



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



©LPi

December 14, 2025

THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT: JOY

GOSPEL JOY

GOZO DEL EVANGELIO

I have heard people say; "Jesus never laughed. If he did, it would be in the Bible". Well, Jesus was once a baby. Where in the Bible does it say that Mary changed his diaper? Besides, if Jesus never laughed, why did the children run after him? They chased after him in such numbers that the Apostles kept chasing them away. Why do we find "joy" to be totally foreign to Jesus?

As Jesus was leaving the Last Supper, and about to begin his passion, what did he say to his family and friends? "May my joy be in you and may your joy be complete." He was not looking forward to the suffering he was about to endure. His joy came from the peace in his heart, because he was about to fulfill his saving mission - and his Father was at his side.

Actually, there are nearly 300 references to joy in the New Testament. The angel greeted the shepherds by saying, "I bring you tidings of great joy". Elizabeth said to Mary, "The moment your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leapt for joy".

Jesus was without joy? Then why did the Pharisees constantly attack him for going to parties? Why was his first miracle changing water into wine?

If we have trouble seeing joy in Jesus, maybe we should take his advice and learn from the children. In the Confessional I once heard a boy confess, "I committed a sacrilege". When I asked him what he did, he said, "I tinkled in the bathtub". I told him that was not a sin, and he answered, "My mother said it was".

Or maybe you read about the two boys, Joey (white) and Sammy (black). Joey came down with cancer. He cried like a baby when he was told that his hair would fall out. So Sammy went with him to the barbershop for his haircut. After Joey was shaved, Sammy jumped into the chair and had all his hair cut off. He then got out of the barber chair, put his arms around Joey and said, "Now no one will be able to tell us apart".

Gospel joy is not laughing all the time. Smiley people can drive you crazy. Gospel joy is the peace that comes to us when we realize that Jesus is with us, hand in hand, every step of the way. He smiles when we are happy, and holds us tightly when life is hard.

Gospel Joy is peace.

—Father John Alderson, OFM

He escuchado a personas decir: "Jesús nunca se rió. Si lo hubiera hecho, estaría en la Biblia". Bueno, Jesús fue un bebé alguna vez. ¿En qué parte de la Biblia dice que María le cambió el pañal? Además, si Jesús nunca se rió, ¿por qué los niños corrían tras él? Lo perseguían en tal cantidad que los Apóstoles tenían que estarlos alejando. ¿Por qué vemos el "gozo" como algo totalmente ajeno a Jesús?

Cuando Jesús salía de la Última Cena y estaba a punto de comenzar su pasión, ¿qué les dijo a su familia y a sus amigos? "Que mi alegría esté en ustedes y que su alegría sea completa". Él no esperaba con gusto el sufrimiento que estaba por enfrentar. Su gozo venía de la paz en su corazón, porque estaba por cumplir su misión salvadora, y su Padre estaba a su lado.

En realidad, hay casi 300 referencias al gozo en el Nuevo Testamento. El ángel saludó a los pastores diciendo: "Les traigo una buena noticia de gran alegría". Isabel le dijo a María: "Apenas tu saludo llegó a mis oídos, el niño en mi vientre saltó de alegría".

¿Jesús no tenía gozo? Entonces, ¿por qué lo atacaban constantemente los fariseos por ir a fiestas? ¿Por qué su primer milagro fue convertir el agua en vino?

Si nos cuesta ver el gozo en Jesús, tal vez deberíamos seguir su consejo y aprender de los niños. En el confesionario una vez escuché a un niño confesar: "Cometí un sacrilegio". Cuando le pregunté qué había hecho, dijo: "Me hice pipí en la bañera". Le dije que eso no era pecado, y me respondió: "Mi mamá dijo que sí".

O quizá leiste sobre dos niños, Joey (blanco) y Sammy (negro). A Joey le dio cáncer. Lloró como un bebé cuando le dijeron que se le caería el cabello. Así que Sammy fue con él a la peluquería para su corte. Después de que rasuraron a Joey, Sammy se subió a la silla y pidió que le cortaran todo el pelo también. Luego se bajó de la silla del barbero, abrazó a Joey y le dijo: "Ahora nadie podrá distinguirnos".

El gozo del Evangelio no es reírse todo el tiempo. La gente que siempre está sonriendo puede volverte loco. El gozo del Evangelio es la paz que llega cuando nos damos cuenta de que Jesús está con nosotros, de la mano, en cada paso del camino. Se sonríe cuando estamos felices y nos sostiene fuerte cuando la vida es difícil.

El Gozo del Evangelio es paz.

