



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



©LPi

December 7, 2025

FRIAR'S DESK

Our Lady of Guadalupe: Patroness of the Americas

One feast in the Catholic Church that usually falls within the second week of Advent is *Our Lady of Guadalupe* (also known as the Virgin of Gaudalupe). The date of the feast is December 12th. I am embarrassed to say that growing up as a Catholic lad in Queens, NY, I had never heard of this feast day in the Church. I had heard of Our Lady of Lourdes and Our Lady of Fatima – both apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary that occurred in Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries, but I did not learn about the apparition of Mary centuries earlier in 1531 in what is, today, Mexico City until I joined the Franciscans thirty years ago. Although there is a wider knowledge of the Virgin of Guadalupe among Catholics today in the U.S., there are still many American Catholics who know little or nothing about this apparition and feast of Mary. It should be noted that this Marian title takes its name from the former town of *La Villa de Guadalupe Hidalgo* that is now a neighborhood in Mexico City.

It is important to know some of the historical context of this apparition to better appreciate it. Ten years before Mary appeared there, the Spaniards had conquered the Aztec civilization in what would later come to be called Mexico. For a decade after the conquest, Catholic missionaries worked hard to try to convert the native population to Christianity with little success. Between December 9th and 12th of 1531, a humble indigenous Christian convert named Juan Diego (now St. Juan Diego) experienced four apparitions of Mary on and around a hill called Tepeyac. The Virgin instructed Juan Diego to go to the local bishop, a Franciscan named Juan de Zumárraga, with the request that a temple (church) be built in her honor. The bishop did not initially believe him. On a second visit, the bishop told Juan Diego to show him a sign that his story was true. In her last appearance to Juan Diego, Mary appeared to him on a road near Tepeyac instructing him to climb the hill to gather flowers. On top of the hill, Juan Diego found many lovely roses growing. This did not normally happen in the cold month of December at that altitude. He gathered the roses in his cloak and returned to the bishop. When he unfolded his cloak before Juan de Zumárraga, the flowers fell to the ground revealing the stunningly beautiful image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on it. This image on the fabric of Juan Diego's cloak now hangs in the Basilica at Tepeyac in Mexico City. It depicts the Blessed Mother not with a European face but with the countenance of a young indigenous woman. What is more is that her clothing was typical of a pregnant Aztec princess of that era. Many of the indigenous people of that land that would become Mexico soon embraced Christianity. The Basilica of Our Lady of Gaudalupe in Mexico City is among the most popular Catholic pilgrimage sites in the world. There is also a Shrine that honors Our Lady of Guadalupe in the United States located in La Crosse, WI. It should be noted that Mary is Patroness of the Americas under the title *Our Lady of Guadalupe*.

—Father John Coughlin, OFM

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe: Patrona de las Américas.

Una festividad de la Iglesia católica que suele celebrarse durante la segunda semana de Adviento es la de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (también conocida como la Virgen de Guadalupe). La fecha de la festividad es el 12 de diciembre. Me avergüenza decir que, habiendo crecido como un niño católico en Queens, Nueva York, nunca había oído hablar de esta festividad de la Iglesia. Había oído hablar de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes y Nuestra Señora de Fátima, ambas apariciones de la Santísima Virgen María que tuvieron lugar en Europa en los siglos XIX y XX, pero no supe nada de la aparición de María siglos antes, en 1531, en lo que hoy es la Ciudad de México, hasta que me uní a los franciscanos hace treinta años. Aunque hoy en día los católicos de Estados Unidos conocen mejor a la Virgen de Guadalupe, todavía hay muchos católicos estadounidenses que saben poco o nada sobre esta aparición y esta festividad mariana. Cabe señalar que este título mariano toma su nombre de la antigua ciudad de La Villa de Guadalupe Hidalgo, que ahora es un barrio de la Ciudad de México.

