FIRST SUNDAY
OF Advent

Watch therefore: you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning.

Mark 13:35

DECEMBER 3, 2017

26 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel, CT 06801
Phone: (203)744-5777  Fax: (203)744-3740
www.stmarybethel.org
Visit us on Facebook: StMaryChurchBethel

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
9am –3:00 pm, Monday – Friday (Closed weekends and Holidays)
**FATHER COREY’S EPISTLE**

♦ **Happy Advent!** Welcome to this beautiful season in which we prepare for the Nativity of Our Lord. Advent comes from the Latin word meaning "coming." Jesus is coming, and Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for His arrival. While we typically regard Advent as a joyous season, it is also intended to be a period of preparation, much like Lent. Prayer, penance and fasting are appropriate during this season.

Advent is not as strict as Lent, and there are no rules for fasting, but it is meant to be a period of self-preparation. The purple color associated with Advent is also the color of penance. The faithful should fast during receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The color of the Third Sunday of Advent is rose. This color symbolizes joy and represents the happiness we will experience when Jesus comes again. The Third Sunday is a day of anticipatory celebration. It is formerly called "Gaudete" Sunday; gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. Finally, Sundays during Advent, just as during Lent, should not be given to fasting, but instead to celebration because we celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord every Sunday. It is important to remember, however, there are no particular rules for how the laity should observe Advent.

**Advent Wreath** — Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord’s first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

**Blessing of an Advent wreath at home:**

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says: *Our help is in the name of the Lord.*  
Response (R./) *Who made heaven and earth.*  

Then the Scripture, Isaiah 9: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17 & 19) or Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7) is read:

Reader: *The Word of the Lord.*  
R/. *Thanks be to God.*

With hands joined, the leader says: *Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ’s promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.*  
R/. *Amen.*

The blessing may conclude with a verse from “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”: *O come, desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of mankind; bid ev’ry sad division cease and be thyself our Prince of peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

♦ The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

**December 17** O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!  
**December 18** O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!  
**December 19** O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

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<th>Sunday, 12/3</th>
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<td>7:00am, 8:30am, 10:00am and 11:30am &amp; 5:30pm Masses</td>
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<td>8:30am Kinderword</td>
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<td>9:30am RCIA</td>
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<td>10:30am Grow Truck</td>
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<td>8:15pm Knights of Columbus</td>
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Religious Articles Store
FATHER COREY’S EPISTLE

December 20 O Key of David, opening the gates of God’s eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!


December 22 O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23 O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

♦ The feasts on the General Roman Calendar celebrated during the month of December are:


♦ We are grateful for the generosity shown by so many parishioners who have sacrificed for our Annual Appeal. God has blessed us abundantly — both individually and as a parish community. If you have not yet had an opportunity to return your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. Every gift is welcomed and sincerely appreciated. It truly is a help to our ministries and operating budget. No gift is too small and if you decide to give with a bit of sacrifice included, the Lord will bless you many times over. Thank you!

♦ This is an important announcement!!!!!! The speed of the drivers in the parking lot has become more and more of a concern. No one should travel more than 15 MPH in the Parking Lot. There are people everywhere in our parking lot especially at night. It will take every one of us to make sure we are safe. If you are driving near the school, please be especially careful. Whether dropping off your children or picking up, please, drive no more than 15MPH. Let’s avoid a tragedy.

♦ If people really understood that participating at Mass is witnessing Christ’s suffering, death and resurrection, then maybe they would stop taking pictures, talking, making comments and acting as if it were some kind of show, Pope Francis said. "This is Mass: to enter into Jesus’ passion, death, resurrection and ascension. When we go to Mass, it is as if we were going to Calvary, it's the same," the pope said Nov. 22 during his weekly general audience. If people realize that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist and is letting himself be broken and pouring out his love and mercy for everyone, "would we allow ourselves to chitchat, take pictures, to be on show? No," the pope said. "For sure we would be silent, in mourning and also in joy for being saved," he said.

The pope continued his series of audience talks on the Mass, reflecting on what Mass really is and why it is so important. The Mass, as a "memorial," is more than just remembering an event from the past, the pope said. It is making that event present and alive in a way that transforms those who participate. The Eucharist is the focal point of God’s saving act, he said; it is Jesus making himself present in the bread, "broken for us, pouring out all of his mercy and love on us like he did on the cross, in that way, renewing our hearts, our lives and the way we relate to him and our brothers and sisters."

