

# Church of St. Mary

Dominican Friars

5 Hillhouse Avenue • New Haven, CT 06511



## Parish Handbook

*It is our hope that each of our parish families and members will be involved in at least one of our ministries. This booklet opens wide the door of opportunity for you to better serve our Lord.*

UPDATED: 6.28.11



## **MASS SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday Masses**

Saturday Vigil – 5:00 PM  
*(Contemplative and silent Mass)*

8:00 AM  
*(Contemplative and silent Mass)*

10:00 AM  
*(Family Mass with Parish Choir)*

12:00 Noon  
*(Mass with Schola Cantorium and Latin Music)*

5:00 PM  
*(Mass with organist and cantor)*

### **Daily Masses**

7:30 AM, 12:05pm, 5:00 PM

## **CONFESSION SCHEDULE**

### **Monday – Friday**

11:15 AM – 12 noon

### **Saturday**

11:15 AM – 12 noon

4:15 – 4:45 PM

## **GENERAL LITURGY SCHEDULE**

### **Recitation of the Rosary**

Monday – Friday

4:40 PM

### **Novena Prayer of the Divine Infant**

Offered Prior to 12 noon Mass

## **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Friday: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

## **ST. MARY'S CHURCH**

Dedicated as Christ Church in 1834, St. Mary's was the first Catholic Church in New Haven, and the second in Connecticut. After the Church was completely destroyed by fire in December 1848, a new building on Church Street was dedicated under the care of Mary, and renamed St. Mary's Church. With the rapid growth of the Catholic population, in 1851 plans for a new church were enacted. The cornerstone at the new location on Hillhouse was laid in 1870, and the church dedicated in 1874. In 1982, in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus, the church went through a complete renovation, including restructuring of the sanctuary, erection of the steeple, and the addition of the organ.

## **THE VENERABLE FATHER MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY**

Father Michael J. McGivney was ordained on December 22, 1877, and assigned to St. Mary's Church. It was here in 1882 he founded the Knights of Columbus with the intention that this group would strengthen the faith of the men of the parish and care for the widows of members. Today, the Knights is the largest Catholic fraternal benefit society in the World. Father McGivney spent seven years at St. Mary's, being assigned pastor of St. Thomas in Thomaston in 1884, where he died in 1890 at the age of 38. In 1982, his remains were re-entombed at St. Mary's Church. In 1997 Archbishop Daniel Cronin opened the cause for Father McGivney, and in April 2008, Pope Benedict XVI declared him Venerable.

## **THE DOMINICAN FRIARS**

St. Mary's Church has been under the care of the Dominicans since 1886. The friars are members of the Province of St. Joseph, based in New York City. The present priory building was erected in 1907, and provides an environment for prayer, study, silence and community. The Dominicans residing at the priory serve multiple areas, including the parish, the Shrine of the Infant of Prague, the Knights of Columbus, and the chaplaincy of Our Lady of Grace Monastery of Dominican nuns in North Guilford.

## **THE SHRINE OF THE INFANT OF PRAGUE**

Established in 1945 through the Eastern European Shrine of the Infant of Prague, they continue to honor Christ by this title. Mass is celebrated every day at noon for intentions requested through the shrine, and for all who are in need. Dominican Friars conduct a number of Solemn Novenas and novenas of Masses throughout the year. **The Shrine Office & Gift Shop**, located in the lower level of the priory, offers many devotional items and religious books available for purchase. The shop offers the opportunity to have intentions remembered in the Masses and prayers offered by the Shrine; or to enroll oneself or loved ones in the Shrine Prayer Society.

*The parishioners of St. Mary's Church, the Dominican Friars, and the Knights of Columbus welcome and encourage pilgrimages from the United States, Canada and beyond, that come to St. Mary's to visit the birthplace of the Knights of Columbus, and the final resting place of the Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney.*



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

We, the members of St. Mary's Parish, with the influence and presence of the Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, form a parochial community in downtown New Haven. Guided by the Dominican spirituality that is committed to proclaiming the living Word of God, we profess our faith in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Through the celebration of sacraments and liturgies, we are enriched to proclaim and witness the Good News. We embrace our mission of building the kingdom of God on earth, and respond to our divine graces, gifts and charisms by serving the spiritual, social, and material needs of people everywhere.

