



SAINT MARY'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH | A FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY

ALL ARE WELCOME!

17 POMPTON AVENUE
POMPTON LAKES, NJ 07442
P 973-835-0374 F 973-835-8173
WWW.STMARYS-POMPTON.ORG
SMC@STMARYS-POMPTON.ORG
PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
MON-THU 9:00-4:00, FRI 9:00-12:00
CLOSED FOR LUNCH 12-12:30 MON-THU

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

THAT THE WORLD
MIGHT BE
SAVED.

— JOHN 3:17 —



September 14, 2025

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FRIAR'S DESK

The Exaltation of the Cross: What Seems Low is Really High

The Feast of *The Exaltation of the Holy Cross* (also known as *The Triumph of the Cross*) has its origin in the Church's belief that St. Helena – the mother of the Emperor Constantine who legalized Christianity in the Roman Empire – found the True Cross of Christ while on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Subsequently, in 335 A.D., a basilica was dedicated on the site believed to be that of Golgotha where Jesus was crucified.

Relics, which are physical objects of something considered sacred, such as a biblical person or event or canonized saint, including body parts of a holy person or something he or she touched, were becoming popular in the spreading Christianity of that time. The cross on which Christ was crucified would be the ultimate relic. The cross is undoubtedly the most well-known symbol of Christianity. However, what is more important than the physical object itself is what was achieved and won on it.

It is important to remember that in Jesus's time and culture, a man hung on a tree – a cross would be equivalent to that – was believed to be cursed by God. That was as low as it could get! How could something seemingly so low be reversed by a religion into something so gloriously high and exalted? We must look at one of the effects of original sin for an answer. The fall from grace caused humanity to have the tendency to see things upside down from the way God sees them. Fallen human society tends to see glory in people who exalt themselves by climbing above everybody else. Such an ego trip is not considered a winning formula in God's Kingdom according to the Gospels. It separates one from others and God. Rather the opposite is true. Humbling (low) self-sacrificial love, which is what Jesus accomplished on the cross, is what is high in God's eyes. St. Paul realized and expressed that with his profound words in the second reading: "Rather, he (Christ) emptied himself, taking the form of a slave... he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2:7-8). Jesus's extended arms on the cross do not push others away; they do not separate him from others; rather they embrace us with an eternal love that is healing and saving. Are we ready to accept that embrace?

—Father John Coughlin, OFM

La Exaltación de la Cruz: lo que parece bajo es realmente alto

La fiesta de la Exaltación de la Santa Cruz (también conocida como El Triunfo de la Cruz) tiene su origen en la creencia de la Iglesia de que Santa Elena, madre del emperador Constantino, quien legalizó el cristianismo en el Imperio Romano, encontró la verdadera cruz de Cristo durante una peregrinación a Tierra Santa. Posteriormente, en el año 335 d. C., se consagró una basílica en el lugar que se creía que era el Gólgota, donde Jesús fue crucificado.

Las reliquias, que son objetos físicos de algo considerado sagrado, como un personaje o acontecimiento bíblico o un santo canonizado, incluidas partes del cuerpo de una persona santa o algo que él o ella tocó, se estaban haciendo populares en el cristianismo que se extendía en aquella época. La cruz en la que Cristo fue crucificado sería la reliquia definitiva. La cruz es, sin duda, el símbolo más conocido del cristianismo. Sin embargo, lo más importante no es el objeto físico en sí, sino lo que se logró y se ganó en él.

Es importante recordar que, en la época y la cultura de Jesús, se creía que un hombre colgado de un árbol lo que equivaldría a una cruz estaba maldito por Dios. ¡Era lo más bajo a lo que se podía llegar! ¿Cómo pudo una religión convertir algo aparentemente tan bajo en algo tan glorioso y exaltado? Debemos buscar la respuesta en uno de los efectos del pecado original. La caída de la gracia hizo que la humanidad tendiera a ver las cosas al revés de como las ve Dios. La sociedad humana caída tiende a ver la gloria en las personas que se exaltan a sí mismas elevándose por encima de los demás. Según los Evangelios, ese egoísmo no se considera una fórmula ganadora en el Reino de Dios. Separa a uno de los demás y de Dios. Más bien es cierto lo contrario. El amor humilde (bajo) y abnegado, que es lo que Jesús logró en la cruz, es lo que es elevado a los ojos de Dios. San Pablo se dio cuenta de ello y lo expresó con sus profundas palabras en la segunda lectura: "Más bien, él (Cristo) se despojó de sí mismo, tomando la forma de esclavo... se humilló a sí mismo, haciéndose obediente hasta la muerte, incluso la muerte en una cruz" (Fil 2, 7-8). Los brazos extendidos de Jesús en la cruz no alejan a los demás; no lo separan de los demás; más bien nos abrazan con un amor eterno que es sanador y salvador. ¿Estamos dispuestos a aceptar ese abrazo?