"Every celebration of the Eucharist is a beam of that sun that never sets, which is the risen Jesus Christ. To take part in Mass, especially on Sundays, means entering into the victory of the resurrection, being illuminated by his light, warmed by his heat," he said. Mass is "the triumph of Jesus." As Jesus goes from death to eternal life during the Mass celebration, he is seeking also to "carry us with him" toward eternal life, Pope Francis said. By spilling his blood, the pope continued, "he frees us from death and the fear of death. He frees us not only from the domination of physical death but also spiritual death -- evil and sin," which pollute one's life, making it lose its beauty, vitality and meaning.

### Schedule

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<td>4:00pm Confessions</td>
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Advent Parish Mission Begins
"In the Eucharist, (Jesus) wants to transmit his paschal, victorious love," the pope said. "If we receive it with faith, we too can truly love God and our neighbor, we can love like he loved us, giving life." When people experience the power of Christ's love within them, then they can give themselves freely and fully to others, even their enemies, without fear, he said.

The season for German Christmas Cookies starts in the "Adventszeit", the 4 weeks before Christmas. The recipe "Adventenschritten" or advent cookies starts the Christmas season. The cookies are spiced with cinnamon and cloves, and they go nicely with a cup of Gluhwein (mulled wine) or spiced apple.

**Ingredients:**
- 300g soft butter or margarine; 300g sugar, 5 eggs, rum baking oil (Rum Essence (Esenta de Rom) Dr. Oetker, 30 ml bottle), 400 g all-purpose flour; 1 package baking powder (Dr Oetker - 0.5oz): 5 tbsp cocoa powder unsweetened; 100 g zitronat (candied lemon—google how to make Zitronat at home or purchase Candied Diced Lemon Peel, 8 oz.); 2 tbsp cinnamon, 1/2 tsp ground cloves, 200 g hazelnuts, and 200g ground hazelnuts.

**Frosting:**
- 250 g powdered sugar, 100 ml rum, 200 g apricot jam, 100 g roasted grated hazelnuts.

**Baking Instructions:**
- Mix butter until smooth. Add slowly sugar and baking rum while mixing until you get a smooth dough. With mixer on highest level add one egg after the other, mix for about 30 seconds. Mix flour with baking powder, cocoa and spices. Combine with the dough (mixer on lowest level), then add ground hazelnuts. Finally add Zitronat. On a greased baking tray (or parchment paper) spread the dough (area of 40 x 30 cm). Place a stripe of aluminum foil in front of the dough so it won't overflow while baking. Spread whole hazelnuts on the entire dough, press them gently into the dough. Pre-heat oven to 180 degrees C or 325 F, bake for about 30 minutes.

**Add Frosting:**
- Mix powdered sugar with rum and spread it all over the hot cake, let it cool off.

**Final Steps:**
- Cut cake in cubes. Spread apricot jam over all edges and roll them in grated hazelnuts.

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**FATHER COREY’S EPISTLE**

Friday, December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses are:

- **Thurs., Dec. 7th at 5:30pm**
- **Fri., Dec. 8th at 6:30am, 9am & 7:00pm**

**DOROTHY DAY VOLUNTEERS** WED., DEC. 6TH—OUR TURN TO COOK.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER SERVICE** On Wednesday nights, join us for quiet prayer at **7:00pm** in the Notre Dame Center Chapel for our own personal intentions and for the whole world.

Our next meeting of the St. Mary MEN’S MINISTRY group will be on **Saturday, Dec. 9** at 8:30am in the Parish Hall. For more information, email Craig DeFreese at acdefreese@snet.net or Eric Keener at stmarys06801@gmail.com.

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** provides a prayerful experience of mutual support and comfort for those who are confronting the loss of a loved one. Our next meeting will be on **Sat., Dec. 9th from 10:30-noon** in the Notre Dame Center. If you will be attending for the first time, please call the Rectory at 744-5777 to confirm.

Anyone interested in washing and ironing our ALTAR CLOTHS once or twice a month, please contact the Parish office at (203)744-5777. There will be a stipend for this work.

