

St. Mary's Messenger

St. Mary of the Assumption
Roman Catholic Church

Spring 2021
Volume 12 No. 1

From the Pastor: The Year of Joseph

In 1870, Saint Joseph was named "Universal Patron of the Church." To mark this 150th Anniversary, Pope Francis has declared this year (December 8, 2020 - December 8, 2021) as the "Year of St. Joseph."

When the Diocese of Buffalo was created, Joseph was chosen as our patron, and the Cathedral Church in downtown Buffalo was also named after him. On his Feast Day, which is celebrated on March 19, a special Mass will be held in the Cathedral by

Bishop Fisher.

Who was this man and what do we know about him? For many centuries, there was little mention or devotion to him. His only appearance was at the Christmas scene, standing next to the crib of the newborn Child. Traditions and theology centered around Jesus and Mary, but little attention was given to Joseph.

It was not until the 1500s, especially through the advocacy of Theresa of Avila, that attention was directed to

Joseph and, since then, a number of titles and devotions have developed around him. One of the most simple and at the time (1959) controversial acts was the addition of his name to the Roman Eucharistic Prayer by Pope John XXIII. *(cont'd on p. 6)*



Holy Week & Easter at St. Mary's

Palm Sunday Masses

Saturday, March 27 - 4:30* and 7 p.m.
Sunday, March 28 - 8 & 10 a.m.* and 12 noon

Tenebrae Service

Tuesday, March 30 - 7:45 p.m.

Holy Thursday - April 1

Community Morning Prayer - 9 a.m.*
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7 p.m.*
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - 8:30 to 11 p.m.

Good Friday - Passion of the Lord - April 2

Community Morning Prayer - 9 a.m.*
Commemoration of the Lord's Passion - 3 p.m.*
Stations of the Cross - 7 p.m.

Holy Saturday - April 3

Community Morning Prayer - 9 a.m.*
Blessing of Easter Baskets - 12 noon
Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter - 8 p.m.*

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection - April 4

Masses - 8 a & 10 a.m.* and 12 noon

* Available via live stream at stmarysonthehill.com

All services will be in Church.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross are being prayed at St. Mary's every Friday during Lent, beginning at 7 p.m. in Church. Masks must be worn and social distancing guidelines followed for all who attend in person.



* Stations will also be live streamed. Single-use booklets will be provided each week. On Friday, March 5, Stations will be prayed for pro-life.

Live Streaming Continues

St. Mary's continues to live stream Masses from the Church on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m., Sundays at 10 a.m. and weekdays at 12 noon. This service will continue, regardless of circumstances surrounding any Covid-19 mandates or restrictions, for those unable to attend Masses in person. Live streaming can be accessed via Facebook, YouTube, or at <http://stmarysonthehill.org/live-streams/>.

Volunteers Needed: Can You Help?

Volunteers are needed to assist St. Mary's with live streaming services. Ushers are also needed at Masses throughout the week.

Last but not least, volunteer assistance is needed with the three major events planned to benefit St. Mary's in 2021: Mega Raffle, our golf tournament, and an autumn fundraiser.

If you can help in any of these areas, please call the Rectory at (716) 683-6445. *Thank you!*



St. Mary's 2021 Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday, July 26 at a new venue: Lancaster Country Club. Watch for further information and updates!

A DOZEN REASONS TO CHOOSE

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



1. We offer an education that combines Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.
2. We partner with parents in the faith formation of their children.
3. We set high standards for student achievement and help them succeed.
4. We provide a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture, and life.
5. We use technology effectively to enhance education.
6. We instill in students the value of service to others.
7. We teach children respect of self and others.
8. We emphasize moral development and self-discipline.
9. We prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders.
10. We have a 99% high school graduation rate. 85% of our graduates go to college.
11. We cultivate a faculty and staff of people who are dedicated, caring and effective.
12. We provide a safe and welcoming environment for all.

To learn more about St. Mary's Elementary School, visit smeschool.com or call (716) 683-2112.

