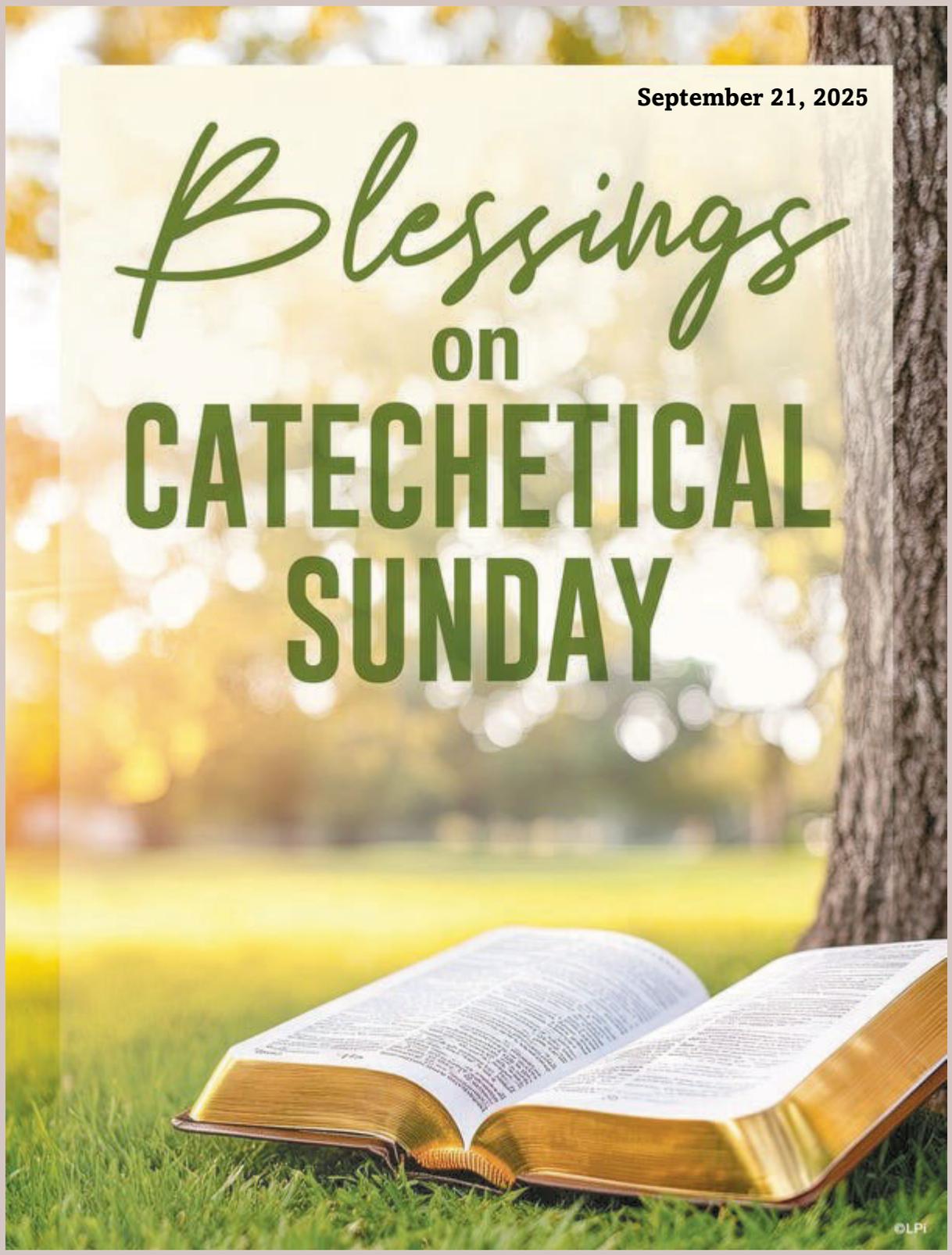




**SAINT MARY'S**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH | A FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY

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



September 21, 2025

*Blessings*  
on  
**CATECHETICAL  
SUNDAY**

## FRIAR'S DESK

For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.

