

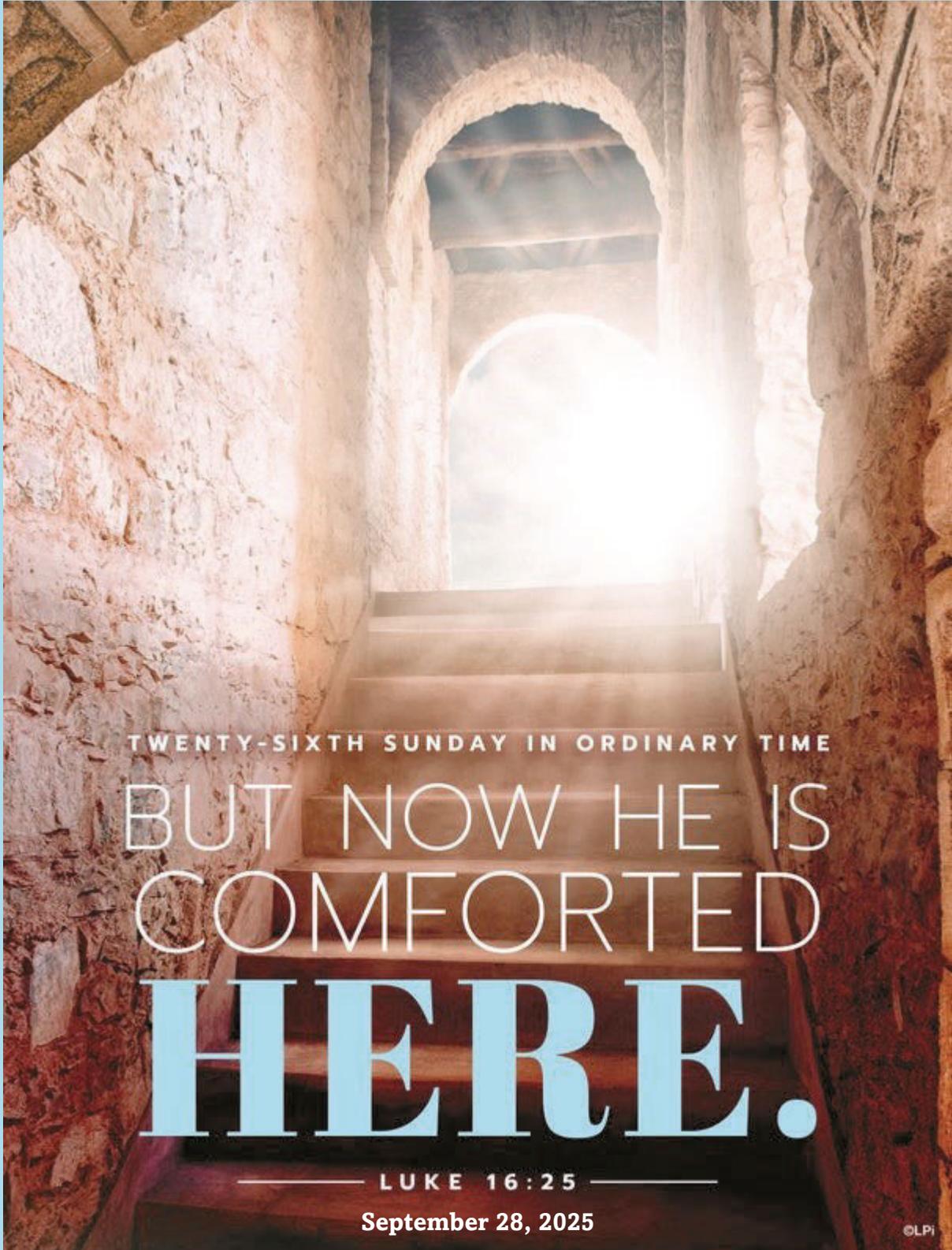


SAINT MARY'S

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



TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

BUT NOW HE IS
COMFORTED

HERE.

