"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

--John 15:5
I am the vine, you are the branches

The symbol of the vine is found frequently in the Old Testament. The people of Israel are compared to a vine, which is supposed to bear abundant fruit. Jesus adopts the image to speak of the way in which he provides life for those who believe and follow him. He himself is the vine, and his followers are the branches. The process of growth and of bearing fruit is watched over by the Father, to whom the vine belongs.

The image of the vine is particularly effective because the branches cannot live without their attachment to the vine, neither can they be fruitful without the goodness provided by the vine. To live with Christ is to bear fruit. It is in drawing strength from Jesus that Christians can bear fruit in faith and good works.

The image also has its negative side. Branches which do not bear fruit are removed by the vinedresser and they are burnt. This development of the image invites us to consider the consequences of a refusal to be nourished by the kindness of God.

In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles we hear of Paul’s attempts to join the Christian community after his conversion. It is only in connection with the people of Christ that we can truly be part of the vine. Through his resurrection Christ gives life to a new people.

How can you derive more strength from the vine which is Christ?

How important do you consider it is to belong to the vine of Christ?

We pray for those who see faith as an individual pursuit.

We pray for a deeper sense of belonging in Christ.
MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, May 3
1 Cor 15:1-8/Jn 14:6-14
7:00 AM St. Mary Youth
12:30 PM Loretta Schmid

TUESDAY, May 4
Acts 14:19-28/Jn 14:27-31a
7:00 AM Kathryn M. Lyons
5:00 PM Louise Main

WEDNESDAY, May 5
Acts 15:1-6/Jn 15:1-8
7:00 AM St. Mary Parishioners
12:30 PM Intentions of Carolyn Haitsch

THURSDAY, May 6
Acts 15:7-21/Jn 15:9-11
7:00 AM Michael Melonophy
5:00 PM Tina Salvestini

FRIDAY, May 7
Acts 15:22-31/Jn 15:12-17
7:00 AM Kathryn M. Lyons
9:00 AM Joseph Casamento
12:30 PM Tara Cousineau

SATURDAY, May 8
Acts 16:1-10/Jn 15:18-21
8:00 AM Alice & George Besse
4:30 PM Frances Augustine

SUNDAY, May 9

CHURCH
7:30 AM Conrad and Mary Sponberg
9:15 AM Jo Moriarty
11:00 AM Ryan Adams

HALL
10:30 AM Rose Lentini
12:00 PM Margaret McPartland
5:00 PM St. Mary Parishioners

Please continue to support our Parish with Online Giving. Go to our website to sign up. Call the Parish office if you would like assistance. Offertory can be mailed to St. Mary Parish, 55 Catoonah St, Ridgefield, CT 06877. Thank you!

BAPTISMS
We welcome to the Family of God and our Parish Family Leon Frederick Matos & Charles Michael Carriero who were recently baptized.

Sr. Joan Honorary Fund
Helping Parishioners in Need
Click here for more information

Prayers for the Sick
Click Here to make a prayer request and to see those on the prayer list.

Candle Intentions
A Church Altar Candle is Burning in Loving Memory of Rose Lentini

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
1-800-273-8255, suicidepreventionlifeline.org
May Crowning

May is traditionally a month devoted to Mary, kicked off with a "May Crowning." Young girls of the parish up to fifth grade are invited to bring a flower from your own garden to Mass on Sunday, May 2nd! The oldest girl at the 10:30 Mass will place a flower crown; followed by a short procession with song—and then everyone will be invited to add their flowers to a vase next to our Blessed Mother and kneel before her for a moment of prayer.

Office of Youth & Family @ St Mary Parish
Youth & Family Ministries / Religious Education / Sacramental Prep  www.smcr.org/youth-family
Laura Danner / Administrator ldanner@smcr.org

Monsignor Royal is going to be on the radio!

8:00am on Monday, May 3rd – Msgr Royal will be live on the air from the Veritas studio during their spring pledge drive.

1350 AM
Tune in – and call in! – to show your support. The number is (833) 88-TRUTH, or (833) 888-7884.

Veritas is the only 24-hour Catholic station in this area. Listen on the radio or by using the mobile app on your phone.

CALLING ALL COOKS!

Join our Dorothy Day House of Hospitality volunteers to occasionally prepare salads and/or a tray of food for the main course that we serve the third Sunday of each month. Please contact mbreilly28@gmail.com if interested. Thank you!

