

THIRD SUNDAY
of Advent



Church of St. Mary

CLOSTER, NEW JERSEY

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 –

Zep. 3: 14-18a; Phil. 4: 4-7; Lk. 3: 10-18

5:00 PM Ronnie Olsen / req. by Phyllis Buonomo

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 –
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Zep. 3: 14-18a; Phil. 4: 4-7; Lk. 3: 10-18

8:30 AM Mary, James and Andrew Piccione
req. by the Macchiavelli Family

11:00 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13 –
ST. LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR

Nm. 24: 2-7, 15-17a; Mt. 21: 23-27

8:00 AM Barbara Thomas / req. by Donna and Brian

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14 – ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS,
PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Zep. 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt. 21: 28-32

8:00 AM Anthony Moliterno / req. by the Grieco Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15 – Advent Weekday

Is. 45: 6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Lk. 7: 18b-23

8:00 AM Giovanna Brusco / req. by the Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16 – Advent Weekday

Is. 54: 1-10; Lk. 7: 24-30

8:00 AM Louis Buonomo / req. by Phyllis Buonomo

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17 – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

Gn. 49: 2, 8-10; Mt. 1: 1-17

8:00 AM Rosy Menezes / req. by the Menezes Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18 –

Mi. 5: 1-4a; Heb. 10: 5-10; Lk. 39-45

5:00 PM Mark J. Connolly
req. by Barbara R. Demarest

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 –
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mi. 5: 1-4a; Heb. 10: 5-10; Lk. 39-45

8:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased
11:00 AM Martha Anderes
req. by Lenny and Madge Conmy

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Altar Bread – For the intentions of Kathleen Olsen, Betty Gardner and Ed Rogan.

Blessed Virgin Mary Candle – For the intentions of Kathleen Olsen, Betty Gardner and Ed Rogan.

ANNOUNCED SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Weekly offerings of: Altar Bread, Altar Wine, Blessed Virgin Mary Candle and Sanctuary Candle are available the remainder of 2021 and throughout 2022.

This can be arranged either by calling Grace at the rectory at 201-768-7565 and leaving a message or sending an e-mail to gditzel@stmarycloster.org.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Third Sunday of Advent.

Today, Sunday, December 12th, we celebrate the third Sunday in Advent. If December 12th were a weekday, we would be celebrating the Solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Back in the year 1531, a Mexican peasant named Juan Diego experienced a vision of a young woman on a hill called Tepeyac. It was the first of four visions. She asked that a church be erected on that site in her honor. She identified herself as the Virgin Mary. When Juan Diego went to the bishop to tell him of the vision, he did not believe him. Naturally, the bishop wanted proof of the vision, which he did receive. A mantle, with her image, miraculously appeared on his tilma and was presented to the bishop. Today, that mantle is one of Mexico's most popular religious symbol. It is venerated in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a magnificent church erected to the glory of God and our Lady. May Our Lady of Guadalupe intercede for us all.

Next Sunday, December 19th, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, please bring your infant Jesus from your manger at home to be blessed. This blessing will take place at the end of all Masses on December 18th – 19th. Please place your infant Jesus on the steps of the altar before Mass begins and remember to take it home with you after the recessional hymn.

A big thank you to all who have participated in our annual Advent Giving Tree. May God bless you for your generosity.

The parishes of Immaculate Conception in Norwood, Sacred Heart in Haworth, and us will celebrate a joint parish penance service this coming Tuesday, December 14th at 7:30 PM. Please join us in celebrating the sacrament of Penance during this holy season.

A blessed Advent to all,

Fr. Joe

Prayer List

If you would like to add a name to or have a name removed from our prayer list please e-mail gditzel@stmarycloster.org or call the rectory at 201-768-7565. To add a name you must have the permission of the person or their family.



Prayer for the Sick

Amy Hartwell, Thomas Kelly,
Sr. Dominic Marie McDonnell,
John Pagano, Alicia Parent, Ed Rogan,
Baby Luke Totaro, Marianne Tracey

SECOND COLLECTION

Next weekend, **December 18th** and **19th** the second collection is for Repairs and Maintenance.

