

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday,	December 19, 2015
4:30 p.m.	In memory of Regina Sigda by her family
Sunday,	December 20, 2015
7:30 a.m.	Eugene Kupchik by his wife
9:30 a.m.	Louise DiRenzo by CADTC partners
11:00 a.m.	Sebastian "Mike" Motta by Lynda & Bob Bonato
Monday,	December 21, 2015
7:45 a.m.	William O'Connor by John & Tammis Duggan
Tuesday,	December 22, 2015
7:45 a.m.	Sebastian "Mike" Motta by Tom McCabe
Wednesday,	December 23, 2015
7:45 a.m.	Romeo Cyr by John & Tammis Duggan
Thursday,	December 24, 2015
4:00 p.m.	Sebastian "Mike" Motta
10:00 p.m.	St. Mary Parish
Friday,	December 25, 2015
8:00 a.m.	Bob Slabinski by his wife Marilyn & family
10:00 a.m.	Eugene Rudiak by Bridie Rudiak, Elaine Searle & family
Saturday,	December 26, 2015
4:30 p.m.	Timothy Kelly by his family
Sunday,	December 27, 2015
7:30 a.m.	Mom, Dad, Joseph, Jr. & Robert Jr., Gondek by family
9:30 a.m.	James Rustic (3rd anniversary) by Anne Marie & Dean Rustic
11:00 a.m.	Jacqueline Lee by the Greiner family

Readings for the Week of December 20, 2015

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-8/Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14/Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Lk 1:67-79
Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-3, 11-13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17/Mt 10:17-22
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52

Calendar

12/21	7:00 p.m.	Legion of Mary— Gathering Space
12/24	10:00 p.m.	Mass Choir
12/27	9:30 a.m.	Mass Choir

The sanctuary candle will burn this week in memory of:

Ed Welcome

This is a venerable tradition and we ask you to keep him in your prayers.



Christmas Eve—Thursday, December 24

4:00, 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day—Friday, December 25

8:00, 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve, Thursday December 31

4:00 p.m.

New Year's Day—Friday, January 1

8:00, 10:00 a.m.

Men's Retreat

Join the men of St. Mary at Holy Family Retreat Center for a time of uplifting and relaxation. Place the date on your calendar and sign up at HolyFamilyRetreat.org/findyourparishweekend or call Bob Bonato at 673-5251. We'll be looking forward to seeing you there on Friday, Feb. 26 for supper.

Fellow Parishioners: Did you know that members of the **Legion of Mary** visit and bring Communion to patients at John Dempsey Hospital, to residents at Apple Rehab of Avon, to Avon Health Care Center, and to Touchpoints of Farmington? If you or a loved one are at any of these facilities and would like us to visit, please call: Kathy Dossot 860-673-3163-or Bob Murphy 860-673-9551-or Debbie Zengle 860-675-3678.

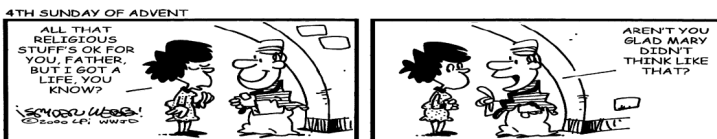
December 13— Parish Support

Weekly	\$11,561.00
Retired Fund for Religious	\$ 3,351.00

On-line giving report will resume in January. Due to early holiday bulletin submission, totals are unavailable.

4th Sunday of Advent

"Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste." What was the rush? Why did Mary go so quickly to visit her cousins Elizabeth and Zechariah? It's hard to know exactly what her purpose was, but one thing is clear: Mary and Elizabeth shared a special connection. Perhaps Mary was anxious to be in the company of someone who could understand her unusual situation. At this point, Mary was newly pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. The verses preceding today's reading tell us about the appearance of the Angel Gabriel and Mary's willingness to become the mother of the Messiah. Now, this child was already growing within her womb, but the whole thing was an incredible secret. Who would believe her? In whom could Mary confide the unbelievable events that had taken place? We know that at some point later, Joseph had a vision in a dream that allowed him to understand. But before that dream came, he was planning to part ways with Mary. It must have been during that difficult time that Mary went to see Elizabeth. And what joy that upon her arrival, Elizabeth immediately understood. "Blessed is the fruit of your womb," Elizabeth cried out. The same Holy Spirit who conceived Jesus in Mary's womb enlightened Elizabeth at this moment. What a consolation this must have been to Mary. This story reminds us of the importance of our own fellowship in the faith. Sharing our spiritual journey with other believers who are receptive to the Holy Spirit is meant to be a source of encouragement and strength. We are not supposed to be in this alone. As we worship and celebrate together with our faith community, may we share with each other the real joy of this sacred season.

**Defending Our Religious Liberty**

The Catholic Church is asking that the U.S. Supreme Court safeguard the rights afforded to us in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, so that we will have the freedom to serve the needy without violating our moral principles and without being penalized with fines. If you haven't done so already, please voice your opposition to the federal health care mandate by calling U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell at 202-205-5445, and your elected representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

**Who, What, Where, and When...**

The *Divine Mercy Holy Hour* will be celebrated at St. Ann's in Avon on Sunday, December 20 from 2:30—3:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend this special devotion.

If your marriage has become troubled and stressed, unloving or uncaring; even if you are divorced or separated but want to try again, the **Retrouvaille Program** can help. Retrouvaille provides tools to communicate better, resolve conflicts fairly and rediscover why you fell in love. The next Retrouvaille weekend is January 15—17. For information, call confidentially 1-800-470-2230, email 3001@retrouvaille.org for information and registration.

Hartford Catholic Engaged Encounter and the Office of Family Life will hold its **9th annual Marriage Enrichment Evening on Sat., Feb. 6, 2016**, from 5:00-9:00 p.m. at Mary Our Queen Church and Parish Center, 248 Savage St., Plantsville, CT. This year's program will begin with Mass, include dinner, prayer, reflection, and fun centered on the theme: "**A Sign for Our Times: The Witnessing Power of Sacramental Marriage.**" The keynote address will be given by Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Peter A. Rosazza. The cost is \$25.00 per couple and includes dinner. To register or obtain more information, contact Tom and Donna Finn at 860-302-1110, or email to dfinnmspt@sbcglobal.net. Please R.S.V.P. by Feb. 2, 2016

The rectory office will be closed on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25.

Merry
Christmas

Visit our parish website

www.stmary-unionville.org