

July 26, 2026
St. Mary's Parish & School
944 Hopmeadow St. Simsbury CT 06070



Office Hours: M-Th 8:30 - 3:00 PM (closed 12:30-1:00 for lunch); Fri 8:30 - 12:00

Email: parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org

Mass Times

Monday—Thursday..... 8:00 AM

Saturday5:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 / 9:30 / 11:00 AM

Reconciliation: Saturday, 3:30-4:15 PM & Tuesday, 6:00 –6:30 PM or by appointment

Baptisms: Sunday 12:15 PM By Appointment

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday @6-7 PM & Thursday after the 8:00 AM Mass

Prayer Requests

To request prayers for a family member or friend, email their name to the Parish Office. Names will be announced for one month. For continual prayers, contact the Prayer

Line Ministry at (860) 658-2118 or

cmlocandro@gmail.com.

Livestreaming

All the Masses celebrated at St. Mary's are live-streamed.

Mailing Address: PO Box 575

www.stmarysimsbury.org

Parish Office(860) 658-7627

School Office(860) 658-9412

Pastor

Father Stephen Sledesky ▪ Ext. 301

Finance Manager

Danielle Lorusso ▪ Ext. 307

financemanager@stmarysimsbury.org

Parish Office

Heather Benedetti ▪ Ext. 306

parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org

Faith Formation

PreK-6: Kathy Piggott ▪ Ext. 304

reled1-6@stmarysimsbury.org

Gr. 7-10: Lori Ryan ▪ Ext. 305

reled7-8@stmarysimsbury.org

Family FF: Maura Fleming

mffleming@stmarysimsbury.org

Admin: Tricia Prausa ▪ Ext. 315

ffadmin@stmarysimsbury.org

Youth Minister

Frank Ippolito ▪ Ext. 302

YouthMinistry@stmarysimsbury.org

Stephen Ministry ▪ Ext. 114

Linda McGurn, Sharon Locandro, Linda Duff, Xan McGivney

stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org

Music Ministry

Patricia Lepak & Mary Walsh

musicministry@stmarysimsbury.org

St. Mary's School

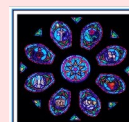
www.StMarysSchoolSimsbury.org

Kerri Work, Principal

kwork@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net

Trustees

Tom Rechen & Joanne Russell



Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 25

5:00 PM † Dave & Grace Comeau
By: Their Loving Family

Sunday, July 26

8:00 AM † Anthony Dorazio
By: His Loving family
9:30 AM † Anna Czekaj
By: Her Loving Family
11:00 AM The People of St. Mary's

Monday, July 27

8:00 AM † Mary Ann Pilon
By: The Reynolds Family

Tuesday, July 28

8:00 AM † Joan Laffin
By: The Reynolds Family

Wednesday, July 29

8:00 AM † Cornelius Noel Kelly
By: His Loving Wife Pearl

Thursday, July 30

8:00 AM † Naugab Lee
By: His Loving Family

Saturday, August 1

5:00 PM † Matthew J. Fogarty
By: His Sister Kathleen Miklus

Sunday, August 2

8:00 AM † Mary Jane Connolly
Wedding Anniversary
Remembrance
By: Her Loving husband Joe
9:30 AM The People of St. Mary's
11:00 AM † Edna Schreindorfer
By: Her Loving Family

Pray For The Sick

Joe Connolly, Regina Dymersky, Meg Gallagher, John Gualtieri, Sharmane Hartwell, Joyce Henderson, Mary Ann Knoblauch, Ron Marasco, Dylan Niehay, Daniel O'Donnell, Mary Judith Palaia, Alexandra Sorzano, Carol Roden and Maureen Taylor.

Dearly Departed

Please pray for all those we keep in our hearts.

Summer Church Hours

Please note we have adjusted our Church and building hours for the summer season. Our facilities will be open as follows:

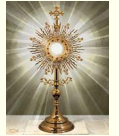
Sunday: 7:45 AM—12 Noon
Monday—Wednesday: 7:45 AM—8:00 PM
Thursday: 7:45 AM—3:00 PM
Friday: 8:30 AM—12:00 Noon
Saturday: 8:00 AM—6:00 PM



Adoration & Reconciliation

Tuesday evenings 6:00 PM—7:00 PM

Adoration will be on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 PM—7:00 PM with Reconciliation from 6:00—6:30 PM. Please join us.