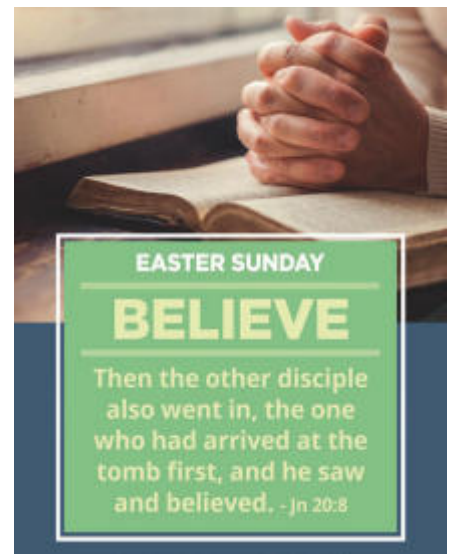
Registration Under Way At St. Mary's Elementary

Registration is under way for the 2021/2022 year at St. Mary's Elementary School.



Registrations are being accepted for all grade levels: pre-K through grade 8. Registration packets are available in the school office.

To pick up a packet, have one mailed to your home, or for more information, call (716) 683-2112 or email secretary@smeschool.com.



EASTER SUNDAY

BELIEVE

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. - Jn 20:8

Welcome to Buffalo Bishop Michael W. Fisher

Bishop Michael W. Fisher was installed on Friday, January 15 as the 15th bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo. His installation at St. Joseph Cathedral, Buffalo, was presided over by His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York.

Attendance at Bishop Fisher's Installation Mass was by invitation only, during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Guests included a contingent representing diocesan ministries and parishes, schools, Catholic institutions and religious houses. St. Mary's Director of Faith Formation Sr. Therese Chmura, CSSF, was among this group.

Bishop Fisher, 62, is a native of Baltimore and the oldest of five children. He was ordained to the priesthood and assigned to his first parish in 1960. He then served as pastor of two parishes in Maryland before being named a Chaplain to His Holiness John Paul II in 2005. The same year, he was named Vicar General for the Apostolates, which entailed overseeing archdiocesan ministries for education, ethnic ministries, social justice and service, parish life, and youth ministry.

In 2006, he was appointed Vicar for Clergy and Secretary for Ministerial



Among those attending Bishop Fisher's Mass of Installation was St. Mary's Director of Faith Formation Sr. Therese Chmura, CSSF, left, who represented faith formation ministries in the diocese.

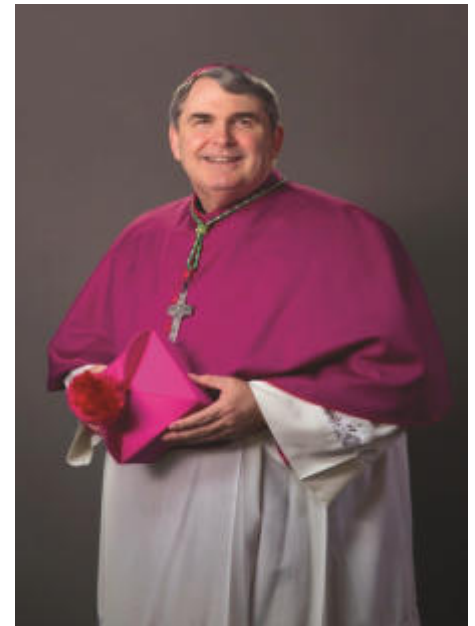
Leadership, with responsibility for vocations, formation, and care of the clergy for the Archdiocese of Washington. Named an auxiliary bishop by Pope Francis on June 8, 2018, Bishop Fisher was ordained to the episcopate on June 29. Throughout his 30 years of priestly ministry, he has served on various boards and committees of the Archdiocese of Washington, including the College of Consultors, Priest Council, Administrative Board, Priest Retirement Board, Clergy Personnel Board, Deacon Review Board, Deacon Council and Needy Parish Committee, as well as the Forward in Faith Committee.

Much of Bishop Fisher's ministry has involved the continuing education of priests, particularly in aiding new pastors in their roles.

"It is with the greatest humility that I accept this call to serve you as your 15th bishop, and which I view as a continuation of the assent to Christian discipleship first offered on my behalf at Baptism some 62 years ago by my wonderful and devoted parents, Margo and Bill," Bishop Fisher said in his Installation Mass homily. He also spoke of his grandparents as a positive influence in his faith journey.

"The good people of the diocese ... have been blessed with a devoted and devout pastor who is eager to continue the work of renewal and define a new era of vitality and increased impact of the Catholic faith and ministry throughout Western New York," said Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger, apostolic administrator of the Buffalo Diocese since December 2019.

Bishop Fisher noted that his priority is to be an "instrument of healing" for those who have suffered abuse and been disenfranchised from the sacramental life of the Church. "I pledge to listen, to comfort however I can,



Bishop Michael W. Fisher was installed January 15 as the 15th bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo.

to understand as best I am able, and to exert every effort within my capacity to be an instrument of your healing," he stated.

