



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



November 23, 2025

©LPi

FRIAR'S DESK

THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

One theme of the feast of Christ the King is judgment. Our being judged by God when we leave this world. And when we think of judgment, we think of punishment and being sent to Purgatory.

Maybe we need to refresh our thinking on what the Church teaches about Purgatory.

Our ultimate destiny is living with God in our heavenly home. God is pure love. And so, if we are to be comfortable in God's presence, we must first be "purged" of our sinfulness and our selfishness. This "purging" is what the Church calls Purgatory. Purgatory is not a room attached to hell where we will be suffering in flames of fire. The pain of Purgatory is being separated from God. At this point in our lives, we will be more aware of who God is. And our deepest yearning will be to be with God. The "pain" we will feel will be the pain we feel when we are separated from loved ones.

But we can't be comfortable with God until we look honestly at who we are and admit our weaknesses and sins. When we do that, then we will be ready to live intimately with God.

The suffering of Purgatory will not be the pain of fire, but the anxiety we will feel until we enter our heavenly home. Purgatory is not a place attached to hell. It is a place attached to heaven.

Some ask if the pain we sometimes endure in this life on earth might be our Purgatory. The Church tells us that it is, if we unite our suffering to the sufferings of Christ, and suffer them with faith.

If we are filled with fear about what we will experience when we die, maybe we need to remember:

Jesus said, "I have come not to judge you but to save you".
Jesus said, "I love you more than a mother loves the child in her womb".

Jesus gave us the Sacrament of Confession to assure us that he loves us even when we sin. If the thought of dying fills us with apprehension, that is natural. In many ways we are stepping into the unknown. But fear? Maybe we all need to ask ourselves, why would I be afraid of Jesus?

—Father John Alderson, OFM

LA FIESTA DE CRISTO REY

Un tema de la fiesta de Cristo Rey es el juicio: el ser juzgados por Dios cuando dejamos este mundo. Y cuando pensamos en el juicio, pensamos en el castigo y en ser enviados al Purgatorio.

Tal vez necesitemos refrescar nuestra manera de pensar sobre lo que enseña la Iglesia acerca del Purgatorio.

Nuestro destino final es vivir con Dios en nuestro hogar celestial. Dios es amor puro. Y por lo tanto, si vamos a sentirnos cómodos en la presencia de Dios, primero debemos ser "purgados" de nuestra pecaminosidad y nuestro egoísmo. Esta "purga" es lo que la Iglesia llama Purgatorio. El Purgatorio no es un cuarto anexo al infierno donde sufriremos en llamas de fuego. El dolor del Purgatorio es el estar separados de Dios. En este punto de nuestras vidas, seremos más conscientes de quién es Dios, y nuestro anhelo más profundo será estar con Él. El "dolor" que sentiremos será el dolor que se siente al estar separados de nuestros seres queridos.

Pero no podemos estar cómodos con Dios hasta que miremos honestamente quiénes somos y admitamos nuestras debilidades y pecados. Cuando hagamos eso, entonces estaremos listos para vivir íntimamente con Dios.

El sufrimiento del Purgatorio no será el dolor del fuego, sino la ansiedad que sentiremos hasta que entremos en nuestro hogar celestial. El Purgatorio no es un lugar anexo al infierno. Es un lugar anexo al cielo.

Algunos preguntan si el dolor que a veces padecemos en esta vida terrenal podría ser nuestro Purgatorio. La Iglesia nos dice que sí lo es, si unimos nuestro sufrimiento a los sufrimientos de Cristo, y los padecemos con fe.

Si estamos llenos de miedo sobre lo que experimentaremos cuando muramos, tal vez necesitemos recordar:

Jesús dijo: "No he venido a juzgarlos, sino a salvarlos".
Jesús dijo: "Los amo más de lo que una madre ama al niño en su vientre".

Jesús nos dio el Sacramento de la Confesión para asegurarnos de que nos ama incluso cuando pecamos. Si la idea de morir nos llena de aprehensión, eso es natural. De muchas maneras estamos entrando en lo desconocido. ¿Pero miedo? Tal vez todos necesitamos preguntarnos: ¿Por qué le tendría miedo a Jesús?