Pre-purchase St. Mary Cemetery Space
"I felt good knowing I was sparing my family the burden of making this decision at a difficult time in their lives." Secure your family heritage at St. Mary Parish. Visit www.smcr.org for more info and FAQs or call Donna Barber at the cemetery office, 203-438-3606.

Jesus the True Vine

Why does Jesus speak of himself as the true vine? The image of the vine was a rich one for the Jews since the land of Israel was covered with numerous vineyards. It had religious connotations to it as well. Isaiah spoke of the house of Israel as "the vineyard of the Lord" (Isaiah 5:7). Jeremiah said that God had planted Israel "as his choice vine" (Jeremiah 2:21). While the vine became a symbol of Israel as a nation, it also was used in the scriptures as a sign of degeneration. Isaiah's prophecy spoke of Israel as a vineyard which "yielded wild grapes" (see Isaiah 5:1-7). Jeremiah said that Israel had become a "degenerate and wild vine" (Jeremiah 2:21). When Jesus calls himself the true vine he makes clear that no one can claim their spiritual inheritance through association with a particular people or bloodline. Rather, it is only through Jesus Christ that one can become grafted into the true "vineyard of the Lord." Jesus offers true life - the abundant life which comes from God and which results in great fruitfulness. How does the vine become fruitful? The vine dresser must carefully prune the vine before it can bear good fruit. Vines characteristically have two kinds of branches - those which bear fruit and those which don't. The non-bearing branches must be carefully pruned back in order for the vine to conserve its strength for bearing good fruit. Jesus used this image to describe the kind of life he produces in those who are united with him - the fruit of "righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17). Jesus says there can be no fruit in our lives apart from him. The fruit he speaks of here is the fruit of the Holy Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23). There is a simple truth here: We are either fruit-bearing or non-fruit-bearing. There is no in-between. But the bearing of healthy fruit requires drastic pruning. The Lord promises that we will bear much fruit if we abide in him and allow him to purify us. Do you trust in the Lord's abiding presence with you? defendpopefrancis.com
ST. MARY PARISH MEN’S MINISTRY
ZOOM from anywhere
to join us on Saturday mornings!
We would love to have you join our
dynamic MM meetings - Link
6:30-8:00 AM inspires us for the whole week!
The Men’s Ministry is a regular group of guys that help
each other to grow as men of prayer and together learn
more about our Catholic faith. To help us all on our
individual journeys, our group (and website Stmmm.org) offers resources to assist us in coping
with what life throws at us thru a deeper faith, a more
robust spiritual life, and friendly support network.

MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
We offer Catholic men and their families an
opportunity to explore their faith and share
God’s love through service to our priests, parish and
community. Join 2 million Knights around the world as
you share your time & talents. Learn more at
www.KOFC.org or contact Phil Del Giudice, Grand
Knight, at Compass_grp@yahoo.com.

PILGRIM VIRGIN
Our Lady’s message to the world: Do
penance, amend your life, offend
God no more and pray the Rosary
daily for world peace and the
conversion of sinners.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Adoration Chapel
OPEN DAILY
10:00 AM- 4:00 PM
Limited to 4 people at any one time
If the 4 places are full, a visitor must wait
outside or return at another time Chairs and
kneelers are safely distanced, and the air
conditioning and air circulation system works well.
Please remember to wear a face mask.

WEEDAY MASSES
Monday, 12:30 PM
Tuesday, 5:00 PM
Wednesday, 12:30 PM
Thursday, 5:00 PM
Friday, 12:30 PM
No Registration Required

C E M E T E R Y
203-438-3606
AD ORA T I O N
Joanne Brown
203-438-6538

We would love to tell you about what makes Saint
Mary School so special. For more information,
please contact principal Anna O’Rourke at (203)
438-7288, or visit www.smsridgefield.org.
THE WAY OF ST. JAMES
This documentary follows the journey of several pilgrims who differ in culture and religious faith but are united in their journey across the Camino de Santiago. Each of them is traveling toward the shrine of St. James the Apostle, whose feast day we celebrate this week.

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES WITH MARK HART
The feast day of Saints Philip and James reminds us of the impact that the Apostles made on the whole world. With Philip, James, and all the Apostles in mind, join Mark Hart in this refresher on the Book of Acts.