He committed to defining a "new era of Catholic education" in the diocese, emphasizing the vital role educators and those who support and work in diocesan schools and parish faith formation programs play in shaping the lives and prospects of young people. "One of the aspects that has so defined and distinguished your legacy here in the Diocese of Buffalo is the commitment to educating the young - instilling in their young minds and hearts a sense of purpose, conviction and personal responsibility that of course is rooted in Christian discipleship," he said.

St. Mary's joins in praying for Bishop Fisher and welcoming him to his ministry at the Diocese of Buffalo.



St. Mary's 6th Annual Mega Raffle

\$30,000

Grand Prize This Year!

\$100 Per Ticket

Only 1,000 Tickets Will Be Sold!

21 Total Prizes to be Awarded

Including:

1 \$5,000 Prize – 1 \$1,000 Prize

1 \$500 Prize

2 \$250 Prizes – 2 \$150 Prizes

10 \$100 Prizes

2 More Early Bird Drawings:

\$150 on 4/1 - \$100 on 5/1

Live Drawing on Friday, June 11

For tickets or more information,

Call (716) 253-7880

or email

megaraffle@smeschool.com.

To order tickets online, go to

stmarysonthehill.com

or scan the QR code.



First Communion Dates

First Communions will be celebrated at
Masses at St. Mary's on:

- Saturday, May 1
- Sunday, May 2
- Saturday, May 8
- Sunday, May 9

Congratulations to our

First Communion Class of 2021!

St. Mary's Parishioner Updates

These new parishioners have recently joined St. Mary's:

Colleen and Kevin Arthur and family, Nicole and Jeremy Ballistrea, Joann and Patrick Binasz, Lorraine and Thomas Campbell and family, Amy and Lance Cayea, Jillian and Carmen Ciccarelli and family, Taunya and John Clarke and family, Shannon and Michael Clement and family, Paul Delzer, Stephanie DeJohn, Robert Prawel and family, Chelsea and Jason Denué and family, Madeline Elminowski, Lori and Ronald Faso and family, RoAnn French and family, Susan Gibson, and Dolores and Donald Grimmer.

Kathryn and Brian Hammer and family, Jordan Hokaj and Adam LaQuier, Ashleigh and Christopher Kinney and family, Veronica Knittel, Christine and David Lattuca and family, Tricia and Anthony Marrano and family, Anna and Andrew Mayfield and family, Nicole and Jeremy McLaughlin and family, and Jessica and Brandon Monin and family.

Maryann Petrillo, Dawn Prawel and family, Danielle and Eric Pych and family, Jenna and Daniel Sandker and family, Liza and Gregg Schaffer and family, Nicole and Justin Smykowski and family, Jessica and Robert Spoor and family, Mary Jane and John Starr, Kelly and Michael Switalski and family, Jennifer and Scott Szarzynski and family, Jennifer Szczublewski and Christopher Deuel and family, Brittany and Anthony Vesich and family, Raymond Wagner, Stacie and Jacob Wolanin and family, and Andrea and Reid Zaccagnino and family.

These children have become members of our parish family through Baptism:

Amelia Grace Agnello, Catherine The-

resa Brown, Emmett Joseph Brownell, Owen James Cichocki, Miles David Denué, Ethan Nicholas James French, Theodore James Junik, Leonidas James Jurgielewicz, Lincoln Douglas Kinney, Frederick William Kintzel, V, Giuliana Josephine Lattuca, Theodore Jameson Lauricella, Eliot Douglas Lemke and Ruby Jean Lindsay.

Blake Nicholas Marrano, Henry Malachy McMorro, Shepherd Dean McSpadden, Teresa Jane Morgan, Henry James Nicotra, Avery Iris Prawel, Emery Rose Prawel, Giles Everett Schmitt, Emma Margaret Spencer, Lily Grace Spoor, Zander Martin Spoor, Dylan Matthew Strohmenger, Olivia Rose Wilczak, Michael Stephen Wutz, Jr. and Ayla Jean Zalenski.

These beloved souls have been called home to the Lord:

Robert Antes, Virginia Bala, Joyce Carson, Jacqueline Cole, Raymond Faulhaber, Elsie Fechter, Joseph Fisher, Margaret Gilhooly, Leila Harris, Ann Heidle, Lynn Hood, Adele Jakubczak, Maria Jefferlone, Arnold Johnson, Helene Kemnitzer, Joyce Kerl, Alice Koscielniak, Robert Kugler, Ronald Kuropatwinski, Monica Lewandowski, Elizabeth Lombard and Sarah Luke.