—Father John Alderson, 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
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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
Value our Veterans	valueourveterans@stmarys-pompton.org

PARISH SECRETARY

Nicole Pizza-George ngeorge@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 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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



The Parish Office will be closed on
Wednesday, November 26th (daily Mass will be at 8:00 a.m.)
Thursday, November 27th (bilingual Mass will be at 9:00 a.m.)
Friday, November 28th (daily Mass will be at 9:00 a.m.)

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 1:12-20/
Lk 23:35-43

Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64,
65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19

Thursday: Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74/Lk
21:20-28

Friday: Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33

Saturday: Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/Lk 21:34-36



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 **Basil Ricci** from his loving wife.



This week, the Altar Flowers have been donated in
loving memory of **Providence Torres** from her
Stephen Ministry Family.



Tuesday, November 25th: Christ Church's Ecumenical
Thanksgiving Service and Reception at 7:30 p.m.
(400 Ramapo Avenue, Pompton Lakes.)

Thursday, November 27th: St. Mary's Bilingual Thanksgiving
service at 9:00 a.m.

Happy Thanksgiving

MASS INTENTIONS † = Deceased, L = Living

Saturday		November 22
5:00 p.m.	† Marie Mayer † John Scudellari, Jr.	
7:00 p.m.	† Joan & Vincent Phalon † Janet Krzysik (15th Ann.)	
Sunday		November 23
7:30 a.m.	† Sue De Piero	
8:45 a.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish	
9:00 a.m. (CC)	† Henry Scherer (3rd Ann.) † Jack McCue (1st Ann.)	
10:30 a.m.	† Francis & Lucille Marshall † BJ Nolan (heavenly birthday) † Francis Van Bodegen † Brenda Post † Edward C. Lovely (4th Ann.)	
12:00 p.m.	† Cornelio Barreto † Jouita Ignacio † John Liston (20th Ann.) † Angelo Casale (6th Ann.) † Magnus Slyfield † Brenda Post	
Monday		November 24
8:00 a.m.	People of the Parish	
Tuesday		November 25
8:00 a.m.	People of the Parish	
Wednesday		November 26
8:00 a.m.	† Lenora Giardina	
7:00 p.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish	
Thursday		November 27 BILINGUAL MASS AT 9AM
9:00 a.m.	† JoAnn C. Perrotta	
Friday		November 28 MASS AT 9AM
9:00 a.m.	People of the Parish	
Saturday		November 29
5:00 p.m.	† David Reinhard † Josephine Winrow (24th Ann.) † Iluminada Remojo	
7:00 p.m.	People of the Parish	
Sunday		November 30
7:30 a.m.	† Betty Francullo	
8:45 a.m. (Spanish)	† Maria Madera DeCastillo † Luz Marina Garcia	
9:00 a.m. (CC)	People of the Parish	
10:30 a.m.	† William Gilmartin † Jean Maccaro † Jack Gill † Watson Hardaker	
12:00 p.m.	† Helen Cooper † Don Don Geronimo † Patricia Kaelin	

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 HAVE RECENTLY PASSED
Brian Walling

...THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Angelo, John, Frank Furnari, John Molaro, Marc Rocco, Kellie Diemer, Lynn Hutman, Thomas Earley, Susan Esposito, Owen Patrick Brophy, Kathy Green, Paula Tedesco Carreras, Ana Panzardi, Ed Dittman, Eric Huss, David Grish, Douglas Miller, Connor Murphy, Shirley Foray, Lucy Matyisin, Bob Kruk, Magnus Slyfield, Danuta Albro, Linda Corigliano, Joseph Davon, Erin Panzella, Linda Bedell Kwaitkowski, Jama Rothschild, Eileen Donnelly, James McMahan, Joy Wechter, Diane Coniglio, Rozalia Maziarz

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-prompton.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

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do." —Edward Everett Hale

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 of St. Francis of Assisi this year, St. Mary's shared the gift of generosity, kindness, and love to the underserved.

