

SECOND SUNDAY *of Advent*



Church of St. Mary • Closter, New Jersey

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 –

Is. 40: 1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt. 3: 8-14; Mk. 1: 1-8

5:00 PM Joseph Vecchio / req. by the Grieco Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 –
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is. 40: 1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt. 3: 8-14; Mk. 1: 1-8

8:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased

11:00 AM Marcella Lodes
req. by Thom and Grace Calabro

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 – ST. DAMASUS I, POPE

Is. 35: 1-10; Lk. 5: 17-26

8:00 AM Trish Maloney
req. by Joe and Esther DeRosa

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 –
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

*Zec. 2: 14-17 or Rv. 11: 19a, 12: 1-6a, 10ab; Lk. 1: 26-38 or
Lk. 1: 39-47*

8:00 AM Mary, James and Andrew Piccione
req. by Mary & Bruno Macchiavelli and Family

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

Is. 40: 25-31; Mt. 11: 28-30

8:00 AM Ida Campesi / req. by Marina Lopez

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

Is. 41: 13-20; Mt. 11: 11-15

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 – ADVENT WEEKDAY

Is. 48: 17-19; Mt. 11: 16-19

8:00 AM Richard Esposito
req. by Fina and Ken Chamberlain

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 –

Is. 61: 1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes. 5: 16-24; Jn. 1: 6-8, 19-28

5:00 PM Louis Buonomo / req. by the Buonomo Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 –
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is. 61: 1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes. 5: 16-24; Jn. 1: 6-8, 19-28

8:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased
11:00 AM Jim Walsh
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 gditzel@stmarycloster.org.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Second Sunday in Advent!

As we draw closer to the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child, our hearts are filled with joy and anticipation at the coming of the Lord.

There are so many traditions surrounding the joy of Christmas. One relatively new one is the "Blessing of the Bambinelli. The Bambinelli are the images or statues of the baby Jesus which are placed in your manger at home. Next Sunday, all children, young and not so young, are invited to bring your image of the Christ Child to church and placed on the railing in front of the altar. At the end of Mass, they will be blessed and then you can take your image home and place it in the manger on Christmas. This blessing will take place at all Masses on December 16th – 17th.

With Christmas falling on a Monday this year, please be aware of your obligation to participate at Mass for both Sunday and Christmas Day. The Masses for the fourth Sunday of Advent will be celebrated on Saturday evening at 5:00 PM and Sunday morning at 8:30 and 11:00 AM. The Masses for Christmas will be celebrated on Sunday evening at 5:00 PM, and Monday morning at 8:30 and 11:00 AM.

Thank you for the many coats which were contributed to our Coat Drive. I'm sure you have helped so many of our brothers and sisters in need.

Wishing you a joyful and blessed Advent Season.

Fr. Joe



Pray for the Sick

Craig Connolly, Glen P. 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.

SECOND COLLECTION

Next weekend, **December 16th** and **17th** 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.

Third Saturday Mass for Recovery and Healing

All are welcome to Church of St. Mary, for the Third Saturday Recovery and Healing Mass on Saturday, **December 16th** at 12:00 noon. This special Mass speaks to those affected by the use and abuse of drugs and/or alcohol and for those who love them. Current religious gathering protocol will be strictly followed. Following Mass, all are welcome to a meeting and refreshments.

For information, please contact The Father Jim McKenna Memorial Fund at 201-281-6247 or visit our website at <https://fatherjimmckenna.org/>.

Three Squares Ministry – Food for Neighbors in Need

Food Collection Saturday and Sunday, **December 16th** and **17th**. Food Drive will be donated to the Closter Food Pantry. The Pantry has shared with us their most needed items:

Boxed milk, Tuna, Spam, Shampoo, Body wash, Dish soap, Laundry detergent

Our Christmas ham drive is on Sunday, December 10th. Hams can be left in the cart in front of the senior center (4 Lewis Street) from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM that day.

