

# CHURCH OF ST. MARY

*Serving Closter and Alpine + All are Welcome!*



## ST. MARY PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We the family of St. Mary of Closter, fervently believe in the fatherhood of God whom we come to know through the Lord Jesus Christ. We dedicate ourselves to the promotion of the spiritual and temporal welfare of our parish and our community. To this end, we direct our prayers to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through Mary the Blessed Mother and Patroness of our parish family.



## PARISH STAFF AND CONTACTS

**Pastor:** Rev. Joseph Scarangella, K.H.S.  
*fatherjoe@stmarycloster.org*

**Weekend Associate:**  
Rev. Ranees Anbukumar Rayappan, S.M.A.

**Permanent Deacon:** Deacon James P. Tobin  
*jimtobin1@aol.com*

**Director of Music:** Louis Scarpa  
*music@stmarycloster.org*

**Director of Stewardship:** Louis Scarpa

**Cantor:** Joseph Fritz

**Director of Religious Education:** Gail Ferraiolo  
*gferraiolo@stmarycloster.org*

**Parish Secretary:** Grace Ditzel  
*gditzel@stmarycloster.org*

**Business Admin./Parish Bookkeeper/**

**Local Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Canice Cristofolletti • *cristofolletti@stmarycloster.org*

**Religious Education Secretary:**  
Maria Matos • *reled@stmarycloster.org*

**Parish Trustees:** Pamela Derfus and John Hernandez  
*and assisted by the Pastoral Advisory Board  
and Financial Council*

## WE INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE THE EUCHARIST

**Saturday (Anticipated Sunday Mass)**-----5:00 PM

**Sunday**-----7:30 AM, 9:30 AM & 12:00 PM

First Sunday of July through Labor Day Weekend ----- 8:30 & 11:00 AM

**Weekdays (Monday through Saturday)**-----8:00 AM

**Holy Days & Civic Holidays**----- As announced the Sunday before

**First Fridays**----- 8:00 PM - Healing Mass and Blessing

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**Saturday**-----4:15 - 4:45 PM

**First Friday**-----7:30 PM

or call for an appointment

## DEVOTIONS

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Monday - 7:00 - 8:00 PM and as scheduled.

**Holy Hour:** Thursday, 7:30 PM - Church

**Marian Devotions:** Miraculous Medal Novena and Recitation of the Rosary: Saturdays after 8:00 AM Mass.

*Information regarding Sacraments, Parish Ministries and Care  
of the Sick & Homebound can be found on our website.  
To arrange baptisms or weddings call Father or the parish office.*



**Please like us on Facebook:** facebook.com/stmarycloster

## PARISH OFFICES

*Kindly notify the Rectory Office if you change your address or move from our parish community. Please see our website for Parish Calendar and more information about Sacraments and Parish Life.*

### RECTORY:

20 Legion Place, Closter, New Jersey 07624  
201-768-7565 • Parish Website: stmarycloster.org

### RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Thursday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Friday: 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM  
(Closed for lunch between 12 Noon & 1:00 PM)

### CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

20 Legion Place, Closter, New Jersey 07624  
201-767-8247 • *reled@stmarycloster.org*

### CENTER HOURS:

Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM *and by appointment*

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6 –

*Gn. 2: 18-24; Heb. 2: 9-11; Mk. 10: 2-16 or 10: 2-12*

5:00 PM Frances and Hugh Caldwell  
req. by J. Caldwell Family

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7 –

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Gn. 2: 18-24; Heb. 2: 9-11; Mk. 10: 2-16 or 10: 2-12*

7:30 AM Orlando "Toby" Tobia  
req. by the Rogan Family

9:30 AM Neil DeLucia / req. by Marie & Arthur Battaglia

12:00 PM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8 – WEEKDAY

*Gal. 1: 6-12; Lk. 10: 25-27*

8:00 AM Adolph D'Silva / req. by the Menezes Family

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9 – ST. DENIS, BISHOP AND  
COMPANIONS, MARTYRS; ST. JOHN LEONARDI,  
PRIEST