—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
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
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. Everyone is invited to stay after Mass for an activity and some refreshments.

Masses will be monthly at 3:00 p.m. in the Carnevale Center 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 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38



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 **Angela Theresa Fernicola**, from her loving family.



HOLY BONES

Healthy treats for your dog!

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

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

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

Holy Bones now has an online store! Orders can be placed on our website: www.holy-bones.org.

MASS INTENTIONS † = Deceased, L = Living



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)	† Eduardo Jose Martinez
9:00 a.m. (CC)	† Phylis D'Onofrio † Lorraine Campilli † Boguslaw Slusarz
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 † RoseMare Lastra
Monday	December 15
8:00 a.m.	The living and deceased of the Fries Family † Lee & Lou Marotta
12:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Tuesday	December 16
8:00 a.m.	† Rosita Guzman † Shoushan Frost † Marie Ciuffo
12:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Wednesday	December 17
8:00 a.m.	† Sandra Mattera † Joseph Catania
12:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
7:00 p.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish
Thursday	December 18
8:00 a.m.	† holy souls in Purgatory
12:00 p.m.	† Stanley Bavaro
Friday	December 19
8:00 a.m.	† Fr. Luciano Cruz
12:00 p.m.	† John Rienstra † Laraine Corvo † Alan Rienstra
Saturday	December 20
5:00 p.m.	† Catherine W. Platz (12th Ann.) † Charles Garske † Neal Boyce † Joseph Andelora † Isabel Salleroli (heavenly birthday) † Gerald Mathes † Michael Anthony Bellavia (23rd Ann.)
7:00 p.m.	† Joan & Vincent Phalon † Anna Chuda † Millie Carrano † Johanna Smith
Sunday	December 21
7:30 a.m.	† Jessica Covino (heavenly birthday) † Wanda Rodzen (15th Ann.) L Mary Young
8:45 a.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish
9:00 a.m. (CC)	† Thomas Shields III (heavenly birthday)
10:30 a.m.	† Kathy Marshall † Joan Santoro (7th Ann.) † George Anderson † Renee Wolfarth (23rd Ann.) L Stephen Vecchiotti
12:00 p.m.	† Louis Gioffre † Eileen Amoruso † Marie Dato † Mary Ann Kellner † Rosemarie Lastra

...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 McMahan, Joy Wechter, Rozalia Maziarz, Bernice Staudinger, Brian Carey, Amarachi Amadi Okere, Sherri Rocco, Tom Macallen, David Grish, Maria Gambatese, Richie Salch

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

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

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



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





SCHEDULE



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

©LPI

Daily Mass at 8:00 a.m. and noon
Advent Weekdays, December 1st – 23rd

Communal Reconciliation Service
Saturday, December 13th at 11:00 a.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

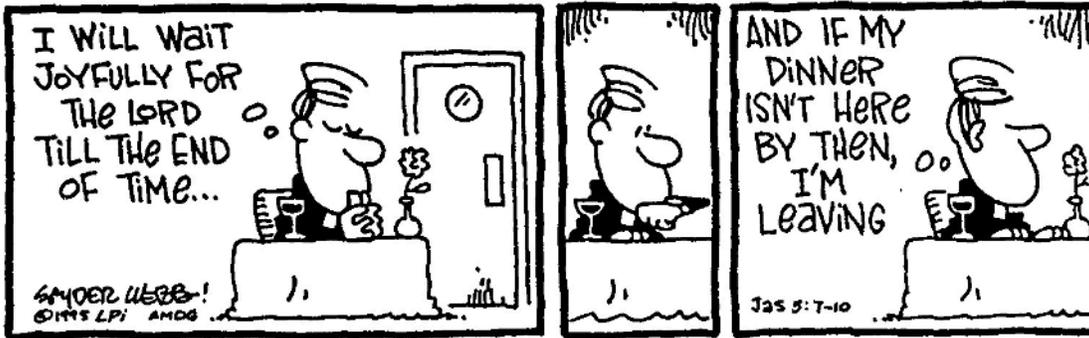
Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 24th
2:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant followed by Mass
4:00 p.m. Mass in the church and in the Carnevale Center
6:00 p.m. Mass in English in the church
8:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish in the church
12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass in English in the church (livestreamed)

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

OR SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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!



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, OFM
For more information, please call the Parish Office.

Music Ministry in Concert

Snow Angel

January 4, 2:30pm in the church

Join us as we mark the end of the Christmas season with a warm Epiphany celebration, featuring Christmas favorites—both secular and sacred—and a performance of Snow Angel by Sarah Quartel for choir and cello.

