

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

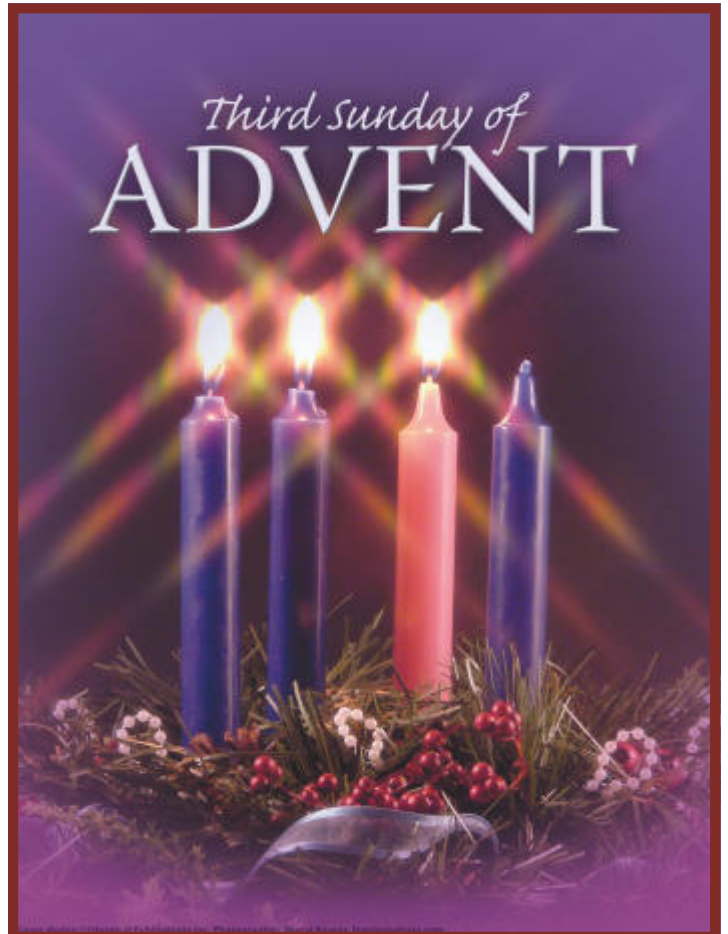
RECONCILIATION

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

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA

Benediction and Rosary
Monday @ 7:30PM
St. Mary Church

Bulletin Notices
bulletin@pbpmlford.org
(203) 878-3571



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.



Frequently Asked Questions #2

How will my parish benefit from the campaign?

Each parish receives 50% of the funds raised from its parishioners for its own needs. Once a parish reaches its target, 80% of funds over the target will be retained by the parish. *The remainder of campaign funds may return either directly or indirectly via HBF grantmaking activities within its funding priorities.*

Will the Archbishop's Annual Appeal continue?

Yes. The Archbishop's Annual Appeal (approximately \$10 million per year) provides the day-to-day support to ministries and charitable works of the Archdiocese. Donors will therefore be asked to maintain current annual gift levels in addition to campaign gifts.

Will the campaign affect parish offertory?

Parishes rely on their offertory collection. Parishioners are asked not to diminish giving to the offertory or the Archbishop's Annual Appeal collection but rather to consider an increased commitment to their parish and to the Archdiocese.

When will funds be distributed by The Hartford Bishops' Foundation?

The Hartford Bishops' Foundation has distributed more than \$7 million in grants to support Catholic initiatives. The parish share of the funds collected are disbursed two times a year.

With so much uncertainty, is this the best time for a campaign?

The events of 2020 are unprecedented and have resulted in extraordinary needs in our parishes, schools, and Catholic organizations. As parish life returns to the "new normal," we set our sites on resuming the good work of the Church, including through important initiatives, including FWF.

Can donors make gifts of stock or other non-cash gifts?

