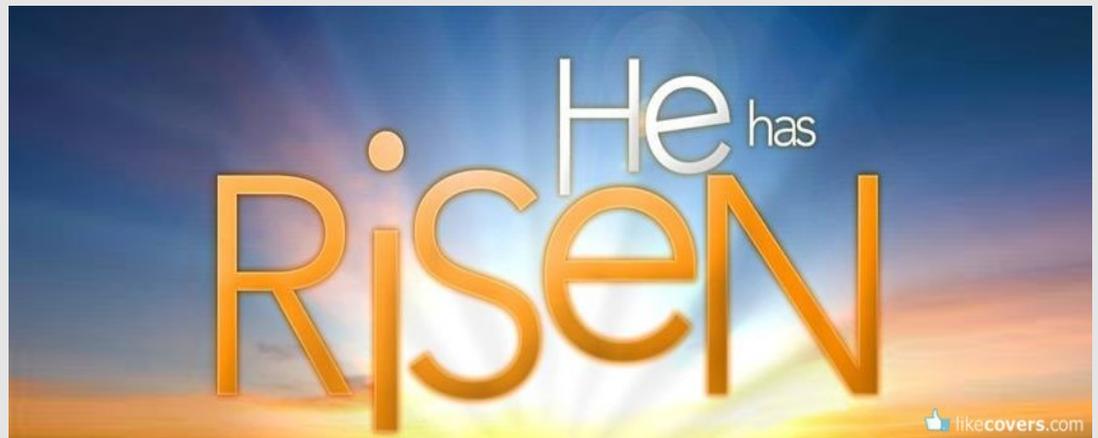


April 2016

Peer Connections

St. Mary Star of the Sea Youth Ministry



Easter 2016

"Christ is risen, Alleluia" the choir sang on Easter weekend. After all the preparation of Lent, Easter finally arrived. We listened intently as the Passion of our Lord was read on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. We watched with curiosity as members of the parish had their feet washed by our priest and deacon. We smiled with pride as new members were welcomed into the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday. And we celebrated with our church and family on Easter day. It would seem as though the celebration is over and we can return to our regularly scheduled lives but that is not so. We are challenged to spread the Good News to all those we meet through our actions and words. What can you do to share the love of Christ with everyone in your life?



Spring Service Project

1 Peter 4:10 says "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." On May 21st our Middle & High School Youth Ministry members and their outstanding adult leaders will travel a short way into Hartford and serve breakfast to those who are in need with Sparrow Ministries. Contact us today to sign up for this extraordinary service experience.

For more information about Sparrow Ministries visit their Facebook page [facebook.com/sparrowministrieshartford](https://www.facebook.com/sparrowministrieshartford)

Upcoming Events

- Middle & High School Youth Ministry Night — 4/16 @ 6pm
- Little Stars (Preschool) — 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24 @ 9:30am Mass
- Bowling & Laser Tag — 4/30 @ 6pm, cost \$20.00
- Spring Service Project — 5/21 @ 5:30AM
- Middle & High School Youth Ministry Night — 5/21 @ 6pm
- Trip to Lourdes Shrine in Litchfield — 6/12 (more details coming soon)
- Teen Weekend Retreat — 6/17-6/19, cost \$175.00 (8th grade and up)
- Family Movie Night — 7/16 @ 7pm
- Soul Fest — 8/4-8/6

Good Friday Means Nothing Without Easter Sunday

How a connected view of the Gospel requires both the Cross and the resurrection.



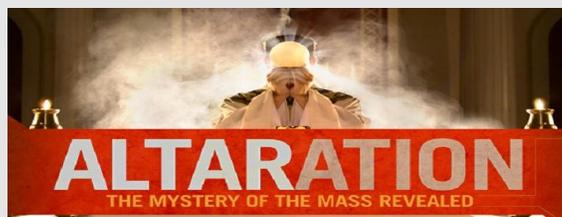
...one of the most befitting images for the Gospel story is that of a Celtic knot. In a Celtic knot, every strand is completely interlaced with every other strand. There is no beginning or ending. Until we see the Gospel as a Celtic-like knot—completely interwoven with no definitive start or finish—we will always have an incomplete picture.

The full “knot” of the Gospel connects the entire life of Jesus, from birth to teachings to miracles to death to resurrection to ascension to the second coming and to the End of Ends when God is All in All. The Gospel has a goal: to create the Kingdom of God, and one element of that “good news” is that it begins now. With you and me. In the here and now. It is all tied into the Gospel knot of grace.

Read at relevantmagazine.com/god/practical-faith/good-friday-means-nothing-without-easter-sunday

The Celebration of Mass: Yay or Nay?

So you are a teen coming to mass each weekend with your family. Some people around you seem really deep in prayer but you aren't so sure. You're here and you say the prayers but why is mass so important. *Do you think mass is boring?* It's okay, no one is looking or listening, you can answer truthfully. *Why do you think mass is boring?* This might be harder to answer. Is it because you don't understand what is happening. You could most likely come up with a whole bunch of questions. But the point is you have questions, which means you don't quite understand the mass. Which brings us back to the original question. If you understand the mass, you may never find it boring again. The Youth Ministry program is planning on bringing you a study, *AltARATION*, designed to answer your questions about the mass.



“Through a unique learning experience, including powerful cinematography and workbook resources, teens will come to see the Mass and the priesthood in a dramatically new way. *AltARATION* is designed to stir thought, create conversation, dispel myths, and inspire young souls to a deep and lasting love for the Mass. The goal of *AltARATION* is not to fill teens' heads with information but to pierce their hearts with transformation.”

Parent's Corner

Are you being called to volunteer?

Have you felt God nudging you to volunteer your time? Or maybe you volunteer a lot already but God is pulling you to volunteer in other places, such as Church. Do you have young kids and feel volunteering isn't possible right now? Believe it or not we have the perfect volunteer position for people in all walks of life. No time, young kids...try volunteering once a month in our Little Stars program (commitment is only 1.5 hours during the 9:30 Sunday mass). Do you have more time during the weekdays while your kids are at school and you have the desire to learn more about God and his path for you...help us start a women's bible/book study in the fall for once a week. If you are interested in helping out within the Youth Ministry team as we start to grow please contact us, these are just a few of our opportunities.

The more you read (or listen), the more you know

The Lighthouse Kiosk has brand new CD's and books, check it out. There are great ones on Saints, as well as some old favorites for the kids to listen to in the car.

Wanted!

If you own an old CD player that you don't use anymore and would like to donate to our Little Stars program please let us know. We would love to offer music for the children as they arrive.

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