Presented by
The Chamber and Children's Choirs.

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

BLUE Christmas Service

Service
Finding Hope in the Dark

Join us for a Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the church. This gentle, reflective service offers comfort for anyone finding the holiday season difficult due to grief, loss, or other hardships. Together, we'll create a quiet, sacred space to acknowledge pain while holding onto hope through prayer, music, and candlelight. All are welcome.

Special guest speaker: Rev. Kathleen Edwards-Chase

Breakfast with Santa is always a fun event for our parish family! We especially appreciated Santa's message at Mass, that in the midst of all the hustle and bustle, we need to remember that Jesus is the greatest gift of all!
Thanks to Santa, Elfie, and all of our Knights of Columbus for their amazing work!



On November 20th, 55 parishioners concluded our first Alpha session. For 11 weeks, they came together to share a meal, watch a short video, and speak openly about their faith and life's biggest questions. It was a wonderful experience of faith sharing, community building, and excellent food. A special thank you to Women of Prayer and Spirit, Eucharistic Ministers, JPIC, Bereavement, and Women's Cornerstone ministries for helping to provide wonderful dinners on a few of the nights.
Stay tuned for more information on how to join our next session of Alpha!





St. Mary's Knights of Columbus



Thank you St. Mary's family for your continued support!
Without you, we would never be able to do the charitable work that our found, Fr. McGivney, called us to do.
We wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year!

The **Good Works Gang Ministry** is a group of parishioners helping those in need. Projects have included a variety of activities including light projects, yard work, and transportation. If you would like to join the "gang" or if you, or someone you know, need assistance please email smc@stmarys-pompton.org.

St. Mary's Good Works Gang Ministry members **Eric Schloerb** and **Ron Rauschart** trimming shrubs at a parishioner's home (below).



We welcome into the Body of Christ...
Braeden James Zucker and **Rose Linda Perla!**

Although we are most used to seeing infant baptisms, the Church joyously baptizes children (and adults!) of any age. If you or someone you know would like to get baptized, at any age and at any stage of life, please reach out to one of the friars. They will steer you in the right direction!

FOOD PANTRY

Upcoming Food Pantry distribution dates/times:

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)
Saturday, January 17	9:30am to 3:30pm (arrive by 3:00)
Wednesday, January 21	4:00pm to 7:00pm (arrive by 6:30)

Current needed items:

Jar spaghetti sauce, lasagna, plain bread crumbs, hot chocolate, bar soap, laundry detergent 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 purchased online and mailed directly to the church at
31 Pompton Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442.**

NO CLOTHING DONATIONS PLEASE.



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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The final rehearsal for those children participating in the Christmas Pageant will be on December 19th at 4:00 p.m. in the church.

Grades 1 through 5 are preparing for the coming of Jesus and have completed their Advent workshops. Children were able to describe their understanding of Advent, and learn how Advent is celebrated. They learned about all the symbols of the Advent wreath including the four candles. They also completed a craft to enhance their understanding of Advent.

Come and celebrate Mass with us! Set aside the hustle and bustle of the season and prepare spiritually for the coming of our Savior.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

LA TEMPORADA DE ADVIENTO



St. Mary's is offering a six-session Bible Study on the Book of Genesis, Chapters 1-11, entitled God Makes a Start.

Classes will meet for six Tuesdays from January 13th to February 17th in the Banta Room of the Carnevale Center.

There will be a morning section (10:00 – 11:30 AM) and an evening section (7:00 – 8:30 PM).

The cost for the course is \$30 and includes a booklet which can be picked up in the Parish Office during office hours. Each section is limited to 31 participants, so register early. You can register for the Bible Study on our website or by visiting or calling the Parish Office.



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.

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

Saint Mary's Church invites you to be part of

WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE 2026

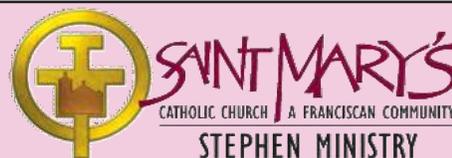
Many Paths, ONE Destination

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.



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



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

THANK YOU
for your generosity

A big THANK YOU to all that contributed to our Thanksgiving Food Collection! With your help, we were able to make Thanksgiving so special for those in need in our community.

Special thanks to Christ Church, Pompton Lakes Cardinal Cheerleaders, Meghan Moyle and the Student Council, Girl Scouts and Lincoln School, and Luca and friends from Wayne Hills High School!



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>

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 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.