Yes. The campaign accepts gifts of stock, those from Donor Advised Funds, IRA distributions, and other means. Donors wishing to make non-cash gifts should speak with their pastor/pastoral administrator or contact The Hartford Bishops' Foundation at (860) 761-7455. If considering an estate gift, donors should contact The Hartford Bishops' Foundation for assistance.

Are gifts to the campaign tax deductible?

Yes. Gifts to the campaign are tax deductible as allowed by law. The Foundation will acknowledge all gifts and pledges including substantiation of each gift for donor tax purposes.

How are campaign expenses being paid?

The Foundation is meeting campaign expenses, which will be paid from the HBF portion of funds collected.



Peter F. Phelan Jr.

Christmas Giving Tree Program

All gifts need to be returned by

Sunday, December 12th at 5:30 pm. Most of the charitable organizations have their Christmas parties this week December 14th and you wouldn't want to disappoint those who count on this one holiday gift. If you misplaced the tag, please purchase a gift certificate from Walmart or Target and put it in the wooden box under the Giving Tree. For those who have returned your gifts, thank you very much for your generosity. Call Bob Lessard with and questions or concerns at 203-874-9076 or email at bless3569@gmail.com



The tradition of the Oplatki originated in Poland. The Oplatki are enjoyed by families, typically right before the Christmas Eve meal.

The entire family will gather around the table with the Oplatek. Generally, the eldest member of the family will begin the ritual by breaking off a piece of the wafer and passing it to another family member with a blessing. The purpose of this act is primarily to express one's love for each member of his or her family.

The Oplatki tradition is one that is easy and fun to introduce to the family at Christmas time. All it requires is a simple wafer paired with love and affection, and the willingness to share it. This is a heartwarming tradition that will enhance your family's time together during the Christmas season.

Oplatki is available now in rectory office or in the sacristy at both St. Agnes and St. Mary churches. The cost for Oplatki is \$3.00 per pack.



The Parkinson's Support will hold its last meeting of 2021 on Dec 15th in the Father Cronin Hall at 1:00 .We will be having a Christmas party and Ronnie Pendleton has offered to lead the group in singing. The next meeting will not be until March, 2022. We have done this in the past because of inclement weather in January and February.



From the Desk of the Pastor

Dear Friends:

This Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally referred to as “Gaudete Sunday.” The word *gaudete* is a Latin word which means “rejoice” and it comes from the entrance antiphon for the Third Sunday of Advent, taken from St. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians, which reads, “*Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.*” We are fortunate this year that the second reading for this Sunday’s Mass consists of a fuller quotation from the Letter of the Philippians containing this line.

What does it mean to rejoice? To rejoice means to find joy in life. But what is joy and how are we to understand it in terms of our faith in Christ? The Greek word for “joy” is *chara*, and it is used to describe a feeling of inner gladness, delight or rejoicing. In the New Testament, real joy is not to be found in “things” but in spiritual realities. We find joy in God, God’s closeness to us, and our closeness to God. The circumstances of life are not necessarily or even primarily our source of joy. When things are going well, and all seems harmonious and in order in our lives, we can be joyful, *feel* joyful. But when the circumstances of life become challenging, difficult, or out of sorts, we can still be joyful even in the midst of it all, even if we do not *feel* it. Why is that? It is because of our faith in God, our absolute trust in God’s goodness and love, and our willingness to accept whatever God wills for us, knowing in the depths of our being that all will, as St. Paul says in his Letter to the Romans, “*work out for good.*”

If we confine ourselves to looking around at the world of today with its multiple challenges, there is much reason for not being joyful, much reason for allowing ourselves to become consumed by fear, bitterness, and lethargy. The increasing tensions with China and Russia. The economic problems at home with rising inflation, concerns about supply lines. The ongoing concerns about COVID-19 and its ever-evolving variants. These are just to name a few and do not even begin to touch on the uniquely stressful circumstances of each of our own lives.

