

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

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 –

Lv. 13: 1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor. 10: 31-11: 1; Mk. 1: 40-45

5:00 PM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 –

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Lv. 13: 1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor. 10: 31-11: 1; Mk. 1: 40-45

8:30 AM Jenny Russo

11:00 AM Angelo and Elia Gaspari

req. by Sue and Rich Canoro

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12 – WEEKDAY

Jas. 1: 1-11; Mk. 8: 11-13

8:00 AM Violet Drobinko / req. by the Ditzel Family

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 – WEEKDAY

Jas. 1: 12-18; Mk. 8: 14-21

8:00 AM Marija Brusic / req. by the Milovcic Family

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 – ASH WEDNESDAY

Jl. 2: 12-18; 2 Cor. 5: 20- 6: 2; Mt. 6: 1-6, 16-18

8:00 AM Paul and Marie Vecchio

req. by the Vecchio Family

7:00 PM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 –

THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

Dt. 30: 15-20; Lk. 9: 22-25

8:00 AM Tami Zorzim / req. by the Milovcic Family

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16 –

FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

Is. 58: 1-9a; Mt. 9: 14-15

8:00 AM Special Intentions of

Thom and Grace Calabro on their 50th

Wedding Anniversary

req. by Thom and Grace Calabro

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 –

Gn. 9: 8-15; 1 Pt. 3: 18-22; Mk. 1: 12-15

5:00 PM Anthony Granato

req. by Joe and Esther DeRosa

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Gn. 9: 8-15; 1 Pt. 3: 18-22; Mk. 1: 12-15

8:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased

11:00 AM Marion McQuiston / req. by Sue Brueck



THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Blessed Virgin Mary Candle – In Thanksgiving,
req. by the Pozotrigio Family

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Doesn't seem possible, but yes, this coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. And, for the first time in memory, it falls on Valentine's Day. Sorry to say, but there is NO DISPENSATION from eating meat on Ash Wednesday. There are only two days of the year which calls for fasting AND abstaining from meat, and they are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

So, as we begin this holy season on Wednesday, let us ask ourselves: What am I going to do (or not do) during this holy season which can bring me closer to God and to one another. Once again we offer you to take home a "little black book" for your spiritual reading. I hope you find it useful for daily prayer and meditation.

A few suggestions for making Lent a bit more meaningful: daily Mass? Daily Rosary? Fasting? Feeding the poor? Works of charity? Volunteering at a shelter or soup kitchen? Or, maybe not doing thing: fast from social media? Fast from the internet? Fasting from gossip or off color language? Fasting from sugar or desserts? These are just a few of the many ways to make this holy season a more spiritual and more meaningful time to get closer to our Lord and to our brothers and sisters.

As we prepare to begin this season, please know that ashes will be distributed at the 8:00 AM Mass and 7:00 PM Mass. There will also be a service with the distribution of ashes at 3:30 PM

May these days of the season of Lent truly be a time of spiritual renewal for each and every one of us.

Fr. Joe

Pray for the Sick

Maria Bender, Manny Bernardez, Brian C.,
Craig Connolly, Glen P. Connolly, 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,
Michael O'Shea, 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.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION

Next weekend, **February 17th and 18th** the second collection is for Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in more than 20 countries that still struggle to recover from Communist rule. Funds from this collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection next week. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/ccee.

From the Faith Formation Coordinator

Good day parishioners,

This weekend our FIRE Program (Families in Religious Encounter) will be discussing the Fifth Commandment, "You shall not kill".

In the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord recalls the commandment, "You shall not kill," and adds to it the proscription of anger, hatred, and vengeance. Going further, Christ asks his disciples to turn the other cheek, to love their enemies. (CCC 2262).

This Catholic teaching is very important because it helps us understand that it is not only taking one's life that is a sin but also anger and hatred towards ourselves or other people. God created all life and expects each of us to protect the body, mind, and soul of ourselves and others from harm. It's that soul part that I would like to emphasize in today's bulletin.

We are coming upon Lent this Wednesday, February 14th. This is a season of reflection of our lives and the sacrifice Christ made for us. It's important during this season to not only think of Christ's sacrifice but what sacrifices we should be making for ourselves and others. Maybe you haven't prayed to God in a while and need to renew your relationship with Him. Maybe you fight with your parents about participating in the mass each week. Maybe there is someone that needs your forgiveness or someone that you need to ask for forgiveness. Maybe someone you know needs your help. By not doing the things that we know God would want, we are harming our souls, thereby committing a sin against God. This is the very soul that God wants to stay united with and to welcome into the Kingdom of Heaven.