—Padre John Coughlin, OFM

PARISH OFFICE PHONE NUMBER: 973-835-0374

FRANCISCAN FRIARS SERVING YOU

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Fr. John Coughlin, OFM, x169 jcoughlin@stmarys-pompton.org
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OUTREACH MINISTRY

Food Pantry 973-831-4442 foodpantry@stmarys-pompton.org
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militaryassistancepantry@stmarys-pompton.org

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Dr. Pamela Hall, 973-835-6337 Pathways Counseling Center
Clare Russo, 973-835-0374 x113 Stephen Ministry

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 973-835-7750

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Debbie Borroto, x130
Admin. Asst./ Local Youth Protection/
Safe Environment Coordinator debbie@stmarys-pompton.org

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY YOUNG ADULT & ADULT

Karen Niemann kniemann@stmarys-pompton.org

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY YOUTH

Andrea Piccirillo apiccirillo@stmarys-pompton.org

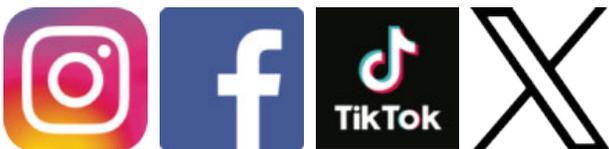
WEDDINGS

Getting married at St. Mary's? We'd love to celebrate the sacrament of marriage with you! Please contact Lynda Rogalski at lrogalski@stmarys-pompton.org six months to a year before your desired date.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Trevor George, 862-274-5171 tgeorge@stmarys-pompton.org

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

Please call **973-835-0374** or send an email to smc@stmarys-pompton.org if:

- your address, email address or telephone number has changed, and/or
- a parishioner has been married and/or
- a parishioner has moved.

Parish records need to be current so please be sure to inform us of any changes as soon as possible.

Thank you!

Calendar of Events

Please see our Parish Calendar for all the current events and activities going on at St. Mary's!

<https://stmarys-pompton.org/parish-calendar>



Worship Adorar

Scan for worship aids
Escanea para ayudas para la adoración



Online Giving Donaciones en línea

Scan to make a donation
Escanea para hacer una donación



Pray



Orar

Serve



Atender

Give



Donar



MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

9:00 AM—Liturgy of the Word with Communion
(Prayer Room)

Vigil Masses:

5:00 PM—English

7:00 PM—English

SUNDAY

7:30 AM—English

8:45 AM—Español (livestreamed)

9:00 AM—English (Carnevale Center)

10:30 AM—English (livestreamed)

12:00 PM—English

WEEKDAYS

8:00 AM—Monday-Friday in English (livestreamed)

7:00 PM—Wednesday en Español (livestreamed)

MASSES ONLINE AT:

www.stmarys-pompton.org

www.facebook.com/smcpompton

www.youtube.com/c/stmaryspomptonlakes

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6/Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10/Lk 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 8:4-15



CONFESSION AND ADORATION

CONFESSION: Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. or call for an appointment.

ADORATION: The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for Adoration on Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and for one hour after morning Mass on the first Friday of each month. During Adoration, please maintain a reverent silence.

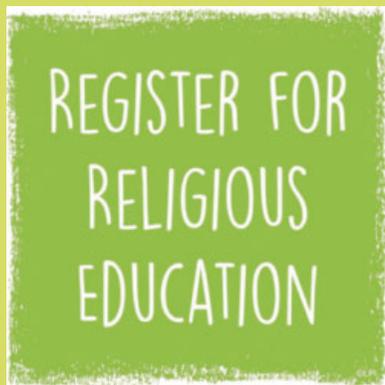


This week, the Bread and Wine have been donated in loving memory of **Frank Luzzi** from his family.



This week, the Altar Flowers have been donated in memory of **David Reinhart** with love from Patricia.

CCD Registration for next year is open!
Please visit our website or scan the QR code to enroll today.



HOLY BONES

Healthy treats for your dog!



Holy Bones provides a work experience program to individuals with developmental disabilities in making and packaging all natural dog bones and bits.

There are 3 flavors in 8 oz. bags: peanut butter, sweet potato and chicken. Price is \$8 per bag (two for \$15) for bones.

The bones and bits are on sale in the Parish Office, Monday through Thursday (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.—closed 12 to 12:30 for lunch) and Friday 9 a.m. to noon.

MASS INTENTIONS † = Deceased, L = Living



...THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY PASSED

Jerry Regalado, William Supko

...THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Angelo, John, Frank Furnari, Bernice Weinheimer, John Molaro, Marc Rocco, Kellie Diemer, Valentina Ionta, Lynn Hutman, Thomas Earley, Susan Esposito, Owen Patrick Brophy, John Donnelly, Linda Bedell Kwaitkowski, Jama Rothschild, Joy Wechter, John Comiso, Jim Shea, Al Hottleman, Maria Gambese, Paul Occhiuzzo, Grace Lobbregt, Bill Reul, Marcy Ryan, Maria Gambatese, Anthony Montagna, Alexa Werkle, Lucy Matyisin, Kathy Green

To add a loved one to this list, please call the Parish Office at 973-835-0374. Names are kept on the list for 30 days unless we are notified otherwise.

