

Fourth SUNDAY OF **LENT**

**But everyone
who lives by the
truth will come
to the light.**

JOHN 3:21

Church of St. Mary
CLOSTER, NEW JERSEY



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 9 –

2 Chr. 36: 14-16, 19-23; Eph. 2: 4-10; Jn. 3: 14-21

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 10 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

2 Chr. 36: 14-16, 19-23; Eph. 2: 4-10; Jn. 3: 14-21

8:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased
11:00 AM John DiRese
req. by Madge and Lenny Conmy

MONDAY, MARCH 11 – LENTEN WEEKDAY

Is. 65: 17-21; Jn. 4: 43-54

8:00 AM Tony Neusch
req. by Thom and Grace Calabro

TUESDAY, MARCH 12 – LENTEN WEEKDAY

Ez. 47: 1-9, 12; Jn. 5: 1-16

8:00 AM Presley Miranda
req. by Thom and Grace Calabro

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13 – LENTEN WEEKDAY

Is. 49: 8-15; Jn. 5: 17-30

8:00 AM John O'Hanlon / req. by the O'Hanlon Family

THURSDAY, MARCH 14 – LENTEN WEEKDAY

Ex. 32: 7-14; Jn. 5: 31-47

8:00 AM Catherine Arnao / req. by Donna Kelly

FRIDAY, MARCH 15 – LENTEN WEEKDAY

Wis. 2: 1a, 12-22; Jn. 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30

8:00 AM Ron Olsen / req. by the Olsen Family

SATURDAY, MARCH 16 –

Jer. 31: 31-34; Heb. 5: 7-9; Jn. 12: 20-33

5:00 PM Sgt. David Solinas
req. by Katherine and Kathleen Olsen

SUNDAY, MARCH 17 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jer. 31: 31-34; Heb. 5: 7-9; Jn. 12: 20-33

8:30 AM Liddy / Keavin Families
req. by the Liddy Family
11:00 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased



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.



Pray for the Sick

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.

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.

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, **March 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.

Collections and Income for February 2024

Regular Sunday Collection	\$16,193.00
Maintenance & Repair Coll.	\$3,118.00
Archdiocesan Assessment	\$527.00
Other Income	\$13,466.00
Misc. Income	\$3,282.00
Total February Income	\$36,586.00
Total February Expenses	\$50,768.00

Archdiocese Special Collections

Churches in Central & Eastern Europe	\$435.00
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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!

Three Squares Ministry – Food for Neighbors in Need

Food Collection Saturday and Sunday, **March 16th** and **17th**. 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: Coffee, Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo, Oil and Canned fruit.

Third Saturday Mass for Recovery and Healing: Anointing of the Sick

All are welcome to Church of St. Mary, for the Third Saturday Recovery and Healing Mass on Saturday, **March 16th** at 12:00 noon. March is traditionally our annual Anointing of the Sick.

This monthly Mass is offered for the support, healing and recovery of those afflicted or affected by a substance use disorder. For information please contact The Father Jim McKenna Memorial Fund at 201-281-6247 or visit our website at <https://fatherjimmckenna.org/>.

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**.

The Archdiocese will acknowledge the reservation directly to the celebrating couple and provide them with directions to the Cathedral Basilica.

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.

From the Faith Formation Coordinator

Good day parishioners,

In Corinthians 13:13 we learn that "...these three things continue forever: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love." But, what is love? Below are excerpts from a *JerseyCatholic* article that discusses a new website that will hopefully help provide 'clarity' for our culture's questions.

[OSV News February 29, 2024](#)

"Love Means More," a new teaching initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has a statement of purpose, a website, and a promise to keep building the website to provide answers on a wide variety of questions about Catholic teaching on love, sexuality and marriage.

The premise speaks to the simple question of what "I love you" can portend.

"Imagine sincerely saying this to someone for the first time, and getting the response, 'What do you mean?' In that moment, the stakes would be too high to pause for a calm, honest exploration of this question. That's why this site exists," states the website, lovemeansmore.org.

"Conversations about love, marriage, sexuality, family, and the human person can be confusing and polarizing," Bishop Barron said in a Feb. 21 news release, adding that he hoped the initiative would "help bring clarity and compassion to those questions."