Mission Sunday: Next Sunday, 8/2

Our Mission Sunday date will be next Sunday, 8/2. Please note there is an envelope for this special collection in our envelope packages, but it does not have a date. Please feel free to place it in the collection basket at anytime if you are not attending the weekend of 8/2. Our collection will be for St. Luke's Foundation.

Prayer Pew Ministry

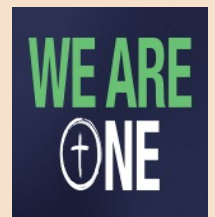
Every prayer matters to God. Whether you are celebrating a blessing, carrying a heavy burden, or praying for someone you love, our Prayer Pew Ministers are here to pray with you. Join us after all Saturday and Sunday Masses, and after Monday-Wednesday daily Masses, in front of the piano. Look for the blue nametags—we'd be honored to pray with you.



Archbishop's Annual Appeal

Not Quite There: Help Us Reach Our Parish Goal!

Thank you to all of our Parishioners who have and continue to support the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. If you have not yet made a gift, we encourage you to be as generous as possible. Thank you for your continued support. Gifts can be made online using this link
<https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/>.



All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/>. No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.

Summer Mission Appeal



ST. LUKE
FOUNDATION
FOR HAITI

Each summer, the Archdiocese welcomes requests from religious communities, organizations and missionary dioceses, who serve the needs of the poor and those in developing nations, to make an appeal to us to assist with their missionary work. Usually a representative visits to make an in-person appeal at all the Masses on a given weekend in our parishes.

This year, once again, St. Mary's has been assigned the **St. Luke Foundation for Haiti** as the charity for our summer mission appeal. Fr. Rick Frechette, who grew up in West Hartford, became a member of the Passionist Community at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford and found his calling in serving the poor. Initially he worked with an organization that served the needs of abandoned children in Central and South America called Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (Our Little Brothers and Sisters) ministering to children in Mexico and Honduras. Fr. Rick was subsequently asked by NPH to establish a ministry in Haiti, which has grown into the current St. Luke Foundation.



While working with the vulnerable children in Haiti, Fr. Rick realized that the Haitian people needed a doctor more than a priest, so he attended medical school to obtain a medical degree. He has established and operates two hospitals, two clinics, several orphanages, numerous schools, and facilitates job creation and entrepreneurship for the people in and around Port au Prince, all while still serving as their spiritual leader. Fr. Rick has worked tirelessly to raise up leaders from among the Haitian people to operate and staff the various ministries of St. Luke's.

I have the privilege of knowing Fr. Rick personally, and of having visited his mission in Haiti on several occasions. I can attest to the amazing work he is able to accomplish despite the many obstacles he faces every day in Haiti. Though he would be embarrassed by my saying it, he is a "living saint" like Mother Teresa was for the poor in Calcutta.

As you may recall, it is very difficult and dangerous to travel out of Haiti and Fr. Rick is always fearful he won't be able to return once he leaves the country. The situation in Haiti has not improved and travel continues to be treacherous, so again Fr. Rick is unable to join us in person. He has, however, sent a couple of video links, which we will share with the parish.

Next weekend at all the Masses, we will take up the Mission Co-op collection as our second collection to benefit the St. Luke Foundation for Haiti. The ministry Fr. Rick has founded and sustains needs our partnership more than ever! I strongly encourage that you visit the website for St. Luke's to learn more about their work (www.stlukehaiti.org) and I know you will come to Mass next weekend prepared to offer your best gift to help Fr. Rick and St. Luke's care for the poorest people in the Western Hemisphere. Because of the generous and dedicated work of many volunteers in operating the St. Luke Foundation for Haiti, 97 cents of every dollar goes directly to support the mission work in Haiti. That's almost unheard of in fundraising!

There are yellow envelopes available at all church entrances to pick up, or you may use the Mission Appeal envelope in your packets. Thank you for making your most generous gift next weekend.