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for our **ADVENT PARISH MISSION** from the weekend of **December 9/10 through Wednesday, December 13** with Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers. Deacon Harold, known worldwide as the “Dynamic Deacon,” is one of the most sought-after speakers in the Church today. He is a powerful and passionate evangelist and preacher, whose no-nonsense approach to living and proclaiming the Catholic faith is sure to challenge and inspire those who hear him. He will be speaking at all the **Masses on Dec. 9/10** and at **7pm on Mon. through Wed.** Don’t miss this opportunity to deepen your faith during the Advent season!

On **Sunday, December 17**, we shall be celebrating the Roman tradition of **BLESSING OF THE BAMBELLINI**, the little or big statues of the Baby Jesus that are placed in our home Nativity scenes. We invite all parishioners to bring their Baby Jesus statues and they will be blessed at every Mass on that weekend.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATION** If you wish to donate toward flowers for the Church in memory of loved ones, please put your donation along with the names in an envelope in the basket or bring it to the Rectory.

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**THE POPE’S INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER**

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian Communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

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**Offertory for the weekend of November 18/19**
- Collection: $11,094.00
- On-Line Giving: $4,272.00

**Offertory for the weekend of November 25/26**
- Collection: $11,615.00
- On-Line Giving: $3,047.00
Welcome to those newly Baptized

Hania Brito        Ellianne Marie Ramirez

ST. MARY CHRISTMAS GIVING PROGRAM

Once again, our parish will collect gifts, gift cards and monetary donations to help Bethel area families during this Christmas season beginning November 18. The requests of those in need in our area are written on the paper straws in the manger in the vestibule of the Church. After purchasing the gifts, please bring them back wrapped for delivery and place the gift around the manger. The envelopes should be placed in the marked box. The deadline is December 7th, and the gifts cannot be given to the intended if received after that. We appreciate your generosity and any questions, call Mary Ferri at 743-4557.

ST. MARY BETHEL

December 11-13

Deacon

Harold Burke-Sivers

ST. MARY BETHEL

Kinder'word'

Learn about the Mass and hear stories of our faith! For children age 3 through First Grade. Every Sunday in the Parish Hall at 8:30am.

GROW Up with Good Nutrition

The GROW Truck program provides:

30 minute workshops covering nutrition, recipes, fitness, etc.

Up to 70 pounds of FREE, fresh food (meats, fish, poultry, dairy produce).

All at no cost to the family
Just bring your own bags!

The program will be conducted the 1st and 3rd Mondays at St. Mary’s Church Hall, 26 Dodingtown Road, Bethel, from 10:30 am to 12 noon October 2017 through February 2018.

Participants must have a child under 18 years old living in their household or be a grandparent helping to raise a child under 18.

For more information about the GROW Truck and to sign up, call Caroline LaFleur at the United Way of Western Connecticut at 203-297-6307 or email caroline.lafleur@uwwesternct.org

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES STORE & CATHOLIC BOOK FAIR

The Weekend of December 2 & 3 after all the Masses

Get your Advent supplies and Christmas shopping done early! Items for sale include nativity sets, dvd’s, rosaries, crosses, statues, medals, etc. You can also order children’s Catholic books which will be shipped before Christmas. Don’t miss this opportunity to purchase unique and religious items for your family and friends! We will also have another opportunity to purchase items in the spring with Easter, First Communion and Confirmation items.
There will be **NO CLASSES** on **Friday, December 8th** for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Thank you for making St. Mary School a charitable priority during our recent #GIVINGTUESDAY campaign. We were proud to participate in this global movement of philanthropic giving, and your gift serves as a powerful reminder that the St. Mary School community makes a difference all year long. Your gift will ensure that SMS remains an educational cornerstone in the lives of our students for many years to come.

Please stop by our **PRE-K OPEN HOUSE** on **Tuesday, December 12 between 9:30 am – 11:00 am**. You will be able to visit the classroom, meet our Pre-K faculty, and see for yourself why parents love our program! For the current school year, we still have a few openings in our PK 3 program. Please contact our Enrollment Director, Linda Garvey, at lgarvey@stmarybethelct.org if interested.

**THANK YOU** to Jennifer Zinzi for making this year’s wine tasting event a success! A Great time was had by all! A special Thank you to Taunton Wine & Liquor and Rocco’s Café! Also, a Big THANK YOU to Kate Ball and Chris & Laura Matthews for their efforts coordinating Turkey Bingo! Such a fun evening!