Stephen Marchewka, Robert Messenger, Rose Musialowski, Terry Myers, Richard Notaro, John Pajak, Mark Penska, Nicholas Pilipauskis, Walter Piontkowski, Carol Rozler, Sylvia Rucinski, Eugene Rugani, Amelia Sagliani, Dorothy Sojda, Carolyn Schaefer, Gerald Schamle, John Schrader, Teresa Simme, John Stendahl, Jr., Patricia Szalzetta, Janet Tagliarino, Richard Tomei, Helen Welka, Stella Wojcik and Rose Wlodarczyk.

Offer a Mass For a Loved One



As a special way to remember a deceased loved one, or for the intention of someone living, please consider offering a Mass for them at St. Mary's.

The usual donation for such intentions is \$15. You may select Mass dates, as they are available.

Please contact the Rectory to schedule a Mass, or send the name of a person for whom a Mass is being offered to: St. Mary of the Assumption, 1 St. Mary's Hill, Lancaster, NY, 14086. Your check should be made payable to St. Mary of the Assumption. Please include your name and phone number.

Upon This Rock Update

Thank you to all our parishioners who contribute to *Upon This Rock*, the Buffalo Diocese campaign to strengthen parishes and provide enhanced pastoral care and outreach. This five-year campaign concludes in the first quarter of this year.

St. Mary's receives disbursements twice annual from *Upon This Rock*. In our most recent disbursement on January 31, our parish received \$16,436.85, bringing out disbursement total to date to \$285,928.45. These funds have been set aside for upcoming needs.

In the past, *Upon This Rock* funds have supported needs including a portion of the restoration of our stained glass windows in Church, as well as a new Rectory roof and a new truck for work at our cemetery and on other parish grounds.

For more information, please visit <https://www.uponthisrockwny.org/>.

A Special Farewell

Farewell, sincere thanks and blessings to Deacon David Jerome, who is retiring after 58 years of service to St. Mary's. He has made countless contributions in many capacities as a parish leader, head of the Finance Council, deacon, preacher, homilist, leader of our Before Cana and marriage ministries, ushers, and Baptismal classes, active involvement in our Respect Life ministry, support of our stained glass windows, and much more.

Best wishes, Deacon Dave, from your St. Mary's family!



Celebrating First Reconciliation

Fifty children are celebrating First Reconciliation this year at St. Mary's. Some of them received the Sacrament at Masses in January and February, while others will do so in the spring – as social distancing and other pandemic guidelines have been followed.

Blessings to our First Reconciliation Class of 2021 and their loved ones:

Michael Betz, Sebastian Bindemann, Aaliyah Bzibziak, Anthony Carroll, Chase Carroll, Sawyer Coppola, Gianna DeMarco, Joseph Deuel, Jack Doerflein and Adrianna Donhauser.

Zachary Espinosa, Avery Falls, Noah Fuqua, Benjamin Giglio, Cecelia Gill, Danielle Gregg, Benjamin Keem, Tyler Kilianski, Wyatt Kiliszek and Alexandra Klink.

Mariana Kotlak, Cole Kulpit, Hannah Kusak, Brooklyn Letina, Jacob Loga, Tyler Mayfield, Ewen Nicastro, Elijah Oun, Scarlett Pfender and Anna Pi-
etrantoni.

Lucas Prasad, Cecilia Przepasniak, Joseph Reisdorf, Juliana Riley, Liam Rob-



Fifty children are celebrating First Reconciliation this year at St. Mary's. Pictured are Anna Petrantoni and her parents, Christina and Frank.

erts, Mason Schaffer, Nicholas Schaffer, Landon Scharf, Julianna Smith and Vivienne Smith.

Gavin Smith-Ostrowski, Shane Sparmo, Harper Spinelli, Zander Spoor, Emily Toole, Russell VanCoevering, Linnea Wells, Ian Willard, Caylee Zaluski and Sonya Zgliczynski.

The Year of Joseph

(cont'd from p. 1)

Most of what we know about Joseph comes from the Gospels, especially as found in Matthew and Luke. Here's his "digested" story, beginning with a family lineage traced back to King David:

He is espoused to Mary, but learns that she is pregnant and plans to quietly divorce her, thus saving the honor of all involved. In a dream, he is told not to fear taking Mary as his wife into his home, for the Child was conceived uniquely through the power of God. He does.

