

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

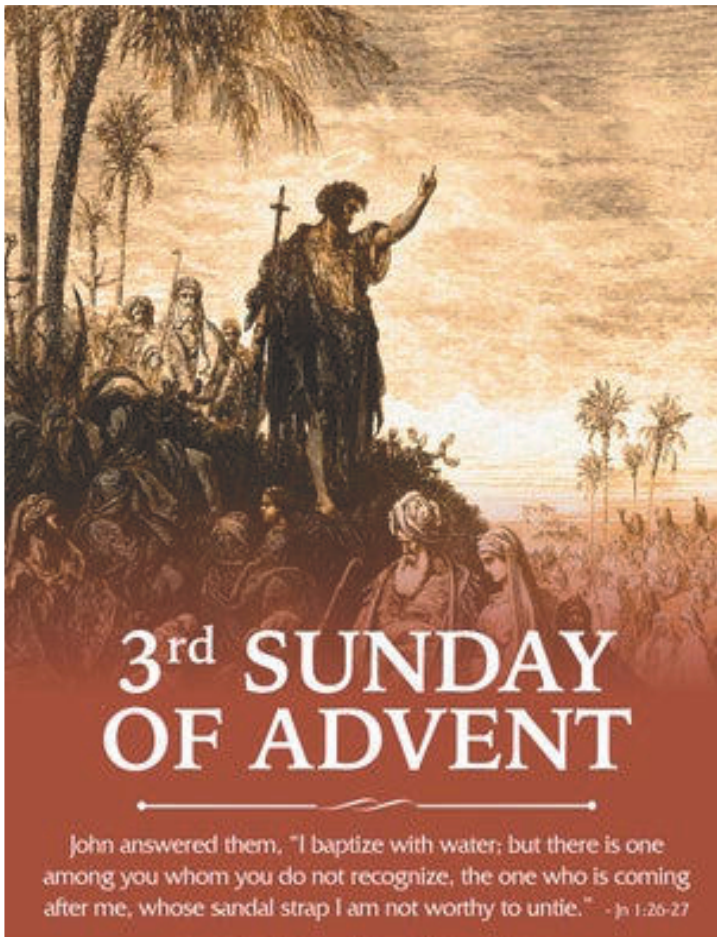
7:00 am St. Mary
7:30 am (Saturday) St. Mary
9:00 am (Mon-Fri) St. Agnes

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 14 St. John of the Cross
9:00 *Conrado Espineli and Emiliano de la Paz*

Tue December 15 Advent Weekday
9:00 *Clarisse Anastasio by her cousin*

Wed December 16 Advent Weekday
9:00 *Carl and Joan Rocco and Alex Conte*

Thu December 17 Advent Weekday
9:00 *Mr. Nang Shek & Mrs. Pui Pui Fan by family*

Fri December 18 Advent Weekday
9:00 *Clarisse Anastasio by her husband*

Sat December 19 Vigil
5:00 *Jerry Raccio & Bill Connors by the family*

Sun December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent
7:30 *Kevin Lovett by his sister*
10:30 *Thos. J. Beirne by Tom, Colleen, Tommy, Collin*

Readings for the week of December 13, 2020
Sun: 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
Mon: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
Tue: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
Wed: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
Thu: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
Fri: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18
Sat: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



The Sanctuary Lamp
Week of December 13, 2020
Is in Memory of *Clarisse Anastasio*



John is a saint because his life was an heroic effort to live up to his name, "of the Cross." In his life and writings he has a crucial word for us today. We tend to be rich, soft, comfortable. We shrink even from words like *self-denial, mortification, purification, asceticism, discipline*. We run from the cross. John's message, like the gospel, is loud and clear: *Don't—if you really want to live!* Thomas Merton said of John: *"...in St. John of the Cross we find darkness and light, suffering and joy, sacrifice and love united together so closely that they seem at times to be identified."*