...THOSE SERVING IN HARM'S WAY

Lt. Jessica T. Atterbury, PFC Nathan Hunt, CMCN Michael LeTennier, MCS, PFC Sean Jennings, SGT Ryan Cronin, US Navy SO, SSG Kevin Carey, SPC Brian R. Sudol, CSM Robert Hammerle, Sgt. Mark Ashley, SGT Ryan J. Heppel, SPC Dean V. Lucas, LCpl Michael Vignuli, Major Daniel J. Ciccarella, Sgt. Justyn Shovlowsky, Captain Austin Canning, SSG Tiffany Thumann, TSSgt. Scott Miller, Capt. Krystal Thumann, Cpl F. S. Raza, Sean Flanagan, Capt. Matthew W. D'Amico, USMC Lt. 1st Thomas Seneski; Sgt. Anthony W. Gabriel; Brian Hansen, Sgt. Ashlee Quigle; Capt. Daniel M. Kearney, USMC; 2nd LT Emily Simone and Navy Lt. Ryan Hackett, Tracie Kasko, LT Vincent Bellomo, Staff Sergeant Andrew Murphy, Emmanuel Folleco, Sergeant Denise Gonzalez, Staff Sergeant Victoria Zimbaro.

IF THE STATUS OF SOMEONE ON THIS LIST HAS CHANGED, PLEASE INFORM THE PARISH OFFICE ASAP. THANK YOU!

Saturday		September 13
5:00 p.m.	† George Graf † Jim Fagan (32nd Ann.) † Kathleen Rowan † Diane Lovoti	
7:00 p.m.	† Joan & Vincent Phalon † Walter Winrow † Joseph Leon † Ron Kelemen	
Sunday		September 14
7:30 a.m.	† Elisa Sudol † Millie Bruno † Michael Reformat (heavenly birthday)	
8:45 a.m. (Spanish)	† People of the Parish	
9:00 a.m. (CC)	† People of the Parish	
10:30 a.m.	† Minerva Spada Fora & James Russell † Maureen Ann Kimak † Paul Oesterle † James William Kurpick † Janice Calia	
12:00 p.m.	† Paul Oesterle	
Monday		September 15
8:00 a.m.	† William Lindsay † Maureen Debonta	
Tuesday		September 16
8:00 a.m.	† Matthew Rosado (33rd heavenly birthday) † Anthony Giacoio (3rd Ann.)	
Wednesday		September 17
8:00 a.m.	† Fr. Rafael Ciro † Caterina Baruzzi (heavenly anniversary)	
7:00 p.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish	
Thursday		September 18
8:00 a.m.	† Marino A. Piccinich † Holy Souls in Purgatory	
Friday		September 19
8:00 a.m.	† Catalino & Librada Guzman † Conrado Felix, Jr. † Efen Ebue—40th Day	
Saturday		September 20
5:00 p.m.	† Charles Garske † Michael Brandl (12th Ann.) † Charlie Boile † Raymond Flynn † Vincent E. Turula † Richard Bonucelli	
7:00 p.m.	† Maureen DeBonta † Virgilio Reyaldo (31st Ann.)	
Sunday		September 21
7:30 a.m.	† Valerie Terkonick	
8:45 a.m. (Spanish)	† People of the Parish	
9:00 a.m. (CC)	† People of the Parish	
10:30 a.m.	† Francis & Lucille Marshall † William McEntee † Matthew Todd Reppa (1st Ann.) † Frank Luzzi † Innocenza Dattilo	
12:00 p.m.	† Keith Fantasia † Franco Geremia † Providence Torres	



Please feel free to come up to one of the Parish Council members if you see us around or email parishcouncil@stmarys-pompton.org! For the most up-to-date report of the Parish Pastoral Council, please scan the QR code.



Diane



Toma



Zach



Kristine



Greg



Mark



Joanne



Dino



Katie

ST. FRANCIS CELEBRATION AND OCTOBER MONTH OF SERVICE

It was while living with and serving the lepers and poor that St. Francis of Assisi saw the face of God most clearly. Since then, service to the poor and the outsiders is at the heart of what it means to be a Franciscan Community. To celebrate the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi this year, we are encouraging everyone to participate in at least one act of service during the month of October. Below is a list of opportunities to serve along side fellow parishioners! Find something that speaks to your heart, and in the humble Spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare, serve your neighbor or community. The Peace Prayer reminds us that "It is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life." May we serve willingly, give generously, and receive with glad hearts the blessing of our Holy Father, St. Francis of Assisi!



Nut Free Candy Collection: October 4/5 and 11/12 at all Masses. St. Mary's is partnering with a school in Paterson to provide a fun Trunk-or-Treat experience to children in need (see below). Candy that is being collected will be used for that event.

Heifer International / Fill The Ark Calendars: "Fill the Ark" is a four-week family devotional with a focus on gratitude for our blessings and a generous spirit of giving to our neighbors in need. Each week shares a scripture as the focus for reflection and study. Each day includes information about Heifer's work, animal gifts, resources, and approach. Daily giving challenges bring parents, siblings, grandparents, or other family members together to appreciate their abundance and collect change to help struggling families. Calendars will be available in the church.

Transitus: The Transitus marks the passing of St. Francis from earthly life to heavenly life. This liturgy will include hanging birdseed ornaments on the property. Please join us on Friday, October 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the church.

Feast of St Francis: Please join us on Saturday, October 4th from 4-7 p.m. for a petting zoo, fun and games! Nut-free Halloween candy will also be collected for the Trunk-or-Treat event (see below). Bring your pets in Costume! 5:00 p.m. Outdoor Mass (please bring your own chair), 6:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals, 7:00 p.m. regular Saturday evening Mass.