According to the USCCB, the new initiative has a broader scope than just the sacrament of matrimony, addressing "questions and concerns received from people who are uncomfortable with some church teachings. These include those who uphold the possibility of divorce and remarriage, LGBT-identifying individuals, and those who defend pornography."

Developed through "wide consultation" with bishops, pastors, educators, medical and mental health professionals, and lay Catholic leaders involved with family life ministry, the initiative "also has heard, and seeks to address, questions and concerns received from people who are uncomfortable with some church teachings," the news release said.

Reflecting long-held Catholic teaching, Bishop Barron observed in his statement that "cultural narratives tell us love is mostly about feeling good. True love is deeper than that, calling us to follow Christ's example of sacrificial love so we can live in union with Him forever."

Teaching on other issues will be added over time.

The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith's declaration said a request for a blessing can express and nurture "openness to the transcendence, mercy, and closeness to God in a thousand concrete circumstances of life, which is no small thing in the world in which we live. It is a seed of the Holy Spirit that must be nurtured, not hindered."

This article was written by Kurt Jensen, for OSV News from Washington

Prayers and Blessings,

Maria Matos

Faith Formation and Safe Environment Coordinator

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers Schedule

Saturday, March 16th, 5:00 PM Mass

Lector – Bill Deegan

Eucharistic Ministers – Bill Deegan and Joann Hildenbrand

Sunday, March 17th, 8:30 AM Mass

Lector – Ben Matos

Eucharistic Ministers – Paola Yammarino and Ginny Fjermestad

Sunday, March 17th, 11:00 AM Mass

Lector – Joan Westervelt

Eucharistic Ministers – Espie Landrito, Roy Landrito and Sue Ugras

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY PARISH

Sun. – March 10th :

9:30 AM – 10:50 AM – First Communion Banner Decoration – Fr. Roger Troy Hall

9:30 AM – 10:50 AM – Sprouts, Lambs and Dove Groups – Faith Formation Building

Mon. – March 11th :

8:30 AM – Immaculate Medal Novena – Church

Wed. – March 13th :

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

9:15 AM – Scripture Study – via Zoom*

Thur. – March 14th :

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

Sat. / Sun. – March 16th – 17th :

Three Squares Ministry Food Collection at all Masses

Sat. – March 16th :

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

Sun. – March 17th :

9:30 AM – 10:50 AM – Sprouts, Lambs and Dove Groups – Faith Formation Building

* Scripture Study

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

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.



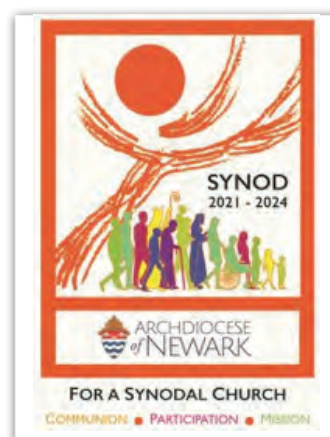
SYNOD ON *Synodality*

You are Invited!

to a Listening Session to prepare for Session Two of the Synod on Synodality which will be held in Rome during October 2024.

The Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops has asked local dioceses to undertake further consultations in order to contribute to the preparation for the October 2024 Assembly in Rome.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) asks that each diocese conduct several listening sessions. The purpose of these sessions is to DEEPEN the conversation around ways to engage all the baptized in full participation in the mission of the Church. We will be using the synodal process of Conversation in the Spirit.



Who: Clergy, parishioners, religious, teens, young adults, and folks who feel estranged or on the peripheries of the Church

When and Where:

March 8: Saint John Paul II Youth Retreat Center
Sacred Heart Center (under the church)
499 Belgrove Dr, Kearny, NJ 07032
6:15 Light supper; 6:45 – 9 PM Spiritual Conversation

March 14: St. Helen, Westfield Parish Center
1600 Rahway Ave, Westfield, NJ 07090
6:15 Light supper; 6:45 – 9 PM Spiritual Conversation

To RSVP, please use this LINK :

<https://forms.gle/gjZgeZv1pjAzprAa7>

Please RSVP no later than February 28, 2024

Your registration will be confirmed and materials and reading assignments will be sent ahead of time. Reading and prayerful preparation is essential for this process of Conversation in the Spirit and discernment. We look forward to seeing you..

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