## **PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

### **PARISH LIFE**

A committee of parish council members and other parishioners who are responsible to recommend ways to strengthen the social life of the parish through hospitality at special liturgies, coordinating special events, etc.

### **SOCIAL WELFARE**

A committee of parish council members and other parishioners who are responsible to recommend initiatives that extend our parish vision beyond the boundaries of family and parish to the disenfranchised and an outreach to the less fortunate in our community.

### **BUILDING & GROUNDS**

A committee of parish council members and other parishioners who work with the pastor in overseeing the buildings and grounds of the parish, which can include but are not limited to: identifying areas of concern or in need of attention, working to find efficient use of the existing space in the parish, and recommending potential development of new projects.

### **EDUCATION**

A committee of parish council members and other parishioners who work with the pastor and Friars to review the existing educational programs of the parish, as well as recommending special interest programs for ongoing education for all parishioners.

### **SPIRITUALITY & LITURGIES**

A committee of parish council members and other parishioners who are responsible to recommend ways that will continue to foster and deepen our faith and commitment to parish worship.

## **PARISH LITURGIES**

**ALTAR SERVERS:** To be able to assist the priest in the celebration of the Mass is a great privilege. Servers assist in many roles during the Mass — carrying the cross, processional candles, incense and censer, and assisting the celebrant as required. We continue to seek out boys and young men to serve on Sundays and at special Masses. An altar server must have already received first Holy Communion, and is expected to fulfill all responsibilities with appropriate reverence.

*Those interested should contact Fr. Jonah Pollack, OP*

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** To assist with the distribution of Holy Communion at Sunday Masses is a great privilege and an enriching opportunity for spiritual and personal growth. It is also a public expression of devotion to the Holy Eucharist. We continually seek people who are willing to serve. An extraordinary minister of the Holy Eucharist is expected to dress appropriately and move about the altar with respect and dignity.

*Those interested should contact Moira Hambleton at (203) 891-5555.*

**LECTOR MINISTRY:** The opportunity to proclaim the Word of God within the context of liturgical celebrations with excellence at Sunday Masses is a great privilege granted by the church for the good of the community and of each lector. We continually seek people who are articulate, can project their readings well, and are willing to serve once or twice a month at an assigned Mass. The lector is expected to dress appropriately and move about the altar with respect and dignity.

*Those interested should contact Fr. Jonah Pollack, OP*

**MINISTRY OF WELCOME:** In their service of welcoming and assisting during liturgical celebrations, ushers pass out bulletins, collect donation envelopes, and otherwise ensure that the tasks of the congregation proceed smoothly. We welcome more volunteer ushers.

*If interested, please see an usher at one of the Masses, or contact the pastor.*

**MUSIC MINISTRY:** The parish choir is a choral ensemble of volunteer singers who contribute time and talent to enrich our Masses and special events. The choir regularly leads the singing of the hymns and an English setting of the Ordinary of the Mass, as well as the Responsorial Psalm rendered in Anglican chant and an anthem at the Offertory.

*If you are interested in joining the parish choir, please contact Nicholas Renouf at (203) 453-5411.*

**THE SCHOLA CANTORUM:** The Schola Cantorum is a professional choral ensemble of singers that provides the music for the 12 noon Sunday Mass from September through the Solemnity of Corpus Christi feast day. The Schola regularly sings the Gregorian chant as well as Latin propers. The ensemble draws on the magnificent heritage of Catholic sacred music for its extensive repertory from the Middle Ages to the present.

*The Schola, a professional group, is not seeking volunteer assistance. For further information, please contact Nicholas Renouf at (203) 453-5411.*

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION / SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

**CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD:** A highly acclaimed approach to the religious formation of children, rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the Church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. Children gather in an “atrium,” a room prepared for them which contains simple yet beautiful materials that they use to ponder the story of Christ and the life of the Church. Elements of the Mass, a topographical map of the Land of Israel and a timeline for the History of the Kingdom of God are just a few of the experiences the children encounter in an atrium that serves children ages 3 to 6, 6 to 9, and 9 to 12.