A time for new life; a time for mid-life.  
A time to begin; a time to make an end.  
A time for youth; a time for growing old.  
A time for first adventures; a time for second journeys.

A time for growth; a time for standing still.  
A time for change; a time to remain the same.  
A time for confusion; a time to be well ordered.

A time to doubt; a time to be certain.  
A time for crisis; a time to be stable.  
A time to lose meaning; a time to find it anew.  
A time to be weak; a time to be strong.

A time to face limits; a time to open possibilities.  
A time for isolation; a time to be intimate.  
A time for alienation; a time to be reconciled.  
A time to be alone; a time to be with companions.

A time for struggle; a time to surrender.  
A time to deny death; a time to affirm life.  
A time to reject finitude; a time to affirm infinity.  
A time to be mortal; a time to live forever.

—Father John Alderson, OFM

Para todo hay una estación, y un tiempo para cada propósito bajo el cielo.

Un tiempo para una nueva vida; un tiempo para la mediana edad.  
Un tiempo para comenzar; un tiempo para terminar.  
Un tiempo para la juventud; un tiempo para envejecer.  
Un tiempo para las primeras aventuras; un tiempo para los segundos viajes.

Un tiempo para crecer; un tiempo para quedarse quieto.  
Un tiempo para cambiar; un tiempo para permanecer igual.  
Un tiempo para la confusión; un tiempo para estar bien ordenado.

Un tiempo para dudar; un tiempo para estar seguro.  
Un tiempo para la crisis; un tiempo para estar estable.  
Un tiempo para perder el sentido; un tiempo para encontrarlo de nuevo.  
Un tiempo para ser débil; un tiempo para ser fuerte.

Un tiempo para afrontar los límites; un tiempo para abrir posibilidades.  
Un tiempo para el aislamiento; un tiempo para la intimidad.  
Un tiempo para la alienación; un tiempo para reconciliarse.  
Un tiempo para estar solo; un tiempo para estar con compañeros.

Un tiempo para luchar; un tiempo para rendirse.  
Un tiempo para negar la muerte; un tiempo para afirmar la vida.  
Un tiempo para rechazar la finitud; un tiempo para afirmar la infinidad.  
Un tiempo para ser mortal; un tiempo para vivir para siempre.

—Father John Alderson, OFM

*Eugen Eugen Eugen*

**PARISH OFFICE PHONE NUMBER: 973-835-0374**

**FRANCISCAN FRIARS SERVING YOU**

Fr. John Aherne, OFM, x139      [jaherne@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto:jaherne@stmarys-pompton.org)  
Fr. John Alderson, OFM      [rochester14220@gmail.com](mailto:rochester14220@gmail.com)  
Fr. John Coughlin, OFM, x169      [jcoughlin@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto:jcoughlin@stmarys-pompton.org)  
Deacon Tom Kimak      [Tkimak@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto:Tkimak@stmarys-pompton.org)

**BAPTISMS**

Lynda Rogalski      [lrogalski@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto:lrogalski@stmarys-pompton.org)

**BUSINESS OFFICE**

Toma Dedio      [tdedio@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto:tdedio@stmarys-pompton.org)

**FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS**

Keith Orotosky, x145      [korotosky@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto:korotosky@stmarys-pompton.org)  
Phillip Epstein, x140      [pepstein@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto:pepstein@stmarys-pompton.org)

**HISPANIC MINISTRY**

Milagros Anto, x703      [Milagros@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto:Milagros@stmarys-pompton.org)

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

Craig & Dorothy Limey, x158      [cdlimey@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto:cdlimey@stmarys-pompton.org)

**OUTREACH MINISTRY**

Food Pantry 973-831-4442      [foodpantry@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto:foodpantry@stmarys-pompton.org)  
Military Assistance Pantry  
[militaryassistancepantry@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto: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**