Es importante conocer ciertos antecedentes históricos de esta aparición para valorarla mejor. Diez años antes de que María se manifestara en ese lugar, los españoles ya habían conquistado la civilización azteca en el territorio que más tarde se llamaría México. Durante los años posteriores a la conquista, los misioneros católicos se esfuerzan intensamente por evangelizar a la población indígena, pero con resultados limitados. Entre el 9 y el 12 de diciembre de 1531, un sencillo indígena cristiano converso llamado Juan Diego (hoy San Juan Diego) presencia cuatro apariciones de María en el cerro del Tepeyac y sus alrededores. La Virgen le pide a Juan Diego que visite al obispo local, un franciscano llamado Juan de Zumárraga, para transmitirle el deseo de que se construya un templo (iglesia) en su honor. El obispo inicialmente duda de su testimonio y, en una segunda entrevista, le exige una señal clara que confirme la veracidad de lo que cuenta Juan Diego. En la última de sus apariciones, María se le presenta a Juan Diego en el camino cercano al Tepeyac y le ordena subir a la colina para recoger flores. En la cima, Juan Diego halla abundantes rosas hermosas, algo inusual en el mes frío de diciembre a esa altura. Las recoge en su manto y regresa a ver al obispo para entregarle la señal pedida. Cuando Juan Diego extiende su manto ante Juan de Zumárraga, las flores caen al suelo y dejan a la vista la sorprendente y bellísima imagen de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Esa imagen, impresa en la tela del manto de Juan Diego, se conserva hoy en la Basílica de Tepeyac en la Ciudad de México. Muestra a la Santísima Virgen no con facciones europeas, sino con el rostro de una joven indígena y vestida como una princesa azteca encinta de aquella época. A raíz de estas apariciones, numerosos indígenas de esas tierras que pronto conformarían México abrazan la fe cristiana. La Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la Ciudad de México se convierte en uno de los destinos de peregrinación católica más concurridos del mundo. Además, existe un santuario en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Estados Unidos, ubicado en La Crosse, Wisconsin, y María es venerada como patrona de América bajo el título de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

—Father John Coughlin, OFM

PARISH OFFICE PHONE NUMBER: 973-835-0374

FRANCISCAN FRIARS SERVING YOU

Fr. John Aherne, OFM, x139	jaherne@stmarys-pompton.org
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MUSIC MINISTRY

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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)

12:00 PM—Monday-Friday in English (during Advent)

7:00 PM—Wednesday en Español (livestreamed)

MASSES ONLINE AT:

www.stmarys-pompton.org

www.facebook.com/smcpompton

www.youtube.com/c/stmaryspomptonlakes



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 be monthly at 3:00 p.m. on the following dates:

2025 - December 21st

2026 - January 25th, February 22nd, March 22nd,

April 19th, May 17th, June 14th

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13



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.



The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 8th for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Daily Mass will be at 8:00 a.m.



Solidarity is one of the pillars of Catholic Social Teaching. Solidarity reminds us that we are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, or ideological differences.

To demonstrate Solidarity with our Hispanic brothers and sisters during this time of uncertainty, we invite everyone to join them in their annual Procession for Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of the Americas. We will meet at Sloan Park in Bloomingdale at 6:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 7th and walk through the streets of Bloomingdale, Riverdale and Pompton Lakes before arriving at St. Mary's Church at about 8:30. Everyone is invited to join us for Mass and the food, fellowship and Mariachi band to follow! Viva La Virgen!