*For more information, or to receive a registration form, contact the parish secretary.*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** Our program offers instruction for children from Grade 1 through Confirmation in the high-school years. Following the teachings of the Catholic Church, it offers a curriculum that draws upon the “Faith and Life” series published by Ignatius Press, as well as other materials, especially the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Bible. Classes are held on a weekday evening in the Parish Hall beginning in early fall and ending at Pentecost. The program also includes various liturgical and social events.

*For more information, or to receive a registration form, contact the parish secretary.*

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA):** The RCIA provides doctrinal and spiritual formation for those desiring to enter the Catholic Church. Through prayer, study, and discipleship, it allows each person to learn more about their journey of faith and leads to full participation in the Roman Catholic Church through the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter.

*For more information, contact Fr. Jonah Pollack, OP*

**CONFESSION & FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION:** Confession and first Communion preparation is open to children of all ages; however, typically for children in first and second grades. Children are to be enrolled in religious education classes the year prior to the year of sacramental reception as a norm. For example, if a child is to celebrate the Eucharist in second grade they are to be enrolled in first grade the year prior

*For more information, or to receive a registration form, contact the parish secretary.*

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION:** Students in the ninth and tenth grades attend the two-year Confirmation program. Candidates are to be enrolled in religious education classes the year prior to the year of sacramental reception as a norm.

*For more information, contact the parish secretary.*

**BAPTISMAL CATECHESIS:** Baptism arrangements, preparation and scheduling are made by appointment only.

*For more information, contact the parish secretary.*

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION:** The Archdiocese of Hartford requires that marriage preparation begin at least six months prior to the celebration of the sacrament.

*For more information, contact the Pastor.*

## **PARISH OUTREACH**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** The Father Michael McGivney Council #10705 is a group of men who work together to fulfill the vision of the Order's founder, the Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney. The Knights' projects range from serving the needy to fundraising for local charities, hosting pilgrims from around the world at St. Mary's and Father McGivney's tomb and supporting parish ministries financially and with volunteer support. All Catholic men age 18 or older are encouraged to join the McGivney Council.

*For more information, please contact William Long (203) 887-2833 or email at [kofc10705@gmail.com](mailto:kofc10705@gmail.com).*

**PRO-LIFE REPRESENTATIVES:** The parish pro-life representative acts as an advocate to promote human life at every stage and works with the pastor to promote parishioner involvement in pro-life efforts. Responsibilities include communicating issues and events to parishioners, contacting legislators regarding support or opposition to a bill or regulation and energizing parishioners to join the pro-life mission.

*For more information, please contact Mary and Gary Walsh, parish pro-life representatives, at: (203) 230-0530 or email at [mary\\_zurolo@hotmail.com](mailto:mary_zurolo@hotmail.com).*

**SOUP KITCHEN:** A group of parishioners meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month to prepare a meal for the men's shelter on Grand Avenue.

*For more information, please contact Mary O'Leary at (203) 467-0357.*

**SQUIRES:** The Squires program, the official youth organization of the Knights of Columbus, provides spiritual, cultural, civic, social and physical improvement for its members, while developing their leadership qualities. Membership is open to Catholic boys and young men 10-18 years old. The Knights have established a new circle of Squires at our parish.

*For information, contact Chris Neumann at (203)393-3518.*

**VERITAS:** Since 1990, the Veritas group has met in the parish library weekly. Participants support one another in their faith through prayer, discussion, service and camaraderie. The group is open to anyone who is interested: the membership includes men and women, single and married, quiet and spirited, in their 20's, 30's and 40's.

*For more information, please contact John Alvaro at [john.alvaro@yale.edu](mailto:john.alvaro@yale.edu) or visit our website at [www.veritasnh.net63.net](http://www.veritasnh.net63.net).*

**YOUNG ADULTS:** A group of young adults, ages 18-34, that meets weekly to work to strengthen the community, through prayer and works of mercy.

