



JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

THEY CAME BEARING GIFTS OF
GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.



CHURCH OF ST. MARY
CLOSTER, NEW JERSEY

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 –

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

5:00 PM Barbara Zarski
req. by the Cornerstone Rosary Group

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 – 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 Mary Connolly / req. by Rita Tobia

MONDAY, JANUARY 8 – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Is. 55: 1-11 or 1 Jn. 5: 1-9; Mk. 1: 7-11

8:00 AM Intentions of Rev. Steven Ditzel
req. by Joe and Esther DeRosa

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9 – WEEKDAY

1 Sm. 1: 9-20; Mk. 1: 21-28

8:00 AM Anthony Raffaele
req. by Ron and Teresa Moreno

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10 – WEEKDAY

1 Sm. 3: 1-10, 19-20; Mk. 1: 29-39

8:00 AM Robert Chen
req. by the Prayer Shawl Ministry

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11 – WEEKDAY

1 Sm. 4: 1-11; Mk. 1: 40-45

8:00 AM Cora Santos / req. by Peggy Austria

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12 – WEEKDAY

1 Sm. 8: 4-7, 10-22a; Mk. 2: 1-12

8:00 AM Brandon Canizares
req. by the Pozotrigio Family

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 –

1 Sm. 3: 3b-10, 19; 1 Cor. 6: 13c-15a, 17-20; Jn. 1: 35-42

5:00 PM Anthony Ribaudo
req. by the Bernardi Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 –

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Sm. 3: 3b-10, 19; 1 Cor. 6: 13c-15a, 17-20; Jn. 1: 35-42

8:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased
11:00 AM 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 2024.

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 2024!

This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany. An epiphany is a sudden and profound realization or understanding, often described as a moment of insight or clarity. It is a moment when someone grasps the essential nature or meaning of something, and it can lead to a significant change in perspective or a new way of thinking. Epiphanies can occur in various aspects of life, such as personal relationships, intellectual pursuits, or moments of self-discovery. The term is often used to describe a moment of enlightenment or a breakthrough in understanding.

Yes, that is exactly what the Magi experienced. They had a profound moment of insight and clarity as they encountered the Christ Child.

May we too experience Christ at every moment of every day knowing that he is here with us as we recognize him in the Eucharist, in the Scriptures, and in one another.

On Monday, January 8th, we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and bring the Christmas season to its conclusion. As we do so, I would like to thank a few people who helped to make the season of Christmas so special here at St. Mary. Our thanks to Andrew Monticello, our cantors Joe and Katie, and all the members of our fantastic choir. As always, they did a great job with all the liturgies of the Christmas season. To our lectors and extraordinary ministers of holy Communion, to those who helped to decorate our beautiful church and to Maria Matos for organizing the Christmas pageant. To those who helped with the construction of the manger outside and to all of you for your faith and devotion. May Christ the newborn king bless and protect you always.

A special word of thanks to Grace Ditzel for all the extra work the Christmas season brings to our office and to Canice Cristoforetti. Canice has officially retired as finance manager after many years of service to our parish. May the Lord bless her and her family as she begins this new chapter in her life.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Joe



Pray for the Sick

Maria Bender, Brian C., 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 Surtereronet,
Baby Luke Totaro, Marianne Tracey



Scrip Orders

We will be placing an order for Scrip Gift Cards Monday morning, **January 8th**. 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,

Year End Contribution / Donation Statement

This year we will be e-mailing the 2023 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.



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.



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.

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.

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!](#)

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.

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.

From the Faith Formation Coordinator

Good day parishioners,

Happy and Healthy New Year to you all. We have had some wonderful events going on in our church and there is a lot of expression of gratitude to go around.

On December 17th some of our third and fourth graders performed a Christmas Pageant and I would like to express my appreciation for the following children and their parents: Maya Rodriguez, Leo Pereira, Valentina Reduce, Zachary Nash, Calei Syvoravong, Corinne Dahms, Luciana Lee, Ilyana Lee for her beautiful narration, our Music Director, Andrew, and our lovely choir.

I would also like to thank Andrew Monticello for his involvement in assisting some of the children as they joined the choir for a lovely rendition of *The First Nowell* during the Christmas Eve Mass. Thank you to the parents of Luciana and Ilyana Lee, Valentina Reduce, Owen Smith, Evelyn Mateo Montenegro, Edward Reilly, and Maya Rodriguez for bringing your children to the rehearsals and encouraging them to lend their voices to our mass.



Lastly, thank you to Fr. Joe for his Homily to the children at the Christmas Eve Mass. I think they really enjoyed coming up to the altar and hearing a very personal Homily about the birth of Jesus.