MASS INTENTIONS † = Deceased, L = Living

Saturday	December 6
5:00 p.m.	† James Russo Jr. † Nancy C. Bottcher † Brian Walling † Margaret Padula (2nd Ann.) † Joanne Galvin
7:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Sunday	December 7
7:30 a.m.	† Jackie Vozzo † Veronica Quigley (4th Ann.) † Dorothy Ott (23rd Ann.) † Grace Rauck † Bernadette Wiltshire † Kevin Lutkins
8:45 a.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish
9:00 a.m. (CC)	† Robert J. Strall † John Harvey (heavenly birthday)
10:30 a.m.	† Francis & Lucille Marshall † Nancy Mungan (1st Ann.) † Jessie & Sonny DeAngelis † Mary Tabib † Robert Hammond † Tricia Revis
12:00 p.m.	† William Dillon † Violet Ciaston (40th Ann.) † Kelly Russo
Monday	December 8
8:00 a.m.	† George & Catherine Conroy † Flora Wylie
12:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Tuesday	December 9
8:00 a.m.	† John P. Sweeney (34th Ann.) † Andrew Ragusa, Jr. † James Cioffi † Mary Barbato
12:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Wednesday	December 10
8:00 a.m.	† Michael Bronder
12:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
7:00 p.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish
Thursday	December 11
8:00 a.m.	† Selma Schaefer † Patricia Harkin (heavenly birthday) L The Schmerber Family
12:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Friday	December 12
8:00 a.m.	† Anne Marie Michaels † Grace Barbato
12:00 p.m.	† Joan Parker (12th Ann.)
Saturday	December 13
5:00 p.m.	† Mary Louise Renga † William H. DePiero † Maureen Kincaid (1st Ann.) † Walter Harkin (heavenly birthday) † Michael & Mario Della Fera
7:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Sunday	December 14
7:30 a.m.	† Margaret D'Aurizio † Harry Wright
8:45 a.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish
9:00 a.m. (CC)	† Phylis D'Onofrio † Lorraine Campilli
10:30 a.m.	† John "Jack" Shuman † Maureen Santos † Dana D'Amico † Marie Lepanto Pepe
12:00 p.m.	† Valerie Gagnon † Eileen Amoruso † John J. Rennie



...THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY PASSED

Diane Coniglio

...THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Angelo, John, Frank Furnari, John Molaro, Marc Rocco, Kellie Diemer, Lynn Hutman, Susan Esposito, Owen Patrick Brophy, Kathy Green, Paula Tedesco Carreras, Ana Panzardi, Ed Dittman, Eric Huss, 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 McMahon, Joy Wechter, Rozalia Maziarz, Bernice Staudinger, Brian Carey, Amarachi Amadi Okere, Sherri Rocco, Tom Macallen, David Grish, Maria Gambatese

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!

From the
Parish Council



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



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)

Update: no vigil Mass

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



The Giving Tree is an annual St. Mary's tradition that allows Food Pantry families to experience a special gift during the holiday season. Your donation of a \$25 gift card allows them to make their own choices of gifts they need for Christmas.

Donations can be made by:

Taking a gift tag ornament from the tree in the church and returning it to the Parish Office with a gift card or placing it in the collection basket. You can also scan the QR code or visit our website <https://stmarys-pompton.org/the-giving-tree> to donate online.



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.



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!

The perfect present for under the tree!

Music Together

MEMORIES WITH YOUR LITTLE MUSIC MAKER!
9 week Winter Session

Mixed Age class
Birth-5 & a caregiver
CLASSES START
JANUARY 14



WEDNESDAY
9:30, 10:30, 11:30
& 4:30
SUNDAY 9:30 & 10:30

scan to register



English Mass with Filipino Hymns

Saturday, December 20th
7:00 p.m. Mass

Potluck dinner in the Carnevale Center,
immediately following Mass.

Main Celebrant: Rev. Fr. Michael F. Reyes
For more information, please call the Parish Office.



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

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

PLEASE BRING A BLANKET FOR YOUR FAMILY TO SIT ON

WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS PJS, SANTA HATS AND OTHER FESTIVE CLOTHES

FOOD PANTRY

Upcoming Food Pantry distribution dates/times:

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, plain bread crumbs, 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mandatory Advent workshops for 1st and 2nd grade on Saturday, December 13th in the Carnevale center.
See email/text for your child's time to attend.

Required 5th Grade Mass: Sunday, December 14th at 10:30am

Remaining rehearsal dates for those children participating in our Christmas Pageant are:

- December 5th at 4:00 p.m.
- December 12th at 4:00 p.m.
- December 19th at 4:00 p.m.

All rehearsals are held in the church

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 their artwork on the front of the bulletin on Christmas. Deadline is Friday, December 12th

"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope." —Pope Benedict XVI



Whether you wish to honor a loved one, or celebrate a special occasion, submitting your intention is now just a few clicks away.

Visit our parish website to fill out the simple online form:
<https://stmarys-pompton.org/mass-intentions>



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.



The holiday season is often filled with joy and celebration, but it can also be a deeply challenging time for many. Feelings of grief, loneliness, stress, or uncertainty may surface more strongly during this time of year. If you are finding the season difficult, please know that you do not have to walk through it alone.

