



**ST.
MARGUERITE
BOURGEOYS
PARISH**

Roman Catholic Church
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Brookfield, CT 06804
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**MAY 7, 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

“The priesthood is the heart of the love of Jesus”

(St. John Vianney, 1786-1859, otherwise known as the Cure of Ars).

This weekend, the Church celebrates World Day of Prayer for Vocations. While all baptized Catholics have a vocation to live Jesus' call to serve Him as faithfully as they can in their own state of life, the common understanding of “vocation” within the Church is reserved principally to the clergy and consecrated men and women who dedicate themselves in a special way for God and His Church. The term, “vocation,” comes from the Latin, “to call,” and this is indeed what a man experiences at his ordination. He literally stands before his bishop while his name is called forth from the midst of the Church, and he responds, “Present.” No one knows that he has a call from God unless that call is confirmed by the Church first. It is within the Body of the Church where the deacon, priest, bishop, or consecrated persons serve, and therefore, it is legitimate since Apostolic times that the Church confirm God's call (see 2 Timothy 1:6 and Titus 1:5). In speaking of the priesthood, for example, the Cure of Ars wrote in his catechism that “the priest is not a priest for himself; he does not give himself absolution; he does not administer the sacraments to himself. He is not for himself, he is for you!”

Why did Christ establish the definitive priesthood in Himself? As St. John Vianney stated so succinctly, “The priest continues the work of redemption on earth” (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1589). Christ's ministers are a continuing sign to the world of hope. When people lose faith in God, they lose hope. They no longer see the connection between sacrifice and love. Instead, love becomes purely self-serving. However, Jesus stands in stark contrast to such a narrow, selfish understanding.

Jesus wanted all of His work to continue until He comes again at His Second Coming. Until that time, we who are Catholics have a special dignity to cooperate with Him in living and standing as an example of what Jesus' redemption means in a very disordered world today that in so many ways prefers the darkness to Jesus' true light (see John 1: 1-18). As the *Catechism* states, “The redemptive sacrifice of Christ is unique, accomplished once for all; yet it is made present in the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Church. The same is true of the one priesthood of Christ; it is made present through the ministerial priesthood without diminishing the uniqueness of Christ's priesthood: ‘Only Christ is the true priest, the others being only His ministers’” (par. 1545).

Only in Jesus Christ can one experience the fact that our sacrifices offered to God for love of Him and our neighbor always generates great fruitfulness. Jesus' call, “Follow Me,” resonates still with many men and women who desire to serve Christ and His Catholic Church authentically by divesting themselves of themselves and putting on the armor of Christ instead (see John 21: 19 Ephesians 6: 10-18). It is only in the seeming contradiction with God that the more we lose ourselves the more we discover who we are meant to be.

The age in which the Cure of Ars lived was a very secular, pagan time quite like our own day. He lived directly in the aftermath of the French Revolution which was a complete repudiation of the Catholic Church; the current state of faith

within France has not changed in large part since St. John Vianney lived. In our own day, we see a post-Christian West, and in fact, there are many quarters within the Catholic Church herself operating among her rebellious ministers who advance a post-Christian mentality within the Church. These fraudulent ministers want constant change and a “new theology” that often mimics evangelical Protestant ideas in an effort to make the true faith contemporary, appealing, and attractive using the standards set by the world in a vain, tired effort to make Catholicism relevant to younger people.

The Cure of Ars words are just as appropriate for today's Church even as he wrote in the nineteenth century: “When people wish to destroy religion, they begin by attacking the priests because where there is no longer any priest there is no sacrifice, and where there is no longer any sacrifice there is no religion” (as quoted by Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, 1 May 2016). The priesthood continues to be a sign that is counter-cultural to the world, but it is also counter-cultural to many within the Church. How often have we seen that the entire reason for the priesthood—the holy Sacrifice of the Mass—is downplayed in favor of constant social action that is supposed to give meaning to priests and people? How often have the corporal and spiritual works of mercy been reduced to simple works that could just as easily be done by an atheistic social worker with only a thin veneer of Catholicism painted over them to make them appear holy? Today's social justice crowd loves constant action, activity, and change, but one never hears from them about the interior conversion to God daily found in silence and in learning more about who Jesus is within His Catholic Church.

Today's faithful deacons, priests, bishops, and consecrated men and women speak about our holy obligations to serve God and be transformed by Him to a world that largely sees no obligation owed to anyone beyond oneself. Our age is dominated by the idea that sacrifice is not worth anything because there is no immediate beneficial result that makes one comfortable. This idea is prevalent not only among the worldly, but also among many poorly formed Catholics—clergy and laity alike. Today's men and women responding to Jesus' call need the prayers and support of the faithful so that they can authentically serve Christ and His Kingdom found in the Church and not the illusory kingdom of man that demands immediate attention but ultimately passes away. Rather, the Standard of Christ is enduring and found in the quiet of the heart and soul readily available in the Church's authentic traditions, sacraments, and prayers over two millennia. May we pray for vocations, but not simply for greater numbers. The Church needs holy and properly formed men and women who are willing to sacrifice and suffer for love of Jesus Christ and who wholeheartedly respond to His perennial invitation in every generation, “You follow Me” (John 21: 22). Only by following the true Master and Shepherd of our souls, will we then find eternity.

May you have a most blessed and holy week!