Toni Wong, x102 Grades 1 to 5      [twong@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto:twong@stmarys-pompton.org)  
Cathy Feld, x103  
Grades 6 to 8 & Confirmation      [cfeld@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto:cfeld@stmarys-pompton.org)  
Debbie Borroto, x130  
Admin. Asst./ Local Youth Protection/  
Safe Environment Coordinator      [debbie@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto:debbie@stmarys-pompton.org)

**SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY YOUNG ADULT & ADULT**

Karen Niemann      [kniemann@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto:kniemann@stmarys-pompton.org)

**SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY YOUTH**

Andrea Piccirillo      [apiccirillo@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto:apiccirillo@stmarys-pompton.org)

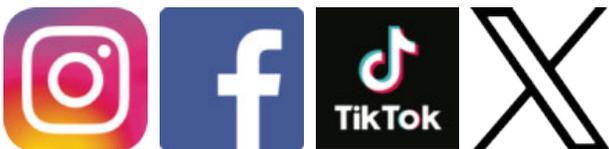
**WEDDINGS**

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](mailto:lrogalski@stmarys-pompton.org) six months to a year before your desired date.

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

Trevor George, 862-274-5171      [tgeorge@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.stmarys-pompton.org)

[www.facebook.com/smcpompton](https://www.facebook.com/smcpompton)

[www.youtube.com/c/stmaryspomptonlakes](https://www.youtube.com/c/stmaryspomptonlakes)



Do you have a loved one or family friend who will be receiving a sacrament? Our province has an online store with many beautiful and appropriate gifts for Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. The store also has an abundance of religious articles and gifts for any occasion.

Flyers for <https://TheFranciscanStore.org> are available in the rear of the church. When you make purchases through The Franciscan Store you are helping our province educate our young friars, care for our elderly friars, and support the various Franciscan Ministries that feed, clothe and serve the poor!

## DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Sunday:** Am 8:4-7/Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8 (see 1a, 7b)/1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

**Monday:** Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Lk 8:16-18

**Tuesday:** Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Lk 8:19-21

**Wednesday:** Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8/Lk 9:1-6

**Thursday:** Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 9:7-9  
Friday: Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4/Lk 9:18-22

**Saturday:** Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Lk 9:43b-45



## 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 memory of **Mary DeHaven** with love from Toni and Jennifer.



This week, the Altar Flowers have been donated in memory of **Maria and Manuel Farfan** from their loving family.

## 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



<b>Saturday</b>		<b>September 20</b>	
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.)	
<b>Sunday</b>		<b>September 21</b>	
7:30 a.m.	† Valerie Terkonick		
8:45 a.m. (Spanish)	† Enrique & Ligia Santander		
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
<b>Monday</b>		<b>September 22</b>	
8:00 a.m.	† victims of violence	† Sr. Genevieve Marie Lanahan	
<b>Tuesday</b>		<b>September 23</b>	
8:00 a.m.	† Chris Aherne		
<b>Wednesday</b>		<b>September 24</b>	
8:00 a.m.	† Leon A. Guzman	† Providence Torres	† John J. Scura II
7:00 p.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish		
<b>Thursday</b>		<b>September 25</b>	
8:00 a.m.	People of the Parish		
<b>Friday</b>		<b>September 26</b>	
8:00 a.m.	People of the Parish		
<b>Saturday</b>		<b>September 27</b>	
5:00 p.m.	† Arnold "Joe" Staples	† Manuel Farfan	† Martin & Nannette Begley (heavenly birthdays)
	L. Katelyn & Justin Moreno		
7:00 p.m.	† Damiana Veloso (heavenly birthday)		
<b>Sunday</b>		<b>September 28</b>	
7:30 a.m.	† Jessica Covino (8th Ann.)		
8:45 a.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish		
9:00 a.m. (CC)	† Phyllis D'Onofrio		
10:30 a.m.	† Bruno Rossetti	† Maria Rossetti	† Maria Dattilo
	† Frank Dattilo	† Dr. Joseph A. Lozito, Jr.	† Lynn Marie Lozito Runz
12:00 p.m.	† Elisabetta Gencarelli (12th Ann.)	† Providence Torres	