Blessing of the Animals: October 5th at 1 p.m. on the pavers. Bring your pets for a special blessing!

Hispanic Ministry Spanish Mass followed by a reflection on St. Francis on October 8th at 7:00 p.m.

Ministry Fair: Enjoy coffee, fellowship and learn about all of the wonderful opportunities to serve with our ministries at St. Mary's on October 12th after all Masses.

10th Anniversary of Pope Francis' Encyclical "Laudato Si" (2015-2025): The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Ministry (JPIC) invites you to an evening of Education, Sharing and Action with special guest speaker Jacek Orzechowski, O.F.M. on October 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Carnevale Center. Let's ponder the question, how are we caring for Our Common Home now?

Pack-a-Meal for Bridges Outreach: Join us on October 15th at 6:30 p.m. in Spina Hall as we pack sustainable meals and make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for those experiencing food insecurities. Please register for this event; all children must be accompanied by an adult. Families welcome!

Bridges Outreach Food Distribution: Join us on October 16th from 6-10 p.m. as we distribute brown bag lunches, hygiene kits, and other essential items in Rahway, NJ. You will help with set up, item distribution, and clean up while engaging with patrons on our mission to end homelessness. Open to parishioners 18 and older, High School-aged volunteers must be accompanied by a parent. Please register for this event; spots are limited.

Adult Volunteer & Minister Appreciation Dinner: For all you do for St. Mary's! October 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the Carnevale Center. If you volunteer for one of our ministries, please register on our website so we can show our appreciation.

Trunk-or-Treat in the parking lot at Paterson Arts and Science Charter School on October 25th from 2-4 p.m. This is a great family activity! All vehicles are welcome and must complete a registration form prior to the event. Vehicle owners do not need to come in costume however, ALL vehicles MUST be decorated. Trunk or Treating is open to Paterson students only. St. Mary's Families are encouraged to dress up and enjoy the experience of handing out candy to children in need. "Trunkers" will be asked to decorate their trunk, tailgate, or hatchback and provide nut-free candy for 100 "Treaters". St. Mary's will provide additional candy from the candy collection. Please register for this event!

Market Street Mission: Join us on November 1st from 9-11:30 am. on the Morristown Green as we partner with Market Street Mission to distribute coats, hats, gloves, and scarves to those who are in need. Please register for this event; spots are limited. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

St. Francis Inn: Join us on November 8th as we travel to Philadelphia to work with the St. Francis Inn, feeding the unhoused and those who have food insecurities. This trip is open to those in high school and older. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Please register for this all-day event.

Please scan the QR code for more information and to register for applicable events!

Dear St. Mary's family,

Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney recently announced the passing of one of our priests, who died by suicide. Bishop Kevin's letter announcing this tragedy speaks so powerfully of how we, as people of faith, can come to terms with the disease of mental illness and suicide. Let us keep Fr. Rafael Ciro and his family and friends in our prayers.

St. Mary's will be starting a new ministry in the next few weeks to help people with mental illness, those who struggle with suicidal thoughts, and their families and friends. Please stay tuned for more information.

Statement from Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney of the Diocese of Paterson on the death of Reverend Rafael Ciro:

"Even though I walk in the dark valley, I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage..."
– Psalm 23

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

[Earlier this month] with profound sadness, we shared the news of the sudden death of Father Rafael Ciro, pastor of St. Stephen's Church, Paterson. We have received official confirmation from the Medical Examiner that Father Rafael died by suicide.

We continue to mourn as a diocesan family, and consider our presbyterate, who has lost a brother, the parish community of St. Stephen's, which has lost a beloved pastor, and Father Rafael's dear family and friends in Colombia.

Father Rafael was a faithful, joyful, dedicated priest since his Ordination on May 25, 2013. The Word of God teaches us that "... we hold these treasures in earthen vessels..." (2 Cor. 4:7). A priest is a human being, and none of us is immune to illness. Though most of us realize that physical illness can be fatal, we may not always realize that the same is true of other illnesses. Father Rafael fought the good fight in his struggles with mental illness with the support and care of friends, counselors, and brother priests.

The level of profound desperation that insidiously led a person of deep faith to this earthly conclusion is impossible to comprehend. Therefore, we lift Father Rafael and his grieving loved ones and colleagues up in prayer for the consolation that only God gives.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church provides strong guidance for us as we grapple with the shock of Father Rafael's death. According to the Catechism:

"We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives." (2283).

Shaken to the core by this tragedy, our faith in eternal life through Christ is our light in darkness. Confronted with mourning, we are supported by the Church's rituals for grieving with faith and hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, who conquers sin and death. We turn to the Lord as a community of faith and hold fast to his promise, "I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world" (Jn 16:33).

For those who may be in need of mental health support or may be suffering from suicidal thoughts, please know that help is available and there is Hope for healing. Anyone who may need assistance should contact their local mental health provider or call or text 988 for the suicide and crisis lifeline.

No one of us can – nor will we ever – have complete understanding of Father Rafael's fears and struggles. We do know that he fought with courage to find equilibrium and tranquility that would allow him to live with the peaceful heart for which he longed. The long shadow of this moment does not diminish the bright light of his spirit. We thank God for Father Rafael, and we will miss him beyond what words can convey.