Over the month of October, our St. Mary's family:

- Sent 160 Boxes of Joy to underprivileged children
- Provided a safe space for over 100 elementary school children to Trick or Treat
- Made over 400 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and bagged lunches
- Delivered bagged sandwiches and lunches to the unhoused and underserved in Rahway, NJ
- Attended the Market Street Mission Coat distribution and helped to distribute over 1350 coats
- Spent a Saturday at the St. Francis Inn, where they helped prepare and serve a meal to 158 guests who are facing homelessness or food insecurity

Please take a moment to read reflections from our parishioners and keep a lookout for ways to become involved in serving at St. Mary's.

Serving at St. Francis Inn by Ann Mooney

This past Saturday, eight volunteers from St. Mary's had the privilege of serving those in need at St. Francis Inn in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia. Kensington, often described as the epicenter of the opioid crisis, is also struggling with the effects of ongoing gentrification that continues to push many residents to their breaking point. In just an hour and a half, our team joined the dedicated staff—led by Brother Tyler—to serve a hearty lunch to 158 guests with compassion, respect, and love. The presence of the Holy Spirit was unmistakable that day, as it is every day at St. Francis Inn. Please keep the Inn in your prayers as they face increasing pressure from city officials to close their doors. Sadly, three other ministries doing God's work in the area have already been shut down. If you feel called to help through volunteering or donations, please visit stfrancisinn.org for more information. Kevin and I were truly touched by the friendly guests who arrived to be fed. It's a different world when you step outside your comfort zone and come face to face with those in real need. We will definitely be going again to help. St. Mary's will be returning to the Inn in January, stay tuned for more information about how to help.

Market Street Mission Coat Drive by Mickey Norton

My wife, 3 kids (ages 10, 8, and 6), and I really had an amazing experience with Market Street Mission. My grandmother is a Stephen minister at St. Mary's church in Pompton Lakes, and we have been talking about ways that my family and I can volunteer and give back to the community. She told us about this event, and we were thankful that we had a day where we could attend. The people at Market Street Mission and their volunteers are simply just amazing people. They were so welcoming, and very clear with what the directions were and what we were going to accomplish in our time there. My kids really enjoyed handing out the coats to the families and helping them shop around. It was a proud moment for my wife and I, and we loved how much fun our kids had and how they talked all about it on the car ride home. They asked a lot of great questions that we were able to explain to them about how this event comes about. Thank you so much and we look forward to volunteering again.





SCHEDULE



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

©LPI

Daily Mass at 8:00 a.m. and noon

Advent Weekdays, December 1st – 23rd

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

All are invited to march in solidarity with our Hispanic Community as they celebrate our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. Procession begins at Sloan Park in Riverdale at 6:00 a.m. with food and fellowship after Mass.

Sunday, December 7th at the 8:45 a.m. Spanish Mass

Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

Sunday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 8th at 8:00 a.m. and noon,

Spanish Mass at 7:00 p.m. followed by Noche de las Velitas

Family Christmas Sing-a-Long

Sunday, December 7th at 2:00 p.m. in the Carnevale Center

Communal Reconciliation Services

Tuesday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the church

Saturday, December 13th at 11:00 a.m. in the church

Taize Service

A service of song and silence, prayer and scripture, that hopes to lead participants to contemplate and celebrate their relationship with God and with one another. Let us journey through this night season full of expectation as we release our fear in the presence of God.

Thursday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the church

Bambinelli Blessing

Saturday, December 13th and Sunday, December 14th

Blessing of the Christ Child from your nativity sets during all the English Masses

Simbang Gabi

English Mass with Filipino Hymns

Saturday, December 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the church

Blue Christmas

Mass and Reflection Time for those who are grieving during the holidays. Guest Speaker: Rev. Kathleen Edwards-Chase.

Sunday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m. in the church

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th

2:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant followed by Mass

4:00 p.m. Mass in the church and in the Carnevale Center

6:00 p.m. Mass in English in the church

8:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish in the church

12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass in English in the church (livestreamed)

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th

7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (livestreamed), and noon

No Spanish Mass

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Wednesday, December 31st at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 1st at 9:00 a.m. and noon

No Spanish Mass

Christmas Concert

Music Ministry Concert

Sunday, January 4th at 2:30 p.m. in the church

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FROM BETHLEHEM

Once again, we are privileged to welcome Chad from Boaz Field Cooperative, a store run by a Christian Family in the city of Bethlehem to St. Mary's, November 22nd - 23rd. They will be selling Olive Wood crosses, nativity sets, statues, and more...all handmade in the Holy Land.