— LUKE 16:25 —

September 28, 2025

©LPJ

FRIAR'S DESK

This Friday, the Church celebrates the feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, otherwise known as the Little Flower. St. Thérèse, a young French Carmelite nun who died at the age of 24, left a spiritual legacy far greater than her few years of earthly life. Unlike many saints known for their heroic feats or grand acts of martyrdom, Thérèse became a Doctor of the Church by demonstrating a path to holiness accessible to everyone. Her philosophy, known as the "Little Way," teaches that true holiness is not found in extraordinary deeds but in performing ordinary, everyday actions with extraordinary love. It is a spirituality of profound humility and childlike trust in God's mercy, proving that the smallest gestures, when infused with love, can be as pleasing to God as the greatest sacrifices.

The essence of the "Little Way" lies in transforming the ordinary. Thérèse sought to make her life a constant prayer by offering every tiny sacrifice to God. She famously wrote, "Holiness consists simply in doing God's will and being what He wants us to be." This simple yet radical idea meant that every moment of her life, no matter how insignificant it seemed, was an opportunity for grace. By embracing the small irritations of community life with charity, she was building a spiritual ladder to heaven.

A poignant and illustrative example of her practice is the story of the laundry room. Thérèse was often assigned to wash clothes with another sister who had a habit of splashing soapy water on her. This could have been a source of significant frustration, but Thérèse chose a different path. Instead of complaining or showing her annoyance, she would quietly shake the water from her apron and continue her work. With each splash of water, she would offer a silent prayer to God, seeing this minor inconvenience not as a nuisance, but as a small cross to bear with love. This seemingly trivial act of patience transformed a moment of potential conflict into a hidden act of profound charity and self-denial.

Through such everyday sacrifices, St. Thérèse showed that greatness in the spiritual life is measured not by the scale of one's actions, but by the immensity of the love poured into them. Her "Little Way" continues to resonate with countless people today, reminding us that we are all called to do little things with great love, finding our sanctity right where we are—in our homes and workplaces, in our families and communities.

St. Therese of Lisieux, pray for us!

Santa Teresita de Lisieux, una joven monja carmelita francesa que murió a los 24 años, dejó un legado espiritual mucho mayor de lo que su corta vida podría sugerir. A diferencia de muchos santos conocidos por sus hazañas heroicas o grandes actos de martirio, Teresita se convirtió en Doctora de la Iglesia al demostrar un camino hacia la santidad accesible para todos. Su filosofía, conocida como el "Pequeño Camino", enseña que la verdadera santidad no se encuentra en actos extraordinarios, sino en realizar acciones ordinarias y cotidianas con un amor extraordinario. Es una espiritualidad de profunda humildad y confianza infantil en la misericordia de Dios, que demuestra

que los gestos más pequeños, cuando se infunden con amor, pueden ser tan agradables a Dios como los mayores sacrificios.

La esencia del "Pequeño Camino" reside en transformar lo mundano. Teresita buscaba hacer de su vida una oración constante ofreciendo cada diminuto sacrificio a Dios. Un suspiro de impaciencia, un fastidio fugaz o una tarea tediosa se convertían en una oportunidad para demostrar su amor. Famosamente escribió: "La santidad consiste simplemente en hacer la voluntad de Dios y ser lo que Él quiere que seamos". Esta idea simple pero radical significaba que cada momento de su vida, por insignificante que pareciera, era una oportunidad para la gracia. Al abrazar las pequeñas irritaciones de la vida en comunidad con caridad, ella estaba construyendo una escalera espiritual hacia el cielo.

Un ejemplo conmovedor e ilustrativo de su práctica es la historia de la sala de lavandería. A Teresita a menudo se le asignaba lavar la ropa con otra hermana que tenía la costumbre de salpicarle agua jabonosa. Esto podría haber sido una fuente de frustración significativa, pero Teresita eligió un camino diferente. En lugar de quejarse o mostrar su fastidio, ella sacudía silenciosamente el agua de su delantal y continuaba su trabajo. Con cada salpicadura de agua, ofrecía una oración silenciosa a Dios, viendo este inconveniente menor no como una molestia, sino como una pequeña cruz para cargar con amor. Este acto de paciencia aparentemente trivial transformó un momento de posible conflicto en un acto oculto de profunda caridad y abnegación.