The Cathedral Concert Series Fifty-Second Candlelight Carol Sing

Cathedral Choir and Instrumental Ensemble, John J. Miller, conductor and Kristin Johnson, organist on Wednesday, **December 13th** and Thursday, **December 14th**. Performances begin at 8:00 PM, doors open at 7:00 PM. Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Park and Clifton Avenues, Newark. Ramped entrance on Ridge Street. For more information call 973-484-2400 or www.cathedralbasilica.org.

Live Christmas Play

The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal will hold their annual Christmas play with live animals on **December 17th** at 2:00 PM at the Most Blessed Sacrament Friary in Newark. All are welcome.

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers for December 16th and 17th

5:00 PM – Bill Deegan

Bill Deegan and Mary Lau

8:30 AM – Ben Matos

Peggy Austria and Jay LePree

11:00 AM – Eric Hills

Lucy Chua, Fina Chamberlain and Sue Ugras

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY PARISH

Sun. – December 10th :

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

Mon. – December 11th :

8:30 AM – Immaculate Medal Novena – Church

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM – Prayer Shawl Ministry – Fr. Roger Troy Hall

Tues. – December 12th :

7:00 PM – Advent Presentation by Bill Deegan – Eucharistic Miracles – Fr. Roger Troy Hall

Wed. – December 13th :

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

9:15 AM – Scripture Study – via Zoom*

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM – Christmas Pageant Rehearsal – Church

Thurs. – December 14th :

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

7:30 PM – Deanery Penance Service – St. Anthony – Northvale

Sat. – December 16th :

12:00 PM – AA Special Mass – Church, followed by Meeting in Fr. Roger Troy Hall

Sat. / Sun. – December 16th – 17th :

Three Squares Ministry – Food Collection at all Masses

Sun. – December 17th :

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

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

11:00 AM Mass – Christmas Pageant at the end of Mass

* Scripture Study

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

From the Faith Formation Coordinator

Good day parishioners,

We have a lot to be thankful for and being part of St. Mary Parish is one of them. You may have noticed that our church is trying to do more to help us grow closer. Just this past October, we held our first Parish Gala which was a lot of fun. We added more activities to help our children feel included like our Opening Family Celebration at the beginning of the school year, our Christmas Pageant, and our Children's Choir during our Christmas Eve Mass. Parishioner ideas have been incorporated like sharing fellowship after the mass with some light refreshments; thank you to those involved in keeping our shelves stocked.

Every once in a while someone asks me questions like "Why don't we have . . ." and "Why don't we do. . .". I want everyone to know that I am interested in discussing any ideas to do more as a church community. I personally love discussing new ideas to help our parish relationships develop and grow.

Our biggest obstacle for doing more is a lack of volunteers. We need parishioners with the ideas to decide to lead and recruit others. You want to have a movie night, an ice cream social, or a pizza night? You miss all the things that your parish used to do when you were growing up? Tell us and lead a committee to make it happen. Get a few families together to help you. Planning one event does not lock you in for life.

I guess what I am saying is that instead of asking why can't we, we need you to ask why can't I.

My office hours are Monday – Thursday from 9 – 12 and you can also catch me after mass to discuss ideas. My phone line is open, 201-767-8247, or you can email me at reled@stmarycloster.org.

I wish you all a blessed week.

Maria Matos



Please join us on **December 17th** at the 11:00 AM Mass to see some of our third and fourth graders perform a Christmas Pageant.

During this mass our Parish Christmas Tree which holds pictures of our parishioners will receive a special blessing so remember to email your family pictures to reled@stmarycloster.org by December 10th.

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.

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.

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.

Join us on Tuesday, **December 12th** at 7:00 PM
in the Fr. Roger Troy Hall for an Advent Presentation.



The Eucharist & Eucharistic Miracles:

In the Beginning was "The Word",
and "The Word" Became Flesh
and Dwelt among us.

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