The store supports Christian families who have decided to continue to live and work in Israel in the middle of these troubling times. Buy some Christmas gifts and support a good cause the weekend of November 23 and 24th in Spina Hall!



The Special Needs Confirmation Class will be sponsoring a **Mitten Tree**. Please consider donating NEW mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves. Both children's and adult items of all sizes are needed. The tree and bin will be housed in the Carnevale Center beginning Nov. 23rd. A second donation bin will be placed in the Parish Office.

Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity!

Stay tuned...our annual Giving Tree is coming in December!

FOOD PANTRY

Upcoming Food Pantry distribution dates/times:

Saturday, November 22 9:30am to 3:30pm (arrive by 3:00)
Wednesday, December 10 4:00pm to 7:00pm (arrive by 6:30)
Saturday, December 13 9:30am to 3:30pm (arrive by 3:00)
Wednesday, December 17 4:00pm to 7:00pm (arrive by 6:30)
Saturday, December 20 9:30am to 3:30pm (arrive by 3:00)

Current needed items:

Jar spaghetti sauce, lasagna, hot chocolate, bar soap, and cleaning supplies

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.



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 to learn more. 973-835-0374, ext. 113

Christ Caring for People through People

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Religious Education Department is holding a "Keep Christ in Christmas" artwork contest again this year! Grades 1 through 5 are eligible to participate. Gift cards for 1st and 2nd prize winners will be given. The 1st prize winner will also have the artwork on the front of the bulletin on Christmas. Deadline is Friday, December 12th. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Toni Wong at ext. 102.

Give your beautiful children a big hug as they were so thoughtful and engaged putting together and providing the Thanksgiving service projects. 3rd and 4th graders completed the Veterans gift bags for 75 Veterans and put together little turkey boxes adding candy for the children of the families of the Vets. 3rd grade completed their Service Birthday/ Thanksgiving cake project which was given to the Food Pantry for the needy families. 4th grade completed their Service project submitting their Joy boxes for underprivileged children around the world. They are truly walking in the footsteps of St. Francis and Jesus!

We are looking for Grade 2 and Grade 9 teachers. Both grades start in January 2026. Contact Toni Wong at extension 102 for 2nd grade and Cathy Feld for 9th grade if interested.

I wish to express how thankful I am for all our Religious Education families. Your support and active participation with your children have been a wonderful gift to me, our teachers, the Religious Ed Department and our dear Friars.

Wishing you all a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!

2025 POMPTON LAKES HOLIDAY STROLL

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SIT AT THE ST. MARY'S TABLE WITH ONE OF THE FRIARS, DISTRIBUTE HANDOUTS, CHAT WITH VISITORS

December 6th from 4:30pm-8:00pm

PLEASE REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE FOR A 1-HOUR SHIFT

During the month of November, the names of all the deceased who were written on our All Souls Day envelopes will be in this urn and remembered at all the Masses. The pictures of our departed loved ones will be featured in the windowsills around the church throughout November, the month when we remember the dead.



Christmas Cards

A beautiful way to celebrate the season by sharing the Joy of Christmas at St. Mary's!

Each set of 15 4x6 cards with envelopes is \$20.00.

The available keepsake cards shown below are photographs taken by artist and parishioner Artie Bird.

Cards are available for purchase at the Parish Office.



Volunteer OPPORTUNITIES

1. 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.

2. **Grant writer.** If you are detailed-oriented, don't mind doing paperwork, and are willing to help St. Mary's secure some government funds to enhance the security of St. Mary's Parish, please reach out to Father John Aherne. There are many state and government grants available, but we need someone with the time and patience to do the leg work for us! Contact us at smc@stmarys-pompton.org.

