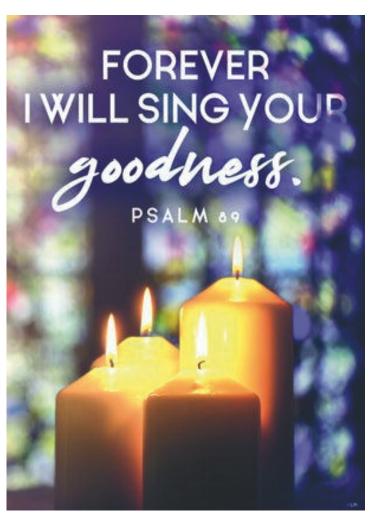
Precious Blood Parish

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

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PRECIOUS BLOOD PARISH, MILFORD

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Agnes Church

Mon December 21 St. Peter Canisius 9:00 Mr. Tai Fong Wong by his family

Tue December 22 Advent Weekday 9:00 Mr. Tong Sang & Mrs. Shook Fun Wong

Wed December 23 St. John of Kanty 9:00 Mr. Hang Fu and Mrs. Chui Kam Yiu by family

Thu December 24 Advent Weekday 9:00 Mary Hanacek by Jane Vossler

THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC MASSES CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00 Patrick Lovett

10:00 No Intention

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD **Friday** NO PUBLIC MASSES

10:00 People of Precious Blood Parish

Sat December 26 Vigil

5:00 *James Braniss* by his family

Sun December 27 Feast of the Holy Family

7:30 People of Precious Blood Parish 10:30 Gabriele & Gabriella Rovinelli by the children

Readings for the week of December 20, 2020

Sun: 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

Mon: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20 -21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Tue: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd]/Lk 1:46-56

Wed: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Thu: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Fri: **Vigil**: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25. **Night:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/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, 2-3, 3 4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Sat: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



St. Mary Church

Mon December 21 St. Peter Canisius 7:00 Russell Demeth by his wife

Tue December 22 Advent Weekday 7:00 Enrico Marini by Michael & Mary

Wed December 23 St. John of Kanty 7:00 Gertrude Frank by her family

Thu December 24 Advent Weekday 7:00 Helga Larson and Ellen Hammerum

THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC MASSES **CHRISTMAS EVE**

4:00 Rolando Trovini 6:00 The Hale Family 10:00 Sue and Walter Zaneski

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Friday NO PUBLIC MASSES

8:30 John Corrado 10:30 Rev. Robert J. Lord

Sat. December 26 St. Stephen

7:30 Angela and Sante Faustini by their daughter

4:00 Joseph Edward Filanowski by his family

Sun December 27 Feast of the Holy Family

8:30 Sigmund Kriksciun by his family 10:00 Francisco Toledo by Lucy and family 11:30 William Carroll by the Mullaney Family 4:30 Joe, Elizabeth, Don, and Dolores Platko



The Sanctuary Lamp Week of December 20, 2020 Is in Memory of Angelo Natoli



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."

FOURTH 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. allow T. Xmakes

DECEMBER 20, 2020



The Son of God, Jesus Christ, was conceived of the flesh of Mary. He was, therefore, a man like other



men, of the race of Adam. But the active principle of His conception in the womb of Mary was the Holy Spirit, God Himself. It is true that it was God, all three Persons of the Trinity, Who conceived Christ in the womb of Mary,

but God Himself attributes this action to the third Person, the Holy Spirit, because it is a work of divine love, and in God the Holy Spirit is the love of the Father and the Son.

St. Thomas Aquinas Summa Theologica

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Dear God, as I read your Holy Word, help me to feel supernatural peace and comfort flood my heart and mind.

I have been so worried and anxious and have forgotten to turn to you for strength. Today I lay my worries and struggles at your feet and ask for your peace that passes understanding. Thank you, God, for loving me and for sending your son, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

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Lt. Col. Jason Dymond, Joshua Ehret PolUSN,
Pfc.Daniel Hewston, Colin O'Sullivan USAF,
Spec. Anthony Olenski, William F. Gilson USAF,
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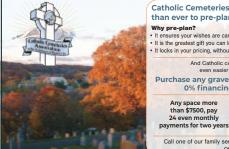
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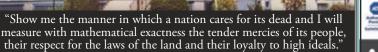


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