



SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

30 Bartlett Street ~ Westfield, MA 01085

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVING GOD AND NEIGHBOR

WELCOME

*No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church,
No matter what your current family or marital situation,
No matter what your current personal history, age, background, or race,
No matter what your own self-image—
You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected here
at Saint Mary's Parish.
We are here to welcome and serve you.
Together we are all called to conversion in Christ.*

BAPTISM: Usually celebrated the last weekend of the month. Please contact the rectory to get started.

CONFESSION: Saturdays 2:30-3:30 pm, twice a year at our Westfield Communal Reconciliation Service or any time by appointment.

MARRIAGE: Please call any of the priests or deacons to begin the preparation process at least one year in advance.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Welcome! Please call the rectory to register.

ST. MARY'S PARISH SCHOOL: For more information regarding registration and enrollment in our Preschool (3 year olds), PreK, Elementary School please call (568-2388) or High School please call (568-5692).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: CCD for grades K-11 takes place Sept. to April. Contact the Office of Religious Education for more details.

MINISTERIO HISPANICO: Tenemos muchos: Círculo de Oración, Cofradas, Hijas de María, Juan XXIII, Ultrella y más. Llama al Diácono Pedro.

EUCCHARIST

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 a.m. & 5 p.m.
(11:30 am Misa en Español)

Daily Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.

*Holy Days as posted but usually 8:30 a.m. &
6:15 p.m. (Bilingual)*

STAFF

Fr. John Salatino – *Administrator*

Fr. Frank Furman – *Parochial Vicar*

Deacon Roger Carrier

Deacon Osvaldo Mendez

Deacon Pedro Rivera

Mrs. Michele Suhocki – *Pastoral Minister*

Mrs. Robin Jensen

Director of Advancement

Mrs. Kay Mowatt – *Pre K – 6 Rel. Ed.*

Mrs. Joanne Bagge - *Grade 7+ Rel. Ed*

Mr. Rob Lepage – *Music Director*

TELEPHONE

Rectory & Pastoral Ministry	562-5477
Fax	562-5478
Elementary School	568-2388
Advancement	568-1160
St. Vincent de Paul	568-5619
High School	568-5692
Office of Religious Education	568-1127

THE KNOTS PRAYER

Dear God:

Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart and my life.

Remove the have nots, the can nots and the do nots
that I have in my mind. Erase the will nots, may nots,
might nots that may find a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots, would nots
and should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all, Dear God,

I ask that you remove from my mind,
my heart and my life all of the 'am nots'
that I have allowed to hold me back,

especially the thought that I am not good enough.

AMEN



No one is to be excluded from the kingdom for all peoples are called to proclaim the praises of the Lord and confess His holy name. No ethnic or religious group possesses exclusive rights to the kingdom. Suffering and pain are part of the human condition.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 24

4:00 PM Ronald Bonci, 9th Anniversary, requested by His Wife, Nancy, Children and Grandchildren

Sunday, August 25

8:30 AM Virginia McCarthy, 2nd Anniversary, requested by Her Family

10:00 AM Mary Meagher, + 62nd Wedding Anniversary Remembrance, requested by Her Family

11:30 AM

5:00 PM Kevin Sullivan, requested by John MacKay

Monday, August 26

8:30 AM Mary & Pio Callini, requested by Their Family

Tuesday, August 27

8:30 AM Karen Messier, 23rd Anniversary, from Mom & Family
Michael Swayger

Wednesday, August 28

8:30 AM Dona Kane

Thursday, August 29

8:30 AM Theresa Beaudin, 5th Anniversary, requested by Her Family
Michael Pepek, + Birthday Remembrance, from The Pepek Family

Friday, August 30

8:30 AM Special Intentions for Lindsay, requested by L.S.