3. **Holy Bones** is looking for volunteers to work with their bakers on Mondays and Thursdays. The hours are 9am to 1pm. If interested, please contact Marie Cioletti at mcioletti@stmarys-pompton.org.



Calling ALL the LADIES for **Holiday Craft Night**

Calling all women of the parish - join us for an evening of Holiday Craft making!

Wednesday December 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Carnevale Center Clare Hall. All are welcome!

Supplies (not required): bring any wine corks you have and if you own a hot glue gun, it would be helpful.

Bring a beverage or a snack and join us for some friendly fun and laughter!

Hear Mass Better



Hearing Assistance Available



1. Join the WIFI Network
Church- St. Francis
Carnevale Center - St. Clare



2. Download the free ListenWiFi App to your phone and Launch the App



3. Listen on your smartphone
Bluetooth enabled hearing aids, earbuds, or headphones



4. Audio Receivers and Headphones are available to borrow. Please see an Usher

New system made available by a grant from the Franciscan Friars of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe

WHO IS CARLO ACUTIS?



Canonized by Pope Leo XIV on September 7, 2025, Carlo Acutis is the first millennial saint and has attracted the attention of teenagers and adults alike from all corners of the world. The film: Carlo Acutis Roadmap to Reality, is about a pilgrimage of young people and their journey to Rome and Assisi to view the young saint's body.

Join us on Thursday, December 4 at 7 p.m. in the Carnevale Center as we watch the film, learn about Carlo Acutis, and learn how his faith and devotion to the Eucharist can inspire our own journey of faith.

"Eucharist is my highway to heaven" - Carlo Acutis

NEW MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT

A new light in our diocese: The society of St. Dymphna and Our Lady of Hope

To address the mental health struggles that so many people face, the Diocese of Paterson, in conjunction with St. Mary's Church, is blessed to announce a new beacon of hope. With the formal approval and paternal blessing of our shepherd, Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney, a new private association of the faithful has been established: ***The Society of Saint Dymphna and Our Lady of Hope***.

The mission of ***The Society of Saint Dymphna and Our Lady of Hope*** is clear and urgent: "To uphold the dignity of every human life by providing peer-led Catholic accompaniment, education, and advocacy aimed at preventing suicide and supporting mental-health recovery."

The society is not a replacement for professional clinical care, nor is it a substitute for the sacramental life of the Church. Rather, it is a vital bridge between creating a safe, confidential, and faith-filled space where individuals can find support and the courage to seek the help they need. Its model represents a mature vision of the lay apostolate, integrated with both Diocesan Safe Environment policies and professional best practices.

The primary works of the society will include:

- ***Hope Circles:*** Confidential, parish-based peer support groups facilitated by trained and certified members. These circles will provide a space for individuals living with mental health challenges and their families to share their burdens and find strength in a community of faith.
- ***Gatekeeper Training:*** Offering workshops in evidence-based programs for clergy, catechists, and parish leaders. This training will equip members to recognize signs of mental distress and connect people to care, making our parishes safer communities for everyone.
- ***Referral Network:*** Establishing and maintaining a trusted list of Catholic-friendly mental health clinicians, therapists, and crisis services, ensuring that when professional help is needed, individuals can be connected with resources that respect their faith and values.

The society's pilot program is set to begin here at St. Mary's Pompton Lakes under the direction of our Chaplain, Father John Aherne, O.F.M., with the hope of expanding to more parishes as the ministry grows.

An invitation to hope: The Gospel call to serve and be served

The St. Dymphna and Our Lady of Hope Society extends a two-fold invitation to our diocesan family:

First, if you are someone who is walking in the darkness of mental anguish, depression, or anxiety—or if you are a family member struggling to support a loved one—please hear this message: You are not alone.

Second, if you are someone whose heart is moved with compassion for those who are suffering, and you feel the Holy Spirit calling you to this vital work, we invite you to answer that call. The society needs faithful men and women willing to be trained as facilitators and companions, to become instruments of God's peace and channels of His hope.

Please email hopelives@PatersonDiocese.org, and we will be in touch with you about next steps.



There will be a meeting of the Bereavement Support Group on Monday, December 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Banta Room of the Carnevale Center.



