sandy at (860 214 6557).

Deacon Art to be Honored

Deacon Art is one of three Connecticut residents who will be honored by the Peace Center of Connecticut for his ability to inspire peace in our state and throughout the country. Deacon Art will receive the 2018 Peace Hero Award on Thursday evening, April 19, 5:00 PM at the Pond House Cafe, Elizabeth Park, West Hartford. You may purchase a ticket to attend this event by visiting the Eventbrite link <https://tinyurl.com/pcocpheroesevent>. We congratulate Deacon Art on receiving this award.

Other

Town of Simsbury Aging and Disability Commission: Parents, Family, Guardians and Conservators to those of you who caring for the Needs of People with Limitations. The town of Simsbury will be presenting a speaker, Judge Robert K. Killian (Ret.) on Tuesday, April 24, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM at the Simsbury Public Library, Program Room at 725 Hopmeadow Street.