The certain faith that Father Rafael lived and celebrated each day at Mass is that in death, "life is changed, not ended." At our baptism, we are clothed in immortality. We pray that through the infinite mercy of God, Father Rafael finds embrace in the dwelling in heaven prepared for all of the faithful.

May he rest in peace. Amen.

Most Rev. Kevin Sweeney, D.D. Bishop of Paterson





Two young men from northern Italy — Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and Blessed Carlo Acutis — were canonized together on September 7th by Pope Leo XIV, marking the first canonizations of his

pontificate. Though separated by a century, the two shared a deep love for God: Frassati (who died in 1925) served the poor in post-war Turin, while Acutis (who died in 2006) used technology to evangelize in modern Milan. Their joint canonization emphasizes the Church's message that everyone is called to holiness, each in their own way. In a time of growing secularization, the Church has chosen two young holy patrons whose authentic love for God and others demonstrates the enduring appeal of genuine faith.



Relics of Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati, left, were displayed during their canonization Mass celebrated by Pope Leo XIV in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025. Credit: AP/Andrew Medichini



St. Phoebe Day of Prayer and Reflection

When: September 16th at 7:00 p.m.
Where: Prayer Room in the School Building

St. Phoebe is recognized as the first woman deacon, although we know little about her life. We do know that she came from a very busy port area called Cenchreae, a popular stop for people traveling from Syria or Asia Minor. Although there has been a great amount of debate concerning what her actual duties as a deacon might have been, it is clear that St. Paul gave recognition to St. Phoebe, thanking her in public for her hospitality and for meeting the needs of the people in Cenchreae, and urging others to help her with her ministry as “a deaconess of the Church at Cenchreae.”

Join us for an hour-long celebration of readings, meditations, and faith-sharing as we come together to pray for women named and unnamed who, throughout time, have used the power and gifts God gave them to change the world.



We are running another targeted Food Drive at all Masses on September 13th and 14th because our last one was so successful!

THANK YOU!

Your donations are appreciated by our Food Pantry patrons. If you can help, please see the item breakdown below.

- 5:00pm, 9/13: Large box of bagged snacks & pudding cups
- 7:00pm, 9/13: Instant coffee (regular & decaf) and 1 lb. sugar
- 7:30am, 9/14: Ketchup and mustard
- 8:45am, 9/14: Dish detergent and shampoo
- 9:00am, 9/14: Decaf coffee and 1 lb. bag of sugar
- 10:30am, 9/14: Vegetable oil and spices
- 12:00pm, 9/14: Progresso soups and ramen noodles

Volunteers will be available to collect your donations.

FOOD PANTRY

Upcoming Food Pantry distribution dates/times:

Saturday, September 20	9:30am to 3:30pm (arrive by 3:00)
Wednesday, September 24	4:00pm to 7:00pm (arrive by 6:30)
Saturday, September 27	9:30am to 3:30pm (arrive by 3:00)
Wednesday, October 1	4:00pm to 7:00pm (arrive by 6:30)
Saturday, October 18	9:30am to 3:30pm (arrive by 3:00)

Current needed items:

Bread crumbs, canned corn, Rice and Pasta Sides, Hamburger Helper, vegetable oil, Progresso soup and ramen noodles, spices, decaf coffee, instant coffee (regular and decaf)

We need drivers for the pantry's truck. A special license is not needed! Please call the Parish Office if interested.

The Food Pantry is located at 22R (Lower level, rear) Lakeside Avenue, Pompton Lakes (accessible from the municipal parking lot) and the phone number is 973-831-4442.

All donations are requested to be dropped off in the shed directly behind the church. It is open 24/7.

Donations can be mailed directly to the church at 31 Pompton Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442.

NO CLOTHING DONATIONS PLEASE.



**OCIA
(Order of Christian
Initiation of Adults)**

Interested in becoming a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church? Please join us for an Inquiry Session!

Who is it for? Any of the following:

- Persons who have never been baptized.
- Persons who have been baptized in another Christian faith tradition and are now interested in becoming Catholic.
- Persons who were baptized as Catholics but who were not raised Catholic.
- Persons who have not yet been confirmed in the Catholic Faith.

OCIA is a process by which one receives an overview of what the Catholic Church believes and what our faith is all about. It gives each person the opportunity to choose to become a full member of the Catholic Faith through the Sacraments of Initiation. If you are interested, or know someone who is, please call the Parish Office or email Monica Coyle at mccoyle@verizon.net.

Sunday, September 28th, after the 10:30 Mass in the Carnevale Center or Tuesday, September 30th at 7:00 p.m. in the Carnevale Center. The sessions are open to anyone who might be thinking about the Catholic Faith. Attending one is an opportunity to ask questions and learn, not a commitment.



FALL BIBLE STUDY

St. Mary's is offering a six-session Bible study on St. Paul's Letter to the Romans that will meet on Tuesdays, Sept. 16th to Oct. 21st. It is entitled Romans: Amazing Grace.

There will be a morning section (10:00-11:30 AM) and an evening section (7:00-8:30 PM) of the course. All classes will meet in the Banta Room in the Carnevale Center with one exception. The class on September 30th in the evening will meet in the Conference Room inside the school building.