Saturday, August 31

4:00 PM James Alamed, requested by M/M Mark Rogers

Sunday, September 1

8:30 AM Guiseppi & Gerardina Mattia, requested by Their Family

10:00 AM Colleen Fallon O'Connor, + Birthday Remembrance, from Her Family

11:30 AM

5:00 PM In Honor of Diane Batchelder, requested by Her Family

PLEASE PRAY FOR FR. MICHAEL

Please continue to pray for Fr. Michael Bernier, who was an associate here from 2006-08. He is still recovering from a stroke he had last spring.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE in the upstairs Church will burn from 8/24/19 to 9/6/19 in Memory of Karen Messier, 23rd Anniversary, requested by Mom and Family.

**MARY, MOTHER OF GOD,
PRAY FOR US**

NEXT WEEK'S LITURGICAL MINISTERS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

4 PM

Altar Servers: Justin Haluch, Seamus Smith, Anthony Suhocki

Reader: Michele Suhocki

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

8:30 AM

Altar Servers: Liam Ramos, Colin Ramos, Paighton Ramos

Reader: Jay Ricci

10 AM

Altar Servers: Katelyn Corriveau, Trevor Corriveau

Reader: Chuck Dougherty

11:30 AM

Altar Servers: Tony Torres, Jade Ríos, Alysse Ríos

Reader: Adianez Colombani, Adriana Lugo

5 PM

Altar Servers: Maya Guillotte, Patrick Willard

Reader: Karen Hatch

LET US PRAY

Please remember in your prayers all the sick in our parish, our families and friends. Please also pray for our beloved deceased: Gertrude "Trudie" Henchey, John Gaughan, Michael Goonan, George Ellis, Patricia Broderick, Dr. Cesar Angco, Polly Harmon and Sr. Ruth Virginia Quinn, SSJ.



If you would like to contribute towards the beautiful flowers on our altar, there is a notebook in the main entrance of the Church. It is easy to fill out a request and a great way to honor someone who has passed away or celebrate a great event in someone's life.

Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary prayer line: for prayers call or text Betty 563-0592 or Marguerite 531-5648.

Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary

REMINDER: our Communion Breakfast will be held Sunday, September 15, at the Genesis Center on Mill Street after the 8:30 Mass at St. Mary's Church. Our speaker will be Deacon Osvaldo Mendez. Price is \$15.00 and all monies must be in to Toni Hills at 50 Highlandview Street, by September 9. Hope to see you there!

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

AUGUST 11 & 18

317 Envelopes

Total in Envelopes: \$10,018.18

Loose Cash: \$645.00

TOTAL: \$10,663.18

Fuel: \$110.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

FATHER FRANK

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SACRAMENTS

An old tradition used to be to preach homiletics series on different truths of the faith, which is something we have moved away from. However, there is still merit in preaching on basic truths of the faith since Jesus always taught the adults and played with the children. The more someone studies theology, the more he realizes the connectedness of it all. The Sacraments are not separated from Sacred Scripture, and it is not a detriment to the Gospel to preach on sacred actions that Jesus Himself gave us with the expectation that they be handed down. This being said, I wish to give everyone a refresher on some of those basic tenants of the faith. Ordinary Time is a liturgical time of the Church named after the ordinal numbers, so it is a perfect time to give a series on a set of truths. The Sacraments are a good place to start since they are the most profound encounters that we have with Christ, who is the one who is working through them. So for the next several weeks, I will preach on each of the Seven Sacraments, and in case I am not the presider at the weekend Mass you are attending, putting the basic points from homilies in the bulletin is the best way to make sure we are all on the same page (and you are caught off guard when I start preaching). My hope and prayer is that meaning may be brought back to what we do, which will help us better pray the Sacraments and understand the Faith we profess.

By the time these make it into the bulletin, they will be a week or two behind, but it will allow everyone to catch up. This week is an introduction to the Sacraments and so we start off with the basics of what sacraments are: visible sign instituted by Christ to give us grace.