A través de tales sacrificios cotidianos, Santa Teresita demostró que la grandeza en la vida espiritual no se mide por la escala de las acciones, sino por la inmensidad del amor que se vierte en ellas. Su "Pequeño Camino" continúa resonando con innumerables personas hoy en día, recordándonos que todos estamos llamados a hacer las cosas pequeñas con gran amor, encontrando nuestra santidad justo donde estamos: en nuestros hogares y lugares de trabajo, en nuestras familias y comunidades.

—Father John Aherne, OFM



PARISH OFFICE PHONE NUMBER: 973-835-0374

FRANCISCAN FRIARS SERVING YOU

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

BAPTISMS

Lynda Rogalski lrogalski@stmarys-pompton.org

BUSINESS OFFICE

Toma Dedio tdedio@stmarys-pompton.org

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

Keith Orotosky, x145 korotosky@stmarys-pompton.org
Phillip Epstein, x140 pepstein@stmarys-pompton.org

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Milagros Anto, x703 Milagros@stmarys-pompton.org

MUSIC MINISTRY

Craig & Dorothy Limey, x158 cdlimey@stmarys-pompton.org

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Food Pantry 973-831-4442 foodpantry@stmarys-pompton.org
Military Assistance Pantry
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
Cathy Feld, x103
Grades 6 to 8 & Confirmation cfeld@stmarys-pompton.org
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

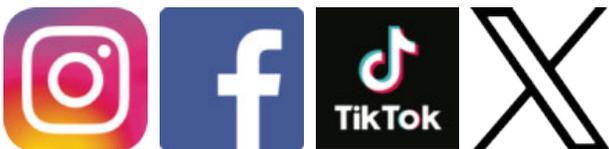
WEDDINGS

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: Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b)/1 Tm 6:11-16/
Lk 16:19-31

Monday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab/Ps 138:1-2ab,
2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51

Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 9:51-56

Wednesday: Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Lk 9:57-62

Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12 (458)/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt
18:1-5, 10

Friday: Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/Lk 10:13-16

Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37/Lk 10:17-24



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 Altar Flowers have been donated in
loving memory of **Anthony Giacoio**.



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!

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

Joseph Lyons, Bernice Weinheimer, Linda Novak

...THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Angelo, John, Frank Furnari, John Molaro, Marc Rocco, Kellie Diemer, Lynn Hutman, Thomas Earley, Susan Esposito, Owen Patrick Brophy, 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, Al Dedonna, David Grish, Paula Tedesco Carreras

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. Ciccarelli, 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 27	
5:00 p.m.	† Arnold "Joe" Staples † Manuel Farfan † Martin & Nannette Begley (heavenly birthdays) † Andrew & Mary Fabis L Katelyn & Justin Moreno		
7:00 p.m.	† Damiana Veloso (heavenly birthday) † Manuel Farfan		
Sunday		September 28	
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		
Monday		September 29	
8:00 a.m.	† Marylou Kellner-Nelson † Holy Souls in Purgatory		
Tuesday		September 30	
8:00 a.m.	† James Nolan † Maria Madera DeCastillo L Baby Hector Molina		
Wednesday		October 1	
8:00 a.m.	† Matthew Rosado		
7:00 p.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish		
Thursday		October 2	
8:00 a.m.	† Theresa Tacinelli (13th Ann.)		
Friday		October 3	
8:00 a.m.	† Phil Spages (36th Ann.) † Kevin McMullen † Gerardina Gentilella		
Saturday		October 4	
5:00 p.m.	† Miguel Morales † Jean Widovic † Joseph Andelora † Patrick Murphy (1st birthday in heaven)		
7:00 p.m.	People of the Parish		
Sunday		October 5	
7:30 a.m.	† Rosemary Callandrillo		
8:45 a.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish		
9:00 a.m. (CC)	People of the Parish		
10:30 a.m.	† Patricia Ann Hilsen † Paul Naser † Joyce Milano † Robert Esti † Carmen Saginario † Angela Rosone		
12:00 p.m.	† Frank Croker † Dave Burdett		



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 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 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. 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!