*If you are having a Sunday Mass said for a friend or family member and would like to bring up the gifts of bread and wine at the offertory, please make yourself known to a friar or volunteer before Mass begins.*

## ...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, Magnus Slyfield, Connor Murphy

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!**



Please feel free to come up to one of the Parish Council members if you see us around or email [parishcouncil@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto: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 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!



**Box of Joy:** We will bless children suffering from extreme poverty by filling boxes with toys and other gifts, sharing the joy of Christmas and planting seeds of hope through the Gospel. Boxes can be picked up beginning October 1st in the Parish Office, after registration.

**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. 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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. 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!*



Our parish underwent a pre-campaign study in the Spring, to help us determine the best way to address much-needed repairs and upgrades to our facilities. We are very grateful to all who took the time to participate.

We are pleased to announce that due to the very positive results of the study, we are moving forward with the planning stages of the campaign. We will be able to proceed with establishing the necessary components that will make our campaign successful. In the coming months we will share with you more information of our plan and approach.

Below is an executive summary of the Study Report. You can also visit our website to view a version with graphics, by scanning the QR code below.

ST. MARY'S PARISH  
Pompton Lakes, NJ

Pre-Campaign Study – Report Summary

This is a summary report of the pre-campaign study that was conducted for St. Mary's Parish from April through June 2025. The full report was presented to parish leadership on July 15, 2025.

**Purpose of the Study:**

- To determine strengths, weaknesses, and overall image of St. Mary's Parish.
- To gauge receptivity of parishioners toward the Statement of Need.
- To determine philanthropic potential for a capital campaign.
- To define an approach for fundraising.
- To determine strategic issues that may impact the implementation of a capital campaign.
- To identify prospective volunteer leadership.

**Methodology:**

- Ruotolo Associates (RA) was retained by St. Mary's Parish (SMs) in April 2025 to conduct a Pre-Campaign Study. The study concluded in June 2025.
- 201 parish families (received a personal invitation to an interview or focus group).
- A total of 44 families participated in interviews (65 individuals, 21 couples).
- Three focus groups were held, two in English, one in Spanish. A total of 49 parish families participated (57 individuals, 8 couples).
- All other parishioners were invited to participate in a survey. The survey was made available both electronically and in-pew. There were 68 responses to the e-survey, 31 responses to the paper survey in English, and 10 responses to the paper survey in Spanish for a total of 109 survey responses.
- In total, 202 families participated in the study.

**Executive Summary:**

- 79% of participants have been parishioners for more than 10 years.
- 65% of participants are involved in a group, ministry, or committee.
- Overall, St. Mary's Parish is perceived by participants as a welcoming community that is identified by its Franciscan values. It genuinely seeks to include everyone and bridge differences of any type. The Franciscan Friars are extremely important to parishioners, and they create the atmosphere and sense of family.
- 93% of participants feel their needs (spiritual, ministerial, pastoral, and fellowship) are met.
- 88% of participants feel that the parish communicates effectively with parishioners.
- The top five preferred methods of communication by parishioners in order of preference are the Paper Bulletin, Pulpit Announcements, Email, Social Media, and the Website.
- 90% of participants believe the parish is well managed.
- Participants were asked if they support the projects proposed in the Statement of Need on scale from 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest level of support. 92.2% of participants indicated 7 or above.
- 95% of parishioners said they will or may consider supporting a capital campaign for the proposed projects, in addition to their regular offertory and extraordinary gifts.
- 30% of participants indicated that they would be willing to volunteer their time for the campaign.