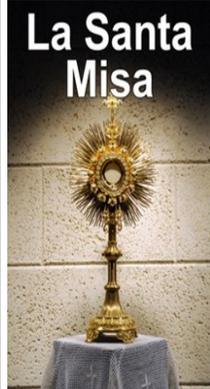
MINISTERIO HISPANO DE SANTA MARIA

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.

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.- 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.

3.- 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.

4.- No habrá misa en español ni el 25 de diciembre ni el miércoles 31 de diciembre a las 7:00pm.

5.- Celebraremos la Epifanía (Día de Reyes Magos) el domingo 4 de enero de 2026.

6.- Señor de Esquipulas – La festividad se celebrará el domingo 19 de enero de 2026. Se invita a todos los que deseen participar en la celebración del Cristo Negro de Esquipulas a ponerse en contacto con Milagros Anto.

Iglesia Católica de Santa María y
Comunidad Franciscana

Donaciones
en línea

escanea para donar



stmmarys-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 A – III Domingo de Adviento (14 de diciembre de 2025)

Primera Lectura: Isaías 35, 1-6a. 10
Salmo Responsorial: Salmo 145, 7. 8-9a. 9bc-10
Segunda Lectura: Santiago 5, 7-10
+Evangelio: Mateo 11, 2-11

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.



El Tercer Domingo de Adviento, conocido como Domingo de Gaudete (“Alégrese”), es un regalo en medio del camino: la Iglesia nos invita a hacer una pausa en la espera y dejar que la alegría de la cercanía del Señor renueve nuestra fe. En la liturgia, el color rosado y la tercera vela de la corona nos recuerdan que la noche no es eterna y que la luz de Cristo ya está irrumpiendo en nuestra historia. Para nuestra comunidad hispana en la parroquia de Santa María en Pompton Lakes, este domingo es una invitación a no dejarnos robar la esperanza, aun en medio de dificultades económicas, familiares o migratorias. Gaudete nos

enseña que la alegría cristiana no es superficial ni ingenua; nace de saber que Dios cumple sus promesas y camina con su pueblo. Las lecturas de este domingo suelen insistir en el gozo de los que ven la acción de Dios: los corazones se fortalecen, los abatidos se levantan, los pobres reciben la Buena Nueva. Como comunidad parroquial, estamos llamados a reconocer los signos de esa presencia en lo concreto: en la solidaridad entre familias, en el servicio silencioso de tantos voluntarios, en los pequeños milagros de reconciliación y perdón que suceden en nuestro entorno. Para el Ministerio Hispano, el Domingo de Gaudete es también un llamado a testimoniar una alegría que evangeliza. Nuestro canto, nuestra manera de celebrar, nuestras tradiciones y expresiones de fe pueden ser luz para otros que se sienten lejos de la Iglesia o de Dios. Vivir Gaudete significa preguntarnos: ¿Cómo puedo ser motivo de consuelo para alguien esta semana? ¿Cómo puede mi familia ser signo de esperanza para otra familia? La alegría que se comparte en comunidad se vuelve fuerza para todos.

Finalmente, este domingo nos prepara de manera especial para la Navidad: no solo adornando la casa o el templo, sino dejando que el Señor adorne el corazón con paciencia, mansedumbre, generosidad y confianza. A nivel personal, se nos invita a dedicar más tiempo a la oración y a la Eucaristía; a nivel comunitario, a sostener nuestras iniciativas de caridad, acompañar a los que sufren y acoger con cariño a quienes se acercan por primera vez.

Que el Gaudete de este Adviento nos encuentre como una parroquia que se alegra unida, que sabe esperar junta y que se dispone a recibir a Jesús con un corazón sencillo, agradecido y abierto a todos.

FUENTE: DESDELAFE.COM

SEMERARO & FAHRNEY LLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Mark J. Semeraro, Esq.
Managing Member
Licensed in NJ & NY
AV® Peer Review Rated

Land Use, Employment Law, Personal Injury and Real Estate.
msemeraro@semerarolaw.com ~ semerarolaw.com
155 Route 46, Suite 108, Wayne, NJ 07470 ~ 90 East Halsey Road, Suite 333, Parsippany, NJ 07054
main 973.988.5070 fax 973.988.5533 cell 973.775.2290

WarmAire.com
973-897-8870

WARMAIRE
HEATING • COOLING

24 HOUR
EMERGENCY SERVICE AVAILABLE

HVACR#:19HC00291600

THE MICHAUD GROUP

A BETTER TOMORROW STARTS HERE

HOLISTIC MARKETING SOLUTIONS

The Michaud Group, LLC, is a family based marketing company, specializing in Behavioral Health Care, specifically Substance Use Treatment Marketing.