*Gal. 1: 13-24; Lk. 10: 38-42*

8:00 AM Ethel Calabro / req. by Thom & Grace Calabro

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10 – WEEKDAY

*Gal. 2: 1-2, 7-14; Lk. 11: 1-4*

8:00 AM Frances Rita Lombino  
req. by Thom and Grace Calabro

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11 – ST. JOHN XXIII, POPE

*Gal. 3: 1-5; Lk. 11: 5-13*

8:00 AM Richard Bartkiewicz / req. by Mary Berrian

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12 – WEEKDAY

*Gal. 3: 7-14; Lk. 11: 15-26*

8:00 AM Judith Brutosky / req. by Mary Berrian

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 – WEEKDAY

*Gal. 3: 22-29; Lk. 11: 27-28*

8:00 AM Elpidio Hernandez  
req. by John and Midas Hernandez

5:00 PM Juergen Kleine / req. by Marianne Kleine

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14 –

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Wis. 7: 7-11; Heb. 4: 12-13; Mk. 10: 17-30 or 10: 17-27*

7:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased

9:30 AM Ralph Napolitano  
req. by the Hildenbrand Family

12:00 PM John Cantarella / req. by Camille Cantarella

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

**Altar Bread** – In memory of Kathleen and Joseph Mann.

**Sanctuary Candle** – In memory of Juergen Kleine,  
req. by Marianne Kleine.

ANNOUNCED SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Weekly offerings of:** Altar Bread, Altar Wine, Blessed Virgin Mary Candle and Sanctuary Candle are available throughout **2018**.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Today, October 7<sup>th</sup>, is the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary and is also a day set aside by the U.S. Catholics bishops called "Respect Life Sunday". On this day, we pray for a renewed respect for all life, especially that of the unborn and the elderly, for those who society deemed worthless or useless. We pray that all people, who are created in the likeness and image of God that they may experience the respect that is due for each and every person, born and unborn. The bishops message is as follows: "In 1531, when the indigenous peoples of Mexico were subjugated and the practice of human sacrifice was still a recent memory, the Mother of God appeared to St. Juan Diego as a pregnant native woman, now known as Our Lady of Guadalupe. She sent him with miraculous flowers in his cloak to tell the bishop to build a church where people could receive her Son and her loving, tender care. When St. Juan Diego opened the cloak before the bishop, an image of Our Lady was revealed that remains to this day. The chapel was quickly built, millions embraced Christianity, and the Church increased its protection of the indigenous peoples. By embracing the mission entrusted to him, St. Juan Diego helped bring Christ's transforming love to cultures gripped by oppression and death. Today, we again see the dignity of human life disregarded. Unborn children are destroyed through abortion, and ill people are encouraged and assisted to take their own lives. How do we respond? The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is cherished. God creates every person for eternal union with Himself and continually invites us to embrace a loving relationship with Him. Every person is chosen. We are called to be messengers of God's love, treating one another as cherished and chosen by Him. In doing so, we help build a culture that respects all human life. Every person is sent. Like St. Juan Diego, let us embrace our daily mission to help others encounter God's transforming, life-giving love."

A very special THANK YOU to all who contributed their time and energy for our First Annual October Fest., a special shout out to Pam and Tom Derfus, Canice Cristofolletti Grace Ditzel, Joan Westervelt, Kara Yako, Tom Colwell, Maureen Logerfo, Maria Matos, Lucy Chua, Midge Haramis, Louis Scarpa, Gail Ferraiolo, Joseph Sapper, Joe Carpanzano, Chris Short, Evan Celaj, Daniel Bettinardi Andrew Hefter and Max Gavalchin.

A great time was had by all.

Let us pray for one another,

Fr. Joe

We Pray for the Sick

Irene Abad, Paula Bertelloni, Christian Brueck,  
Fran Caldwell, Dolores Collier, Lee Ann Davito,  
Lisa Deegan, Desiderio Fernandes, Frank Forte,  
Ed Koch, Sr. Dominic Marie McDonnell, Carol Munkins,  
David O'Hanlon, John Pagano, Alicia Parent,  
Joan Pinto, Richard Pinto, Jim Walsh

## Cardinal Tobin Not Attending XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops: Holy Father Grants Request to Remain with People of Newark at Time of Crisis

*Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*I am writing to share with you my decision not to attend the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which begins in Rome on October 2 and concludes the end of the month.*

