

Precious Blood Parish

St. Agnes Church
400 Merwin Avenue
Milford, CT 06460



St. Mary Church
(Parish Office)
70 Gulf Street
Milford, CT 06460

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

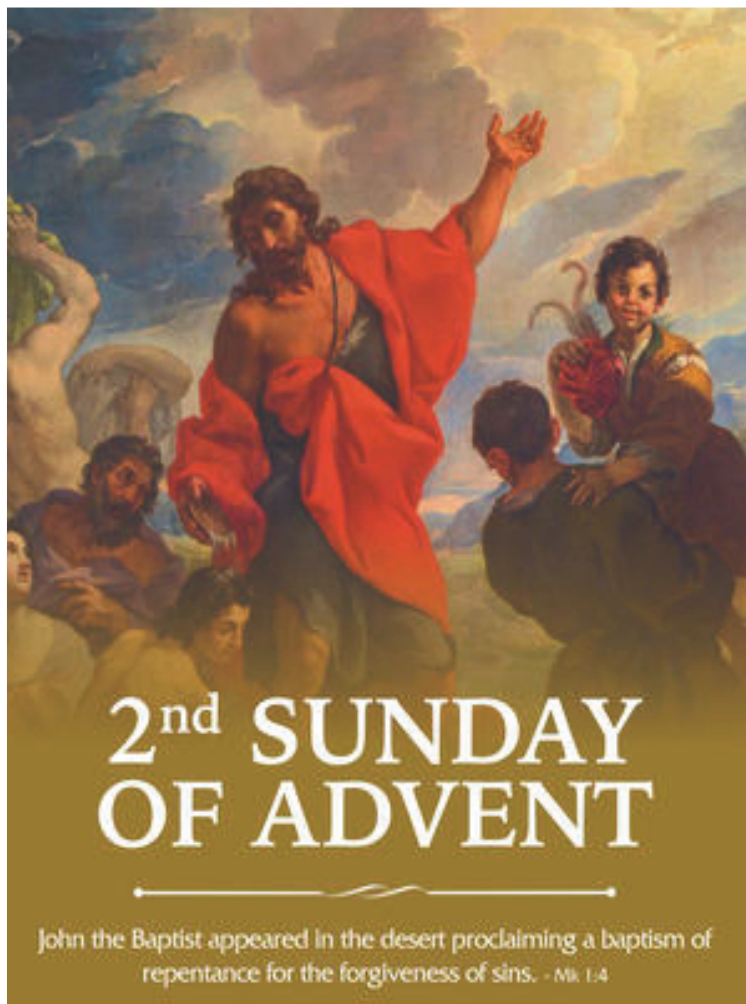
7:00 am St. Mary
7:30 am (Saturday) St. Mary
9:00 am (Mon-Fri) St. Agnes

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30 pm—4:30 pm St. Agnes
Monday 6:00 pm—7:00 pm St. Mary
(Except Holidays)

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

Bulletin Notices
bulletin@pbpmilford.org



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.





PRECIOUS BLOOD PARISH, MILFORD

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Agnes Church

Mon December 7 St. Ambrose

9:00 *Carol Ruggiero* by her husband

Tue December 8 Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation

9:00 *People of Precious Blood Parish*

Wed December 9 St. Juan Diego

9:00 *Health and Blessings for Jo Machowski*

Thu December 10 Advent Weekday

9:00 *Bill English* by The Wong Family

Fri December 11 St. Damasus I

9:00 *Carrie Gabriel & The Gabriel & Grillo Families*

Sat December 12

Vigil

5:00 *Gloria Geer* by her husband

Sun December 13 Third Sunday of Advent

7:30 *Jean Mosher* by her family and friends

10:30 *Carl and Joan Rocco and Alex Conte*

Readings for the week of December 6, 2020

Sun: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Mon: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

Tue: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Wed: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30

Thu: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15

Fri: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19

Sat: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39

Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Mary's appearance to Juan Diego in a village outside Mexico City on December 9, 1531 is a powerful reminder that God accepts all peoples. In these days when we hear so much about God's preferential option for the poor, Our Lady of Guadalupe reminds us that God's love for, and identification with, the poor is an age-old truth that stems from the gospel itself.



St. Mary Church

Mon December 7 St. Ambrose

7:00 *Marie Palmer* by The Griffin & Gilbert Fam.

Tue December 8 Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation

7:00 *Vincent Rossi* by Joe and Mary Ann Walsh

12:05 *Spiritual & Physical Healing of Matt. Tirrell*

Wed December 9 St. Juan Diego

7:00 No Intention

Thu December 10 Advent Weekday

7:00 *Nick & Mickey Woyciesjes* by their family

Fri December 11 St. Damasus I

7:00 *Lou and Martha Seelig* by their family

Sat December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:30 *Bronislawa Siwiec* by Michalina

Vigil

4:30 *People of Precious Blood Parish*

Sun December 13 Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 *Ida Stantig* by Joe & Tatiana Monteleone

10:00 *Beatrice Brennan Bishop* by Sacramone Fam.

11:30 *Joan Boynton* by Mary & Michael

4:30 *Bob Farina* by his wife



The Sanctuary Lamp
Week of December 6, 2020
Is in Memory of *Margaret Conlon*



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

"My Jesus, I believe that Thou art present in the most Holy Sacrament. I love Thee above 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."



"Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; seek peace, and follow after it.