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where the birth takes place. Following Jewish custom, they have their son named Jesus, circumcised, and appropriately presented in the Temple in Jerusalem. Magi visit the family and, immediately instructed in a dream, Joseph takes his family to Egypt for safety reasons. They later return to Palestine and settle in Nazareth, a small village in Galilee. Joseph raises Jesus in the faith, traditions, and rituals of Israel. He is a carpenter teaching his Son the trade. Here, his scriptural story ends and Christian tradition begins.

Tradition portrays Joseph as a tender, loving, faithful husband and father who works quietly and discreetly, often unnoticed in everyday life. These are the qualities that Pope Francis highlights in his Apostolic Letter *With a Father's Heart*. This year offers an opportunity to learn more about Joseph - discovering a varied and rich tradition of devotions, practices and beliefs.



Places of the Passion Ecumenical Lenten Worship Services

Wednesdays at 12 Noon

(No Luncheons This Year Due to Covid-19)

Please note:

Wednesday Mass at St. Mary's will be celebrated and livestreamed at 11 a.m. instead of 12 noon on the dates of the Ecumenical Lenten Worship Services.

March 3: Faith United Methodist, 5505 Broadway, Lancaster
Deacon Alan Strauss – *The Mount of Olives*

March 10: Centerpointe Community, 56 Burlington Avenue, Depew
Rev. Kelly Negus – *The Garden of Gethsemane*

March 17: St. Mary of the Assumption
Rev. Mike Wrigglesworth – *The Courtyard*

March 24: Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, 6298 Broadway, Lancaster
Rev. Stephen Mannion – *Pilate's Judgement Hall*

Monetary donations and non-perishable food items are gratefully accepted to support Trinity Pantry, Lancaster, and Tri-County Pantry, Depew. Items needed include canned soup, tuna, vegetables, rice, pasta, peanut butter, and paper products.

*Please make checks payable to Faith United Methodist Church
Memo Line: Lenten Lunch Food Pantry*

Reach Out to Us Anytime!

You can reach members of our parish staff via email:

Fr. Paul Steller, Pastor: paul@stmarysonthehill.org

Sr. Therese Chmura, Faith Formation Director:
therese@stmarysonthehill.org

Deacon John Owczarczak: john@stmarysonthehill.org

Business Manager Bob Over: bob@stmarysonthehill.org

Cemetery Director Danny Rinow: danny@stmarysonthehill.org

Music Director Andrea Ross: andrea@stmarysonthehill.org

Communications Coordinator Diane Zwirecki: diane@stmarysonthehill.org

Events Coordinator Mary Kate DeMarzio: marykate@stmarysonthehill.org

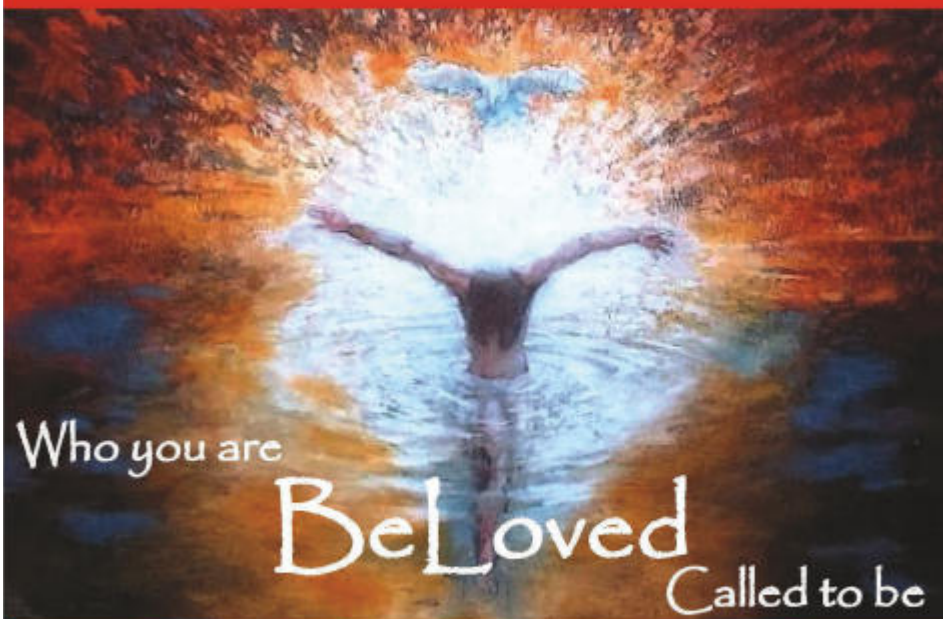
Bookkeeper Heather Pierce: heather@stmarysonthehill.org

St. Mary's Elementary School Principal Kim Kwitowski:
kwitowskik@smeschool.com

DEACON GREG FEARY
MARCH 8 & 9, 2021
(7:00 - 8:30 p.m.)