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.



Plan Ahead - Get Your Christmas Gift Order Ready: A Win for St. Mary's!

We will be placing an order for Scrip Gift Cards Monday morning, **December 13th**. Scrip cards are prepaid cards, used like cash at many different stores, restaurants, gas stations, hotels, etc. The Church of St.

Mary receives a certain percentage of each card purchased (2% to 15% or more depending on the card) and doesn't cost you anything extra. **Please have your orders to us no later than 10:00 AM Monday, December 13th**. Info and order forms can be found on our website or you can setup an account online at www.ShopwithScrip.com (registration # is D84E6EB522L51) pay either by PrestoPay or check made out to Church of St. Mary. If you don't see a certain card on the list feel free to call, it may be available. Contact Grace Ditzel at gditzel@stmarycloster.org or 201-768-7565 for further information. GIFT CARDS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS! We will be placing this order so you will have your cards in plenty of time for gift giving. We will contact you when your order is available for pickup at the Rectory. This is the last order before Christmas.



Advent Giving Tree

This year our parish Advent Giving Tree will be supporting families in need through Family Promise of Bergen County. Gift card donations empower parents to purchase the gifts their children want and need or to prepare a Holiday Meal for their families. Family Promise suggests denominations of \$25 or more of the following:

Target, Walmart, Kohl's, Visa or MasterCard.

Another great way to give is by donating practical gift cards that will help parents provide for their families for the Holidays and throughout the year. Denominations of \$25 or more. Grocery Stores (Stop 'n Shop, Shop Rite or Aldi), Uber and Lyft, Gas Stations.

Ornaments were placed on our tree last weekend. If you took one (or more), please buy the gift cards and return to the tree or the Rectory by Thursday, **December 16th** to allow parents time to do their Christmas shopping.

Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity in helping the many families served by Family Promise of Bergen County. Our God will bless you!

Please consider a donation of gift cards for our tree. Fortunately, this can be a benefit to St. Mary's because you can order the Gift Cards from us without paying a fee and we receive a percentage from the sale of the gift card. This can also be a benefit to you because you will not have to go shopping. Order from Grace (gditzel@stmarycloster.org), 201-768-7565 or get the Gift Card yourself. Orders for Scrip / Gift Cards will be placed on Mondays, **December 6th** and **13th**. Information on how to order through St. Mary is above.

Closter PBA 33rd Annual Toy Drive



We will also be supporting the Closter PBA 33rd Annual Toy Drive. So please put new unwrapped toys under the tree in church on or before **December 16th**.

Special Noon Mass

All are welcome to Church of St. Mary for the Third Saturday Mass on Saturday, **December 18th** at 12:00 PM. Mass is offered for the support, healing and recovery of not only those individuals directly affected with the abuse of alcohol and/or drugs, but also for anyone involved in the life of the alcoholic or drug addict. For information please contact The Father Jim McKenna Memorial Fund at [201-281-6247](tel:201-281-6247) or visit our website at <https://fatherjimmckenna.org/>.

Keep Up on Parish and Community Announcements

The parish sends an informative weekly email blast with pertinent spiritual, social and community announcements. Send St. Mary's your email address today and be added to the blast. You can opt out at any time. Send an e to gditzel@stmarycloster.org to be kept in the loop.

Sacrament of Reconciliation – by Appointment

Please contact Fr. Joe at the Rectory at 201-768-7565.

Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms

Please contact the parish office at 201-768-7565.

Sacrament Certificate Requests

For various reasons there are times when one needs to obtain a new current Baptism, First Eucharist, Confirmation, or Marriage Certificate. When doing so please allow the office **at least two weeks time**. Thank you.

Faith Formation News

Good day parishioners,



EXCITING NEWS:

While we were not able to have a Christmas Pageant the last two years, our Fishers Group, 3rd and 4th graders, are going to begin rehearsing for this year's pageant.