The cost for the course is \$30 and includes a booklet that can be picked up at the Parish Office during regular hours.

The course will be limited to 32 participants, so register early! You can register by calling or visiting the Parish Office or scanning the QR code.



<https://stmarys-pompton.org/biblestudy>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

3rd Grade: September 29th—December 15th, Monday or Wednesday from 4:00 - 5:15 p.m. All classes will be held in St. Mary's School. A mandatory 3rd grade Parent Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 23rd in the Carnevale Center, 10 Lenox Avenue at 7:00 p.m.

4th Grade: September 29th—December 15th, Tuesday or Thursday from 4:00 - 5:15 p.m. All classes will be held in St. Mary's School. A mandatory 4th grade Parent Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 24th in the Carnevale Center, 10 Lenox Avenue at 7:00 p.m.

6th and 8th Grade Religious Education classes start the week of September 21st and run through December 15th. Classes are held in the Youth Ministry Building, 17 Pompton Avenue.

Confirmation Phase 2 classes start the week of September 21st and are held in the Youth Ministry Building at 17 Pompton Avenue.



Please join us for our first **Special Needs Sensory Mass** on September 28th at 3:00 p.m.

What is a Sensory Mass?
A sensory friendly mass offers the opportunity for those individuals with auditory and visual processing sensitivities to celebrate mass along with their families. The mass is shorter in length, church lighting is dimmer and music is softer providing a warm, inclusive environment for all.

Masses will continue monthly on the following dates:
2025 - Oct. 26th, Nov. 23rd, Dec. 21st
2026 - Jan. 25th, Feb. 22nd, Mar. 22nd, Apr. 19th,

Help Wanted: Part Time Religious Education Assistant Monday-Friday, 3:00pm-5:30pm, September 2025-May 2026

St. Mary's Religious Education Department is seeking a reliable and organized high school student to join our team part-time.

Responsibilities include:

- Preparing classrooms and materials for Religious Education classes
- Setting up crafts and organizing supplies
- Assisting with filing
- Monitoring hallways during class sessions

Required qualifications:

- Ability to work independently and follow instructions
- Interest in faith-based service and working with children

To apply or learn more, please contact Toni Wong at 973-835-7750 ext. 102 or twong@stmarys-pompton.org



4TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

FOR ST. MARY'S MINISTRIES

WHEN: Wednesday, October 1, 2025

WHERE: Black Bear Golf Club
138 Route 23 North
Franklin, NJ 07416

QUESTIONS? CONTACT: CHRIS ARTS
201-364-4224
CTARTS58@GMAIL.COM

7:30 - 8:45 AM:
REGISTRATION CHECK-IN
& BREAKFAST ON THE GO
9:00 AM:
SHOTGUN START
(SCRAMBLE FORMAT)
1:30 TO 3:30 PM:
CLUB DELI LUNCH BUFFET

SEPTEMBER 19TH
REGISTRATION DEADLINE
\$150 PER GOLFER
\$100 HOLE SPONSORS

SCAN TO REGISTER



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Shine



St. Mary's Knights of Columbus

FAMILY ITALIAN DINNER!!

Sat. Sept. 20th at 6pm in the
Carnevale Center

Catered by Ferrinice Gourmet!

\$20 per adult (13yrs & up)
\$10 per child (5-12yrs old)

Kids under 5 FREE!

Dinner Includes:

Cavatappi marinara	Meatballs w/marinara
Penne w/Vodka sauce	Chicken tenders w/sauce
Eggplant parm	Chicken Francaise
Mezze rigatoni w/basil pesto	Garlic knots w/marinara
Sausage, peppers & onions w/potatoes	
Assorted breads, garden salad & desserts	



Soda, water, coffee & tea included.

BYOB if you prefer!

Reserve your seat(s) now by emailing us at
kofc3801@gmail.com or call/text Keith Ahearn at (201) 388-7346 or Bob Sudol
at (973) 513-1954

Spiritual Guided Meditation Hour

Thursday, October 16th at 7:00 PM
in The Prayer Room

Join us as we journey with St. Francis and his
Canticle of the Sun

What is Guided Meditation?

Meditation, or contemplation, is a form of prayer
that invites us to encounter God through our
imagination, while being led with a story.

It engages both the mind and heart, using our
thoughts and emotions to deepen our awareness
of God's presence in our lives. We begin with
quiet music, deep breathing, and relaxation,
stilling our minds so we can be open to the grace
to be led by our loving God.

We hope you can join us for this meaningful time
of private reflection and prayer.

Family
TAILGATE

BRING FOOD FOR YOUR FAMILY,
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GAGA AND MORE, AS WE KICK
OFF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

Sunday, September 14th
from 4-6pm in the
St. Mary's parking lot
(followed by outdoor Mass)



Music Together!

STARTING SEPTEMBER 17TH



WEDNESDAY

Babies at 11:30AM



WEDNESDAY

Mixed Age 0-5 with at 9:30AM, 10:30AM and 4:15PM



SATURDAY

Mixed Age 0-5 with at 9:30AM, 10:30AM



[HTTPS://STMARYS-POMPTON.ORG/MUSIC-TOGETHER-FALL](https://stmarys-pompton.org/music-together-fall)

SIGN UP NOW! CLASS SIZES ARE LIMITED



FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Date

Sponsored by

SEPT 13TH

5:00pm and 7:00pm Good Works Gang

SEPT 14TH

10:30am and 12:00pm Saturday Liturgy Group

Join us on the pavers for a treat after Mass and learn about some of the wonderful ministries at St. Mary's!



A JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF



THURSDAY EVENINGS

OCTOBER 16TH – NOVEMBER 20TH

7:00 TO 8:30PM

THE BANTA ROOM AT THE CARNEVALE CENTER
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

The group is open to all who have RECENTLY experienced the death of a loved one. We aim to create a supportive group in which one's unique journey through the grief process is examined and respected.

Pre-registration is required. Participation is free through the sponsorship of Pathways and St. Mary's Parish. Those interested may contact Pathways at 973-835-6337 or email info@pathwayscounseling.org.



There will be a meeting of the ongoing Bereavement Support Group on Monday, September 29th at 7:00 p.m. in the Banta Room of the Carnevale Center.



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Tickets on sale after the following weekend Masses

September 13/14...20/21...27/28

& at St. Mary's Parish Office



English as a Learned Language (ELL) classes are being offered at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Pompton Lakes. Classes will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6-7 pm beginning on September 16. Three levels of instruction are available. Level 1 "Introduction to English" for those with very little knowledge and use of English. Emphasis is on simple sentences and vocabulary recognition and use. Level 2, "Intermediate Class" for those with a speaking knowledge of the language, and Level 3, "Advanced Class" for those who are comfortable reading, writing and speaking English. St. Mary's has offered these classes for speakers of all languages for over 25 years, and many have gained financially and socially from their hard work and regular attendance. If interested, please register in the Carnevale Center on Lenox Ave on Tuesday, September 9, from 7-8 pm. We look forward to seeing and serving you.

Se ofrecen clases de inglés como lengua aprendida (ELL) en la Iglesia Católica Romana de St. Mary en Pompton Lakes. Las clases se llevarán a cabo los martes y miércoles por la noche de 6 a 7 pm a partir del 16 de septiembre. Hay tres niveles de instrucción disponibles. Nivel 1 "Introducción al inglés" para aquellos con muy poco conocimiento y uso del inglés. Se hace hincapié en oraciones simples y en el reconocimiento y uso de vocabulario. Nivel 2, "Clase Intermedia" para aquellos con conocimiento oral del idioma, y Nivel 3, "Clase Avanzada" para aquellos que se sienten cómodos leyendo, escribiendo y hablando inglés. St. Mary's ha ofrecido estas clases para hablantes de todos los idiomas durante más de 25 años, y muchos se han beneficiado financiera y socialmente de su arduo trabajo y asistencia regular. Si está interesado, regístrese en el Carnevale Center en Lenox Ave el martes 9 de septiembre de 7 a 8 p.m. Esperamos verlo y servirle.



GOLD AND SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Couples, were you married in 2000, 1975 or 1965? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 60+, 50th or 25th wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Sweeney will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 3:00pm. Arrangements can be made by contacting your parish office. The deadline to register is Friday, October 17, 2025. You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed. Congratulations on this joyous occasion!

Support Group for Caregivers of loved ones with Dementia



A monthly meeting is held in the Carnevale Center for caregivers assisting loved ones with dementia.

Meetings are on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. Our next meeting date is October 9th.

For further information, please contact Margaret Klach at mklach60@gmail.com.

MISA DE ANIVERSARIO DE BODAS DE ORO Y PLATA

¿Parejas, Ustedes se casaron en 1965, 1975 o 2000? Están cordialmente invitados a celebrar su 60+, 50 o 25 Aniversario de Bodas con la Diócesis de Paterson. El Obispo Sweeney será el celebrante principal de la misa en la Catedral San Juan Bautista en Paterson el Domingo, 16 de Noviembre de 2025, a las 3:00pm. Para más información, por favor llame a su oficina parroquial. Los formularios para registrarse estarán disponibles hasta el 17 de Octubre de 2025. La Oficina de Vida Familiar de la diócesis le enviara información una vez que su registración haya sido procesada. Muchas felicidades en este maravilloso acontecimiento.

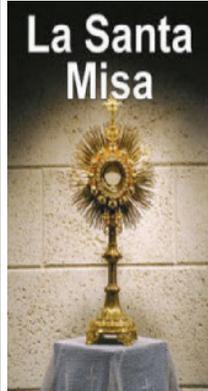
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La Santa Misa en español

Miércoles a las 7:00pm

Domingos a las 8:45am

En la iglesia Principal



Bautismos en español

Requisitos: Certificado de Nacimiento del(a) niño(a), padrinos y asistir a una clase antes de la celebración del Sacramento (padres y padrinos). Información: Milagros Anto. Si desea bautizar su hijo(a) en inglés debe asistir a una clase y llamar a Lynda 973-835-0374 Ext 192.



Visita de "Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe" a tu hogar.

Si deseas que Nuestra Morenita visite tu hogar ponte en contacto con **Angelina Nuci** después de nuestra misa dominical o escríbele al siguiente correo electrónico: angehannuci@yahoo.com. Cada domingo en misa con la bendición de nuestra comunidad; "Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe" es enviada a visitar cada familia que así lo requiere.