Attention all holiday shoppers: We've just partnered with SHUTTERFLY to raise effortless funds for St. Mary School! Before you order your Christmas cards, photo books, prints and gifts this year, make sure you're shopping sms.shutterflystorefront.com . Every order placed here automatically generates a 13% (of purchase price) donation to SMS, which means you can make a big impact here at school just by remembering to use this link. Spread the word to parents, teachers, friends and family, anyone can shop through our custom URL for Shutterfly and Tiny Prints. Don’t miss this easy opportunity to support our school. Thank you for thinking of St. Mary School this Christmas season!

Support St. Mary School when you shop this holiday season... It’s easy! It’s automatic! Whether you’re just starting your holiday shopping or you’re almost done. The **AMAZONSMILE FOUNDATION** will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to our school. So far, this school year, friends and family in the St. Mary's community have raised over $225 by using this link to shop on Amazon. Start here https://smile.amazon.com/ch/32-0445968 and the items you buy will also become a gift to SMS. The more, the merrier! Thanks for your support!

**SMS 2017-18 ANNUAL FUND**: Many companies match contributions that their employees make to non-profit institutions such as St. Mary School. Most matches are on a 1:1 basis, but some companies match 2:1 or 3:1. Upon making your own gift, you may request your company to match it. Matching gift forms are usually available in your company’s human resources office or please contact Robin Taylor at RTaylor@stmarybethelct.org

**REGISTRATION** for students entering Pre-school through Grade 8 is ongoing. Please call the school at 203-744-2922 or email our Director of Enrollment, Linda Garvey at lgarvey@stmarybethelct.org for information. You can also visit our website at www.stmarybethelct.org for school and registration information.
In a letter to the U.S. Senate, the United States Conference for Catholic Bishops (USCCB) urged the Senate to respect life when changing the health care mandate. The USCCB says no health care reform plan should compel us or others to pay for the destruction of human life, whether through government funding or mandatory coverage of abortion. Long-standing “Hyde Amendment” protections must extend to any relevant health care plan in order to prevent federal funding of abortion and not as a temporary fix or future promise.

BROTHERHOOD IN ACTION CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

Thank you for your generosity with our Thanksgiving food drive. We are now collecting non-perishable donations for Christmas! For more info, call Leo Gallagher at 733-7463. Please be as generous as you can as our food supplies are very low and demand is great! Monetary donations may be sent to: Brotherhood in Action, P.O. Box 582, (not 581) Bethel, Ct. 06801.

Bishop Caggiano and the Diocesan Youth Choir for the annual ARISE AND SHINE CHRISTMAS CONCERT at the Regina Quick Center on the campus of Fairfield University at 7:00 p.m. on December 17, 2017. Tickets are general admission and are available online and at the box office for $20. Please visit the diocesan website - http://bridgeportdiocese.com - for more information.

Come celebrate mass with us for those affected by ADDICTION on Dec. 9 at 12:00 Noon at St. Rose of Lima RC Church, 46 Church Hill Road, Newtown. The celebrant is a priest in recovery. Fellowship will follow.

Our next meeting is on Mon., Dec. 18 at 8:15pm in the Parish Hall. We will say the Rosary at 7:45pm in the Church. If you are at least 18 years of age and think you may be interested in joining our ranks, contact Grand Knight Tony Iorfino at (203)744-2714 or email gkofpavia@gmail.com.
MASS SCHEDULE
Monday – Friday: 6:30 & 9:00am
Saturday: 8:00am & 5:30pm (Vigil Mass)
Sunday: 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30am & 5:30pm

RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 4:00 – 5:00pm

STAFF
Father Corey V. Piccinino, Pastor
Father Robert Wolfe, Parochial Vicar
Father Philip Phan, Parochial Vicar
Deacon John DeRoin
Kate Fitzgerald, Parish Secretary & Bulletin Editor
Peggy Gavin, Parish Secretary
Julie Doerner, Business Manager
Paul Orsino, Property Manager