We've been hearing parables about the kingdom of heaven these past several weekends, a kingdom we have the privilege to build up through the choices we make and way we live our lives. God's kingdom is indeed a treasure to be prized above all else, where all can be gathered in for the Lord. May our help in providing food, clothing, medical care, education, employment opportunities, and a dignified burial for our neighbors in Haiti, contribute in a small way to building up God's kingdom here on earth, and pave the way for them and us to be welcomed one day into God's kingdom in heaven!



Faith Formation Registration

Give your child the gift of growing in faith, friendship, and a deeper relationship with God. We invite all families to register their children in **PreK4 through 10th Grade** Faith Formation for the upcoming year.

Whether your family is returning or joining us for the first time, we look forward to walking with you on this faith journey. Don't miss this opportunity to help your child deepen their faith and prepare for the sacraments while becoming an active part of our parish family.

PreK-6 starts on Sept 13

7th & 8th grade Confirmation starts on Aug 30

9th & 10th starts on Sept 13

Register today and join us as we grow together in faith as a parish family!



Activity Backpacks

For Children Aged 0-7

If you are bringing young children to Mass, we invite you to pick up an Activity Backpack at one of our entrances. These backpacks have fun activities that children can use during Mass. The backpacks should be returned after Mass so we can "re-set" them and have them ready for the next weekend.



Children at Mass

All God's Children Are Welcome Here

We love the joyful sound of wiggles and giggles in Church. Your family's presence is a gift to us all, so please relax and make yourselves at home. Feel free to pick up an activity backpack.

Volunteer With Faith Formation

Do you want to get young people excited about the Catholic faith and a relationship with Jesus Christ? St. Mary's Faith Formation program needs your help! We rely on the generosity of over 30 volunteers each year to be successful. No prior experience necessary! Please consider volunteering as a catechist to help lead weekly classes for our youth. This is also a great opportunity for a junior or senior in high school who demonstrates strong leadership skills. For more information, please contact our Faith Formation Coordinators or the Parish Office.



Nurturing Seedlings

A Community For Parents with Young Children!

New Session will begin

St. Mary's is excited to bring a new program to our parish. Nurturing Seedlings is an opportunity for parents of children age birth to seven to join together for a practical, and focused initiative aimed at supporting parents as they introduce their child to Christ and grow in a lifelong faith together. Need some tips on how to help your child connect with Jesus? Learn simple and effective skills to help your young child grow in faith.



Teens—Share Your Gifts This Summer at St. Mary's!

"When young people serve at Mass, our parish becomes more vibrant, welcoming, and alive with faith."

Middle school and high school students — including 2026 graduates — are invited to get involved in Liturgical Ministries this summer. Whether you enjoy speaking, welcoming, helping, cooking, or making music, there's a place for you here. Serve when you're available — we'll work around your schedule. Teens can step in as lectors, ushers/greeters, youth musicians, or help cook and deliver meals for neighbors in need. To get started: Email *Suzanne Croke* at suzannecroke@gmail.com and copy a parent or guardian. We'll help you choose a ministry, get trained, and feel confident. Come discover how you can serve, grow, and shine this summer at St. Mary's.

Parish Events & Announcements

Granny's Attic this Weekend!

Sales Dates:

7/24, Fri (1:00-6:00)

7/25, Sat (8:00-7:00)

7/26, Sun (12:00-3:00) ****Shopping Bag Day**

Clean Up Dates:

7/27, Mon (9:00-5:00)

7/28, Tues (9:00-5:00)



Shopping Bag Donations . . . Supporting Hartford Shelters

This year we will be selling shopping bags (17.5" X 19" X 7.5") for \$20. You can use these bags to shop all day on **Sunday July 26th**, or you can donate

the bag to one of the local Hartford shelters that we have partnered with, so their residents can come and shop at Granny's Attic. Bags will be on Sale after all Masses on 7/26.



Questions: Peggy Day: (860) 306-4230 (call or text)

Bringing Up The Gifts

Have you considered bring up The Gifts at Mass? At the back of the Church just inside the door is a wooden fish. If the fish is available we are looking for someone to bring the Gifts up. Please speak to an Usher for more details.



Has your Contact Information Changed?