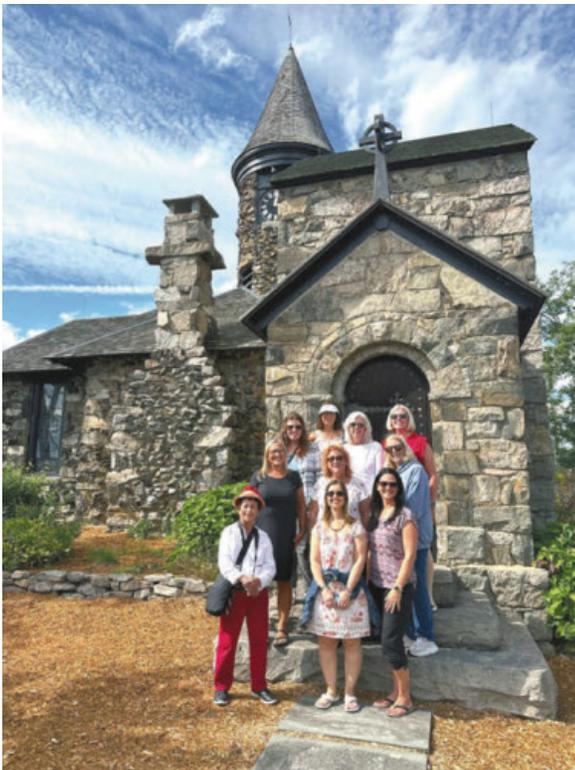
Through the waters of Baptism, we welcome into the Body of Christ...



**Ailany Valentina Jolon Aguilar**



**Charles Erhan Ercan-Ulinski**



**St. Hubert Chapel Tour**

Recently, Women's Cornerstone visited and learned all about the gorgeous St. Hubert Chapel in Kinnelon. They received a tour of the grounds and building by a member of the historical society. He gave them an education regarding the chapel's beginning, early years, and its restoration projects. It is truly a hidden gem here in North Jersey!

Today we join the Church in celebrating Catechetical Sunday, a special moment in our liturgical year when we recognize and give thanks for the vital ministry of our catechists and religious education teachers. These dedicated individuals help form the hearts and minds of our children, youth, and adults, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and helping others grow in faith.

We give heartfelt thanks to all our catechists—those who teach in our religious education programs, youth ministry, RCIA, sacramental preparation, and adult faith formation.

Your generosity, patience, and love reflect the mission of Christ, the ultimate teacher.

Let us pray for all who teach the faith, that God may bless their efforts, guide their words, and strengthen their hearts in this sacred work.

**Prayer for a Catechist's Soul**

Gracious God,

Open the door to my soul and bring me peace and perspective. May I learn to be at home with myself, and to extend a hospitable welcome to your indwelling Spirit. Open the door to my heart and grace me with compassion and understanding. May I see with the eyes of Christ all of those I am called to catechize. Open the door to my mind and soften my thoughts. May I make room for both ideas and imagination, ever aware that knowledge is a gift of your Spirit. Give me a joyful soul, heart, and mind so that I share with others the great news of salvation and redemption.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ, I pray. AMEN.



**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](mailto: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.

**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.**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

3rd and 4th Grade classes start the week of September 29th and run through December 15th. All classes will be held in the School Building.

3rd Grade: Monday or Wednesday 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.  
Mandatory 3rd grade Parent Meeting on Tuesday, September 23rd in the Carnevale Center, 10 Lenox Avenue at 7pm.

4th Grade: Tuesday or Thursday 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.  
Mandatory 4th grade Parent Meeting on Wednesday, September 24th in the Carnevale Center, 10 Lenox Avenue at 7pm

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 September 21st and are held in the Youth Ministry Building at 17 Pompton Avenue.