Stephen Ministers are here to help. A Stephen Minister is a caring, compassionate Christian trained to offer one-on-one emotional and spiritual support during life's tough moments.

This ministry is completely free and grounded in Christ's call to love and care for one another.

Many people have found that having someone who listens without judgment, prays with them, and walks beside them can bring real hope and healing. If you feel that you—or someone you know—might benefit from this kind of support, we encourage you to reach out.

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

Christ Caring for People through People



Thank you to the Thanksgiving Dinner Ministry for their preparation, cooking, carving, and delivery of delicious food for the residents of Complete Care in Wayne. A special thanks to the organizers Greg and Kim LeBron and Mike Cocilovo! And thanks to our Youth Ministry members who worked at the event. The residents enjoyed the day so much and the kids did a wonderful job! It was a true example of community and thanksgiving.



VALUE OUR VETERANS MINISTRY
Serving Those Who Served Us

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our incredible 3rd and 4th grade Religious Education students. As part of their service project, they made precious turkey gift boxes filled with candy for the Veterans and their children. They also provided thank you goodie bags for each Veteran, filled with a beautiful Veteran Christmas tree ornament, lip balm, can Koozie and a flashlight. Last but certainly not least, our Prayer Shawl Ministry lovingly made patriotic Prayer Shawls for those Veterans in need, specially blessed. These donations are a beautiful reminder of the impact of giving, and the power of coming together as a community to make a difference. It is truly inspiring to witness our children living out the values of gratitude and service.

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to this special gesture of kindness!





**OCIA
(ORDER OF CHRISTIAN
INITIATION OF ADULTS)**

Interested in becoming a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church?

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 mgcoyle@verizon.net.



**Support Group for Caregivers of
loved ones with Dementia**

A monthly meeting is held in the Carnevale Center (room 203/204) for caregivers assisting loved ones with dementia.

Meetings are on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. Our next meeting date is December 11th.

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

Saint Mary's Church invites you to be part of

WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE 2026

Many Paths, ONE Destination

March 13-14, 2026

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).

Bilingual members welcome! Talks will be in English but there will be a small group facilitated in Spanish.



**SPIRITUAL GUIDED
MEDITATION HOUR**

Spiritual Guided Meditation is a form of prayer where we are invited to encounter God through our imagination while being led with a story. Meditation or

Contemplation engages the mind and heart to use our thoughts and feelings to guide us to a greater awareness of God's presence in our life. Beginning with quiet music, deep breathing and relaxation we still our minds to be open to the grace to let ourselves be led by our loving God.

Join us for prayer, reflection and guided meditation as we journey this Advent with The Holy Family and experience the Joy of New Beginnings.

Thursday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m. in The Prayer Room



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.



**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!

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](mailto:hopolives@PatersonDiocese.org), and we will be in touch with you about next steps.

Income:

Income from all sources including offertory and other donations for October: \$173,853.44

Building and Maintenance fund collected for October: \$8,678.80

Expenses: Our monthly expenses vary throughout the year. As a reference point, an average of our expenses per month, not including building and maintenance expenses, based on what we spent in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 is \$145,450.

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

October 2025 Building and Maintenance expenses

Utilities for all buildings:	\$10,180.04
Repairs to school building	\$5,340.00
Repairs to buildings (Tri Tech)	\$19,001.40
Repairs to parking lot/grounds	\$8,496.95
Computer upgrades:	\$16,197.00

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...



Laney Jane Rabel



**Brooke Elizabeth
Marone**



Luke James Kelly



Congratulations and God bless **Jacqueline Kitchell and Timothy Barrett** (left) on their recent wedding and **Jessica and Felix Donayre** (right) on their marriage convalidation. If you've been legally married, and would like to celebrate the full sacrament of marriage and have your marriage formally recognized by the Church, please give one of the friars a call. We'd be happy to help!