Please keep your calendars open for next Sunday, **December 19th** as they will be performing a Christmas Pageant directly after the 11:00 AM mass ends.

Recently, while Seminarian Steven Ditzel was home visiting his family he made a visit with Fr. Chris, Fr. Joe and Fr. Charlie (and Hunter, too!).



St. Mary's Benefits from Amazon Smile

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Immaculate Medal Novena and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Here at St. Mary, we celebrate the Immaculate Medal Novena following the 8:00 AM Mass on Monday mornings. Also, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows the 8:00 AM Mass on Wednesday mornings. Please join us as we celebrate these wonderful traditions of our catholic faith.

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Stabilizing the Sunday Collection

on a steady and predictable income to pay the bills. Our Sunday collections fluctuate greatly due to vacations, inclement weather, etc. It is difficult to the budget and provide for ministry under these circumstances. And we sometimes simply forget to make-up our offering because, well, life gets busy. Please consider making your offering to St. Mary's through egiving or bank transfer. A number of parishioners are using St. Mary's Parishgiving platform. It's secure and convenient and costs the donor nothing. Just go online, sign-up and indicate your offering. You may even get "points" on your rewards credit card for doing so! You can also have your bank transfer the funds directly. Simply visit stmarycloster.org and follow the link to Parishgiving or you can scan the QR code with your cell phone. Thank you to our dedicated and generous parishioners who make ministry possible at St. Mary's.



How To Report Abuse

The Archdiocese takes very seriously any and all allegations of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the Archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform us immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse.

Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at 201-407-3256.

Winter Coat Drive

Last year one of our Confirmation candidates, now Confirmed, conducted a Winter Coat Drive for her service project. While we do not always get to know how our youth is involved in the community after they complete their official faith formation, I am joyful to tell you that this child has decided to help others again this year. Please see the flier for details and consider donating new or gently used winter clothing. God Bless.



Three Squares Ministry – Food for Neighbors in need

The Closter Food Pantry sincerely thanks the parishioners of St. Mary's for helping to stock our shelves for our Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions. Your generous donations helped to brighten these holidays for the families we serve, and we hope that you enjoyed wonderful celebrations with your families.

For the December 18th – 19th collection, we would most appreciate donations of our most needed items, which are noted below. We ask that you shop by last name to ensure we receive a variety of the items we need. As always, we thank you again.

A – F

- Oatmeal
- Pancake Syrup
- Canned chicken
- Coffee

G – L

- Shelf stable milk
- Pancake mix
- Shampoo
- Tea

M – R

- Chili
- Laundry detergent
- Juice
- Oils

S – Z

- Pasta sauce
- Vienna sausage
- Snacks
- Conditioner

Why Register at St. Mary's?

First, because we need each other on this journey of life and faith!

Every Catholic should be registered in a parish. Beside the active support and involvement that the registration enables, parish registration is also a mandatory condition for many sacraments including Baptism and Matrimony and being a sponsor or godparent. It is therefore important to register at St. Mary's as soon as you start worshipping with us regularly.

- You may receive verification letters to sponsor individuals for sacraments, receive sacraments yourself or your child (i.e. marriage, baptism).
- You will receive end of the year tax contribution statements.
- You will be personally invited to gatherings to meet the staff and other parishioners.
- The parish will know the demographics and respond to needs. Further, the Archdiocese will know that our parish has a healthy base of registered, supportive parishioners.

[CLICK HERE FOR REGISTRATION FORM!](#)

Save the Date –

St. Patrick's Day party on Saturday, **March 12th, 2022**. We are forming a committee to organize the event. If you are interested in joining the committee, please call the rectory office at 201-768-7565.

Christmas Schedule

All Parish Offices Closed –

Friday and Monday, December 24th and 27th

Christmas Masses –

Christmas Eve – 5:00 PM
Christmas Day – 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Advent Penance Service

Tuesday, **December 14th** at 7:30 PM in Church.

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