

First SUNDAY OF **LENT**

**The time is fulfilled, and
the kingdom of God has
come near; repent, and
believe in the good news.**

MARK 1:15

Church of St. Mary
CLOSTER, NEW JERSEY

MASS INTENTIONS

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19 – LENTEN WEEKDAY

Lv. 19: 1-2, 11-18; Mt. 25: 31-46

8:00 AM Joseph Venezia / req. by Donna Kelly

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20 – LENTEN WEEKDAY

Is. 55: 10-11; Mt. 6: 7-15

8:00 AM Maria Loretta LaPietra / req. by Donna Kelly

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 – ST. PETER DAMIAN,
BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Jon. 3: 1-10; Lk. 11: 29-32

8:00 AM Mary McKenna Delaney
req. by John and Canice Cristofolletti

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22 –

THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER THE APOSTLE

1 Pt. 5: 1-4; Mt. 16: 13-19

8:00 AM Intentions of Sister Georgette Dublino, OSF
req. by Camille Cantarella

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23 –

ST. POLYCARP, BISHOP AND MARTYR

Ez. 18: 21-28; Mt. 5: 20-26

8:00 AM William and Martha Anderes
req. by St. Mary Parish and Staff

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 –

Gn. 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom. 8: 31b-34; Mk. 9: 2-10

5:00 PM Mary Connolly / req. by Phyllis Buonomo

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Gn. 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom. 8: 31b-34; Mk. 9: 2-10

8:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased
11:00 AM Philip Moliterno / req. by the Vecchio Family

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Blessed Virgin Mary Candle – In memory of
Pauline Wagner, req. by Thom and Grace Calabro

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.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Happy First Sunday of Lent.

Well, it took a while, but we finally got that snow storm this past week. Just in time for Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday.

As we now enter into the holy season of Lent, let us call to mind the words that were said to us as we received the ashes on our foreheads: "Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return" or the other formula which can be used: Repent and believe in the gospel". Whichever words were used, think about those words during the season. Remember that Lent is a time to grow closer to God and to one another through works of prayer, fasting, and charity.

Please save the date for our annual St. Patrick celebration to be held on Saturday evening, March 9th. See the bulletin for more details.

The parish office will be closed on Monday, February 19th in celebration of President's Day.

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 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.

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.

Collections and Income for January 2024

Regular Sunday Collection	\$20,868.00
Holy Day – Solemnity of Mary	\$907.00
Maintenance & Repair Coll.	\$2,598.00
Archdiocesan Assessment	\$1,682.00
Other Income	\$13,100.00
Misc. Income	\$11,106.00
Total January Income	\$50,261.00
Total January Expenses	\$40,158.00

Archdiocese Special Collections

Communicating God's Word	\$202.00
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Thank you for your continued support of the regular collections. St. Mary's relies upon your support all year long. Please remember to support the parish even if you are away. Why not give through electronic giving. Signup at Parishgiving.org. God bless you!

From the Faith Formation Coordinator

Good day parishioners,

I have very exciting news for this weekend!

You may or may not remember that we have three children that are in our OCIA Program (Order of Catholic Initiation for Adults). Why are children in an adult program? It is because the children have passed the age of reason which the church recognizes as the completion of a child's seventh year. If a child passes this age and wishes to be baptized, they are entered into an OCIA program.

These children have spent the last two years learning and developing their faith accompanied by Fr. Joe, Angie Girardin, and me. We feel that they are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Initiation this Easter.

This Sunday at the 11:00 AM Mass, we will celebrate the Rite of Sending with these children, their godparents, and their families. This rite brings their time as a catechumenate to an end. During this rite the Church, all of us, send the catechumenate on their way with our blessings and prayers to the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.

In the evening our catechumenate will celebrate the Rite of Election at the cathedral with Cardinal Tobin and all the adults and children in the OCIA programs that are part of the Archdiocese of Newark. At that time, the catechumenate will enter their names in a book and become the "elect". They will continue building on their knowledge and understanding of our faith until the Easter Vigil where they will receive the Sacraments of Initiation.

We have not had anyone receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil Mass in some time at St. Mary Church. It will be a beautiful expression of our Catholic faith; a mass and ceremony that I hope all of our parishioners participate in.

At the risk of sounding condescending, I have to say I am so proud of the children because of all the time and concentration that they dedicated to developing their faith. Thank you to the parents of these children for entrusting them into our care and for giving us the honor of accompanying them on their journeys.

Please pray for our catechumens as they become the "elect" of our Catholic Church.

Prayers and Blessings,

Maria Matos, Faith Formation and Safe Environment Coordinator

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.

**Safe Environment Corner –
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 so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse.

Call the Coordinator for the Office of Accompaniment in the Archdiocesan Department for the Protection of the Faithful at 201-407-3256.

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 2024!

These anniversary liturgies will be held in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as follows below and will be celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin. Please note that the Anniversary Masses will be celebrated at the 12 noon Mass this year.

Five years and twenty-five years on Sunday, **May 5th** at 12:00 PM

Fifty years on Sunday, **June 2nd** at 12:00 PM

Please call Grace at the rectory at 201-768-7565 to register. The **deadline** for May 5th is **April 29th** and the deadline for June 2nd is **May 22nd**.

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 some families are still playing 'catch-up' with their celebrations, any couple who would have celebrated their Silver or Gold Anniversary in those years stunted by covid restrictions may still join us as well. Please note whether the milestone anniversary took place in **2020, 2021** (or even if they missed in **2022** or **2023**), the certificates will still say Silver or Gold, not 26, 51 etc.



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 greatly



Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers Schedule

Saturday, February 24th, 5:00 PM Mass

Lector – Joan Westervelt

Eucharistic Ministers – Joann Hildenbrand and Bill Deegan

Sunday, February 25th, 8:30 AM Mass

Lector – Esther DeRosa

Eucharistic Ministers – Pam Derfus and Tom Derfus

Sunday, February 25th, 11:00 AM Mass

Lector– Espie Landrito

Eucharistic Ministers – Espie Landrito, Sue Ugras and Fina Chamberlain

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY PARISH

Mon. – February 19th :

8:30 AM – Immaculate Medal Novena – Church

Wed. – February 21st :

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

9:15 AM – Scripture Study – via Zoom*

6:45 PM – 7:45 PM – Men's Cornerstone Meeting – Fr. Roger Troy Hall

Sat. / Sun. – February 24th – 25th :

Three Squares Ministry Food Collection at all Masses

* 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**. See this bulletin for more information.

All Parish Offices – Closed

All Parish Offices are closed on Monday, **February 19th** in observance of Presidents' Day.

Three Squares Ministry – Food for Neighbors in Need

Food Collection Saturday and Sunday, **February 24th** and **25th**. Food will be donated to the Closter Food Pantry. The Pantry has shared with us their current most needed items to serve our families are: Boxed milk, Flavored oatmeal packets, Sugar and Toilet paper

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.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

6 PM - 10 PM

CELEBRATE

ST. PATRICK'S
DAY

Traditional Irish Buffet & Children's Menu
Irish Dancers

\$35 / ADULTS

\$15 / CHILDREN (14 AND UNDER)

BYOB

Church of St. Mary
20 Legion Place - Closter, NJ

RSVP by March 4: Call: 201-768-7565. Send check to the
rectory or place envelope in collection basket. Please
include contact information.

Dinner by B & M Market

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LIVE MUSIC WITH
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12PM-3PM

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