We are looking for volunteers to join the team of Eucharistic Ministers who bring communion to our brothers and sisters in **Chilton Hospital, Care One and other institutions.**

Sunday and Wednesday shifts available. Volunteer monthly, weekly or whenever you can!

Please call the Parish Office or email smc@stmarys-pompton.org for more information.

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& 4:30
SUNDAY 9:30 &
10:30



St. Mary's Knights of Columbus

Breakfast with Santa



Sunday, Nov. 30th
7:30 am until Noon
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All-you-can-eat breakfast, including:

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\$20 adults (13+), \$8 children (7 & under free!)

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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!

Saint Mary's Church invites you to be part of
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We are grateful to be able to offer this event to all women of our community. Cornerstone is a time to escape the daily grind and find some much needed quiet, reflective time to grow in our faith, reflect on our lives, make new friends, and give thanks for our blessings.

Online registration is open at <https://stmarys-pompton.org/womens-cornerstone>. For more details, please reach out to Amy Testino, 862-228-4096 (call or text).



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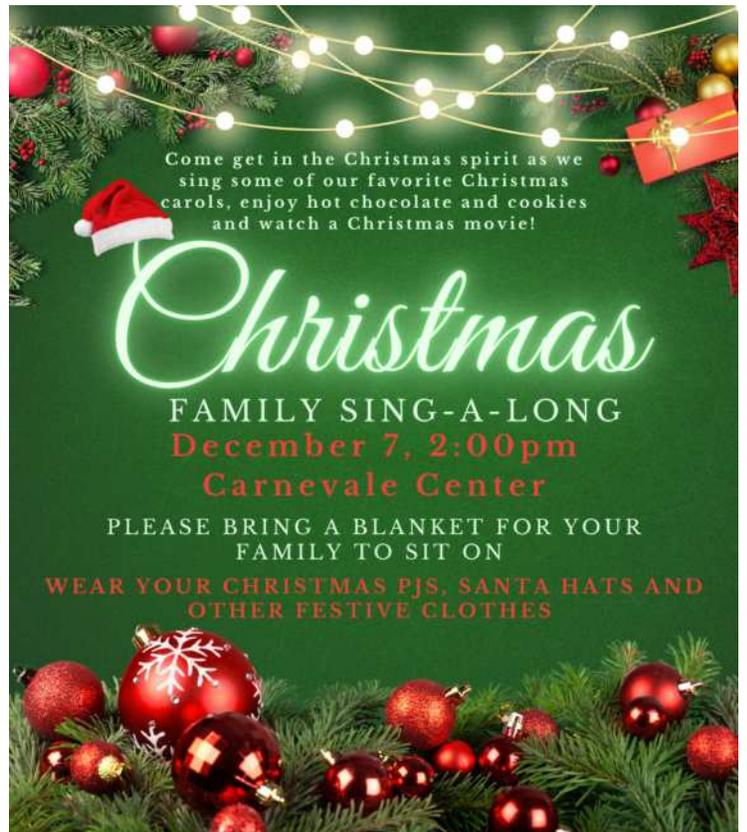
Sunday Nov 30th

after all Masses in the Church Courtyard

St. Mary's Church Courtyard

**where: 17 Pompton Ave.
Pompton Lakes, N.J.**

Come early to purchase, supplies are limited



Come get in the Christmas spirit as we sing some of our favorite Christmas carols, enjoy hot chocolate and cookies and watch a Christmas movie!

Christmas

FAMILY SING-A-LONG

December 7, 2:00pm

Carnevale Center

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Emma Kelly, Charlotte Michelle and Olivia Grace Maj



Kevin Albert Bruno

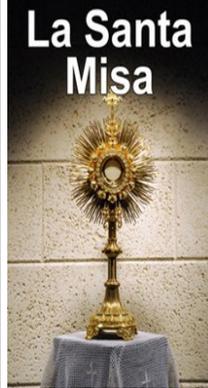
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Miércoles a las 7:00pm

Domingos a las 8:45am

En la iglesia Principal



Bautismos en español

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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.- Adorar al Santísimo es un encuentro personal con Dios. Habrá exposición al Santísimo después de la misa en español el miércoles 17 de diciembre. Si alguien no puede comulgar por enfermedad u otra razón, avisa al Padre John Coughlin para una visita.