In case you missed the executive summary of the Pre-Campaign Study our parish underwent this Spring, please scan the QR code.

FOOD PANTRY

Upcoming Food Pantry distribution dates/times:

Wednesday, October 1	4:00pm to 7:00pm (arrive by 6:30)
Saturday, October 18	9:30am to 3:30pm (arrive by 3:00)
Wednesday, October 22	4:00pm to 7:00pm (arrive by 6:30)
Saturday, October 25	9:30am to 3:30pm (arrive by 3:00)
Wednesday, October 29	4:00pm to 7:00pm (arrive by 6:30)
Saturday, November 15	9:30am to 3:30pm (arrive by 3:00)
Wednesday, November 19	4:00pm to 7:00pm (arrive by 6:30)

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.



1. From time to time, we'll need a group of volunteers to help us set up and move chairs and tables around the Carnevale Center. Sometimes this will be during the day; sometimes it may be later in the evening. If your schedule is flexible, and you might be able to help us out with this occasionally, please call the parish office or email smc@stmarys-pompton.org with your name and availability, and we'll add you to our list!

2. Due to high demand, we are thinking of opening the Parish Office from 8 a.m. to noon on Sundays for people to pick up mass cards, request mass intentions, buy Holy Bones and other basic services. If you are interested in volunteering to sit at our front desk during these hours--either by yourself or with a friend or two; once a month or every week---please call our Parish Office or email smc@stmarys-pompton.org and we'll get back to you.

3. We're looking for volunteers to help us with our weekly "children's liturgy of the word" during the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays. During this Mass, we call the children out for 15 minutes to read an age-appropriate version of the Gospel and engage in a simple activity or lesson before bringing them back to their parents. Help get our young children excited about God by helping out as often as you are able. Volunteers will need to complete Protecting God's Children program. Please call the office or email smc@stmarys-pompton.org if you are interested.

Income:

Income from all sources including offertory and other donations for August:	\$199,496
Building and Maintenance fund collected for August:	\$10,122
Total:	\$209,618



Expenses: Our monthly expenses vary throughout the year. As a reference point, an average of our expenses per month based on what we spent in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 is \$145,450.

Building and maintenance expenses on average per month are: \$44,692

August 2025 Building and Maintenance general expenses

Utilities for all buildings:	\$17,294
Repairs to Parish Office building:	\$3,500
Repairs to church bell tower:	\$9,450
Repairs to parking lot lights:	\$1,716

The Big Picture: Overall, we are ending Fiscal Year 2024-2025 in line with our balanced budget.

We will continue to refine our presentation of our finances so we can be as transparent as possible. For a more complete breakdown of expenses and income, please see our **October 20, 2024** bulletin which can be accessed from our website.

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



Giavanna Anne Nosti



Perla Rose Grossman



Andrew Lucero-Lopez



Leonardo James Brigida



**Brinley Scarlett Rodenza-Arita and
Aylen Melchor- Espinosa**



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.



HELP, HOPE, HEALING

When life has you down, you don't have to go it alone. Our St. Mary's Stephen Ministers are "there to care."

We all go through challenging times in our lives when we could use a little extra TLC. Whether you're experiencing grief, loneliness, separation, divorce, family issues, sickness, a difficult medical diagnosis, aging/retirement, job/financial setbacks or any one of life's many difficulties, we are there for you.

Stephen Ministers are trained to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care offering spiritual and emotional support. We listen, encourage and share God's love and hope. And there's never a fee.

Call Clare at our Parish Office to learn more.
973-835-0374, ext. 113

Christ Caring for People through People

SPECIAL NEEDS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Registration continues for our special needs religious education classes! Confirmation classes begin October 8th for students of high school age or above. Students need to have already been baptized and have received the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

First Reconciliation and Eucharist classes will begin in January for students in Grade 2 or above. Students need to have already been baptized.

Anyone wishing to register their child and/or would like further information, please contact Andrea Piccirillo, Director, Special Needs Ministry - Religious Education
973-835-0374

ALL SOUL'S DAY
NOVEMBER 2, 2025



We will commemorate All Soul's Day by placing photographs of those who have died in the past year around our church during the month of November.

