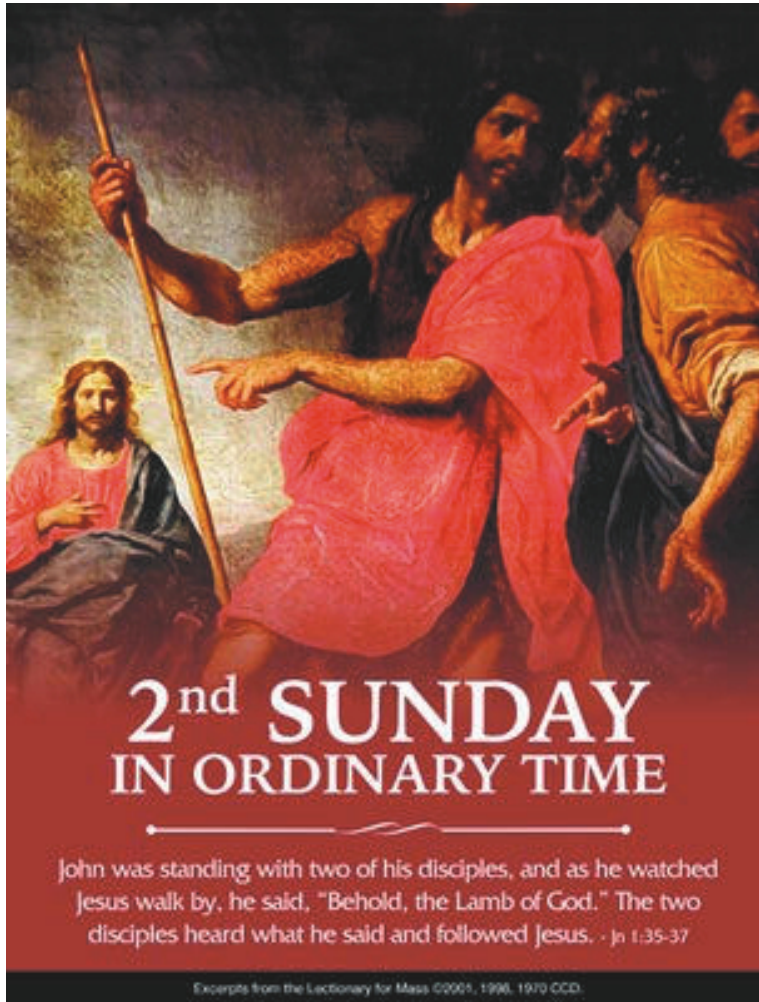


Precious Blood Parish

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
(Except Holidays)

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(203) 878-3571 Fax(203) 877-8741

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PRECIOUS BLOOD PARISH, MILFORD

Mass Intentions for the Week

St. Agnes Church

Mon January 18 Weekday

9:00 *Matthew Marcello* by his family

Tue January 19 Weekday

9:00 *Annette Kalafas/Wendy Valleau & Chas Mercier*

Wed January 20 St. Fabian and St. Sebastian

9:00 No Intention

Thu January 21 St. Agnes

9:00 No Intention

Fri January 22 Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Children

9:00 *Health/Blessings for Jeannette Esposito & Fam*

Sat January 23

Vigil

5:00 *Fran Sudusky* by M/M James DeGiacomo

Sun January 24 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 *People of Precious Blood Parish*

10:30 *Frederick & Anne Tartaro 60th wedding anniv.*

St. Mary Church

Mon January 18 Weekday

7:00 No Intention

Tue January 19 Weekday

7:00 *Dorothy Stamps Daniel* by Wendy Valleau

Wed January 20 St. Fabian and St. Sebastian

7:00 *Louie Picitelli* by Leo Brunell

Thu January 21 St. Agnes

7:00 *Catherine & Edward Howarth* by their son

Fri January 22 Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Children

7:00 *Erik Nieman* by The Nieman Family

Sat January 23 St. Vincent

7:30 *Angela Maria Faustini* by her daughter

Vigil

4:30 *Frank Boniello* by Bud and Diane McEntee

Sun January 24 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 *Alan Robbins* by Mary Jane and Family

10:00 *John Carr* by Patrick and Eileen Eisenman

11:30 *The Misinonile Family* by Bob & Rita Serena

4:30 No Intention



The Sanctuary Lamp
Week of January 17, 2021
Is in Memory of
Matthew Marcello

Readings for the week of January 17, 2021

Sun: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

Mon: Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 2:18-22

Tue: Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c [5]/Mk 2:23-28

Wed: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 3:1

Thu: Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 [8a and 9a]/Mk 3:7-12

Fri: Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [11a]/Mk 3:13-19

Sat: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Mk 3:20

Next Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [4a]/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20

“This is a virgin’s birthday; let us follow the example of her chastity. It is a martyr’s birthday; let us offer sacrifices; it is the birthday of holy Agnes, let men be filled with wonder, little ones with hope, married women with awe, and the unmarried with emulation. It seems to me that this child, holy beyond her years and courageous beyond human nature, received the name of Agnes (Greek: *pure*) not as an earthly designation but as a revelation from God of what she was to be.” (from St. Ambrose’s discourse on virginity)



The Sanctuary Lamp
Week of January 17, 2021
Is in Memory of *Patricia Costigan*



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.”

“Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked them, but Jesus said, ‘*Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.*’” - Matt. 19:13-14

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear Friends:

Last weekend, a disruption occurred in the normal life of the parish. During a funeral Mass on Friday morning at St. Mary's, an accident occurred that cut power to the church and the rectory. A young woman, driving north on Gulf Street, hit the pole that supports the electrical and telephone lines into the church and the rectory. As a result, there was no electrical power or telephone service in either the church or the rectory from Friday morning through late Saturday night. Happily, I understand that the driver was not seriously injured, and the disruption in our parish life was short-lived. Thanks to the hard work of Bob Lynch and his crew as well as our regular electrical contractors and United Illuminating, power was restored by 10:00 PM Saturday. Thankfully, the rectory has a generator that allowed life for me and Bruce to go on normally. I thank all of you for your understanding, cooperation and flexibility in what was a very unusual set of circumstances.

The hard and diligent work of so many over the past several months, due in no small part to the encouragement and drive of President Trump, has led to the production of two approved vaccines for COVID-19, one from Pfizer, the other from Moderna. Two additional vaccines, I understand, are in the pipeline and may well be approved in the very near future. I myself eagerly await the possibility of receiving the vaccine, and I will do so when I am eligible. Since I am only 60 years old and in reasonably good health, I am not first in line, but it is my fervent hope to be vaccinated very soon.

There are some, perhaps more than a few, who are hesitant to take the vaccine, be out of the fear of side effects, or for moral reasons. As for the first concern, there are often side effects from vaccines, be they for the flu or for other purposes. Unless you have a serious health condition, there should be little concern about taking the vaccine. Of course, one should discuss this with your physician and weigh the risks and the benefits. I did so myself.

Regarding any moral concerns centered on the production of vaccines using abortion-derived stem cell lines, in a recent letter to the priests of the Archdiocese, Archbishop Blair stated that (and I quote): "When all the moral considerations are weighed—as they have been by both the Holy See in Rome and the USCCB [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops] Committee [the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities]—even when there is no choice of vaccine to receive, 'one may receive any of the clinically recommended vaccines in good conscience with the assurance that reception of such vaccines does not involve immoral cooperation in abortion.' It should also be noted that the two vaccines being administered in the United States (Pfizer and Moderna) are 'very remote from the initial evil of abortion.'"

A further moral consideration to take when weighing the possibility of being vaccinated is found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, n. 2288, where it teaches that "life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God. We must take reasonable care of them, taking into account the needs of others and the common good." Included in this notion of the common good is the importance of "herd immunity" which can be attained when a sufficient number of the populace is properly vaccinated.

I offer these insights with the hope that they will help you make a decision, if you have not done so yet, to do what is best, not only for your own health and well-being, but also for that of your loved ones and those in the wider community.

As an additional help and by way of further information, I will make available on the parish website a series of answers to key ethical questions about COVID-19 vaccines provided from the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Have a good week!



In concert with the USCCB
(United States Conference of
Catholic Bishops)
and the March for Life 2021



The Respect Life Office invites you to
the Celebration of Mass
at the
Cathedral of St. Joseph
with Archbishop Leonard P. Blair
Friday, January 29, at 6:00PM
(in person & live stream information to follow)

*"Christ made my soul beautiful with the jewels
of grace and virtue. I belong to Him whom the
angels serve."*
- St. Agnes



Tax statements for the 2020
calendar year will be available,
by request, at the rectory
during office hours at the **end of
January.**

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Jesus' question in today's gospel is still valid today: "What are you looking for?" What do you want from your spouse, children or parents? Families are populated with imperfect people. To expect perfection is unreal. To expect and accept imperfection is wisdom.



Texas State Representative Jeff Leach has called on other legislators to "recommit ourselves to our most fundamental duty—to safeguard the fundamental liberties and freedoms of all Texans, starting with the sacred right to life."

Citing statistics, he said that in 2019 Texas abortions amounted to **56,600**. 57% were to women 20-29 years old; 300 to girls 11-15 years old; 4,488 to girls 16-19 years old.

"Without question, we must fight to ensure the 87th legislative session is meaningful and monumental for the pro-life cause in Texas."

That's just one state!

ZOOM PROGRAM ON SEX TRAFFICKING

Human sex trafficking is a crime that many people think does not happen here in Connecticut. Truth be told, no city or community is immune from this crime, esp. in a state with 3 interstate highways running through it and 2 gambling casinos.

In an effort to educate the public, esp. parents, on this problem, **St. Raphael Parish** will be hosting a ZOOM panel discussion on human sex trafficking and exploitation on **Tuesday, January 26 at 7PM** which is open to the public.

Panelists will include the CEO of *The Underground*, a grassroots, faith-based initiative dedicated to ending sex trafficking and sexual exploitation in CT; a member of the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Social Justice Ministry's human trafficking team; a former West Haven police officer experienced in this field who is now a training official at the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden; and a physician with expertise on human traffickers' use of social media to lure children into this life.

The panel will discuss what constitutes human trafficking, myths surrounding this crime, and what parents can do to protect their children from becoming victims. A question and answer session will follow the panel discussion.

Pre-registration is required. Send your name & email address to Albert May at amay4713@gmail by January 22nd. All registrants will be sent a Zoom link and password for the session.

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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.

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"God does not measure our perfection by the number and greatness of the things we do for Him, but by the way in which we do them."

- St. John of the Cross

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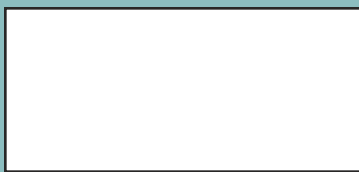
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 – William Ewart Gladstone, Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

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