*This Synod is a uniquely important moment in the life of the Church, and I was honored to have been named by the Holy Father as a member of this special gathering whose topic, Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment, is of vital concern to the Church today and in the future.*

*However, as you are aware, the Archdiocese of Newark suffers greatly as a result of the crisis that continues to unfold. After the revelations of the past summer, I could not see myself absent for a month from our archdiocese and from you, the people entrusted to my care. After prayer and consultation, I wrote to Pope Francis, asking that he dispense me from attending, but assuring him that I strongly support the objectives of the Synod and that I would obey whatever he decided.*

*The Holy Father responded the next day with a beautiful pastoral and compassionate message. He told me that he understands why I need to stay close to home, and he released me from the obligation to attend the Synod next month.*

*I am deeply grateful to Pope Francis for his pastoral care for me and for the people of our Archdiocese. My commitment to him—and to all of you—is to use the month of October to attend to all dimensions of the crisis we face.*

*On September 14, 2018, Behold the Wood of the Cross: A Service of Prayer, Recognition and Hope was held in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. During this solemn moment in the life of our archdiocese, I promised that we will act decisively to address the sins and injustices that have been committed against our most vulnerable sisters and brothers and to ensure that victims receive justice. I also acknowledged that rebuilding trust in the leadership of our Church at all levels will require authentic and measurable change.*

*I am keenly aware that words alone are not enough. We must show by our actions that justice will be done. Never again will we permit the horrific abuses that occurred here and in too many other places in our Church. Never again will we return to “business as usual,” allowing human wickedness, sin or hypocrisy to blind us from the truth or prevent us from doing God’s work.*

*During the month of October, and throughout the months and years ahead, I will do everything in my power to lead this Archdiocese through processes of renewal and change that break down structures and systems that permit or foster abuse in any form. I will work for justice, healing and compassion for all.*

*Please pray for Pope Francis and for the success of the XV General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops as it discusses the topic of Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment. Please also pray for me that, with the help of God’s grace, I can do my part to help restore confidence in the leadership of our Church.*

*May the Mother of Jesus, the Mother of the Church, our Mother, intercede for us always and lead us to the Cross of Christ, our only hope.*

*Sincerely yours in Christ,*

*Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.  
Archbishop of Newark*

## Religious Education News

It's October and we look forward to Halloween at the end of the month. People plan fun things to do with their children to observe this holiday. Think about setting aside the same amount of time each week to attend Mass, share with your children about what they are learning in religion class, and sit down to dinner all together as a family. (Don't forget to say grace!) Enjoy October.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY PARISH

Oct. 7:  
10:30 AM – 11:50 AM – Religious Education – Grades K – 6

Oct. 8:  
All Parish Offices – Closed  
10:00 AM – Prayer Shawl Ministry  
NO – Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament  
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM – Deepening the Journey – Parish Life Room

Oct. 9:  
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM – Religious Education – Grades 6 – 7  
7:30 PM – Parish Choir Rehearsal – Church  
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM – Women's Cornerstone – Parish Life Room

Oct. 10:  
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Morning Scripture Study – Parish Life Room  
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM – Evening Scripture Study – Conference Room

Oct. 11:  
7:30 PM – Marian / Eucharistic Holy Hour  
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM – K of C Meeting – Fr. Roger Troy Hall

Oct. 13:  
4:15 – 4:45 PM – Reconciliation

Oct. 14:  
10:30 AM – 11:50 AM – Religious Education – Grades K – 6  
10:30 AM – 5:00 PM – Confirmation Retreat – Fr. Roger Troy Hall and Church  
11:15 AM – Parish Choir Call  
12:00 PM – Parish Choir at Mass

## Second Collection

Next weekend, **October 13<sup>th</sup>** and **14<sup>th</sup>** the second collection is for Maintenance and Repairs.

## Why the MAINTENANCE COLLECTION?

The monthly MAINTENANCE COLLECTION funds the regular upkeep of St. Mary's physical plant: school, former convent, rectory, church and grounds. Our buildings are certainly not “new” and we have a responsibility to maintain these resources entrusted to us. Donations to this collection are “restricted” and are not subject to the 14% assessment by the Archdiocese. Thank you for being good caretakers of our spiritual home, St. Mary's.