The words of St. Paul today are needed more than ever. We are to rejoice in the Lord in spite of it all. We do our best as we can, given the circumstances of our lives, but we leave the rest to God, and God will not fail us. In due time and in ways perhaps that may be very surprising to us, God’s plan is being worked out. We ask God to grant us the patience to persevere, the strength to go on living our lives each day, fully, well, and prudently. We ask God to deepen our faith and trust in him and to renew and strengthen our hope so that we may truly be able to rejoice in the Lord, no matter what may come.

Have a good week!

Rev. William H. Xonobus



Schedule of Meetings & Parish Events

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Monday, Dec 13 | Grade 2 & 3 CCD | 4:30 pm |
| | <i>Saint Mary School</i> | |
| Tuesday, Dec 14 | Novena | 7.30 pm |
| | <i>Saint Mary Church</i> | |
| | Legion of Mary | 10:30 am |
| | <i>Rectory Basement</i> | |
| Wednesday, Dec 15 | Knitting Group | 10:00 am |
| | <i>(St. Agnes) Fr. Callahan Hall</i> | |
| | Grade 2 & 3 CCD | 4:30 pm |
| | <i>Saint Mary School</i> | |
| | K of C officers | 7:00 pm |
| | <i>(St. Mary) Rectory basement</i> | |
| | Ladies Guild | 7:00 pm |
| | <i>(St. Mary) Fr. Cronin Hall</i> | |
| Thursday, Dec 16 | Parkinson’s Group | 1:00 pm |
| | <i>(St. Mary) Fr. Cronin Hall</i> | |
| | Book Club | 3:30 pm |
| | <i>(St. Mary) Fr. Cronin Hall</i> | |
| | Legion of Mary | 7:00 pm |
| <i>(St. Agnes) double classroom</i> | | |
| Thursday, Dec 16 | K of C | 7:00 pm |
| | <i>(St. Mary) Fr. Cronin Hall</i> | |
| Thursday, Dec 16 | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00pm |
| | <i>St. Mary Church</i> | |



The Precious Blood Ladies Guild Christmas Party is back! Please join us Tuesday, Dec 14th in Fr. Cronin hall for a fun filled evening of food, drink, games and prizes! The Christmas raffle winners will be drawn. All women of the parish are invited to attend. The event starts at 7pm.



Mass Intentions



St. Agnes Church

Monday, December 13 Saint Lucy
9:00 *Gloria Geer by her husband*

Tuesday, December 14
Saint John of the Cross
9:00 *Dorthey Jansen by her son*

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

Thursday, December 16 Advent Weekday
9:00 *Jean Mosher by family and friends*

Friday, December 17 Advent Weekday
9:00 *Betty Smythe
by Martha & Walter Kupson*

Vigil
5:00 *Jerry Raccio & William Connors
by family*

Sunday, December 19
Fourth Sunday of Advent
7:30 *Thomas J. Beirne
by Colleen, Tom and Tommy*
10:30 *Alana Maclerio & Brian Nesdale*



St. Mary Church

Monday, December 13 Saint Lucy
7:00 *James Farrell Jr. by wife Rosann*

Tuesday, December 14 Saint John of the Cross
7:00 *Chester Barnick by his family*

Wednesday, December 15 Advent Weekday
7:00 *Bronislawa Siwiec by Michalina*

Thursday, December 16 Advent Weekday
7:00 *Robert Weaver by Budzinski family*

Friday, December 17 Advent Weekday
7:00 *Deceased members of the Goralski family
by family*

Saturday, December 18 Advent Weekday
7:30 *Michael Jacobsen by family*

Vigil
4:30 *John Lawless by Jim & Liz Keefe*

Sunday, December 19
Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:30 *Beatrice Bolduc by St. Mary folk group*
10:00 *Peter S. Malloy by his family*
11:30 *People of Precious Blood Parish*
4:30 *Philip & Frances Rich by her family*

The Sanctuary lamp is lighted
this week for
Joan Amore



The Sanctuary lamp is lighted this
week for
Joseph Carollo



“Those whose hearts are pure are temples of the Holy Spirit .”

- Saint Lucy

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