

September 6, 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.

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

mfleming@stmarysimsbury.org

Admin: Tricia Prausa • Ext. 315

ffadmin@stmarysimsbury.org

Youth Minister

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Stephen Ministry • Ext. 114

stephenministry@stmarysimsbury.org

Music Ministry

Patricia Lepak & Mary Walsh
musicministry@stmarysimsbury.org

St. Mary's School

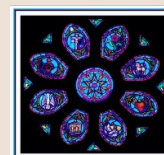
www.StMarysSchoolSimsbury.org

Kerri Work, Principal

kwork@stmarysimsbury.eduk12.net

Trustees

Tom Rechen & Joanne Russell



Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 5

5:00 PM Barbara Saccente
By: The Kuziak Family &
Robert Ferrante

Sunday, September 6

8:00 AM † Mark Magdalenski
By: Jerry & Marylou Emlet
9:30 AM † Dennis & Lorraine Sullivan
By: Mark & Cherith Sullivan
11:00 AM † The People of St. Mary's

Monday, September 7

8:00 AM † Jim, Peg, & Peggy Garrity
By: Family

Tuesday, September 8

8:00 AM † Sara Anderson
By: The Kalamarides Family

Wednesday, September 9

8:00 AM † Phil & Mary Ann Pilon
65th Wedding Anniversary
By: Ron & Carol Locandro

Thursday, September 10

8:00 AM † Corey Alisangco
By: The Stephen Ministers

Saturday, September 12

5:00 PM † Theresa Jaworski
By: Marie & John Gannatti

Sunday, September 13

8:00 AM † Andrew & Mary Rossetti
By: Gloria Rossetti & Family
9:30 AM † Matthew Fogarty
By: Joanne & Mark Niland
11:00 AM † The People of St. Mary's

Pray For The Sick

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

Dearly Departed

Please pray for all those we keep in our hearts.

Spiritual Gifts Coffee Connecting on Servanthood

Thursday 9/10 @ 7:00 PM

Have you ever wondered what spiritual gift the Holy Spirit has given you? If you've taken the Spiritual Gifts course, you already know. Or, maybe you haven't yet taken the course so you're not sure. Either way, here's a way to find out more about the *Gift of Servanthood*. We invite you to join us on Thursday, 9/10, at 7:00 PM in the Forcucci Faith Formation Center to dig deeper into the most widely received gift by all those who have already taken the course. If you have not yet taken the Spiritual Gifts course, it's an opportunity to learn more about what it offers – no obligation! Our coffee connection is open to everyone.

(We're offering the Spiritual Gifts Course again in October, so look for more info soon.)

Rosary At The Bridge

Saturday, 9/12 @9:30 AM; Simsbury Drake Hill Flower Bridge Women's Ministry will host a "Rosary at the Bridge" on Saturday, 9/12 at 9:30 AM. Join us for prayer, fellowship, coffee and donuts. Bring a chair and your rosary beads. We'll pray for peace and for any special intentions brought before us. ALL are welcome. In case of bad weather, we will meet in the church.

Fall Wednesday Morning ALPHA is Back at a New Time!

Wednesday Mornings, 9/9-11/18

ALPHA is a place for anyone with questions of faith to get together for meaningful conversations and discussions in a non-judgmental atmosphere. The sessions will run on Wednesday mornings, 9/9 through 11/18, from **8:45-10:15** in the Forcucci Faith Formation Center, including a daylong retreat on 10/28.



Each session will include coffee, tea, light snacks and a video on a topic related to life, purpose and Christian faith. Topics include "Is There More to Life Than This?", "Who is Jesus?", "How Does God Guide Us?", Faith, Prayer and the Holy Spirit. Small group discussion will follow, where participants can freely share or just listen. This is a safe space to be heard and respected.

This time frame is designed for people with busy schedules such as parents and grandparents of school-age children, those who work part time or work from home, and anyone who is looking to explore their faith through connection and community.



To register, visit our website, use this QR code or call the office.

The Sacraments of Initiation - Part II

As mentioned last week, Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist together are known as the Sacraments of Initiation. They bring us into full membership in the Catholic Church. While Baptism and Confirmation are only received once, Eucharist, once received the first time, is meant to be received repeatedly throughout one's lifetime.

As one of the Sacraments of Initiation, it completes one's membership in the Church. Having received membership in the Church through Baptism and Confirmation, the new Catholic is now welcomed to the table to receive the Lord's precious Body and Blood. Participation in the Eucharist is predicated upon one's membership in the Catholic Church. This is why in our tradition, people who are professed members of other churches or faiths, do not receive communion, but instead are welcomed for a blessing at communion. Reception of the Eucharist is a public statement that we are in communion in belief and practice with what the Catholic Church teaches, professes and believes.

What we believe about the Eucharist also may not be shared by other Christian faiths, which is another reason why the Catholic Church does not practice inter-communion with members of other Christian churches or with those who are not baptized. As Catholics we profess that at the consecration of the Mass, during the Eucharistic Prayer, when the priest proclaims, "This is my Body...This is my Blood" the elements of bread and wine are substantially transformed (transubstantiation) into the actual Body and Blood of Christ, even though they retain the appearance of bread and wine. Jesus' True Presence is received in communion in the bread and wine which have become for us his Body and Blood.