*A simple prayer this year for our religious education children.*

*"Dear God, send your spirit upon these students and fill them with your wisdom and blessings. Grant that they may devote themselves to their studies and draw ever closer to You, the source of all knowledge".*

**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.

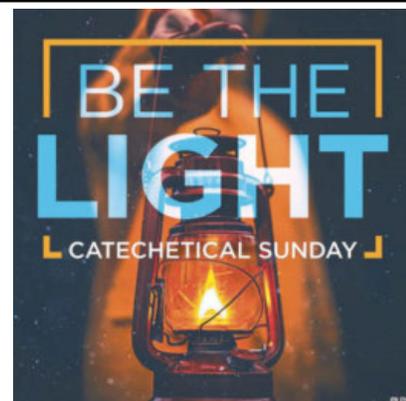
Responsibilities include:

- 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](mailto:twong@stmarys-pompton.org)





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# Calendar Raffle

## \$3,000 in Prizes

### 36 Chances to WIN!



**\$10.00 Donation**

Tickets on sale after the following weekend Masses

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

**& at St. Mary's Parish Office**



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,

May 17th, Jun. 14th



### Spiritual Guided Meditation Hour

Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **SPECIAL NEEDS YOUTH MINISTRY**

**SPECIAL NEEDS  
YOUTH  
MINISTRY**

We are excited to announce the new St. Mary's Special Needs Youth Ministry for youth between 14 and 20 years old.

We will be gathering next on Thursday, October 9th (7:00 pm – 8:00 pm) in the

Banta Room (Carnevale Center).

The gatherings will be in a safe, fun environment filled with games, creative activities, and the opportunity to meet new friends. This ministry is built on a sense of belonging, the ability for all youth to be themselves, and the belief that every child is created in the image of God.

All are welcome! For more information or to sign up, please contact Karen Niemann at [kniemann@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto:kniemann@stmarys-pompton.org) or 973-590-6856.

### **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](mailto:mklach60@gmail.com).

### 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!

### 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.

### A JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF



OCT. 16TH – NOV. 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](mailto: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.

# Migrants, missionaries of hope

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: "The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every man and woman; it takes up the hopes that inspire human activities" (N. 1818).

*"In a world darkened by war and injustice, even when all seems lost, migrants and refugees stand as messengers of hope."*  
Pope Leo XIV

World Day of Migrants and Refugees  
JUBILEE 2025  
"Migrants, missionaries of hope"

# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

For more information about these and our other ministries, call the Parish Office or email us at [smc@stmarys-prompton.org](mailto:smc@stmarys-prompton.org)

## GROW WITH US

**JPIC (Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation):** We take our inspiration from the life of St. Francis and the Franciscan movement. We are guided by our passion for peace, justice and sustainability for the Earth and all on it. For more information, please visit our website at [www.stmarys-prompton.org/jpic](http://www.stmarys-prompton.org/jpic) or email [jpic@stmarys-prompton.org](mailto:jpic@stmarys-prompton.org).

**Men's Emmaus Fellowship:** We are a men's group that gathers to consider the scripture readings for the current weekend. We discuss scripture and how it applies to the challenges and opportunities we have as Catholic Christian men today.

**Rosary/Divine Mercy Ministry:** We pray the Holy Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet as well as prayers from other Catholic luminaries.

**Special Needs Ministry:** We provide children and adults with religious and social services. The children's portion provides special education religious education for students receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. The adult portion provides social events. Workshops and day-long retreats are scheduled throughout the year, along with our week-long bible camp every summer.

**Women of Prayer & Spirit:** We are a group of women who bring prayer intentions to the group and meet to discuss spiritually-themed books, one chapter at a time. All are welcome!

**Women's Cornerstone Ministry:** We provide an opportunity for women in the community to revitalize and deepen their spiritual lives through a combination of quiet reflection, prayer and social interaction and sharing the story of one's own personal faith journey.

**Women's Faith Reflection:** We are a group of women that gather and reflect on the upcoming Sunday's readings. We meet at 9:45 - 11:30 AM in the Carnevale Center Banta Room (first floor). No registration needed, just come by!



