

August 2, 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

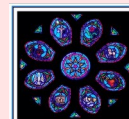
www.StMarysSchoolSimsbury.org

Kerri Work, Principal

kwork@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net

Trustees

Tom Rechen & Joanne Russell



Mass Intentions

Saturday, 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

Monday, August 3

8:00 AM † Rosemary Reynolds
By: Her Loving Family

Tuesday, August 4

8:00 AM Mark & Sharon
By: Their Loving Family

Wednesday, August 5

8:00 AM † William Manikas
By: His Friend

Thursday, August 6

8:00 AM † Patti Dorman &
Antoinette Douart
By: Catherine Rivard

Saturday, August 8

5:00 PM † Charles Muller
By: The Kuziak Family

Sunday, August 9

8:00 AM † Anna Czekaj
By: Her Loving Family
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,
Dylan Niehay, Daniel O'Donnell, Mary Judith
Palaia, Alexandra Sorrano, Claudia Day, 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



Granny's Attic

Words cannot express the gratitude to our Parish and
school for the hours of work that went into making
Granny's Attic a huge success. Thank you to Peggy Day,
Jane Stevenson, Mary Onoroski and the countless number of people who
donated their time, talents and treasures! Also thank you to everyone
who shopped our sale. We could not have done it without you. See you
next year!!



Mission Sunday: This Sunday, 8/2

Our Mission Sunday date will be this Sunday, 8/2. Please note there is
an envelope for this special collection in our envelope packages, but it
does not have a date. Our collection will be for St. Luke's Foundation.
Please be as generous as you can.

Halloween Costume Drive

8/2 –8/31

We are collecting clean, gently used or
new Halloween costumes to donate to
Covenant to Care for Children. If you have
any costumes (sizes infant to teen) to
donate, please drop them in the collection
bin here at the church from now until August 31st. Help ensure every
child in our community can enjoy Halloween this year! Reach out to
Amelia (860) 836-6141 with any questions. Thank you for your
generosity!



The Feast of the Assumption

Saturday, 8/15

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is Saturday,
8/15. This significant feast day recalls the spiritual and physical departure
of the mother of Jesus Christ from the earth, when both her soul and her
body were taken into the presence of God. This year the Holy Day is not
a day of obligation as it falls on a Saturday. We do encourage everyone
to attend a special Mass for the Feast of the Assumption at 8:00 AM on
8/15.

Congratulations

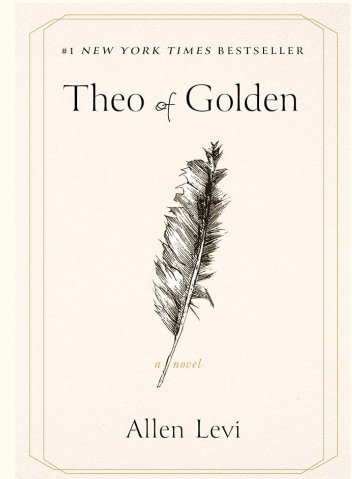
Congratulations to Harvey Sardinskas and Bryce Rodriguez who
Baptized into Christ this past weekend.



What I Did On My Summer Vacation

Remember when we were back in school and our teachers encouraged us to write an essay on what we did over summer vacation? I won't bore you with all the details of my two weeks off this year, but something I do enjoy doing on my summer breaks is catching up on some reading that I just don't have time for throughout the year.

Some months ago, a parishioner was speaking highly about a book they had recently read, *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi, so the #1 NYT Bestseller made its way to my pile of books "To Read." I'm happy to report that I did get to it over vacation and would highly recommend it to those who haven't yet had a chance to read it.



It is the story of a somewhat eccentric and mysterious Portuguese man who inexplicably arrives one day in the fictional town of Golden, Georgia where he takes up residence for an indefinite period of time. He introduces himself only by his first name, Theo. After visiting the local coffee shop where a resident artist displays portraits of people from the community he has sketched in pencil, Theo dreams up a plan to purchase each one of the 92 images and "bestow" them upon their "rightful" owners.

So he sets out to purchase them one by one and writes handwritten notes to the individuals they depict to meet him at a particular time, at a particular bench near the town's central fountain. In so doing he encounters these individuals and listens to their stories. This becomes a great joy for him, though he discloses almost nothing about himself, his past, or why he is in Golden.

At first people are a bit suspicious of the old Portuguese man with only a first name, but in time and as word spreads about his kindness, the residents there come to know, respect and love him. He encounters all kinds of different people with a variety of histories and situations and helps to bring them together into a great sense of community.

The reader is drawn into the curiosity of the people of Golden as to who this mysterious figure is, as he repeatedly side-steps questions about his identity as smoothly as Houdini slipped out of chains. Theo confides his true identity in just one person, a Mr. James Ponder, "Broker and Consultant" who keeps it as confidential as a priest honors the seal of the confessional. But be patient, all will come to light in good time!

Considering that the author chooses to name his main character "Theo" (which comes from the Greek for "God"), the frequent conversation around religious issues especially heaven and the saints, and Theo's genuine kindness to and acceptance of the people he meets in Golden, give the work a beautiful spiritual element. *Theo of Golden* is a heart-warming story of compassion, community, and attentiveness to others, sharing great lessons on humility, charity and the best of what humanity can be. Enjoy reading!

~Fr. Stephen



Faith Formation Registration

Registration PreK4-Gr. 6 is open!

Faith begins at home! Parents are the first and most important teachers of the faith, and your participation is an essential part of our Faith Formation program. While your child is in their session, join us for monthly parent sessions and family faith experiences designed to strengthen your family's faith and help your child grow as a disciple of Christ. Your presence matters—we look forward to growing in faith together!

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!

<https://www.stmarysimsburyarchive.org/registration-1>



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.

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.

Parish Events & Announcements

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.



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.

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.

You are Invited to ALPHA

We invite you to join us for one of our upcoming Alpha sessions. In the Fall (Sept-Nov) we will have a morning session and in the Winter (Jan-Mar) we will have an evening session. Please pick one that fits your schedule!

Fall Session

Wednesday Mornings
9:00-11:00 AM
9/9 thru 11/18
Retreat: 10/28

Winter Session

Monday Evenings
6:30-8:30 PM
1/4 thru 3/29
Retreat: 3/13
(Excluding: 1/18, 2/15)

Each session begins with a casual shared meal, followed by a video designed to engage and inspire conversation and a small group discussion, including approximately six guests per table. There is no obligation to say anything and there is nothing a guest can't say. It is an opportunity to hear from others and contribute new perspectives in an honest, friendly and open environment.

More information will follow regarding registration. Please email the parish office (parishoffice@stmarysimsbury.org) with any questions.



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.

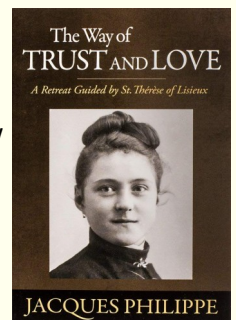


Tuesday Morning Book Discussion

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://stmarysimsburyarchive.org/social-action-ministry>

Upcoming Food Collections

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

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

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

Simsbury Food Closet: Sunday, 8/23 (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 (tns29@comcast.net) to find out more information.

Prayer Pew Ministry

We Are Stronger When We Pray Together

Scripture reminds us that where two or three are gathered in Christ's name, He is present among them. Experience the comfort and hope that come through shared prayer. Prayer Pew Ministers are available after all Saturday and Sunday Masses, and after Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday daily Masses, in front of the piano, wearing blue nametags. All are welcome.