This is the perfect time to heal ourselves by reflecting on the way we prioritize our lives and responsibilities and make time for God. May we also take this time to pray for all those who are ignorant or insistent that God and The Ten Commandments do not exist.

Prayers and Blessings,

Maria Matos

Faith Formation and Safe Environment Coordinator

Congratulations to our Lambs Group, Michael Castro, and Evelyn Mateo Montenegro on receipt of the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. May the next few months leading up to receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist be a time for you to nourish your relationship with Christ.



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 –
Saturdays at 4:00 PM.

Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms
Please contact the parish office at 201-768-7565.

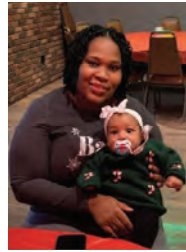
How to Report Abuse

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.



Several Sources, a prolife organization for mothers who seek to give God's blessed gift of life to their children, is seeking donations and will be visiting our church the weekend of **February 17th – 18th**.



Come and meet a representative from Several Sources and learn more about their lifesaving work.

Through God's Grace, Several Sources (501c3 non-profit) saves babies' lives and shelters young mothers, while providing education and ongoing compassionate support services, including their Pregnancy Sonogram Center. They further educate young people to make healthy life choices. And, they support inner city Special Families with care packages for Easter, Back-to-School, Thanksgiving and Christmas. **Your financial gift will help save the life of a child and help continue their ministry!**

How You Can Give Today

ONLINE: <https://www.severalsources.org/get-involved/donate/>

PHONE: Call our office at (201) 818 9033

MAIL: Several Sources Shelters, PO Box 157, Ramsey NJ 07446

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.

Dear Father Joe, St. Mary's Staff and St. Mary's Parishioners:

On behalf of the family, I would like to thank you for your support of my dad, Tony Neusch, during his unexpected recent illness and passing. We are grateful for the visits many people made to see my dad during his extended stay in Englewood Hospital and all of the get well cards and encouragement that his children received during my dad's three month illness. My dad also appreciated the outreach during his hospital stay. We also appreciate everyone who attended the wake, the funeral mass, the interment at Maryrest Cemetery and the repast luncheon. Lastly, we are grateful for the support that has been shown to my brothers and me after my dad's passing. My parents moved to Closter in 1965 and my father remained an active parishioner until his recent illness.

With gratitude:

Lucy Neusch Kramer on behalf of the Neusch Family

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers Schedule

Saturday, February 17th, 5:00 PM Mass

Lector – Bill Deegan

Eucharistic Ministers – Joann Hildenbrand and Mary Lau

Sunday, February 18th, 8:30 AM Mass

Lector – Ben Matos

Eucharistic Ministers – Paola Yammarino and Ginny Fjermestad

Sunday, February 18th, 11:00 AM Mass

Lector – Joan Westervelt

Eucharistic Ministers – Lucy Chua, Espie Landrito and Roy Landrito

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY PARISH

Sun. – February 11th :

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

9:30 AM – 10:50 AM – Sprouts, Lambs and Dove Groups – Classrooms

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Rite of Sending for RCIC – Church

Mon. – February 12th :

8:30 AM – Immaculate Medal Novena – Church

Tues. – February 13th :

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM – St. Patrick's Day Committee Meeting – Fr. Roger Troy Hall

Wed. – February 14th – Ash Wednesday:

8:00 AM – Mass with Ashes

9:15 AM – Scripture Study – via Zoom*

3:30 PM – Service with Ashes

7:00 PM – Mass with Ashes

Sat. – February 17th :

12:00 PM – AA Special Mass-Church, followed by Meeting in 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.



Save the Date

Save the date and join the fun at St. Mary's

Annual St. Patrick's Day party -- Saturday, **March 9th**. More information to come.

Third Saturday Mass for Recovery and Healing

Third Saturday Recovery and Healing Mass on Saturday, **February 17th** at 12:00 noon.

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

Lent –

Ash Wednesday is **February 14th**

Ash Wednesday Schedule

Mass with ashes – 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM

Service with ashes – 3:30 PM

Archdiocese of Newark 2024 Lenten Regulations

1. The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the “paschal fast” to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted, **and two (2) smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.**

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

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.

2. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence “substantially”, or as a whole, is a serious obligation.

3. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of Penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.

4. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 18th, 2024** to **The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, May 26th, 2024.**

****Canon 920, §1. All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.***

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PAUL BACCASH

12PM-3PM

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED



PRIVATE ROOMS AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS

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

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

CONTACT US:
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