REACHING OUT TO TODAY’S CULTURE BY BISHOP ROBERT BARRON
Saints Philip and James each lived extraordinary lives of missionary zeal. In this insightful talk, Bishop Barron shares his advice on how to live similar lives of mission within a culture dominated by media and misconceptions about faith.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.
ARE YOU EXPERIENCING PANDEMIC FATIGUE?

Are you feeling exhausted from all the disruptions to life brought on by the pandemic? Are you or someone you know struggling with challenges like . . .

- ISOLATION AND LONELINESS
- ANXIETY OVER HEALTH
- GRIEF DUE TO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF LOSSES
- TENSION FROM JUGGLING WORK, CHILDREARING, AND SCHOOLING
- FINANCIAL STRAIN OR JOB LOSS
- UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE
- OTHER UNEXPECTED LIFE CHALLENGES?

If so, you don’t have to face it alone. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately—by phone, by video chat, or, if safely possible, in person—to offer care and support. It’s free and completely confidential. For more information, call our church office.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”
Matthew 11:28

For more information or to schedule a visit, contact one of the Ministry Leaders:
Jack Hughes 203-244-5228, jack2cruise@gmail.com
Marlys Rizzi, 203-448-8162, rizziclan@aol.com
SPRING FOR MOMS

AUCTION

Friday April 30 ~ Saturday May 1 ~ Sunday May 2

Celebrate moms and all the women who play an important role in our lives and the lives of our loved ones.
Hundreds of spectacular items ~ Browse! Bid! Buy Now!

Online
Auction opens 6pm Friday April 30
Auction closes 3pm Sunday May 2
Link to online auction will be available at
www.facebook.com/GALE.US.CT

In-person
12 – 6pm Saturday May 1
12 – 3pm Sunday May 2
At Villa Maria School
163 Sky Meadow Drive, Stamford, CT 06903

Pick up from Villa Maria School
12 – 6pm Saturday May 1
12 – 5pm  Sunday May 2

Thank you for your generosity in supporting grieving children and families

Mary Curley
Founder & Program Director
mary@gale-us.org
https://www.gale-us.org

Cell 203-550-3250
Office 203-438-6538
https://www.facebook.com/GALE.US.CT
Malta House Toy
Drive
After all masses
MAY 1st/2nd

Toys will be available for parishioners to purchase and will be donated in your name to the Malta House nursery.

Toys range from $15 to $30

For questions or contactless donations, please contact

Christopher or Sharon D’Orso

thedorsos@comcast.net

203-770-5638

Malta House is the only home for pregnant women above the age of 18 in Fairfield County, and one of a limited number of programs for young homeless mothers and their babies.

maltahouse.org
Please join us for the next webinar in our 2021 *House Calls* Series. This live-streaming, one-hour long webinar will feature a brief presentation by our experts followed by a Q & A Session.

**Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

**4 pm**

**We’re making HOUSE CALLS**

**Series Moderator**

Christopher Lehrach, MD, MBA  
President, Nuvance Health Medical Practices

**The Nurses of Nuvance Health:**  
*Florence Would be Proud*

Dawn Martin, MS, BSN, RN, NEA-BC  
Chief Nursing Officer  
Danbury Hospital and New Milford Hospital

Christina McCulloch, MBA, BSN, RN  
Chief Nursing Officer  
Putnam Hospital and Sharon Hospital

Leslie Lincoln RN, DNP, NEA-BC, CNL  
Chief Nursing Officer  
Norwalk Hospital

Samantha Ingrao, BSN, RN  
Danbury Hospital

For convenient registration for any “House Calls” presentation, visit  
[www.webcasts.com/housecalls](http://www.webcasts.com/housecalls)
Annual Connecticut Catholic Men’s Conference

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, September 25, 2021

Conference Theme: The Most Holy Rosary

Website: www.ctcatholicmen.org (reserve tickets)
Location: New Britain Stadium (an outdoor venue)
Phone: 860-484-7950

A Day of Faith & Brotherhood
- Mass • Fraternity
- Adoration • Confession
- Dynamic Catholic Speakers
- Refreshments & Lunch
- Exhibitors
- Join other Men of Faith from all corners of Connecticut
- $45 Per Person
- Contact Deacon Rick Lawlor
- Email: dnlawlor@diobpt.org
  (203) 470-8084

2021 Additional Guest Speakers
- Fr. Elias-Mary-Mills, FFI
- Gary Zimak
- Dr. Blythe Kaufman

Dr. Ralph Martin
Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC
Spots are Still Open! Join Us!

