

Fifth
SUNDAY OF
LENT

**It is when a person
walks at night that they
stumble, for they have
no light.**

JOHN 11:10

Church of St. Mary
CLOSTER, NEW JERSEY



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 –

Ez. 37: 12-14; Rom. 8: 8-11; Jn. 11: 1-45 or 11: 3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

5:00 PM Eileen Riese
req. by Ken and Fina Chamberlain

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Ez. 37: 12-14; Rom. 8: 8-11; Jn. 11: 1-45 or 11: 3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

8:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased
11:00 AM Teresa Davis / req. by Susan Sosnicky

MONDAY, MARCH 27 – LENTEN WEEKDAY

Dn. 13: 1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13: 41c-62; Jn. 8: 1-11

8:00 AM Anthony Lupardi / req. by the Watkins Family

TUESDAY, MARCH 28 – LENTEN WEEKDAY

Nm. 21: 4-9; Jn. 8: 21-30

8:00 AM Joseph Parisi, Jr. / req. by Sam Cereste

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 – LENTEN WEEKDAY

Dn. 3: 14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn. 8: 31-42

8:00 AM Juergen and Detlef Kleine
req. by Thom and Grace Calabro

THURSDAY, MARCH 30 – LENTEN WEEKDAY

Gn. 17: 3-9; Jn. 8: 51-59

8:00 AM David "Skip" Watkins
req. by the Watkins Family

FRIDAY, MARCH 31 – LENTEN WEEKDAY

Jer. 20: 10-13; Jn. 10: 31-42

8:00 AM Intentions of Joan Westervelt
req. by Peggy Austria

SATURDAY, APRIL 1 –

Mt. 21: 1-11; Is. 50: 4-7; Phil 2: 6-11; Mt. 26: 14-27: 66 or 27: 11-54

5:00 PM Richard Luzzi / req. by Paula Cummings

SUNDAY, APRIL 2 –

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Mt. 21: 1-11; Is. 50: 4-7; Phil 2: 6-11; Mt. 26: 14-27: 66 or 27: 11-54

8:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased
11:00 AM Pat Conte
req. by Pasquale & Angelina Conte, Dominick Conte & Family and Teresa Russo & Family



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 gditzel@stmarycloster.org.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we enter into the final two weeks of Lent, traditionally known as Passiontide. Easter is near, but, before the celebrations begin, we must journey with our Lord to Calvary. So, for the final days of the Lenten season, we see that the crosses and images of saints are covered. This is a stark reminder of our willingness to empty ourselves and to focus on the passion and death of our Lord. As we continue our Lenten journey, may our prayers unite us more closely to the passion and death of Jesus so that when Easter Sunday arrives, we may celebrate all the more the joy of the resurrection with minds and hearts made pure.

To assist us on our journey to Easter, please join us in celebrating the liturgies of Holy Week. These are our High Holy Days. Days in which we enter more fully into the Paschal Mysteries. We begin these days next Sunday, Palm Sunday, with the blessing of palm branches and continue throughout the week to the Upper Room, to Calvary, and to the tomb. All are invited and welcomed to come with us on our journey throughout Holy Week.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Joe

Pray for the Sick

Catherine Arnao, Giulia Belfert, Glen Connolly, Mary Connolly, Joseph Culhane, Thomas DeFabiis, Orlee Fromm, Amy Hartwell, Sr. Dominic Marie McDonnell, Kim McWilliams, Jacqueline Mundy, Michael Mundy, Anthony Neusch, Brianna Neusch, Michele Neusch, John Pagano, Alicia Parent, Canice Connolly Prince, Joanne Surterrenonet, 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 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.

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.



PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

George R. Pabst, Sr.

SECOND COLLECTION

Next weekend, **April 2nd** and **3rd** the second collection is for the Archdiocesan Assessment.

Why the ASSESSMENT COLLECTION?

Each parish of the Archdiocese of Newark (RCAN), to which St. Mary's belongs, is assessed a percentage of regular donations and rental income. Donations to St. Mary, such as the Sunday collection, are assessed at 14%. RCAN uses these assessed funds to operate the chancery and help subsidize charitable works. The ASSESSMENT COLLECTION helps St. Mary's cover some of the monies due to RCAN. Thank you again for supporting St. Mary's and helping RCAN provide assistance beyond our doors.

Lenten Morning of Reflection

Come and join Fr. Chris Ciccarino for a Lenten morning of reflection on Wednesday, **March 29th**.

Mass – 8:00 AM

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – 8:30 AM

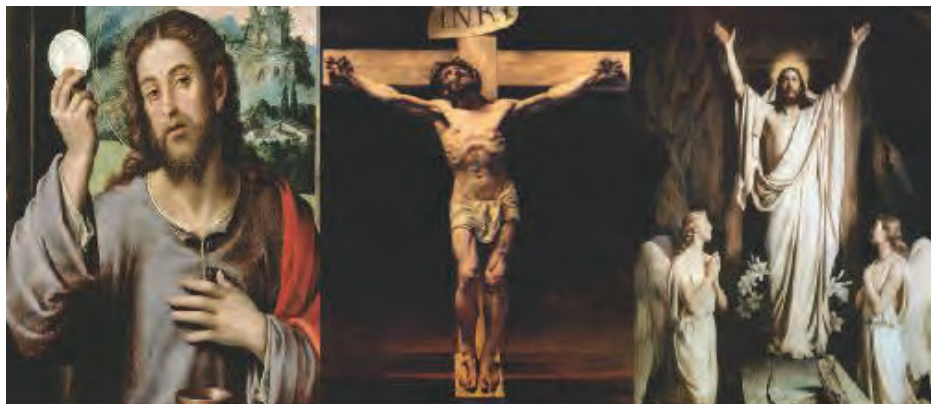
Talk – “*Begin Again*: loving God and ourselves more deeply in Lent”

Opportunity for Confessions

Benediction – 10:00 AM

Lenten Presentation – The Paschal Triduum

Join us in the Fr. Roger Troy Hall on Thursday, **March 30th** from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM.



THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Our Mass - The Capstone of our Faith - as both Sacrifice and Sacrament

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.

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!](#)

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.

Fridays During Lent

Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence. On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

Stations of the Cross

We have Stations of the Cross every Wednesday during Lent at 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Palm Sunday, April 2nd

Masses at 5:00 PM (Sat.),
8:30 AM *, and 11:00 AM (Sun.)

Monday of Holy Week

**Chrism Mass (Sacred Heart Cathedral
Basilica, Newark) – 8:00 PM ***

Monday of Holy Week

8:00 AM Mass

Tuesday of Holy Week

8:00 AM Mass

Wednesday of Holy Week

8:00 AM Mass

Holy Thursday, April 6th

8:00 AM Morning Prayer

7:30 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
after Mass until 10:00 PM in Church

Good Friday, April 7th

8:00 AM Morning Prayer

3:00 PM Solemn Liturgy of the Passion

7:30 PM – Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, April 8th

8:00 AM Morning Prayer

8:00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter and First Mass of Easter

Easter Sunday, April 9th

Masses at 8:30 AM * and 11:00 AM

*Will be livestreamed

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY PARISH

Sat. / Sun. – March 25th – 26th :

Three Squares Ministry Food
Collection at all Masses this weekend

Sun. – March 26th :

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

9:30 AM – 10:50 AM – First
Communion Banner Decoration – Fr.
Roger Troy Hall

Mon. – March 27th :

8:30 AM – Immaculate Medal Novena
– Church

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

Wed. – March 29th :

8:00 AM – Lenten Morning of
Reflection – Church

9:15 AM – Scripture Study – via
Zoom*

4:00 PM and 7:00 PM – Stations of
the Cross – Church

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Men's
Cornerstone Meeting – Fr. Roger
Troy Hall

Thur. – March 30th :

7:30 PM – 8:30 PM – Lenten
Presentation – Fr. Roger Troy Hall

Sun. – April 2nd – Palm Sunday :

8:30 AM and 11:00 AM – Mass

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

9:30 AM – 10:50 AM – Confirmation
Program – Faith Formation Building

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

*** Scripture Study**

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

2023 Annual Appeal

Proclaiming the Gospel

Passing on the Faith

Caring for the Poor and Vulnerable

Forming Future Priest and Supporting
Retired Clergy

St. Mary's Goal is \$29,000.00

Please help us reach it!

If you didn't see the video from
Archbishop Cardinal Tobin you can
view it at <https://www.rcan.org/video>.

You may make your donation at Mass,
on Parish Giving or at rcan.org/sharing.

Thank you to those that have already
made their donations.

Paschal Candle



If anyone is interested in donating the Paschal Candle in
memory of someone, please contact the rectory for more
information.



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.

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



From the Faith Formation Coordinator

Good day parishioners,



Lots of fun things are happening in our faith formation program. Our Sunday Doves Group assisted Mrs. Byrne with her Sprouts Group. As you can see from the picture, they decorated eggs while Mrs. Byrne discussed the reason why the egg is a symbol of Jesus' Resurrection.

Our Monday Doves Group received a gift from their catechist, Mrs. Girardin, for Lent. They received bracelets that have the three responsibilities that we have as Catholics during Lent; pray, fast, and give. The kids were all appreciative and wanted to take this photo together.



Our Monday Doves and Evangelists Groups participated in our annual Easter basket making project. The children created and decorated small baskets made out of paper and then filled them with candy they brought from home. All of the baskets are being donated to the Closter Food Pantry for Easter.

I am so thankful to our dedicated catechists for their creative ideas and giving hearts. Please say a special prayer for all of our volunteers that help make this parish so special.

God bless and have a joyous week.

Maria Matos

Christian Marriage Anniversary Liturgies

We are excited to announce we are once again preparing the annual tradition of honoring those couples in our Archdiocese who will be celebrating five, twenty-five and fifty years of valid marriage for the Catholic faithful in the year 2023!

These anniversary liturgies will be held in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as follows below. The 50th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin. The 5th and 25th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Gregory Studerus.

Fifty years on Sunday, **April 16th** at 3:00 PM

Five years and twenty-five years on Sunday, **May 7th** at 3:00 PM

Please call Grace at the rectory at 201-768-7565 to register. The **deadline** for April 16th is **April 5th** and the deadline for May 7th is **April 27th**.

It is our desire that every couple in the Archdiocese deserving of such recognition be present at the appropriate liturgy. The presence of these couples will be a tender witness to the strength and stability of Christian marriage in today's society.

The Archdiocese will acknowledge the reservation directly to the celebrating couple and provide them with directions to the Cathedral Basilica.

Since we were unable to host these celebrations in 2020 and 2021, and many families are still playing 'catch-up' with their celebrations, any couple who would have celebrated their Silver or Gold Anniversary in those years may still join us as well. Please note whether the milestone anniversary took place in **2020, 2021** (or even if they missed in **2022**), the certificates will still say Silver or Gold, not 26, 51 etc.

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.

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SUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET



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12PM-3PM

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED



PRIVATE ROOMS AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS

Monday:
Tuesday-Thursday:
Friday-Saturday:
Sunday:

CLOSED
4pm-10pm
4pm-11pm
12pm-9pm

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