

POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

1927 - 2022



Well done, good and faithful servant.

MATTHEW 25:21



Church of St. Mary

CLOSTER, NEW JERSEY

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7 –

Is. 60: 1-6; Eph. 3: 2-3a, 5-6; Mt. 2: 1-12

5:00 PM Everett Scott / req. by Bill Deegan

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Is. 60: 1-6; Eph. 3: 2-3a, 5-6; Mt. 2: 1-12

8:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased

11:00 AM Theresa Weber
req. by the Prayer Shawl Ministry

MONDAY, JANUARY 9 – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Is. 42: 1-4, 6-7; Acts 10: 34-38; Mt. 3: 13-17

8:00 AM Teresa Davis / req. by Camille Cantarella

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10 – WEEKDAY

*Heb. 2: 5-12; Mk. 1: 21-28; or Heb. 1: 1-6; and 2: 5-12;
Mk. 1: 14-20 and 1: 21-28*

8:00 AM Katarina Brnabie / req. by the Milovcic Family

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11 – WEEKDAY

Heb. 2: 14-18; Mk. 1: 29-39

8:00 AM Edward Rogan / req. by the Watkins Family

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12 – WEEKDAY

Heb. 3: 7-14; Mk. 1: 40-45

8:00 AM Petar Zahija / req. by the Milovcic Family

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13 –

ST. HILARY, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Heb. 4: 1-5, 11; Mk. 2: 1-12

8:00 AM Theresa Weber / req. by Teresa Meierdierks

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14 –

Is. 49: 3, 5-6; 1 Cor. 1: 1-3; Jn. 1: 29-34

5:00 PM Teresa Davis
req. by Madge and Lenny Conmy

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15 –

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is. 49: 3, 5-6; 1 Cor. 1: 1-3; Jn. 1: 29-34

8:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased

11:00 AM Sally Corso / req. by Sue Brueck



THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Blessed Virgin Mary Candle – In memory of
Pauline Wagner, req. by Thom and Grace Calabro

ANNOUNCED SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Weekly offerings of: Altar Bread, Altar Wine, Blessed Virgin Mary Candle and Sanctuary Candle are available throughout 2023.

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 gdtzel@stmarycloster.org.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Feast of the Epiphany.

This weekend we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of our Lord, and on Monday, January 8th, we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. With these two great Christmas time feasts, we bring the Christmas season to a close. Truly, the Christmas holidays were days of great joy. It was so great to see so many of our families gather for Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Although the weather was quite cold, the warmth of the day brought about a feeling of great joy. The days between Christmas and New Year's Day were also days of great celebration as we celebrated feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr, the Holy Innocents, the Holy Family, and St. John the Evangelist. As we enjoyed the days of Christmas, it was also marked with a certain sadness as we heard of the passing of such famous people as Barbara Walters and the great Pele. But, as Catholics, none touched us more than the passing of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. The news of his passing, although not a surprise at the age of ninety-five, was met with gratitude to God for giving the world a great pastor of the universal church, a theologian of great wisdom, and a man of deep faith. For nearly ten years, he has lived quietly in a monastery in the Vatican, always praying for the church, may our prayers for him now be of peace with the Lord for all eternity.

A very sincere thanks to all who worked so hard during the Christmas holidays, especially Andrew Monticello and all the cantors and members of our choir who provided such beautiful music during the season and throughout the year. To all who helped decorate our church, to our lectors, special ministers of Communion, to our ushers, and to everyone else who assisted, many thanks and God's blessings to you all.

May 2023 be a year filled with many of God's blessings on our parish and in the lives of each and every one of you.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Joe and Staff of St. Mary Parish



Pray for the Sick

Catherine Arnao, Giulia Belfert, Glen Connolly,
Joseph Culhane, Thomas DeFabiis, Orlee Fromm,
Amy Hartwell, Thomas Kelly, Sr. Dominic Marie McDonnell,
Kim McWilliams, Jacqueline Mundy, Michael Mundy,
Anthony Neusch, Brianna Neusch, Michele Neusch,
John Pagano, Alicia Parent, Joanne Surterenonet,
Baby Luke Totaro, Marianne Tracey

Prayer List

If you would like to add a name to or have a name removed from our prayer list please e-mail gdtzel@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.

From the Faith Formation Coordinator

Good day parishioners,



This Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Besides attending mass, how else can we celebrate this wondrous event? Well, we should first remember why Jesus went to John the Baptist to be baptized by him.

Jesus came to the River Jordan to be baptized so that, as he began his ministry of preaching, healing, and serving others, he could be strengthened by the Holy Spirit. He knew that He needed the strength of the Spirit before He was tempted in the desert. He needed to hear the words that we all want to hear when we embark on our ministry, whether it be Holy Orders, Matrimony, or Parenthood, "This is my son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased."