*For more information, contact Fr. Hugh Vincent Dyer, OP or Fr. Jonah Pollack, OP.*

## **FAITH ENRICHMENT**

**CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP:** This group of men meets weekly at the Knights of Columbus Museum (State Street, New Haven) for about an hour. Fr. Robert Usenza leads the group in prayer and discussions of readings, such as the Scriptures for the next Sunday Mass.

*For more information, contact Fr. Robert Usenza ([frusenzarj@yahoo.com](mailto:frusenzarj@yahoo.com)) or Martijn Cremers ([martijn.cremers@yale.edu](mailto:martijn.cremers@yale.edu) or (203) 776-3206).*

**COMMUNION AND LIBERATION:** An ecclesial lay movement whose purpose is to educate its members to be mature Christians and to collaborate with the mission of the Catholic Church. CL began in 1954 in Milan, Italy, when Monsignor Luigi Giussani left seminary teaching to become involved with the Christian education of youth. The movement was officially recognized by Pope John Paul II on February 11, 1982. Since 1988, a CL group has been meeting at Saint Mary's priory for its weekly catechesis, called School of Community.

*For information, contact Cristina Canetta at (203) 245-7307, [socct@yahoo.com](mailto:socct@yahoo.com) or visit [www.clonline.us](http://www.clonline.us).*

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament for silent prayer is offered each Thursday following the 12 noon Mass, ending with Benediction at 4:30PM. Additional parish Eucharistic Adoration includes a forty hours of adoration event and a Corpus Christi procession.

*For information, contact Moira Hambleton at (203) 891-5555.*

**G. K. CHESTERTON SOCIETY OF NEW HAVEN:** This group meets one evening a month at a parishioner's home in New Haven, to read and discuss the Catholic wisdom found in the writings of G.K. Chesterton (see [www.chesterton.org](http://www.chesterton.org)). We welcome others to join our small ecumenical group.

*For information, contact Martijn Cremers at [martijn.cremers@yale.edu](mailto:martijn.cremers@yale.edu) or (203) 776-3206.*

**LAY FRATERNITY OF ST. DOMINIC (DOMINICAN LAITY):** Members of the Dominican Laity bear witness in the world to the truth of Christ by participating in the spirituality, practices and apostolic works of the Dominican order. It is open to men and women, single or married, who desire to manifest God's love in the world today. Dominican Laity are members of "chapters" which meet once a month for prayer and study of events and issues regarding the Church today to foster the proclamation of the truth in a secular society.

*For information on becoming a member, contact the parish secretary.*

## **OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

**ALTAR LINENS:** A small group of volunteers care for the altar linens at St Mary's. We welcome anyone interested in assisting.

*For information contact Pat Brennan at (203) 865-5328.*

**HELPERS OF GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS:** This group is committed to maintaining a loving and prayerful presence outside of the abortion businesses where God's children are put to death. Vigils are held on the second Saturday of each month, starting with Mass, followed by Eucharistic Adoration, and a procession to one of two abortion clinics in town, while reciting the Rosary.

*For information contact Mike and Kerry Guidone at (203) 248-8183.*

**PARISH LIBRARY:** Located in the lower level of the priory, this lending library offers more than 2,000 books, audiotapes and videos on a wide variety of subjects of Catholic interest for the use of all parishioners — including young adults and children. The library is operated by volunteers who are on duty after the 8:00AM, 10:00AM and 12 noon Masses on Sundays to assist borrowers in finding books and other resources. The loan period for a book is four weeks, and is two weeks for videotapes and DVDs. Contributions to the collections and to the budget are always welcome.

*For information on contributing or volunteering, contact Lisa Hoffer at (203) 562-1852.*

**RELIGIOUS PILGRIMAGES:** The Dominican Friars regularly conduct religious pilgrimages to various shrines around the world. Destinations have included Lourdes, Fatima, Eastern Europe and the Holy Land.

*For specific information on upcoming trips, contact the parish secretary.*

**GENERAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** In addition to the various groups and organizations noted in this handbook, additional general volunteer opportunities arise throughout the year – such as organizing parish events, cleaning the church, seasonal decorating, or gardening, to name a few.

*If you have special talents that you wish to share, when needed, feel free to contact the parish secretary.*