Fr. Shawn William Cutler

Thank you to Phyllis Babuini, Scott and Darleen Senete, Greg Dembowski, Joe Rajcula, Diane Flood, Carol Karvosky, Kim and Vincent Rajcula, and Kathy Basso, who worked with a dozen students beautifying our grounds by spreading mulch, raking, and cleaning up over the last few weeks!

Bethel Health Care Center and the Village at Brookfield Common sent us lovely **thank you notes for their Easter baskets!** Visit the Bulletin Board to see them.

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys's Annual Shakespeare and Low Tea Fundraiser: Saint Scholastica's Shakespearean Players (a group of children ranging in age from 6-18) and Father Shawn W. Cutler will be performing *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at 11am on Sat. June 10 at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish. The festivities begin with a "Royal Procession," and end with an English Low Tea, which follows the performance. The Menu is as follows: Appetizer: Fruit Salad; Tea Sandwiches: Shrimp Salad, Cucumber and Watercress, Chicken Salad with Walnuts & Raisins; Desserts: Chocolate Éclairs and Crème Puffs. Beverages: Mimosas (Alcoholic/For Adults), Non alcoholic "Champagne" Punch for kids (Fruit Punch), Tea & Coffee. For tickets: call (203) 521-2390, download the form at stmarguerite.org, or email ShakespeareTeaParty@gmail.com. (Adults \$20; Seniors \$15; Children \$12 ages 6-12; Children 5 & under free! \$60 Maximum per family. Tickets must be purchased in advance; they will not be sold at the door.) **Playbill Ad Form** is available at stmarguerite.org under "Breaking News".

Early Registration for 2017/18 Faith Formation Classes ends May 14. Classes begin in 1st Grade. Contact Faith Formation Director Mary Ellen Tiernan at 203.775.5117 with any questions.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser hosted by Knights of Columbus Council 11913: Sat., June 24, 5:30pm. Cost is: \$15/person and includes spaghetti and meatballs, salad, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert. Event is BYOB. Proceeds will benefit the Council's "Sponsor a Seminarian" program to provide financial assistance for a seminarian within the Diocese of Bridgeport, as well as St. Marguerite Parish. Sign up in the narthex. Questions? Contact: info@BrookfieldKnights.org, 203.830.9521.

THIS WEEK IN YOUR PARISH

Prayer Shawl: Tues, May 9, 10am, Room 8
Book Club: Tues, May 9, 7pm, Room 6, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Our selection for our June 13 meeting is *The Great Gatsby*.
Fatima Prayer Cell: Fri, May 12, 7pm, Room 1

Your Parish Office Is Open:
Monday-Thursday: 8:30am-3pm
Friday: 8:30am-12noon
203.775.5117 · www.stmarguerite.org
stmarguerite@parishmail.com
Like us on Facebook!
Follow us on Twitter and Instagram!

Pastor: Rev. Shawn William Cutler
Deacon: Anthony J. Detje
Weekend Assistant: Rev. Guido G. Montanaro

Mass Schedule
Public Morning Prayer: 8:20am
Monday-Friday: 8:30am - Chapel
Saturday: 8:30am - Chapel; 4:30pm Vigil Mass
Sunday: 8am, 10:30am, 12noon, 5pm(Low Mass)
Latin Low Mass: 1st Sunday of the month at 4pm

Confessions
Daily in the Chapel Sacristy before 8:20am prayer;
Saturdays 3:30-4:15pm or by appointment.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Apr 29/30: \$5,415.00 (includes Online Giving).
Thank you for your generous contributions! We request all parishioners use their weekly envelopes or Online Giving for donations to the parish.

Our Cover: "The Good Shepherd" by Philippe De Champaigne. Source: wikimedia.org.

2017 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Goal: \$73,000. Amount Raised: \$51,515. We are most thankful to all of those families and individuals who participated in our In-Pew weekend last week. We are hopeful that 100% of our registered households will respond to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Please prayerfully consider supporting the Appeal if you have not already done so; any level of commitment helps our neighbors throughout our Diocese in countless ways. Your support is much needed and greatly appreciated! For info: 2017ACAbidgeport.com.

Center of Mercy: Confessions are available at St. Joseph's (Brookfield) on Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm.

Looking to purchase a religious gift? Patrick Baker & Sons has a wide selection! Make your purchase at churchgoods.com and 10% of your sale is credited to the parish. Just use our code: 4610. You can also visit their retail store at 1650 West Street in Southington.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, May 8
8:30 +James Casey, Jr. by Maureen Casey
Tuesday, May 9
8:30 +James Gonnoud by Katy Murphy
Wednesday, May 10: St. Damien de Veuster
8:30 +Edith Bruce by Caraluzzi family
Thursday, May 11
8:30 +Joan Berry by St. Matthew's Society
Friday, May 12: Sts. Nereus and Achilleus
8:30 Ints. of Mary Frank by Sr. Mary Ann, Sr. Victoria, and Sr. Sophia

Saturday, May 13: Our Lady of Fatima
8:30 Ints. of Denise Poulin, LMC by Laurie Dwyer, LMC
4:30 +Mary G. Murphy by Barbara Murphy
Sunday, May 14: Fifth Sunday of Easter
8:00 +Rosemary Berry by family
10:30 +Raymond Falconer by Heinlein family
12:00 +Breffny Flynn by Flynn family
5:00 +Joseph P. Cann, Jr. by friends

Offering for: Monday-Saturday 8:30am Masses-\$10; Saturday Vigil, Sunday Masses, and Holy Days-\$15; Altar Candles-\$20; Sanctuary Candle-\$10; Hosts-\$15; Sacramental Wine-\$10.