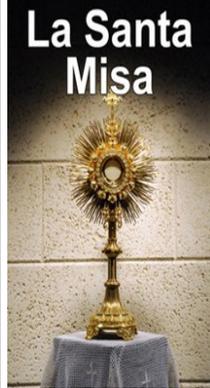
MINISTERIO HISPANO DE SANTA MARIA

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. 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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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



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.- CELEBRACION GUADALUPANA 2025

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

3.- **NOCHE DE VELITAS 2025**- Se invita a todos a participar de la Noche de las Velitas mañana **lunes 8 de diciembre a las 6:30pm** en la Iglesia principal. A las 7:00pm tendremos la santa misa y después habrá un compartir en el salón Spina (sótano de la iglesia)

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 pm en el centro Carnevale (10 Lenox Ave, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442), donde compartiremos fe, piñata, ponche y alimentos tradicionales, fortaleciendo nuestros lazos fraternos.

5.- MISA DE NOCHEBUENA

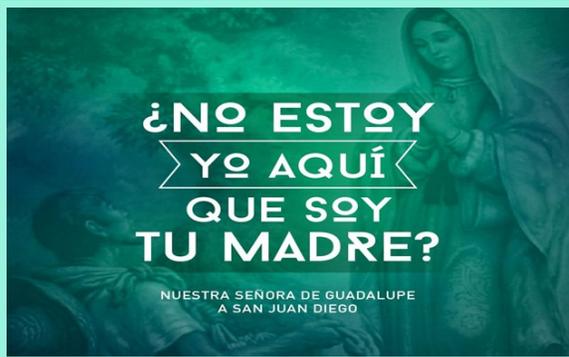
Miércoles 24 de diciembre a las 8:00pm en la iglesia principal. Enseguida de la misa invitamos a todos al tradicional Arrullo al Niño Jesús.

Lecturas Bíblicas –Ciclo A – II Domingo de Adviento- (7 de diciembre de 2025)

Primera Lectura: Isaías 11, 1-10
Salmo Responsorial: Salmo 71, 1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17
Segunda Lectura: Romanos 15, 4-9
+Evangelio: Mateo 3, 1-12

Ministerio de Proclamadores de la Palabra

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



La fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe es un regalo especial para el Ministerio Hispano y para toda la parroquia de Santa María en Pompton Lakes. Cada 12 de diciembre recordamos que María quiso acercarse a su pueblo con rostro moreno, lenguaje sencillo y corazón de madre, para decirnos que no estamos solos y que en medio de las pruebas Dios camina con nosotros. Celebrar a la Guadalupana es renovar la certeza de que somos mirados con ternura, especialmente quienes hemos llegado a este país cargando historias de lucha, esperanza y fe. Para nuestra vida comunitaria, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe nos enseña la importancia de la cercanía, la escucha y la solidaridad. Así como ella se inclinó hacia Juan Diego y su pueblo, también hoy nos invita a mirar a los más sencillos, a los migrantes, a

los que sufren, y a hacer de la parroquia un hogar donde todos se sientan acogidos. Su mensaje es profundamente evangelizador: María no se anuncia a sí misma, sino que nos lleva siempre a Jesús, llamándonos a volver al Evangelio, a los sacramentos y a una fe encarnada en obras de amor. Participar cada año en esta celebración fortalece nuestra identidad como comunidad hispana y católica. Las procesiones, las mañanitas, la Misa y la ofrenda de flores no son solo tradiciones bonitas; son expresiones de una fe viva que une generaciones, países y acentos distintos en un mismo corazón.

Cuando venimos juntos al templo para honrar a la Virgen, renovamos el sentido de pertenencia, sanamos nostalgias de la tierra que dejamos atrás y reconocemos que, bajo su manto, formamos una sola familia en Cristo. Por eso es tan importante no dejar pasar esta fiesta como un evento más, sino vivirla con compromiso y gratitud. Asistir, servir, invitar a otros, traer a los niños y jóvenes, ofrecer nuestro canto y nuestra oración, es una forma concreta de responder al amor de la Morenita del Tepeyac. Cada año, al celebrar a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Santa María, le permitimos a Dios seguir hablando a su pueblo en español, con signos cercanos, y dejamos que su mensaje de consuelo, unidad y esperanza siga transformando nuestra parroquia y nuestro entorno. **¡QUE VIVA NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE!**

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