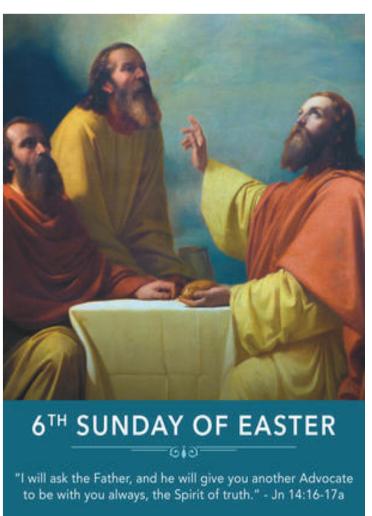
# Precious Blood Parish

**St. Agnes Church** 400 Merwin Avenue Milford, CT 06460



St. Mary Church
(Parish Office)
70 Gulf Street

Milford, CT 06460



Precious Blood Parish is a Roman Catholic community of faith in Milford, Connecticut rooted in the Word of God and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. We are missionary disciples who seek to bring the presence and the message of Jesus Christ to others through prayer, faith formation and assisting the needy through ministries grounded in the works of mercy.

### We Welcome All Visitors

### **SUNDAY MASSES**

Saturday Vigil 4:30 pm St. Mary 5:00 pm St. Agnes

### Sunday

7:30 am St. Agnes 8:30 am St. Mary 10: 00 am St. Mary 10:30 am St. Agnes 11:30 am St. Mary 4:30 pm St. Mary

### **DAILY MASSES**

7:00 am St. Mary 7:30 am (Saturday) St. Mary 9:00 am (Mon-Fri) St. Agnes

### **RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 3:30 pm—4:30 pm St. Agnes Monday 6:00 pm—7:00 pm St. Mary

preciousbloodparishmilford.org (203) 878-3571 Fax (203) 877-8741

Bulletin Notices: bulletin@pbpmilford.org





### PRECIOUS BLOOD PARISH, MILFORD

### Mass Intentions for the Week

### St. Agnes Church

Mon May 18 Pope St. John I

9:00 No Intention

Tue May 19 Easter Weekday

9:00 No Intention

Wed May 20 St. Bernardine of Siena

9:00 No Intention

Thu May 21 The Ascension of the Lord

9:00 No Intention

7:00 People of Precious Blood Parish

Fri May 22 St. Rita of Cascia

9:00 No Intention

Sat May 23 Easter Weekday

Vigil

5:00 John Krutz by Sandy & Jim Swanson

Sun May 24 Seventh Sunday of Easter

7:30 *People of Precious Blood Parish* 10:30 No Intention

Readings for the week of May 17, 2020

Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20

[1]/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21

Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b

[cf. 4a]/Jn 15:26—16:4a

Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8

[7c]/Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12,

13, 14/Jn 16:12-15

Thursday: Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [cf. 2b]/

Jn 16:16-20

Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph

1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [8a]/Jn 16:20

Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10 [8a]/Jn

16:23b-28

Next Sunday: Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7,

8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

7th Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:12-14/Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8

[13]/1 Pt 4:13-16/Jn 17:1-11a

#### A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

In today's gospel Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure. Family life is a series of departures. As we mature and grow older we transition from the familiar to the new unknown. Today Jesus assures us we are not alone in these transitions. "I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you."

### St. Mary Church

Mon May 18 Pope St. John I

7:00 No Intention

**Tue May 19 Easter Weekday** 

7:00 Marietta Ladra by her family

Wed May 20 St. Bernardine of Siena

7:00 Bernard & Ann Marie Lynch by Barbara

Thu May21 The Ascension of the Lord

7:00 No Intention

9:00 No Intention

12:05 No Intention

Fri May 22 St. Rita of Cascia

7:00 Joseph J. Palmer by Griffin & Gilbert Fam.

Sat May 23 Easter Weekday

7:30 Joseph Campagna, Jr. by Jeanne Campagna

Vigil

4:30 *Irene K. & Stanley Augustyn* by their family

Sun May 24 Seventh Sunday of Easter

8:30 Dorothy & Walter Gerwein by their family

10:00 Paul Sabo by The Falcone Family

11:30 The Sirico Family by the family

4:30 No Intention



#### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

"My Jesus, I believe that Thou art present in the most Holy Sacrament. I love thee about all things, and I desire to receive Thee into my soul. Since I can not now receive thee sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace thee, as if thou wert already there, and unite myself wholly to Thee; never permit me to be separated from Thee."

#### SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends:

This sixth week of the Easter Season, in a strange year when we did not celebrate Easter in its usual way due to the viral pandemic, brings us

the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, which falls this Thursday, May 21. It may be a sign of hope that this liturgical celebration comes just a day after Governor Lamont begins to lift some of the restrictions that have been in place since the middle of March or even earlier. At this time, alas, we still await word on when (and how) our churches will be opened to the people for public liturgical celebrations. That decision rests with Archbishop Blair, but we can do our part by being as patient as possible, as flexible as possible, all the while praying for the restrictions to be eased.