Due to space limitations, we are only able to include photographs of people who have passed away since November 2024.

Email photographs to smc@stmarys-pompton.org with the deceased names in the subject line.

The deadline for submitting a photograph is October 20th.

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



Knights of Columbus



Saint Mary's
CATHOLIC CHURCH A FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY

Proceeds to Benefit K of C Charitable Causes & St. Mary's Parish Ministries

Calendar Raffle

\$3,000 in Prizes

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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



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 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.

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 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.

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.



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.



CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

The Church’s social teaching shows us how to build a just society and live lives of holiness in the 21st century.

Each person is **SACRED**, made in God’s image, equal in dignity.

Each person is **SOCIAL**, called to participate in family and community.

All people have **RIGHTS** and **RESPONSIBILITIES**, The right to life and its necessities, the responsibility to respect the rights of others and work for the common good.

We care for people who are **POOR** and vulnerable, before all else.

Workers have rights. **WORK** has dignity. We are partners with God in creation.

SOLIDARITY is our call. We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers.

We are for **CREATION**. We live in interdependence with all God has made.



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OCTOBER 19TH 1:00PM - 3:00PM



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MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

For more information about these and our other ministries, call the Parish Office or email us at smc@stmarys-pompton.org

SERVE WITH US

Food Pantry Ministry: We are a ministry of the parish that provides food and household supplies to people in need from Pompton Lakes and the surrounding communities.

Good Works Gang Ministry: We help other parishioners and members of the community who are in need of help with various projects, i.e. light yard clean ups, moving personal items and projects that, for various reasons, they are unable to do themselves.

Helping Hands/Social Worker Ministry: We provide concrete services and material assistance to needy, sick or disabled persons or families in our local community.

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

Hospitality Ministry: We provide and serve food and drink at Parish events both large and small. Opportunities to volunteer include: baking, decorating, setup, food service, and cleanup, and each role is essential to the success of the event.

Lasagna Love: Our mission is simply this: to feed families, spread kindness, and strengthen communities. Volunteers from this wonderful organization make meals for our Food Pantry families.

Meals with Love: We help the NJ Buddies serve people living with HIV/AIDS while they rebuild their lives. It is simply a ministry of making home-cooked meals for 8 people and delivering them twice a month to Paramus.

Military Assistance Pantry: We support the Military Assistance Pantry located in Paterson. We serve Northern NJ Veterans and their families who are facing food insecurity. Every other month, our parishioners make baked ziti and brownies. We distribute the home-cooked meals and desserts directly to the Veterans.

Thanksgiving Dinner Ministry: We prepare and cook Thanksgiving Dinner for residents of local Care Centers on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

WORSHIP WITH US

Altar Servers: We are a group of young men and women ages 7-18 who assist the priests, deacons and Mass captains during the celebration of the Eucharist. Altar Servers learn more about the Mass and grow in their faith. Scheduling is flexible and based around their normally attended Mass.

Church Ambiance: We gather to clean and tidy up our church building on a regular basis.

Church Decorators: We add a welcoming, beautiful, spiritual and reverent atmosphere as we worship together.

Eucharistic Ministry: We distribute the body and blood of Jesus Christ at Masses, and also bring Eucharist to people in hospitals, rehab facilities and to people who cannot make it to Church.

Funeral Servers: We assist the friars in setting up for and serving funeral Masses at St. Mary's Church.

Lectors: We proclaim Scripture at Sunday Masses and other liturgical celebrations throughout the year.

Music Ministry: We provide music for all parish Masses and celebrations. We are open to every parishioner, no matter their age or level of experience.

Purificator Ministry: We take home, wash, and press the sacred linens that are used during the Mass. These linens are considered sacred because they touch the body and blood of Christ during the Mass.

Ushers: We who assist at our Sunday Liturgies by welcoming parishioners, showing people to their seats, and taking up the collection.

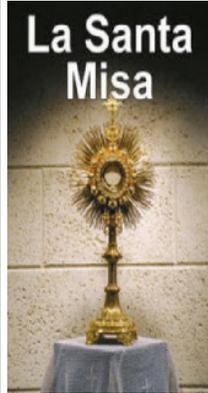
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La Santa Misa en español

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.