ANUNCIOS

1.- **Orar al Santísimo** es un momento de intimidad y amistad con Dios. Tendremos exposición al Santísimo después de la misa en español el miércoles 18 de septiembre de 2025. Si conoces a alguien que no pueda comulgar por enfermedad u otros motivos, por favor, infórmale al Padre John Coughlin para que pueda visitarle.

2.- **Catecismo de Primera Comunión, y Confirmación:** Estaremos inscribiendo para estos catecismos. Si necesita más información por favor comuníquese con:

*Angelina Nuci -Primera Comunión

*Milagros Anto – Confirmación

*Ana Cadena – RICA

Las clases empezaran la tercera semana de septiembre en el Centro Carnevale.

3.- **Clases de Inglés:** Las clases para aprender inglés en todos los niveles básico, intermedio y avanzado empezarán el martes 16 de septiembre de 6 pm a 7pm en el centro Carnevale. Las inscripciones están abiertas y lo pueden hacer antes de clases.

4.- **La Fiesta del Señor De Los Milagros** se llevará a cabo el domingo 19 de octubre de 2025. Como es tradición empezaremos con una procesión que inicia frente al jardín de San Francisco (frente al estacionamiento de la parroquia). La misa será a las 8:45am y después invitamos a todos a compartir un desayuno en comunidad. Si desea aunarse a la organización de esta festividad comuníquese con Yolanda Piscoya y Leydi Argandoña.

Lecturas Bíblicas –Ciclo C - Fiesta de la Exaltación de la santa Cruz (14 de septiembre de 2025)

Primera Lectura: Números 21, 4-9

Salmo Responsorial: Salmo 77, 1-2. 34-35. 36-37. 38

Segunda Lectura: Filipenses 2, 6-11

+Evangelio: Juan 3, 13-17

Ministerio de Proclamadores de la Palabra

Por favor comunicarse con Lourdes Huerta (973-270-3453). Este Ministerio se reunirá el lunes 15 de septiembre de 2025 de 7:30pm a 8:30pm en el salón Alma Banta del Centro Carnevale.

Iglesia Católica de Santa María y
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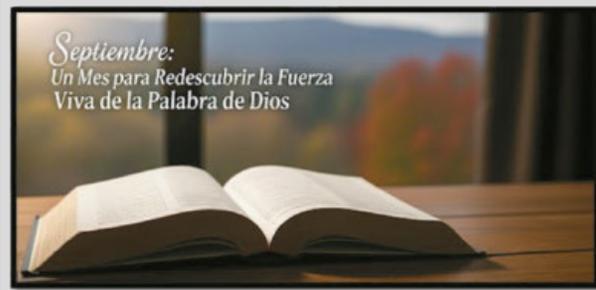


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Porque es dando que recibimos





Septiembre: Un Mes para Redescubrir la Fuerza Viva de la Palabra de Dios

Septiembre es un tiempo especial en la vida de la Iglesia, pues se celebra el mes de la Biblia, una ocasión privilegiada para profundizar y promover la lectura, meditación y vivencia de la Palabra de Dios entre los fieles de la parroquia. La elección de este mes se encuentra estrechamente ligada a la memoria litúrgica de San Jerónimo, traductor de la Biblia al latín y doctor de la Iglesia, cuya fiesta se conmemora el 30 de septiembre. San Jerónimo dedicó su vida a estudiar, interpretar y traducir las Escrituras,

favoreciendo que generaciones enteras pudieran acceder al mensaje de Dios en su propio idioma. Dedicar septiembre a la Biblia, más que una tradición, es un desafío constante para renovar nuestra relación personal y comunitaria con la Palabra. La Biblia no es un libro más en nuestra parroquia; es fuente de vida, esperanza y guía en el caminar cotidiano. En ella se encuentra la historia de la salvación, el testimonio de Cristo y las claves para construir una comunidad que refleje el amor, la misericordia y la justicia de Dios. Por eso, la Iglesia invita a todos sus miembros a comprometerse este mes y siempre a leer, orar y compartir la Biblia en familia, en grupos y de manera personal.

La lectura y meditación de la Palabra de Dios favorece la transformación interior, la conversión y el crecimiento espiritual. En septiembre, la parroquia puede promover la Lectio Divina, círculos bíblicos, momentos de oración y celebraciones dedicadas a la Biblia. El Papa Francisco decía que la Palabra de Dios tiene el poder de iluminar, sanar y orientar el corazón humano, preparando a la comunidad para afrontar con fe los desafíos y alegrías de la vida. Con la Biblia abierta, descubrimos los sueños de Dios para nuestro pueblo y recibimos luces y fuerza para actuar según sus enseñanzas. Septiembre, motivado por el ejemplo de San Jerónimo, debe impulsarnos a redescubrir el valor de la Escritura en nuestra parroquia de Santa María. Es tiempo de dejar que la Palabra penetre nuestros corazones, oriente nuestras decisiones, renueve nuestros ministerios y afiance la unidad. Celebrar el mes de la Biblia es volver a la raíz de nuestra fe, escuchando a Dios que sigue hablando, guiando y acompañando a su pueblo desde la Palabra viva y eficaz.

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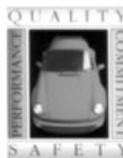
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