- Psalm 34:13-14

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dear Friends:

As we near the middle of the Advent season, our thoughts turn increasingly toward the celebration of Christmas, especially its celebration in this most unusual of years. This is the year that saw the closure of schools, many businesses, and all churches for at least several months, in the case of churches, the middle of March to the beginning of June. By closure, I mean that there were no public services offered in churches. Both of our churches, however, remained open for long hours each day for private prayer and visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

We resumed public worship on June 8 with the return of weekday Masses as well as funeral Masses and weddings. We also resumed the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, making confession available at its regular times. On the first weekend of July, we resumed the celebration of weekend Masses, albeit somewhat differently, with limited crowds, no singing, and some alteration in normal procedures, such as no processions, no passing of the collection basket, the wearing of masks or facial coverings, the use of hand sanitizers. We also arranged for the regular cleaning and sanitizing of the churches after Masses. The objective has remained the same since the return to church and regular worship: maintaining the health and the safety of all who come to our churches.

With that in mind, Christmas presents a particular challenge, a particular difficulty. In an ordinary year, using last Christmas as an example, we welcome over four thousand people, yes **4000 people**, to nine Christmas Masses, six at St. Mary's (including one in the school gymnasium), three at St. Agnes. This year, due to restrictions on churches imposed by Governor Lamont due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we can allow no more than one hundred (100) people into church for any one Mass. That means that we will be able to have no more than nine hundred people for Christmas Masses. Even a conservative estimate would hold that more than nine hundred people will come to church on Christmas. Even if half our usual numbers come, we will be grappling with a serious problem, the problem of being forced to turn people away from church because a given Mass is filled. Some churches make use of sign up apps on-line or reservations for Mass attendance. The problem with those ideas is that many of the people who tend to come to church on Christmas do not come regularly during the year. They may not be aware of the need to register ahead or to make a reservation. The result of this could be chaos at the doors of our churches on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning.

All of this weighed heavily upon my mind (and my heart, too, I might add). Taking all of this into careful consideration and being mindful of the provision in the policy of the Archdiocese regarding the reopening of the churches, namely that "if one cannot open the church safely, one should not reopen," I have decided that we will not offer public Masses this year on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day at either St. Mary's or St. Agnes' churches. There is simply no possible way to do so safely. The churches will close at 2:00 PM on Christmas Eve (Thursday) and reopen at the normal hours on Saturday morning. Please note: this applies only to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Otherwise, the regular parish schedule remains in effect for weekday and weekend Masses.

As was the case in the months when the churches were closed to public worship, the Masses scheduled will be celebrated privately by the priests, with the deacons assisting. All scheduled Mass intentions will be honored. We will try to arrange for a live-streamed Mass to be available, likely on Christmas Eve afternoon. That Mass will continue to be available for viewing afterwards as well. Of course, there will be televised Masses available from the Archdiocesan Office of Radio and Television, as well as on EWTN and the Catholic Faith Network from Long Island. Please note that I am not alone in making this difficult decision. There are other parishes in the Archdiocese doing the same thing, and indeed, this year the Holy Father will celebrate Christmas Mass from the Vatican without a live congregation. As always, I thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding.

By way of an update, the response to the Annual Collection has been excellent. As of last week's accounting, already some \$42,000 has been contributed. The proceeds of this collection will be put to good use in maintaining and improving our parish facilities. If you have made a gift, I offer my sincere gratitude. If not, I hope that you will consider doing so. All gifts, of whatever amount, are appreciated. Please make your gift no later than December 31 so that it can be credited for income tax purposes.

Rev. Anthony X. Melius

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

In 1854 Pius IX gave the infallible statement: *“The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin.”*



It took a long time for this doctrine to develop. Many Fathers and Doctors of the Church (including Bernard and Thomas Aquinas) had difficulty in seeing Mary as sinless, either in her conception or throughout her life. Two Franciscans helped develop the theology. They pointed out that Mary’s Immaculate Conception enhances Jesus’ redemptive work. Other members of the human race are cleansed from original sin after birth. In Mary, Jesus’ work was so powerful as to prevent original sin at the outset. The Holy Spirit led the Church to the insight that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel addresses Mary as *“full of grace.”* Mary’s intimate association with the Incarnation called for special involvement of God in Mary’s whole life.

In 1847 the bishops of the United States petitioned Pope Pius IX that the Blessed Mother be declared the patroness of the United States under her title of Immaculate Conception. Plans were then made to erect a monumental church, to be called the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in the nation’s capital, Washington, D. C. The formal dedication was on November 20, 1959; on December 8, 1990 Pope John Paul II designated the shrine a basilica.



Christmas trees, wreaths, & cemetery pieces, fresh from Canada, are now on sale across from the convent building. With the purchase of a tree you also receive a discount coupon for several local restaurants. All proceeds benefit St. Mary School.

Hours: Mon-Fri 5-9PM Sat & Sun 9AM-9PM

OPLATKI are available in the rectory office and in the sacristies of St. Mary Church and St. Agnes Church. The donation is \$3.



In celebration of the beatification of Father Michael J. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, you are invited to join the K of C online now through Dec.31st & receive 12 months free online membership.

Use promo code: MCGIVNEY2020 & go to this link: kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-the-knights.html
Please contact Santa Maria Council’s Membership Director Bud McEntee with any questions, 914 907-6189 or PDQMAIL@gmail.com

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Rev. Lijo Thomas, Parochial Vicar
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Deacon John Hoffman
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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.

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John Henry Phelan, Capt. Richard Brantley,
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Alec Rossetti MA2USN, Maj. Patrick T. Horvat

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Why is it so hard to forgive, yet so easy to get even? Listen to John the Baptist in today’s gospel and repent of the anger and ugly feelings which block your ability to forgive. This Christmas give a gift which makes a difference. Give forgiveness.

DR. THOMAS A. MARGIUS, P.C.
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 – William Ewart Gladstone, Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

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