

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Church of St. Mary • Closter, New Jersey

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 –

Prv. 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thes. 5: 1-6; Mt. 25: 14-30 or 25: 14-15, 19-21

5:00 PM Paul and Marie Vecchio
req. by the Bertelloni Family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 –

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Prv. 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thes. 5: 1-6; Mt. 25: 14-30 or 25: 14-15, 19-21

8:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased
11:00 AM Fran Semler
req. by Our Lady of Grace Prayer Group

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20 – WEEKDAY

1 Mc. 1: 10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Lk. 18: 35-43

8:00 AM Simon and Sobina Menezes
req. by the Menezes Family

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 –

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

2 Mc. 6: 18-31; Lk. 19: 1-10

8:00 AM Faustine and Louzia D'Mello
req. by the Menezes Family

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 –

ST. CECILIA, VIRGIN AND MARTYR

2 Mc. 7: 1, 20-31; Lk. 19: 11-28

8:00 AM Intentions of Mary and Dominick Conetta
req. by Camille Cantarella

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23 – ST. CLEMENT I, POPE
AND MARTYR; ST. COLUMBAN, ABBOT; BLESSED
MIGUEL AGUSTIN PRO, PRIEST AND MARTYR

THANKSGIVING DAY

1 Mc. 2: 15-29; Lk. 19: 41-44 or for Thanksgiving Day, any readings from the Mass "In Thanksgiving to God"

9:00 AM In Thanksgiving

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24 – ST. ANDREW DUNG-LAC,
PRIEST, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

1 Mc. 4: 36-37, 52-59; Lk. 19: 45-48

8:00 AM Loretta Borrows Giordano
req. by Tara and Marc Montalbano

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25 –

Ez. 34: 11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor. 15: 20-26, 28; Mt. 25: 31-46

5:00 PM Shawna O'Brien
req. by the Watkins Family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26 –

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Ez. 34: 11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor. 15: 20-26, 28; Mt. 25: 31-46

8:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased
11:00 AM Dick Flammer / req. by Mary Flammer

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

This coming Thursday, November 23rd, is Thanksgiving Day, a day set aside by all people of the United States to give thanks to all mighty God for all the blessings we have received. Here in the USA, Thanksgiving Day has been an annual tradition by presidential proclamation since 1863. But, it has been celebrated for many more years before then when the first settlers came to our shores and gave thanks to God for the bountiful harvest in 1619. Many new traditions have grown since the pilgrims first gave thanks to God, but always the main focus is to be thankful to God for all the blessings we have received. We will celebrate a special Mass of Thanksgiving here at St. Mary on Thursday morning at 9:00 AM. Please join us on this special day to celebrate the Eucharist together as a family of faith to give thanks to God. On behalf of the entire staff here at St. Mary Parish, we wish you and all your loved ones a blessed and happy Thanksgiving Day.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Joe

A Thanksgiving Prayer to share with your loved ones as you gather for your thanksgiving meal.

God most provident, we join all creation in raising to you a hymn of thanksgiving through Jesus Christ, your Son. For generation upon generation peoples of this land have sung of your bounty; we too offer you praise for the rich harvest we have received at your hands. Bless us and this food which we share with grateful hearts. Continue to make our land fruitful and let our love for you be seen in our pursuit of peace and justice and in our generous response to those in need. Praise and glory to you, Lord God, now and forever. Amen.

Pray for the Sick

Giulia Belfert, Glen Connolly, Joseph Culhane,
Orlee Fromm, Amy Hartwell, Midas Hernandez,
Baby Kian, Sr. Dominic Marie McDonnell,
Kim McWilliams, John Montalbano, Anthony Muccio,
Jacqueline Mundy, Michael Mundy, Brianna Neusch,
Michele Neusch, John Pagano, Alicia Parent,
Canice Connolly Prince, George Ross,
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 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.

Mass Intentions

If you would like to schedule a Mass intention for a Mass during 2024 please contact Grace Ditzel at gditzel@stmarycloster.org or 201-768-7565 for further information.



Job Opening

Canice will be retiring at the end of December. We are looking for a full charge bookkeeper. Knowledge of QuickBooks is important, prior bookkeeping experience is a plus. Days and hours to be discussed with Fr. Joe on hiring. Please call the rectory if interested. 201-768-7565.