### 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



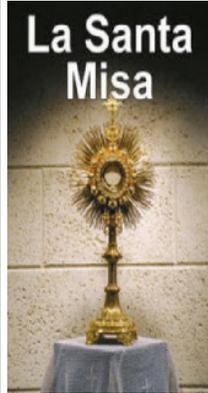
## MINISTERIO HISPANO DE SANTA MARIA

### 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](mailto: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 15 de octubre 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 empezaron el martes 16 de septiembre de 6 pm a 7pm en el centro Carnevale. Las inscripciones aún 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 -XXV Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario - (21 de septiembre de 2025)

**Primera Lectura:** Amós 8, 4-7  
**Salmo Responsorial:** Salmo 112, 1-2. 4-6. 7-8  
**Segunda Lectura:** 1 Timoteo 2, 1-8  
**+Evangelio:** Lucas 16, 1-13

### Ministerio de Proclamadores de la Palabra

Por favor comunicarse con Lourdes Huerta (973-270-3453). Este Ministerio se reunirá el lunes 22 de septiembre de 2025 de 7:30pm a 8:30pm en el salón Alma Banta del Centro Carnevale.

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Comunidad Franciscana

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Porque es dando que recibimos





Cada 29 de septiembre, la Iglesia Católica se une en alegría para celebrar a los Santos Arcángeles Miguel, Gabriel y Rafael, figuras de profunda presencia en la Sagrada Escritura y en la tradición cristiana. Esta solemnidad nos invita a meditar sobre la protección divina y el papel real de los ángeles en la vida de fe. Lejos de ser un símbolo distante, los arcángeles son mensajeros y agentes de Dios que, aún hoy, acompañan, guían y sanan al pueblo cristiano en su caminar espiritual. San Miguel, cuyo nombre significa “¿Quién como Dios?”, es el gran defensor del

Pueblo de Dios. En el Apocalipsis se presenta a Miguel expulsando a Satanás y a las fuerzas del mal, una imagen que reafirma su misión de proteger a la Iglesia frente a las amenazas espirituales. La devoción a San Miguel es confiar en el poder de Dios, especialmente en tiempos de prueba, tentación y decisión moral. Por esto, se le reconoce como patrono de policías, soldados y quienes protegen la paz. Gabriel, cuyo nombre expresa “Dios es mi fuerza”, es el mensajero por excelencia. Es Gabriel quien anuncia la Encarnación a María y el nacimiento de Juan el Bautista a Zacarías. Su presencia destaca la acción concreta de Dios que irrumpe en la historia para cambiarla y llenarla de esperanza. Patrono de comunicadores, periodistas y quienes trabajan por la verdad, Gabriel invita a escuchar y transmitir la voz de Dios, recordándonos que el Señor sigue hablando y ofreciendo palabras decisivas a su Iglesia.

San Rafael es ejemplo de sanación y compañía en la misión de Dios. Su nombre significa “Dios sana” y su historia en el libro de Tobías lo presenta como fiel compañero de viaje, protector de los caminos y sanador de heridas físicas y espirituales. Rafael representa la compasión divina, tan necesaria para quienes sufren enfermedad, soledad, crisis o buscan sentido a su vida. Por eso, es patrono de los enfermos, peregrinos y todos los que desean ser instrumentos de consuelo y restauración.

La fiesta de los arcángeles invita a la comunidad de Santa María a reconocer la presencia activa de los ángeles como expresión del rostro providentísimo de Dios. Miguel, Gabriel y Rafael inspiran a anunciar el Evangelio, defender la fe y sanar heridas. Nos animan a renovar la confianza y gratitud por la protección celestial, afrontando los desafíos actuales con esperanza. Que estos santos arcángeles nos acompañen y motiven a reflejar en nuestras vidas el amor, la misericordia y la fortaleza de Dios, construyendo juntos una comunidad protegida, solidaria y llena de fe.

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