Once these elements become Christ's Body and Blood, they are treated with the utmost reverence. Consecrated hosts not consumed at communion are placed into the locked tabernacle near the altar. This is why we genuflect (bend down on our right knee) to the Presence of Christ in the tabernacle, when passing in front or entering our pew upon arrival at church. Any remaining Precious Blood is consumed immediately following the distribution of communion. Christ's Precious Body and Blood, in those consecrated elements must never be treated with disrespect, never simply tossed aside or thrown out. If it is necessary to dispose of the consecrated elements, the priest does that in a particular manner with the utmost reverence. The vessels used at communion are purified in a special way, and the linens soiled with the Precious Blood are laundered in a specific and reverential manner.

For the vast majority of us, who were baptized as infants or children, we received our First Communion before our Confirmation. This was a change instituted by Pope Pius X around the turn of the 20th century. People were so infrequently receiving the Eucharist at that time, that the Pope extended the privilege of receiving the Eucharist to children who had reached the age of reason (about 7 years old), hoping that their excitement in receiving the Eucharist would inspire their parents and other older family members to receive more frequently. Confirmation was then deferred to a later age to allow children more time to prepare to receive what then became their final sacrament of initiation, thereby reversing the order in which these two sacraments were received. However, it is still normative in the initiation of adults, to receive these three Sacraments of Initiation in the traditional order: Baptism, Confirmation and finally the Eucharist.

~ Fr. Stephen

Put Us In Your Instagram Feed!

If you don't already, please follow us at **stmaryssimsbury** on Instagram to stay in the know. We will be updating regularly with event reminders, fun tidbits and a spotlight on the "people in the pews."



stmaryssimsbury



Faith Formation Registration

Starting Soon!

Registration is open and ready for your enrollment. Programs are available for PreK4 - 10th grade, and include sacrament preparation for First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation. To strengthen your family's faith and help your child grow as a disciple of Christ, please join us for monthly parent sessions and family faith experiences while your child attends their Sunday morning program. Go to our registration website or scan the QR Code to register and pay. We're looking forward to a great year!



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

PreK-6 starts 9/13

7th & 8th grade Confirmation starts 8/30

9th & 10th starts on 9/13

Looking Ahead

Mark Your Calendar



- **Wednesday, 9/9 @6 PM; 2nd**
Grade Sacrament Prep Parent Meeting in the Forcucci Faith Formation Center
- **Sunday, 9/13—Morning**
8:15 AM or 10:45 AM: PreK-6th Grade Faith Formation first day of class and parent meeting; Meet in the Parish Center
9:30 AM: PreK-6th Grade Faith Formation Family Mass (Sign-up will be emailed)
- **Sunday, 9/13 @6 PM;** 9th & 10th Grade Faith Formation - First Day of Class & Parent Meeting, meet in the Church.

Volunteer with Faith Formation

Faith Formation Needs You!

Available Teaching Opportunities

Grade 2 - Session 1 (8:15-9:20)

Grade 5 - Session 1 (8:15-9:20)

Grade 5 - Session 2 (10:45-11:50)

Grade 4 - Session 2 (10:45-11:50)

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 Kathy Piggott at

reled1-6@stmarysimsbury.org.



Confirmation Update

The Archdiocese of Hartford started an "initiative to reimagine adolescent catechesis in middle school to bring youth into a lived relationship with Jesus Christ." As part of this new initiative, the age of Confirmation will be lowered to the spring of 8th grade. There will be a three year transition period which is illustrated below:



Confirmation Ceremony Transition

Current 9th Graders: Fall 2026

Current 8th Graders: Spring 2027

Current 7th Graders: Fall 2027

Current 6th Graders: Spring 2028

As part of this new approach, parents will be invited and expected to attend and participate with their children in certain Faith Formation sessions. This reflects the Church's desire to support parents as the primary educators. Our hope is that this shared experience will strengthen family faith at home, foster meaningful conversations about faith and build a deeper sense of community within our parish. Please contact Lori Ryan, Confirmation Coordinator, with any questions (reled7-8@stmarysimsbury.org).

Parish Events & Announcements

New Altar Server Training

Sunday, 9/27 @1:00 PM

Calling all boys and girls in 4th grade or higher!!! We are offering Altar Server training in September. This is a wonderful way to become more involved in the Mass.

Please join the training session on Sunday, 9/27 at 1:00 PM in the church.

Questions? Contact Pam

Carter at

smaltarserverscheduler@gmail.com.



Parish Communion Breakfast

Save The Date! Sunday, 10/11 after the 9:30 Mass

Join your fellow parishioners for a Communion Breakfast in the Parish Center on Sunday, 10/11, hosted by Knights of Columbus Council 2758. We will gather for the 9:30 Mass, followed by breakfast and fellowship in the Parish Center. Our guest speaker is Fr. Anthony Federico, who will share reflections with us on vocations.