You might be thinking, God is God, so why can't He just give us the grace? He can, but the answer is that He chooses not to because as humans we have a soul and a body. It is through our bodies that we learn things – all of our knowledge comes through the senses. Babies can see, and they put everything in their mouths because that is how they learn about the world. How are we supposed to know what the ocean is if we have never experienced water or felt wetness or waves? Our senses are what draw us into God's truth and capture our attention. They help us to describe what is going on in our souls.

Think of the sacraments like mirrors: a mirror shows you your reflection, but it is not you – it is the reality of how you appear. The physical parts of the sacraments reflect what happens in your souls. For instance, water washes things, we drink it, it is life, so the sacrament of baptism uses this to demonstrate that a person's sins are wiped away when they are baptized and new life is given them as children of God and heirs of heaven.

To get it out there, we have seven sacraments because Christ gave us seven of them. Whenever you see the number seven in the bible, it means that there is a complete set – there is a perfection to it. And so, that we might be made spiritually whole, Christ gave us these seven great works to give us grace.

The Church has developed the ceremonies over time, but there have been seven from the beginning, which she continues to

hand down. They are all in Sacred Scripture, but they are not all explicit – Jesus does not say, “Now pay attention I'm going to institute Penance.” They are something that were given to the apostles, who then gave them to the bishops and priests they ordained, and they have been handed down for the past 2000 years.

To name them they are: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist as sacraments of initiation. Penance, Anointing of the Sick, and then Matrimony and Holy Orders as sacraments that change a person's state of life.

The two that give and restore grace are called sacraments of the dead which are Baptism and Confession. Penance is unique in that it can restore sanctifying grace once it has been lost. The other five increase grace that is already there. The sacraments that cannot be repeated always have preparation attached to them because to receive as much grace as possible from them, we must be properly disposed. This includes preparing our intellects.

Before any of the sacraments of Initiation there are classes, there are multiple meetings and classes before marriages take place, and before priesthood, a man must complete at least six years of studies (that's if he already has an undergraduate degree).

Sacraments either bestow sanctifying grace, as in baptism, or they increase it. Sanctifying grace makes us pleasing to God and more like unto Him. Think of a cat – you are not really a part of their family until they rub against you and get some of their scent on you. Until Baptism marks you for God, you are not a part of His family.

As we journey through the seven sacraments be on the lookout for two terms, they are philosophical, but don't be afraid of them: matter and form. Matter refers to the physicality of the thing, water for baptism and oil for anointing. Form refers to the words used and how to apply the matter. Both must be in place for a sacrament to occur. There are some awful memes on the internet of all kinds of foods being photoshopped into priests' hands during the Mass, but the fact remains that for Holy Eucharist to take place, the priest needs to say the right prayers over unleavened bread, without any additives, made from wheat, and wine made from grapes. If any of those things are missing, then Jesus doesn't show up and the sacrament does not occur.

Sacraments are a powerful sign, but just as much a powerful work of Christ. So much so that we say the priest acts “*in persona Christi*,” which is Latin for in the person of Christ. It means that it is actually Christ who performs the sacraments and the priest is the instrument by which He works. Another phrase is “*ex opere operato*” – which is “from the work of the worker,” so when the matter and form are met then we have a guarantee from God that they accomplish what He promised that they would. Some people think they can confess their sins directly to God and He will forgive them – but they only get part of the picture right.

(Continued on the next page.)