We observe the Ascension of the Lord on the fortieth day after Easter in line with what Luke tells us in the Acts of the Apostles, namely that "[Jesus] presented himself alive to [the disciples] by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God." What Luke seems to indicate is that the Risen Lord was not with the disciples at every moment during those forty days, but appeared as he wished to them to reassure and strengthen them in their faith. After forty days, the appearances ceased and as Luke tells it, this was preceded by their witnessing Jesus being lifted up to heaven, a cloud taking him from their sight. The disciples, we are told, remained there for some time, looking up to heaven, until they were told by two "men dressed in white garments" (angels?) that they should not stay there looking up, for this same Jesus would return one day in the same way as they had seen him taken up, an obvious reference to the return of Jesus in glory on the Day of Judgment.

The Ascension can leave us with mixed feelings as well. Like the disciples on that mountain that day, we look with longing for the Lord, wondering if he is there and if he cares, or if he has just abandoned us. This sense of absence and abandonment can be very much countered by the text we read this year from Matthew's Gospel, which does not speak of Jesus leaving but *remaining* with his disciples until the end of time. As Matthew has it, Jesus says, "And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

The Ascension of the Lord is a moment of transition. Jesus no longer appears among us in his visible glorified body, but he still is with us as he has promised. He is with us in his Eucharistic presence, even if at this time we can not receive Holy Communion. The church remains open both at St. Mary's and St. Agnes for hours each day.

We can stop in and make a visit to the Lord, ever present in the tabernacle, and find comfort in that. As the Venerable Fulton J. Sheen once said when asked about what happened during his daily holy hour before the tabernacle, "I look at Jesus, and he looks back at me." We can still connect with the Risen Lord in prayer, in acts of service and love for those around us, and in other ways. We are not alone, abandoned, lost or forgotten.

On a more personal note, I am aware of the generous sacrifices that many have made in mailing in or dropping off their weekly envelopes. I know what they mean to you, how they express your devotion to and connection with your parish. For those sacrifices, I say a heartfelt *thank you*.

It is also important to note that, while the parish offices are closed, we are still available to you, accepting telephone calls and emails, and are willing to do whatever we can for you in these most unusual times. If you need a Mass card or would like to arrange for a Mass to be celebrated for a loved one or a friend in need, just give us a call at (203) 878-3571 and we will be happy to assist you. Both myself and Deacon John are usually in the rectory most of the day, and if nothing else, we would be happy to hear from you.

May God bless you all!

Par Jana Tr. Xersburg

While the school building is closed, St. Mary School is active as ever! The teachers are busy educating



students with grade specific distance learning plans & have been doing so longer than most other schools. At the same time the administration is constantly evaluating, adjusting, & providing training, & on top of that,

coming up with creative ways for their school families to stay virtually connected! Adjusting their sails, keeping the faith & delivering the best education they can in this challenging environment.

St. Mary School is actively accepting applications for next year. Check out their Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages to see what they are all about. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more email <a href="mailto:info@smsmilford.com">info@smsmilford.com</a>. <a href="mailto:www.saintmaryschoolmilford.org">www.saintmaryschoolmilford.org</a>.

**Preschool** has added a 5 full-day option for children who are 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2020. This is in addition to the 3-day classes. For information or to apply, please use the above sites.



Pope Francis has sent a letter to the faithful of the world in which he recommends saying the following prayers, before and after the recitation of the rosary. O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the

Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith. "Protectress of the Roman people," you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of the Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger always from every danger, O Glorious Blessed Virgin.

#### The second prayer, for after the recitation:

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God, in the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection. Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes toward us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment. Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your Divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust. Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health. Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests, who in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone. Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity. Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future. Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need.

#### PARISH CLERGY

Rev. Aidan N. Donahue, Pastor Rev. Sam John, Parochial Vicar Rev. Lijo Thomas, Parochial Vicar Deacon Nicholas Genovese Deacon John Hoffman Deacon Paul Jennings

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Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need.

Jordan Grassmann USN,

Capt. Stephen Shumaker, Michael A. Eno USN, SR Justin Plantamura USN, John Henry Phelan, Alec Rossetti MA2USN, Maj. Patrick T. Horvat, Capt. Richard Brantley, SSgt. Michael Foss, Lt. Col. Jason Dymond, SSgt. Armando Lizasuain

CPO, Joshua Ehret PolUSN, Dakota Owen USA, Colin O'Sullivan USAF, Pfc. Daniel Hewston, Spec. Anthony Olenski, William F. Gilson USAF,

SSR Matthew Hunt USN, Pfc. Ron Murray,

CDR Matthew Fanning, Charles J. Grant,

Maj. Jonathan Rembetsy, 2nd Lt. Brendan Hayes, Col Andrew Whiskeyman, MSgt Carlie Blacklidge, Michael Casey USN

Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer. Mary, consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course. To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

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- William Ewart Gladstone, Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

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