As we embark on a new year, please continue to pray for our church, our faith formation program, and all of our wonderful parishioners.

Maria Matos

Faith Formation and Safe Environment Coordinator

Thank You from Family Promise of Bergen County

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift-in-kind donation of various gift cards valued at \$1,300.00 to Family Promise of Bergen County.

Thanks to your generosity, Family Promise is able to empower homeless working families and those at risk of homelessness to become self-sufficient by providing temporary housing and personalized support, including job training, financial education, life skills, transportation, childcare, enrichment for children, and more. Family Promise also addresses hunger in our community through the nightly Walk-In Dinner Program, which since 1991 has served more than 1.2 million meals to our neighbors in need.

Thank you for supporting our vision where every working family has a stable home and the means to create a better life.

With sincere gratitude,

Kate Duggan, Executive Director

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY PARISH

Sun. – January 7th :

9:00 AM – 10:50 AM – Reconciliation
Retreat – Fr. Roger Troy Hall
9:30 AM – 10:50 AM – Evangelists
Groups – Faith Formation Building
9:30 AM – 10:50 AM – Sprouts and
Doves Groups – Classrooms

Mon. – January 8th :

8:30 AM – Immaculate Medal Novena –
Church
Scrip Orders being placed – need by
10:00 AM
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM – Prayer Shawl
Ministry – Fr. Roger Troy Hall

Wed. – January 10th :

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM – Exposition of the
Most Blessed Sacrament – Church
9:15 AM – Scripture Study – via Zoom*

Thur. – January 11th :

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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation –

Saturdays at 4:00 PM.

Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms

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

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers Schedule

Saturday, January 13th, 5:00 PM Mass

Lector – Joan Westervelt

Eucharistic Ministers –

Joann Hildenbrand and Bill Deegan

Sunday, January 14th, 8:30 AM Mass

Lector – John Ditzel

Eucharistic Ministers – Jay LePree
and Paola Yammarino

Sunday, January 14th, 11:00 AM Mass

Lector – Eric Hills

Eucharistic Ministers –

Fina Chamberlain, Erne Linn and
Tony Linn

CHURCH OF ST. MARY



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ST. MARY PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We the family of St. Mary of Closter, fervently believe in the fatherhood of God whom we come to know through the Lord Jesus Christ. We dedicate ourselves to the promotion of the spiritual and temporal welfare of our parish and our community. To this end, we direct our prayers to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through Mary the Blessed Mother and Patroness of our parish family.



PARISH STAFF AND CONTACTS

Pastor: Rev. Joseph Scarangella, K.H.S.
fatherjoe@stmarycloster.org

Weekend Assistants:

S.M.A. Fathers, Rev. Chris Ciccarino & Rev. Charlie Pinyan

Director of Music: Andrew Monticello
music@stmarycloster.org

Faith Formation and Safe Environment Coordinator:
Maria Matos
reled@stmarycloster.org

Parish Secretary: Grace Ditzel
gditzel@stmarycloster.org

Parish Bookkeeper: Shary Paparazzo
bookkeeper@stmarycloster.org

Parish Trustees: Pamela Derfus & John Hernandez
*Assisted by the Pastoral Advisory Board
and Financial Council*

WE INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE THE EUCHARIST

Saturday (*Anticipated Sunday Mass*)----- 5:00 PM

Sunday -----8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Weekdays (*Monday through Friday*) ----- 8:00 AM

Holy Days & Civic Holidays----- As announced the Sunday before

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday, 4:00 PM

DEVOTIONS

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday, 8:30 - 9:00 AM, September to June and as scheduled.

Immaculate Medal Novena: Monday, 8:30 AM.

Recitation of the Rosary: Monday through Friday - following the 8:00 AM Mass

*Information regarding Sacraments, Parish Ministries and
Care of the Sick & Homebound can be found on our website.
To arrange baptisms or weddings call Father or the parish office.*



Please like us on Facebook: facebook.com/stmarycloster

PARISH OFFICES

Kindly notify the Rectory Office if you change your address or move from our parish community.
Please see our website for Parish Calendar and more information about Sacraments and Parish Life.

Rectory: 20 Legion Place, Closter, New Jersey 07624 • 201-768-7565 **Parish Website:** stmarycloster.org

Rectory Office Hours: Monday and Thursday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Tuesday and Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM
Closed for lunch 12 Noon - 1:00 PM

Center for Spiritual Development and Faith Formation: 201-767-8247 • reled@stmarycloster.org

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CONTACT US:
(201) 871-2182
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