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Monday, August 19

6:30 pm Baptism Class - Center

Tuesday, August 27

6:30 am Men of St. Joseph - Lower Church

Wednesday, August 28

9 am Eucharistic Adoration - Church

5 pm Benediction - Lower Church

Thursday, August 29

8 am First Day of School, Gr. 1-8 - ES

8 am Freshman Orientation - HS

6:45 pm Women's Prayer Group - Lower Church

7 pm Encuentro Juvenil - Center

Friday, August 30

8 am First Day of School Gr. 10-12 - HS

8:30 am Schools at Mass - Upper Church

8:30 am Mass - Upper Church

**FALL FESTIVAL TICKETS SOLD AFTER ALL
MASSES THIS WEEKEND****Sunday, September 1**

10 am Little Church - Lower Church

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Annual Scout Retreat at Camp Holy Cross - Sept. 27-29

Retreat organized by the Catholic Committee on Scouting, Diocese of Springfield, facilitated by members of the Catholic Committee on Scouting along with NET Ministries. Weekend includes skits, presentations, various games and activities, dance, campfire, climbing wall, lots of food, prayer experiences, Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Mass at Camp Holy Cross, 108 Camp Street, Goshen. Open to all members of Girl Scout, Boy Scout and American Heritage Girl Programs who are in Grades 6-12 and youth interested in scouting and their adult leaders. Cost is \$40 per person. Registration ends 9/20. Questions? Contact Pam Kosnicki at 413-283-3242 or pamdkos@verizon.net.

St. Mary's Family Fall Festival

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, September 15th

12:30- 4:30 pm

St. Mary's Parish School

Games - Live Music - Raffles

Fun for the Whole Family!

Food Catered by

North Elm Butcher Block



**We will be selling tickets after all Masses
on August 31 and September 1, 7 and 8.
A FREE raffle ticket will be given
with advance purchase of a Fall Festival ticket.**

Sacraments, continued

Yes, only God can forgive sins, but you can't be certain unless you go to confession. And it is especially true that God does not want the faithful to go through life alone, that is why you have two priests here who are available for confessions. Even a bad priest in a state of mortal sin cannot block God's grace in the sacraments – that's how powerful they are.

Sacraments are different from sacramentals which depend on the holiness of everyone involved. Sacramentals are less powerful than sacraments yet they also serve as signs of God's grace in life. They rely on three things: the holiness of the person, the rite being used, and the holiness of the priest. So, if you were given the choice between Padre Pio or me blessing your rosary, you choose Padre Pio, every time. It is also the reason why exorcisms don't always work – they are also a sacramental, so if the possessed person is not committed to changing and driving evil out of his life, then evil will stay and the sacramental will have little effect.

Let us all pray for an increase of Christ's presence in our lives and that we may not waste any of the grace that the Holy Spirit offers us: that we may use the Sacraments well as we journey toward Christ. +

Come Sing with Us!

So many parishioners have great singing voices but are unable to join one of our parish music groups. During the month of August, you're invited to sing at the 10:00 Mass. We'll meet in the choir loft at 9:30 and have a brief rehearsal and then sing for Mass. There's no obligation. You can come for one Sunday or all four! This is open to parishioners of all ages. No solos or pressure; just the joy of singing and praising God with your fellow parishioners. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Lepage, our Director of Music at rlepage@stmsaints.org.

St. Mary's Women's Group

We gather every Thursday from 6:45 to 8:00 p.m., in a small group setting to provide a safe place for women to grow in their relationship with God and others. It is held in St. Mary's Lower Church. This is not a Bible Study. No Bible experience needed. All materials are provided for you. This is a simple evening of reflection on Sunday's gospel reading. Come, we look forward to meeting you! Use lower church entrance that faces Bartlett St. and the Mary Courtyard. Questions: Pastoral Minister: Michele Suhocki, msuhocki@stmsaints.org, 413-563-5477, ext 144.

Women's Weekend Silent Retreat

The Spiritual Exercises are a weekend silent retreat with spiritual talks and time for personal meditation in silence. The Spiritual conferences are preached by the Priests of Miles Christi, according to the methods and the principles of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Apart from the conferences are time for prayer, Holy Mass, rosary, confession and spiritual direction.

The Retreat starts at 4:00 p.m. on Friday September 27 and concludes on Sunday, September 29, at 4:30 p.m. at 319 Concord Rd, Weston, MA. Register by email boston@spiritualexercises.net or call 248-596-9677.