9:30 AM— Holy Mass

10:30 AM—Breakfast & Fellowship

11:00 AM—Presentation — Fr. Federico

All parishioners and their families are most welcome. For more information, please contact: Lee Barrett at 860.605.0567 or barrett@bcg.name.

Volunteers Needed

Saturday, 9/12 @ Cathedral of St. Joseph

Volunteers are needed to assist with the Lourdes in a Day Pilgrimage. Please contact Mark Sullivan @ (860)523-1405 for more information.

Thank You for a Beautiful Summer of Sacred Rest!

A heartfelt thank you to the 65 parishioners who participated in our Summer Sacred Rest Series! Your presence and participation helped create meaningful opportunities for prayer, reflection, and connection with God. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with participants describing the experience as “*deeply beautiful*,” “*helpful and beautiful*,” and “*thank you beyond words*.”

We are especially grateful to our presenters, Lisa Hudkins, Sean Hughes, and Father Stephen, for sharing their wisdom, faith, and gifts with us. And a special thank you to our musicians—Anita Mundy, Sam Gough, Charlene Poirier, Marcie Swift, Jeff Ryan, Nicole Levesque and Katie Walsh—whose beautiful music helped create a prayerful and peaceful atmosphere for our series.

And there is more to come! Look for two additional Continuing Education opportunities open to the entire parish community during the coming season, as well as another series next summer. Thank you for being part of this special journey. We look forward to continuing to pray, learn, and grow together as a parish community!

With gratitude,
St. Mary's Stephen Ministry

Children's Offerings

At each Sunday Mass, a basket will be placed in front of the altar. Children are invited to bring up a non-perishable food item as their offering while the ushers are taking up the collection from the congregation. Children learn things best by doing and practicing.



Bereavement Ministry

Wednesdays Starting 9/30 (10 Weeks)

1:00 PM –2:30 PM in Parish Library

The Bereavement Ministry is offering a 10 week program called “We Care and Gather in Fellowship”. (No sessions are planned on 11/11 and 11/25). We will provide The New Day Journal: A journey from grief to healing for people coping with the loss of a loved one as a guide for our readings, discussions and journaling and as a personal aid in processing grief.

Some questions that may come to mind:

- “May I attend a few sessions?” Yes, however, attending the complete program is suggested.
- “May I join at any point?” Yes, when best for you.

To join us, please call our parish office at 860-658-7627 and a facilitator will return your call to answer further questions.

Parish Events & Announcements

Adult Confirmation

Calling all Catholic adults who have been baptized and made First Holy Communion but never received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Archdiocese of Hartford is holding an Adult Confirmation Ceremony at the Cathedral of St. Joseph on Tuesday, 10/27 at 7 PM. If you would like to participate, please contact Fr. Stephen at the Parish Office for more details. Preparation Sessions will start soon, so don't delay!!!

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ryan and Catherine Egan who were married into Christ this past week.



Special Offering for Colombia Earthquake and Nepal Mudslides

Over the next two weekends we will be accepting donations to assist victims of these two recent natural disasters in the lives of our global neighbors. Special collection boxes will be at the doors of the church for a free-will offering. Please make checks payable to St. Mary's Church or give using e-giving online. Thank you for your compassion and generosity!



Prayer Pew Ministry

What Parishioners Are Experiencing

Parishioners who have spent a few moments in prayer with our Prayer Pew Ministers have shared how meaningful it is to have someone simply listen and pray with them. Sometimes those few minutes can bring a sense of peace, comfort, or renewed hope. If you have never tried it, we invite you to come forward—you may be surprised by what a gift shared prayer can be. 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 name tags.



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, 9/6 (fruits & desserts)

Hartford Shelter: Sunday, 9/13 (non-perishable)

Simsbury Food Closet: Sunday, 9/27(non-perishable)

Pasta Meals & Salads Needed

Tuesday, 9/29

Please volunteer to prepare food at your home for the food insecure in Hartford. Food may be dropped off in the lower level fridge at St. Mary's 9/27 – 9/28. We also need two volunteers to serve the food. 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 the link above to sign-up.

Mercy Shelter Undergarment Drive

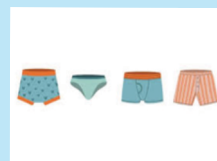
Friday 9/11 - Sunday 9/20

There is a great need at Mercy Shelter for new undergarments. After showering, residents and non-residents are often forced to use dirty undergarments or use none at all. Please consider donating the following items to the large box in the Magowan Center.

Women's Underwear (sizes: Med/Large)

Men's Briefs or Boxers (sizes: Med/Large/Xlarge)

St. Mary's has been working with Mercy Shelter for over 40 years with meals and food collections. Please consider helping with this simple basic need. Together we can make a difference. Thank you for your continued support. Our goal this year is 1500 pieces.





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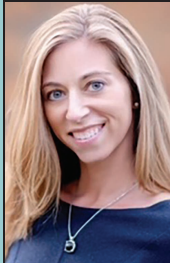


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