



Saint Mary Parish



Keeping Us Connected Newsletter

November 3, 2023

"Eternal rest grant unto them,

O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them."

- Introit to the Requiem Mass

Dear Saint Mary Friends,

In November the Church devotes special attention to those who have died and await heaven. From our catechism we know that the living have two specific duties regarding them: the Corporal Work of Mercy "to bury the dead," and the Spiritual Work of Mercy "to pray for the dead."



Angel leading a soul from Purgatory to Heaven

In this regard, the Mystical Body of Christ takes the Scripture seriously. Second Maccabees notes that after a fierce battle Judas Maccabeus sent a collection to Jerusalem for a sacrificial offering on behalf of his dead soldiers. *In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch*

as he had the resurrection in mind.... Thus, he made atonement for the dead that they might be absolved from their sin. (12:43-46)

Similarly, a sincere cry from the depths of each of us has been prayed at wakes and burials, that our beloved dead may be purified and to speed their journey to Heaven. Most importantly, we offer the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on behalf of the deceased at the Mass of Christian Burial.

Why? The Catechism of the Catholic Church gives this serious teaching: *“Each man receives his eternal retribution in his immortal soul at the very moment of his death, in a particular judgement that refers his life to Christ: either entrance into the blessedness of heaven- through purification or immediately, or immediate and everlasting damnation.” (CCC:1022).*

Those who have lived in God's grace and friendship and are perfectly purified enter into Heaven immediately on death while those who die in God's grace and friendship but still imperfectly so, will first undergo purification. The Church gives the name 'Purgatory' to this reality.

Thanks be to God for his mercy purifying us in his life even after death!



But even without the catechism's authoritative teaching, praying for those who have died not in mortal sin makes absolute sense. I am meant for heaven, meant to be in God's presence. So what is needed?

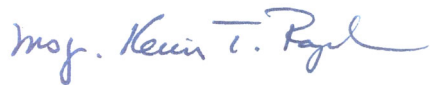
If when I die an angry, impatient man, what happens to that anger and impatience? If I die with some attachment to lust, what happens to that impurity in me? If I die with some attachment to pride, sloth, envy, etc., what happens to those sins in me? They are still a part of me and before being able to enter the presence of God, to fully enjoy the beatific vision for eternity, must be purified and transformed into holiness.

St. John Henry Newman proposes that when standing before the Lord at our deaths, and seeing our true state, we will beg for Purgatory.

And so this month is dedicated to the holy souls being purified. We on earth can help them in their purification. The Church from the very beginning has always cared for the dead by offering Masses, prayers, almsgiving, indulgences and works of penances on their behalf.

Such is the beauty of membership in the Mystical Body of Christ.

Many blessings,



Msgr. Kevin T. Royal

Pastor

Also in this Newsletter...

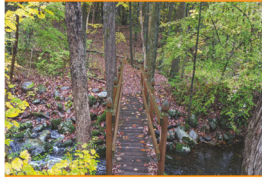


Weekly Bulletin

Sunday, November 5

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

[VIEW](#)



Deacon Reflection

Become a Bridge Builder

by Deacon Rick Lawlor

[READ](#)



Free Catholic Content

[THIS WEEK](#)



This Week's Video

From the Requiem Mass



Guatemalan Mission

Catholic Action Newsletter Update

[READ](#)

Donate - help them purchase a new school building!



Charity, Pizza & Family Games

Saturday, November 4, 5:30PM

[Register](#)

*Brought to you by St. Joseph Faith & Family Ministry
Flyer*



Drive-Thru Collection Event

Saturday, November 11, 11am - 1pm

In front of St. Mary School

Bins are outside the School Hall as well

INFO



Senior Luncheon

Monday, November 13

Please RSVP by 11/8

INFO



Complimentary Life Planning Workshop

Sunday, November 15, 7pm

Holy Family Hall

INFO



Bake Sale

Sunday, November 19

Sponsored by the Mother's Club

INFO



Wreath Sale

November 25/26 at Masses

or order now for delivery - Boy Scout Troop 76

ORDER

PARISH LIFE

Mass Schedule

Confessions

Baptisms

Funerals & Anointing of the Sick

Adoration Chapel

Prayer List

Volunteer - Check out our bulletin for a list of our Ministries

Online Giving

Annual Bishop's Appeal - One in Christ - brochure - video

Campus Map

More at www.smcr.org

LINKS & UPDATES

Medicare Counseling

Movie - Thea Bowman's Journey to Sainthood Nov 5

Veteran's Day Concert

Volunteer as an Usher/Greeter

Mentorship Program - Career help for young adult Catholics (18-39)

Explore the Catholic Faith - RCIA

VERITAS Catholic Radio Network

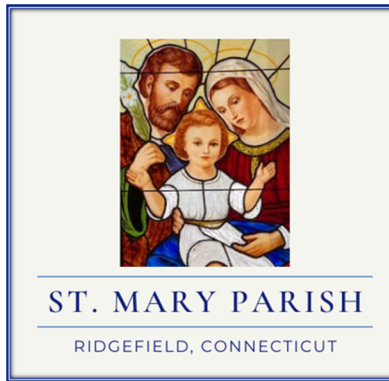
St. Mary Parish

55 Catoonah Street

Ridgefield CT 06877

203-438-6538

www.smcr.org



St. Mary Parish | 55 Catoonah Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

[Unsubscribe bdwallace@diobpt.org](mailto:bdwallace@diobpt.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by chaitsch@smcr.org powered by