BYZANTINE ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

WITH ICONOGRAPHER VERONICA ROYAL

July 26 – 30, 2021

St. Mary's Catholic Church
55 Catoonah Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Contact Roula Lee at roula.lee@yahoo.com

Join Veronica Royal for 5 days of prayer, individualized instruction, and lectures.

Learn to write/paint an icon according to the ancient techniques using contemporary mediums of gouache and acrylic.

The curriculum includes:
» Prayer
» Lectures on Iconography
» Drawing in the Byzantine style
» Icon painting using acrylic

“…I think it is promising that we are today witnessing a rebirth of Christian art... reconnecting with the art of the icon, of a Christian art that endures in the great norms of the iconological art of the past but that also extends to today’s experiences and vision...”
– Benedict XVI

royaliconstudio.com
Join us virtually!

May 7, 2021
by reserving your spot here:

Questions? Contact Kim Killoy,
203.610.2358,
kkilloy@maltahouse.org
Sr. Joan’s Honorary Fund
Helping St. Mary Parishioners in Financial Need

A generous donation was made to establish the Sr. Joan Honorary Fund to help Parishioners in financial need and to honor Sr. Joan Brennan who served at St. Mary Parish for many years and is fondly remembered by many.

Parishioners in need may contact the Board Members or Msgr. Royal to inquire

Since its inception, the fund has provided help with food, home mortgage & rental payments, home heating, auto repair, prescription & medical bills, and medical insurance.

Personal information is kept strictly confidential.

BOARD MEMBERS

Anita Barrios - anitabarri@aol.com
Becky Hurta - ledwithr@gmail.com
Nick Perna - nickperna@aol.com
Dick Camuso - rcamuso@comcast.net

Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to contribute to the fund, 203-438-6538, ext. 106.
ARE YOU CONSIDERING PLACING AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE ST. MARY WEEKLY BULLETIN?

Now is a great time to call and find out how your sponsorship can not only support our parish and our community, but grow your business at the same time!

Call 1.800.333.3166 today for details on this great opportunity!
Mallory’s Army Foundation
United Together In The Fight Against Bullying...
Don’t Just Teach Kindness... BE KINDNESS!
www.MallorysArmy.com
(973) 440-8657 • info@mallorysarmy.org
It’s easy to join our mailing list! Just send your email address by text message:
Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.

You may be asking yourself, “Who or what is Finding FABER?”

The Finding FABER app allows you to post real-time promotions/coupons, flash deals, information and listings at any time - 24/7, day or night! As a current sponsor, you should visit www.FindingFABER.com to get started! Your posts are available to the entire community, not only our parishioners! We encourage you to take advantage of this exciting, FREE resource! As with any new app, the more it is used the more exciting it becomes!

You may want to ask yourself, “Who is MALLORYSARMY?”

It’s easy to join our mailing list! Just send your email address by text message:
Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.

Parishioners:
If you visit your app store, and download the Finding FABER app, you can see and more importantly use, the deals and info posted by our bulletin sponsors! Just show your phone when you find a sponsor while using the app! The more the app is used, the better it will get!

Weekly Bulletin Sponsor:
In addition to your weekly bulletin advertisement, you also have FREE access to your very own Finding FABER account! The Finding FABER app allows you to post real-time promotions/coupons, flash deals, information and listings at any time - 24/7, day or night! As a current sponsor, you should visit www.FindingFABER.com to get started! Your posts are available to the entire community, not only our parishioners! We encourage you to take advantage of this exciting, FREE resource! As with any new app, the more it is used the more exciting it becomes!

To our bulletin sponsors for their support during the past year! Your continued support has not gone unnoticed by your parish community and is so appreciated!

American Red Cross

Make a Difference in Your Community
VOLUNTEER with the American Red Cross
Join today at redcross.org/Volunteer

Thank you to all our sponsors for your support during the past year! Your continued support has not gone unnoticed by the American Red Cross and is so appreciated!

S O P O N S O R S  &  O U R  C O M M U N I T Y

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