If your address or phone number has changed please let us know. Today many people have eliminated their land lines and we have no way of keeping contact unless our records are updated. Help us stay connected and contact the parish office with any new information.

Are you new to St. Mary's Church?

Welcome!! If you have been joining us or have recently moved into the area, please register with us so that we can better serve you. You can register by calling the parish office (860-658-7627) or stop by and our parish staff will help you with the registration process.

How to Become 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 OCIA.



OCIA stands for

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. It is the way those who are interested in the Catholic Faith are initiated into the Church. The OCIA is open to three groups: (1) Those who have never been baptized and want to become Christian, (2) Christians baptized in another church who wish to enter the Catholic Church, and (3) Catholics who were baptized but never received Eucharist and Confirmation.

The OCIA will meet starting in the fall. Time is spent in teaching, discussion, prayer, and reflection. More than a course of study, the OCIA is a way to experience what it means to be a Catholic. Please contact Father Stephen if you are interested.

Funeral & Bereavement Ministry is Seeking Adults to Serve at Funerals

We have a dedicated group of servers but are in need of additional help. Training is provided! The time commitment is about 1.5 hours. Please phone the parish office if you are able to help serve at Funeral Masses.



Tuesday Morning Book Discussion

New Members Welcome!

Tuesdays @ 8:30 AM Faith Formation Center

Join us Tuesdays after the 8:00 AM Mass for prayer, a reflection on the upcoming Gospel, and discussion of an inspiring spiritual book. We are beginning a new study of *The Way of Trust and Love: A Retreat Guided by St. Thérèse of Lisieux* by Jacques Philippe. This is a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith, share in fellowship, and deepen your spiritual journey. We would love to welcome you! Call the parish office for questions or if you would like to join.

Parish Events & Announcements

St. Mary's School Playground Fundraising

We Need Your Help

The St. Mary's School playground is where friendships begin, imaginations grow, and our children experience the joy of learning and play together. Our school playground is in need of an upgrade due to aging equipment. With the support of both our school and parish community, we have the opportunity to create a revitalized playground that will serve St. Mary's students for years to come.



Sponsor one of our proposed playground features or make a donation in any amount. Thank-you in advance for helping us to reach our goals of \$125,000. To make your gift today, use this QR code or call the Parish Office.

Sacred Rest Series

A Journey into Rest, Renewal & God's Presence

Feeling overwhelmed, busy, or spiritually drained?

Join us for a meaningful night where we explore the gift of sacred rest and how to reclaim peace in your daily life.

August 18, 2026 (6-8 PM)

Reclaiming the Sabbath followed by Adoration

Call the church or visit the website to register.

Location: St. Mary's Church



Latex Free Facility

Please note that when you are bringing items into St. Mary's, our campus is Latex Free. Please pay close attention to items such as balloons and gloves. Thank you for your cooperation.



Social Action Ministry

Opportunities To Help Others

The Social Action Ministry coordinates events every month to provide support to those in need. For more information or to sign up, please use this link:

<https://stmarysimsbury.org/social-action-ministry>

Upcoming Food Collections

Please drop off all donations between 8 AM—12 Noon in the Magowan Center.

Simsbury Food Closet: Sunday, 7/26 (non-perishable)

Mercy Shelter: Sunday, 8/2 (fruits & desserts)

Hartford Shelter: Sunday, 8/9(non-perishable)

Little Sisters Of The Poor

Volunteer Opportunities

We are partnering with the Activities Director at Little Sisters of the Poor and have several opportunities for parishioners to get involved. These include baking birthday cakes, attending monthly parties, sewing, crafts and decoration donations. Please contact Chris Wall (mckwall@duck.com) or Nancy Smith (tms29@comcast.net) to find out more information.

Pasta Meals Needed

The Weekend of: 7/26 or 7/27 drop off

Please volunteer to prepare food at your home for the food insecure in Hartford. Food may be dropped off in the fridge in the lower level at St. Mary's on 7/26 or 7/27. We also need two volunteers to serve the food. We leave St. Mary's at 1:30 PM on 7/28 and are finished serving the food by around 5:00 PM. If you are able to donate a meal, salad items, or would like to help serve the dinner, please contact the Parish Office or use this link:

<https://stmarysimsbury.org/social-action-ministry>.