In baptism, Jesus models for us that it is this very identity as Beloved which we must live out of and start

from each day. At baptism, we receive the gift of sanctification by the Holy Spirit, a gift which calls us to walk in the light of Christ and live by His wisdom and example.

A way of celebrating this feast day is by reflecting on and celebrating our own baptism and the baptism of our children.

- Use the Holy Water in your house to bless your family members with the sign of the cross and a simple prayer. This is a beautiful way to show your family that they are not only *your* beloved, but also God's beloved. If you don't have Holy Water, call the Rectory and speak with Fr. Joe about blessing water for your family to use at home.

- Have a family discussion and reflect on ways your family can find to praise God everyday for the gift of the Holy Spirit that was received at baptism.

- If you have a candle that was received at Baptism, light it and rejoice in the warm glow the light gives. Reflect on the idea that we are all meant to be a light to the world and discuss the ways your family can be that light to your church and community everyday.

- Clothe your family in their best white clothing today as they were clothed in their best when they were baptized. Read and reflect on what Saint Paul tells us in his Letter to the Colossians 3:12-15:

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful."

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to anoint you anew with the gifts and graces you need on this day to live out your baptismal call.

I pray that all of you find ways to make this day special and maybe even, share these ideas with family and friends.

God bless you,

Maria Matos

Year End Contribution / Donation Statement

This year we will be e-mailing the 2022 Year End Contribution / Donation Statements. If we don't have your e-mail address please contact our Parish Secretary, Grace Ditzel at gditzel@stmarycloster.org so we can update our files. If you don't have e-mail and would like one, please call 201-768-7565 by **January 25th** and we will mail it to you.

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!](#)

Keeping our Records Updated

If you have recently moved or changed your contact information, please let us know so we can update our files. Contact Grace Ditzel at gditzel@stmarycloster.org.



Scrip Orders

We will be placing an order for Scrip Gift Cards Monday morning, **January 9th**. Scrip cards which are prepaid cards that are used like cash are available for 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. 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



Stabilizing the Sunday Collection

St. Mary's, like your household must count 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.



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY PARISH

Sun. – January 8th :

9:00 – 10:50 AM – Pottery Reconciliation Retreat – Faith Formation Building

9:30 AM – 10:50 AM – 7th Grade Doves – Faith Formation Building

9:30 AM – 10:50 AM – Sacramental Program – Sprouts and Lambs – Faith Formation Building

Mon. – January 9th :

8:30 AM – Immaculate Medal Novena – Church

Scrip Orders being placed no later than 10:00 AM

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Prayer Shawl Ministry – Fr. Roger Troy Hall

3:15 PM – 5:00 PM – 7th Grade Doves – Faith Formation Building

Wed. – January 11th :

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM – Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament – Church

9:15 AM – Scripture Study – via Zoom *

Thur. - January 12th :

6:30 PM – Knights of Columbus – Refreshments followed by Meeting at 7:00 PM – Fr. Roger Troy Hall

* Scripture Study

Meets every Wednesday at 9:15 AM via Zoom. For more information contact Dave Reeves at 551-206-5284.

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.

Mass Intentions

If you would like to schedule a Mass intention for a Mass during 2023 please contact Grace Ditzel at gditzel@stmarycloster.org or 201-768-7565 for further information.



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Hospital Privacy

Please remember that current privacy laws regarding patients in hospitals do not allow the hospitals/pastoral care offices to contact parishes if their parishioners are in the hospital. If you or a loved one are going into the hospital and want Father to visit you or a loved one (covid regulations permitting), please call the rectory office and let us know.

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.



JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

THEY CAME BEARING GIFTS OF
GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.



Sunday, January 8th, The Epiphany of the Lord

BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Monday, January 9th, The Baptism of the Lord

Death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

*We pray, O Lord, that your
servant Pope Emeritus
Benedict XVI, who served by
your will on earth as the
visible foundation of your
Church's unity, may be
happily admitted to your
blessed flock.*

—Various Prayers for the
Dead, For a Pope

His Holiness Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI 1927-2022

Born Joseph Aloisius
Ratzinger – April 16, 1927

Ordained Priest –
June 29, 1951

Ordained Bishop – Archbishop
of München und Freising –
May 28, 1977

Created Cardinal-Priest of
Santa Maria Consolatrice al
Tiburtino – June 27, 1977

Appointed Prefect of the
Congregation for the Doctrine
of the Faith –
November 25, 1981

Created Cardinal-Bishop of
Velletri-Segni – April 5, 1993

Confirmed Dean of the
College of Cardinals –
November 30, 2002

Elected Pope Benedict XVI –
April 19, 2005

Inaugurated Petrine Ministry –
April 24, 2005

Resigned Papacy –
February 28, 2013

Entered Eternal Life –
December 31, 2022

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