St. Mary Church

Mon December 14 St. John of the Cross
7:00 *Marguerite Shea by her estate*

Tue December 15 Advent Weekday
7:00 *Anthony Ragazzino by Ann Marie Campagna*

Wed December 16 Advent Weekday
7:00 *Marcella Gage by M. Kriksciun & M. Kember*

Thu December 17 Advent Weekday
7:00 *Betty Symthe by Martha and Walter Kupson*

Fri December 18 Advent Weekday
7:00 *Michael Jacobsen by his family*

Sat December 19 Advent Weekday
7:30 *Margaret Conlon by her family*
Vigil
4:30 *Philip and Frances Rich by their daughters*

Sun December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:30 *Dec. Members of Monteleone & Stantig Family*
10:00 *People of Precious Blood Parish*
11:30 *Rose "Mary" Lions by Susan White & family*
4:30 *Dubicki & Stradecki Fam. by Winkler Family*



The Sanctuary Lamp
Week of December 13, 2020
Is in Memory of *Noel Robitaille*



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."



"The Lord gives strength to his people; The Lord blesses his people with peace."
- Psalm 29:11

THIRD 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. ...

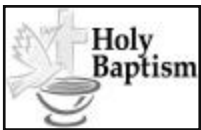
A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today's gospel reports "there is one among you whom you do not recognize." It is hard to believe Christ is present in a family with crazy schedules, suppers that start too late and end too early, cars that don't start, misunderstandings, frustrations, piles of laundry, unmatched socks and stretched food budgets. The list is endless. The words spoken at Mass, "The Lord is with you," are not a hope, they are a fact.



PRECIOUS BLOOD LADIES GUILD CHRISTMAS EVENT

On Saturday, December 19 join us at St. Agnes campus between 1-3PM. As you pass by some holiday scenes, slow down, give a big wave to Santa as you pass him at his workshop, and collect some treats or crafts to enjoy at home. The event is free. However, we ask that you register and request a ticket for each child planning to attend. Go to www.evertbrite.com/e/pbp-ladies-guild-christmas-drive-thru-tickets-130885172073?utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-source=strongmail&utm-term=listing. Or call 430-5107 & leave your name & no. of children attending.



Please welcome into our community the following children who were baptized at Precious Blood Parish during the month of November:

- Dylan Thomas Burdo, Saedee Shyrl Ballete, Eleanor Reilly Flynn, Sadie Elizabeth Flynn, Lennon Walter Grey, Crew Tate Kelly, Mila Marie Rice, Peyton Rose Richetelli, Giovanni Eustachio Rizio, Luke Eli Singleton, Vanessa Olivia Wypychoski.*



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, 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. 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.

- Charles J. Grant,
- Jordan Grassmann USN, Pfc. Ron Murray,
- Michael A. Eno USN, SR Justin Plantamura USN,
- John Henry Phelan, Capt. Richard Brantley,
- Michael Casey USN, SSgt. Armando Lizasuain CPO,
- Lt. Col. Jason Dymond, Joshua Ehret PoIUSN,
- Dakota Owen USA, Pfc. Daniel Hewston,
- Colin O'Sullivan USAF, Spec. Anthony Olenski,
- William F. Gilson USAF, SSgt. Michael Foss,
- MSgt Carlie Blacklidge, Col. Andrew Whiskeyman,
- SSR Matthew Hunt USN, CDR Matthew Fanning,
- Maj. Jonathan Rembetsy, 2nd Lt. Brendan Hayes,
- Alec Rossetti MA2USN, Maj. Patrick T. Horvat

"God assumed from the beginning that the wise of the world would view Christians as fools...and he has not been disappointed....If I have brought any message today, it is this: Have the courage to have your wisdom regarded as stupidity. Be fools for Christ. And have the courage to suffer the contempt of the sophisticated world."



Justice Anthony Scalia

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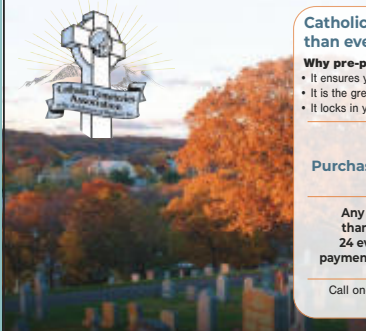
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 - William Ewart Gladstone, Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

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