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Comunidad Franciscana

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Porque es dando que recibimos



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.- **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.

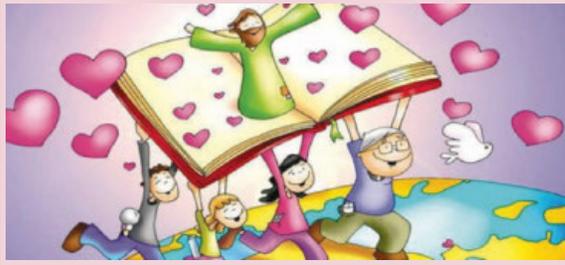
4.- **Semana Franciscana 2025:** El miércoles 8 de octubre a las 7:30pm habrá una charla sobre los valores franciscanos en la iglesia principal. La bendición de los animales se realizará el domingo 5 de octubre después de la misa en español y también a la 1:00pm frente al gimnasio.

Lecturas Bíblicas –Ciclo C -XXVI Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario - (28 de septiembre de 2025)

Primera Lectura:	Amós 6, 1. 4-7
Salmo Responsorial:	145, 7. 8-9a. 9bc-10
Segunda Lectura:	1 Timoteo 6, 11-16
+Evangelio:	Lucas 16, 19-31

Ministerio de Proclamadores de la Palabra

Por favor comunicarse con Lourdes Huerta (973-270-3453). Este Ministerio se reunirá el lunes 29 de septiembre de 2025 de 7:30pm a 8:30pm en el salón Alma Banta del Centro Carnevale.



Catequistas: Puentes de fe y esperanza en la comunidad de Santa María.

En la Iglesia de Santa María en Pompton Lakes, NJ, los catequistas desempeñan un rol fundamental en la vida parroquial. Ellos no solo enseñan el catecismo, sino que también guían, animan y transmiten esperanza a niños, jóvenes y adultos. Su vocación consiste en acompañar el crecimiento espiritual y humano de cada persona, haciendo de la catequesis un verdadero encuentro con Dios y con la comunidad. A través de su paciencia y dedicación, los catequistas logran transformar vidas, propiciando momentos de aprendizaje y fraternidad en cada reunión. Este septiembre de 2025, la parroquia y la Diócesis de Paterson, en sintonía con toda la Iglesia, celebran el Jubileo de los Catequistas. Se trata de una ocasión especial para reconocer la entrega de quienes han respondido a este llamado pastoral. Entre el 26 y el 28 de septiembre, en el año jubilar y durante el domingo catequético, honramos tanto a los catequistas activos como a los retirados, agradeciéndoles su generosidad y compromiso con la transmisión del Evangelio. Este tiempo nos recuerda la importancia de su misión y nos impulsa a renovar nuestra gratitud toda la comunidad. Ser catequista implica ser puente entre Dios y la comunidad, iniciando a otros en la vida cristiana mediante el testimonio y la palabra. Ellos cumplen una labor que va más allá de la enseñanza doctrinal, acompañando en la preparación para los sacramentos, durante jornadas de oración y retiros. Su ejemplo inspira y fortalece a toda la parroquia, demostrando que educar en la fe es una tarea compartida y fuente de auténtica alegría para todos. Al celebrar el papel de los catequistas, invitamos a toda la comunidad a acompañarlos, a rezar por ellos y a considerar la posibilidad de sumarse a esta hermosa misión. Hoy más que nunca, la fe se transmite de corazón a corazón y la comunidad de Santa María crece gracias al servicio generoso de nuestros catequistas. Acompañemos este agradecimiento con una oración especial: “Dios de amor, Creador de todas las cosas, te agradecemos por llamar a nuestros catequistas a servir y compartir el don de la fe en la Iglesia de Santa María. Que la gracia del Espíritu Santo guíe sus corazones y palabras, para que permanezcan constantes en su amor, testimonio y alegría. Permite que sean testigos fieles del Evangelio, reflejo de tu presencia y luz para toda nuestra comunidad. Amén.”

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