**A VIRTUAL
2-Day Retreat for Lent**
Access on any website below.
*Bonus - Live follow up zoom session
March 10 at 1 pm & 7 pm.*



Co-Sponsored by the following Lancaster-Depew Parishes:

- St. Mary of the Assumption www.stmarysonthehill.com
- Our Lady of Pompeii www.olpparish.com
- St. Martha www.stmarthadepew.org
- St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta
..... www.blessedmotherteresaparishdepew.org

BeLoved: Who You Are Called to Be can be viewed throughout the remainder of the Lenten season at stmarysonthehill.com.

Prayer for A Time of Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

- Cameron Bell, www.ccvichapel.org/post/prayer-for-a-pandemic-cameron-bellm



Buy Scrip to Support St. Mary's

Please remember to support St. Mary's by purchasing Scrip gift cards. A percentage of all sales comes back to our parish and school.

Cards are available from a wide range of local and national vendors.

Orders may be sent to St. Mary's Elementary School, placed online, dropped off at the Rectory on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., or left in the locked box in the Church vestibule.

For more information, visit <http://stmarysonthehill.org/why-buy-scrip/> or email scrip@smeschool.com.

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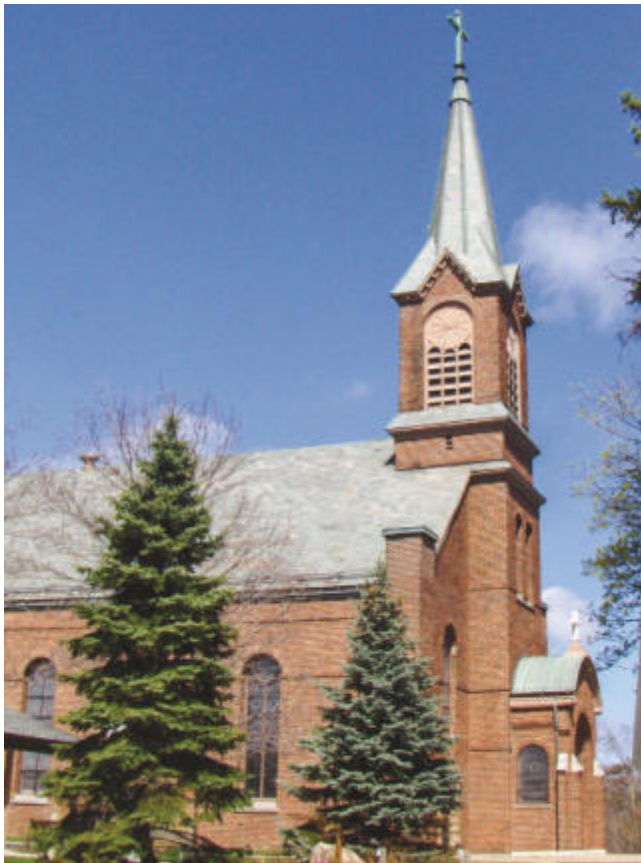
Rev. Paul W. Steller, Pastor
Rev. Msgr. W. Jerome Sullivan, Weekend Associate
John Owczarczak, Permanent Deacon
Diane Zwirecki, APR, Editor
Ray Milkowski, Sr., Photographer



Visit us on Twitter @stmarys716



Like us on Facebook



Masses

Monday – Friday: 12 Noon

Saturday: 4:30 & 7 PM

Sunday: 8 AM, 10 AM & 12 Noon

Weekday, Saturday 4:30 PM and Sunday 10 AM Masses
are livestreamed.

Visit <http://stmarysonthehill.org/live-streams/>.

Livestreamed Masses are also available on Facebook and
You Tube @St Mary's on the Hill.

*Please call the St. Mary's Rectory at (716) 683-6445
for Holy Day Mass schedules.*

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

By Appointment Only at This Time

*Appointments may also be made by calling
the St. Mary's Rectory at (716) 683-6445.*