## St. Mary's Finance News Re-Cap

Mr. Richard Bishop of the St Mary's Finance Council, presented the latest report of financials to parishioners at all Masses, with the report being published in the bulletin. Mr. Bishop made the following points in a transparent and sobering presentation:

1. The Sunday collection must be the main source of income to finance parish operations. Weekly collection average \$5-6k a week, while expenses average \$10k a week. Well, how do pay the bills?...
2. We are relying on the school rental without which, St. Mary's would cease to exist. The danger is that tenants come and go. Further, recent negotiations to rent our convent did not materialize.
3. We are being "subsidized" by the Archdiocese, which is paying our property insurance and forgoing assessments on our school rent of \$25%. Our debt to the Archdiocese is now at \$88k.
4. Collections have fallen by \$30K in the past year, following a downward trend over the past number of years.
5. There are over 600 registered "parishioners" of which only about 100 families use the envelopes and approximately 25 use direct deposit/giving to make their gift each week. The remainder of the 500 families are not offering cash in the collection baskets and, frankly, are not contributing meaningfully to the financial support of the parish or participating in the life of the parish.
6. There is simply not much more that could be cut from parish expenses. St. Mary's operates with minimal staff and sound oversight of expenses.
7. Savings are below \$40k.

Questions about finances can be addressed to Father Joe or Dick Bishop.

These are the numbers. What we do about these numbers is addressed in our stewardship initiatives and personal choices as parishioners, followers of Christ. We ask that all parishioners attend Mass, become active at Saint Mary's and increase their regular gift in light of these financial needs of the parish. Thank you in advance!

## Make Your Legacy Saint Mary's

As Christian Stewards, we are commissioned with the duty to pass on the Catholic Faith we have received to the next generation.

Through planned giving, we want to be able to continue to pass on this legacy to future generations. If you treasure these Catholic values during your lifetime, then please consider a planned gift to the Church for St. Mary's.

### *Planned Giving offers many benefits*

- It continues the generosity one has shown through life. It could increase existing income.
- Allows the donor to make charitable income tax deductions now, even for a gift in the future.
- It may reduce probate costs and estate taxes.
- It can help reduce capital gains taxes.
- It can protect and potentially increase the size of your estate for your heirs.
- Finally, it can help realize the dream of making a substantial gift that will have a major impact on the mission of the Church.

St. Mary's would be pleased to meet with you and your attorney, accountant or other advisor to discuss how to customize your gift to suit your lifestyle and make a meaningful impact.

To learn more about Planned Giving opportunities, please contact: Louis Scarpa, Director of Stewardship, at [ministry@stmarycloster.org](mailto:ministry@stmarycloster.org) or call 201-768-7565.

God is always good! You are in His hands in the world!

## You are the Steward of God's Creation

This past week, Father Joe blessed our pets. This is a beautiful reminder that we are the stewards, the caregivers, of these special animals created by God. Indeed, for Catholics, we are the stewards of *all* creation, of all living things and the environment.

The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole...In nature, the believer recognizes the wonderful result of God's creative activity, which we may use responsibly to satisfy our legitimate needs, material or otherwise, while respecting the intrinsic balance of creation. If this vision is lost, we end up either considering nature an untouchable taboo or, on the contrary, abusing it. Neither attitude is consonant with the Christian vision of nature as the fruit of God's creation. Nature expresses a design of love and truth.

## Mr. Fred Rogers Reflection

Recently, St Mary's Deepening the Journey ministry presented the movie, Won't You Be My Neighbor, an exploration of the life, lessons, and legacy of iconic children's television host, Fred Rogers. One of the parishioners wrote this reaction: "Watching this movie with other parishioners touched my soul and reminds me to always be a little kinder than necessary. It takes so little effort and could possibly change our world. I thought I knew him but there is so much more to this amazing man. Mr. Rogers was such a beautiful example of love and kindness towards everyone he came in contact with." And Mr. Rogers: "Love isn't a state of perfect caring. It is an active noun like "struggle." To love someone is to strive to accept that person exactly the way he or she is, right here and now."