From the Faith Formation Coordinator

Good day parishioners,

Over the past couple of weeks, during this month when the Church prays for all our dearly departed, a specific topic has been weighing on my spirit to write about. It is the topic of the Christian funeral mass. The things I write here may not be what people want to read but they are the teachings of the Catholic Church.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that "the Christian funeral is a liturgical celebration of the Church. The ministry of the Church in this instance aims at expressing efficacious communion with *the deceased*, at the participation in that communion of the community gathered for the funeral, and at the proclamation of eternal life to the community." CCC 1684

The aim of the Christian funeral is:

1. to constitute a communion in prayer with the deceased
2. to have the faithful participate in that communion
3. to proclaim eternal life to the faithful.

The Christian funeral mass has become something it is not meant to be. It has become a time for people to play the deceased favorite song, to bring favorite items of the deceased to the mass, it has become a time of multiple eulogies of the deceased person's life. It has become a celebration of life; I myself have used this term in the past and now find myself corrected. Our sympathetic hearts seem to have a need to make it a less somber occasion for the people who are hurting.

We believe that when a person dies, the soul is judged and must offer an account of their life. If that person died "fundamentally believing in God and in a state of grace, but with venial sins and the hurt caused by sin, then God in His divine love and mercy will first purify the soul. After this purification has been completed, the soul will have the holiness and purity needed to share in the beatific vision in heaven."

The Christian funeral mass reminds us that "we are all works in progress: we all struggle with sin, we've all had weaknesses that we had to deal with", and that we all need the prayers of others. "Therefore, just as we pray for each other and share each other's burdens now, the faithful on earth can offer prayers and sacrifices to help the departed souls undergoing purification, and no better prayer could be offered than that of the holy sacrifice of the Mass."

What better parting gift can we offer to the deceased than our prayers to help their soul with the transition from this life into eternal rest.

Prayers for a blessed week.

Maria Matos

http://www.catholic-catechism.com/level_118.htm

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKP0uBzS2jU&list=PLQn8extGJkx3dPmO_ilwQRjCQrVZiLOQi&index=1

<https://catholicstraightanswers.com/offer-mass-repose-souls/>

Thanksgiving Office Hours

All Parish Offices will close at 11:30 AM on Wednesday, **November 22nd** and reopen at 9:00 AM on Monday, **November 27th**.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY PARISH

Sat. / Sun. – November 18th – 19th

Three Squares Ministry – Food Collection at all Masses

Sun. – November 19th :

9:30 AM – 10:50 AM – FIRE and Evangelists Group – Fr. Roger Troy Hall and Faith Formation Building

9:30 AM – 10:50 AM – Sprouts, Lambs and Doves Group – Faith Formation Building

Mon. – November 20th :

8:30 AM – Immaculate Medal Novena – Church

Wed. – November 22nd :

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

9:15 AM – Scripture Study – via Zoom*

11:30 AM – All Parish Offices close early for the Thanksgiving holiday

Thurs. – November 23rd :

All Parish Offices are closed

9:00 AM – Mass

* Scripture Study

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

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers for November 25th and 26th

5:00 PM – Joan Westervelt

Bill Deegan and Joann Hildenbrand

8:30 AM – Esther DeRosa

Ginny Fjermestad and Peggy Austria

11:00 AM – Joan Westervelt

Erne Linn, Tony Linn and Fina Chamberlain

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.

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thanksgiving Day morning Mass will be at 9:00 AM.

Music Ministry



Here at St. Mary's, music is an integral part of our worship and is embedded into each of the weekend Masses. Serving as a ministry,

our music program is open to all who wish to volunteer their time as either vocalists in our choir, or instrumentalists who play at Mass – no experience or ability to read music is necessary. Our choir rehearses on Sundays at 10:00 AM, and presents an array of liturgical genres at the 11:00 AM Mass each week (except for during the summer, since everyone deserves a break!). If you are interested in joining our music ministry, please feel free to reach out to our Music Director, Andrew Monticello, by contacting the Rectory office: 201-768-7565. As St. Augustine reminds us, "To sing is to pray twice"!

St. John Paul II National Shrine

Located in Washington DC at 3900 Harewood Road, NE. With a permanent exhibit on the life of St. John Paul II, prayerful spaces that both instruct and inspire with beauty, and the opportunity for Mass, Confession and Meditation and recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Currently, the Shrine is open Monday – Friday from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM., Saturday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. and Sunday from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. The permanent exhibit and gift shop are open Monday – Friday from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM, and Sunday – Saturday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. There is no admission fee.

Call 202-635-5400 or email visitorservices@jp2shrine.org for more details. Website: www.jp2shrine.org.

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.

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 for an appointment.

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.

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