ST. MARY SCHOOL (744-2922): Greg Viceroy, Principal
RECREATIONAL EDUCATION (743-4557): Mary Ferri, Director
(743-4557): Maggie Kent, Secretary
RCIA (203)744-5777: Call if you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing your initiation as a Catholic with Confirmation and/or Eucharist.
YOUTH MINISTRY (203)744-5777
MUSIC MINISTRY: Michael Ferrari, Music Director
Elizabeth Barnes, Choir Director
Karen Mattera, Children’s Choir
FINANCE COMMITTEE (794-8512): Bob Kozlowski, Chair

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARRIAGE: All couples must meet with a parish clergyman at least six (6) months before the marriage is to be celebrated.
PASTORAL CARE AT DANBURY HOSPITAL: Prior to Your Hospitalization: You or a family member should notify the Rectory.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK: To any of those who are homebound or hospitalized and interested in having a visit by a priest, please contact the parish office. Anyone interested in serving in this ministry, please call Father Philip at 744-5777.

PRAYER LINE: If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please call our Prayer Line. Our team leaders are Maggie Kent (203-731-4738) and Deana Chamberlin (203-482-7149).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon.: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tues.: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Wed.: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thur.: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Fri.: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Sat.: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 -- 10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sun.: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
SAT., DECEMBER 2
5:30 + Merle & Bud Riesenber — Family
SUN., DECEMBER 3
7:00 + Charles McCollam, Jr. (Birthday) — Family
8:30 + Richard Shannon — Family
10:00 + James McGowan — Grandma & Pop
11:30 + Carolyn Buzak — Family
5:30 + Gloria Bocchino — The Franzese Family
MON., DECEMBER 4
6:30 + Cathryn Z. Costello
9:00 + Daniel & Holly Ann Hayes — Family
TUES., DECEMBER 5
6:30 + Helen Prato — The DiMatteo Family
9:00 + Lillian Lentine — Pat & Ed Ruhl
WED., DECEMBER 6
6:30 For Those Most in Need
9:00 + Jack Christensen — John & Linda Curry
THU., DECEMBER 7
6:30 + Grace Ramey — Rose Schlemmer
9:00 + Chad McCollam — Family
5:30 Klingel Family (Blessings) — Mary & Bob Sawitsky
FRI., DECEMBER 8
6:30 + Evelyn Sapienza — Joe & Rose Yacovacci
9:00 + Kitty Gallagher (2nd. Anniv.) — Family
7:00 + Kellianne Gartland (Birthday) — Family
SAT., DECEMBER 9
8:00 + Mary Ellen Costello (Birthday) — Family
5:30 + Dick Masselink — Family
SUN., DECEMBER 10
7:00 + Father Paul M. Spodnick
8:30 + Ann Hulsit — Cornie & Jed Costello
10:00 + Doris & Charles Caffrey — Family
11:30 + Mary Ellen Costello — Lynn & Roger Dexter
5:30 + Warren Brown — Muriel Lombardi
Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers – known around the world as the “Dynamic Deacon” – is one of the most sought-after speakers in the Church today. He is a powerful and passionate evangelist and preacher, whose no-nonsense approach to living and proclaiming the Catholic faith is sure to challenge and inspire those who hear him. He travels across the United States and around the world speaking at conferences, workshops, retreats, parish missions, high schools, and young adult events – in short, to everyone who desires to know Jesus intimately and enjoy a deeper personal relationship with Him. His areas of expertise include marriage and family life, discerning the will of God, the sacraments, spirituality, pro-life issues, evangelization, prayer, and many others.

Deacon Harold holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame, and a Master of Theological Studies Degree from the University of Dallas. He co-hosts the weekly broadcast, “Living Stones,” every Monday on Mater Dei Radio, and has appeared as a guest on numerous other national and international radio programs, including “Catholic Answers Live” and “Vocation Boom Radio.” In addition, he is the host or co-host of several popular series on EWTN television. Deacon is featured on the award winning Chosen faith formation program by Ascension Press and the author of the best-selling book, Behold the Man: A Catholic Vision of Male Spirituality published by Ignatius Press, and co-author of the acclaimed new book, Ignite: Read the Bible Like Never Before.

Most importantly, he is married to his lovely wife, Colleen, and they have four beautiful children. They live in Portland, where Deacon Harold is assigned to Immaculate Heart Catholic Church.

See you there!

For more information, please call (203)744-5777
St. Mary Church, 26 Dodgingtown Road, Bethel, CT
www.stmarybethel.org