### Family Funfest and Oktoberfest Smash Success

A good time was had by parishioners, friends, and neighbors at St. Mary's this past Sunday. Chef Bob and staff did a fine job with the food and service. The weather was perfect, the Confirmation candidates did a great job with set-up and breakdown, the German dancers taught us a few new moves, the kids were tearing up the parking lot with frisbee, bball and acceptable shenanigans. Mayor Glidden also stopped by to show support. Face painting was all the rage for the youngsters. Marianne Kleine offered a prayer in German. Thanks to all volunteers, the committee, Father Joe, the staff and all who came out to enjoy each other's company as a parish family. Special thanks to our sponsors:

Anonymous Parishioner, sponsor of the kids' entertainment

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Thanks be to God who blesses us with beautiful days like these!

### Sit at the Table

If your friends invited you to dinner at their home, you sure would sit close around the table. The Lord has invited you to a sacred meal, the Mass. Please draw close to the altar when participating in Sunday Mass. The first pews are not reserved for the saints! They are your seats. Can you imagine what the priest experiences when he offers the homily, says "The Lord be with you," and the nearest person is sitting 15 pews away? Even lay folks leave church feeling "isolated" when 40 people are in church and are seating in far-flung corners of the building. Let's try to sit closer to the altar, especially in the center. It's only 15 feet more to the center than the sides. Sitting closer as a family gathered really signifies that we want to pray with one another. Give it a try next time you participate at Mass at St. Mary's. One pew closer at a time!

### Music Communicates

"Music can unveil a dimension of meaning and feeling, a communication of ideas and intuitions which words alone cannot yield. This dimension is integral to the human personality and to growth in faith. It cannot be ignored if the signs of worship are to speak to the whole human person."—*Music In Catholic Worship*. At St. Mary's, sacred music is an integral part of our worship. We are grateful to the many people who participate in our music ministry program and encourage you to consider participating as an instrumentalist or choir member. Contact Lou Scarpa, Director of Music, at [ministry@stmarycloster.org](mailto:ministry@stmarycloster.org) to get started.

### Mass Attendance: Studies suggest...

The troubling reality at Saint Mary's and many parishes (including mainline Protestant church) is this: many people are not attending Mass each Sunday and are not bringing their children to Mass. Many studies have been conducted on mass/religious service attendance with myriad reasons as to why folks are *not* or are attending. While the studies have merit and deserve *keen attention* from parishioners, staff, and priests, we need to recall the most fundamental aspect of our faith: at baptism we entered into life with Christ and were born into his family, his very body, the Church. At baptism, we parents and godparents promised to raise our children in the faith. There is an opportunity lost when we do not attend Mass, but only attend religious education classes and only in those years when First Communion and Confirmation are on the horizon. We pray together as a family because we encounter Christ in the Mass and the community gathered: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there", said Christ. Make attending mass as an individual or family a priority each weekend. If you don't plan for it, it won't happen. God's grace flows into our lives at Mass! Make this grace available to you and your family. Come to Mass, each Saturday or Sunday. It's Christ who calls you, who loves you, who wants us to be together.



### New Parishioner Greeting and Engagement

All new parishioners of Saint Mary's will be welcomed with a personal meeting with Mr. Louis Scarpa, our parish Director of Stewardship. The meeting is to provide a hospitable, personal welcome to get to know the new members and to engage each new member in the life of St. Mary's. If you are new to St. Mary's, please say hello to Father Joe or Louis (he's also the organist) after Mass. Please take the time to register as well. Call the office or reach out to Louis at [ministry@stmarycloster.org](mailto:ministry@stmarycloster.org).

### Women's Cornerstone Retreat 2018

Calling all women to experience a 26 hour Cornerstone Retreat, Friday and Saturday, **October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**, here at St. Mary's. The retreat begins Friday, 7:00 PM. Please be here between 6:30 PM – 6:45 PM in Fr. Roger Troy Hall. It concludes Saturday around 9:00 PM preceded by a Mass at 7:00 PM. (Families and friends are invited to that Mass. Refreshments to follow after Mass). Delicious meals will be provided, and dress is casual. Sleeping at St. Mary's is a memorable part of the experience, but can be optional. Dress is casual. The retreat fee is \$35. Details and the Registration Form can be found in the vestibules of the church. **RSVP by October 15<sup>th</sup>**. If you need further information, please contact Paula Bertelloni at 862-377-0874 or Nancy Torre at 201-768-3893.

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