2.- El jueves 27 de noviembre, Día de Acción de Gracias, habrá misa bilingüe a las 9:00 a.m. en la iglesia principal. Invitamos a todas las familias a comenzar este día especial dando gracias a Dios en comunidad por las bendiciones recibidas durante el año.

3.- CELEBRACION GUADALUPANA 2025

La procesión en honor a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe** será el domingo 7 de diciembre, saliendo a las 5:30 a.m. desde Sloan Park (Bloomingdale) hasta Santa María en Pompton Lakes, seguida de misa a las 8:45 a.m. y desayuno comunitario.

Las mañanitas a nuestra MORENITA serán el jueves 11 de diciembre a las 10:30 p.m. en la iglesia principal.

4.- **POSADAS 2025:** Las posadas celebran el peregrinaje de María y José hacia Belén, invitándonos a preparar nuestro corazón con oración, alegría y comunidad. El 16 de noviembre, únete a la posada comunitaria de Santa María a las 7:00 p.m. en el centro Carnevale (10 Lenox Ave, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442), donde compartiremos fe, piñata, ponche y alimentos tradicionales, fortaleciendo nuestros lazos fraternos.

Iglesia Católica de Santa María y
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stmarys-pompton.org/offertory

Al hacer un donativo recurrente, usted puede proporcionar un apoyo continuo a las necesidades esenciales de nuestra parroquia, sus programas, sus ministerios y otras iniciativas de ayuda y asistencia.

Porque es dando que recibimos



Lecturas Bíblicas –Ciclo C - Solemnidad de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, Rey del Universo (23 de noviembre de 2025)

Primera Lectura: 2 Samuel 5, 1-3
Salmo Responsorial: Salmo 121, 1-2. 4-5
Segunda Lectura: Colosenses 1, 12-20
+Evangelio: Lucas 23, 35-43

Ministerio de Proclamadores de la Palabra

Por favor comunicarse con Lourdes Huerta (973-270-3453). Este Ministerio se reunirá el lunes 24 de noviembre de 2025 de 7:30pm a 8:30pm en el salón Alma Banta del Centro Carnevale.



El Día de Acción de Gracias nos reúne como comunidad para expresar gratitud por las bendiciones que recibimos y el camino que recorreremos juntos en este país. Nos abrazamos en torno a una mesa, conscientes de que la historia de este día se origina en la acogida y la ayuda mutua entre quienes llegaban a nuevas tierras. Como inmigrantes, sentimos que este feriado es también una celebración de nuestra perseverancia, de las oportunidades que hemos encontrado y de la diversidad que fortalece la identidad de nuestra nación. Reconocemos que, al dar gracias, reafirmamos la riqueza humana que aportamos desde nuestras raíces, lenguas y tradiciones.

Para nosotros, sentirnos incluidos, ser bienvenidos, construir nuevas amistades y trabajar por el bienestar común, es motivo de gratitud y esperanza.

En medio de los desafíos diarios, el acto de agradecer nos ayuda a mirar el futuro con confianza y a vivir el presente con mayor alegría. Al compartir la mesa, el pan, la oración y la hospitalidad, renovamos los lazos familiares y comunitarios, y experimentamos el profundo significado de pertenecer a un pueblo que reconoce el esfuerzo, la solidaridad y el respeto por la dignidad de cada persona. El “Día de Acción de Gracias” nos ofrece un momento para mirar hacia dentro, reconocer lo esencial en nuestra vida y expresar gratitud, no solo con palabras, sino también con acciones. Agradecer, en este día, significa abrirnos a la comunidad, compartir lo que somos y tender la mano a otros, conscientes de los dones grandes y pequeños que recibimos cada día. Es la oportunidad para dejar atrás resentimientos y abrir espacio al perdón, la esperanza y la alegría de estar juntos. Que nuestra gratitud sea fuente de generosidad y unidad, impulsándonos a construir, con fe y optimismo, una comunidad donde todos encuentren motivos para sentirse bendecidos y valorados.

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