With personal & professional experience in the field, we understand how addiction is a family disease & strive to market ONLY for the best facilities with the suffering and loved ones in mind.

973-997-9942 @themichaudgroup https://www.themichaudgroup.org

Managed Home Accessibility
Transforming Homes • Enhancing Lives

- Accessible Bathrooms
- Stair Lifts • Wheelchair Lifts
- Ceiling Mounted Lifts
- Wheelchair Ramps

ManagedHomeAccessibility.com
(201) 381-1489

Monica's Italian Restaurant
COZY ITALIAN FARE & FULL BAR
LUNCH • DINNER • TAKE OUT • PRIVATE PARTIES
973-616-5457 • monicasrestaurant.net
Now Open on Sundays at 1 PM
One Lakeside Avenue • Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442

Pinoy Auto Repair

Specializing in European,
Domestic & All Other Imports
321 Hamburg Tpk • Pompton Lakes
973-835-2100

Reddy & Reddy
Attorneys at Law
JOHN J. REDDY, JR. • CHRISTA H. REDDY
Wills • Estates • Real Estate
973-831-5800
9 Bartholf Avenue, Pompton Lakes
www.reddyreddylaw.com

BOOKKEEPING MADE SIMPLE LET US HELP YOU experience the FREEDOM of organized finances!
SIMPLY FOUR FINANCIALS WITH 24
Basic Bookkeeping
Advanced Bookkeeping
Virtual CFO Services
Financial Analysis
First Meeting Free & 50% off of your software subscription for 6 months!
862-453-8884 www.bmsbooks.com

Richards Funeral Home, INC.

Providing Funeral Services for over 200 years
SINCE 1812

973-835-0164

4 NEWARK POMPTON TPK.
RIVERDALE, NJ 07457
Conveniently located 1 block off of Interstate 287 Exit 53

BRYAN L. RICHARDS
MANAGER
NJ Lic. No. 4049

www.richardsfuneralhome.com

BRIGHTVIEW SENIOR LIVING WAYNE
Visit our Welcome Center for a personal preview.
Call 973-988-2582 to schedule your visit today.
Welcome Center 1139 Hamburg Turnpike | Wayne
www.BrightviewWayne.com
Aged Independent Living | Assisted Living | Enhanced Care | Dementia Care

Bonieltos
FOOD | FRIENDS | FAMILY
973-831-0222
72 Hamburg Tpk.
Riverdale, NJ
Open for Lunch & Dinner • Remember to BYOB!
Catering for all Occasions

Shepherd's Haven
Social Adult Day Center
Open 9:00-3:00pm M-F
Call to Schedule a Free Day
973-835-4747
420 Ramapo Avenue, Pompton Lakes
www.shepherdshavennj.org
socialadult@shepherdshavennj.org

Established 1989
Q E
QUAIL ELECTRIC INC.
Residential • Commercial • Industrial
Tony Quail
973-886-2681
LICENSE #9619
P.O. BOX 459
POMPTON LAKES NJ 07442

SUPPORT OUR PARISH

BANDELLI JEWELRY SUPPLY, LLC
Specializing in all your Jewelry Tool needs
CUSTOM WORK! LET US DESIGN THAT SPECIAL GIFT
We Buy, Sell & Repair Fine Vintage Watches
WITH EVERY TEN WATCHES ONE FREE
We Buy Gold, Silver & Antique Jewelry
Est. 2004 973-709-0300
577 Newark-Pompton Turnpike, Wayne

Vibrant Senior Living in All Seasons
Get your FREE brochure!
Call 1-800-357-3798 or visit CedarCrest.com.
1541830
Cedar Crest
BY ERICKSON SENIOR LIVING®

IF YOU LIVE ALONE You Need MDMedAlert!
✓ Ambulance ✓ Police ✓ Family
✓ GPS & Fall Alert
CALL NOW! **800.808.9294**
md-medalert.com
As Low As **\$19⁹⁵** /mo.
I have peace of mind. Mom remains independent.

DOES YOUR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION NEED A NEWSLETTER?
Engaging, ad-supported print and digital newsletters to reach your community.
OUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER EDITION
Scan to contact us!
Visit lpicommunities.com

Pure Life Massage, LLC & Pure Life, End of Life, Doula
Owner **Dorothy Coyne**
LMT/CMLD (37 YEARS EXPERIENCE)
purelifemassage.weebly.com
973-610-5578 - Located in Riverdale
Certified in: Medical & Oncology Massage & Manual Lymphatic Drainage
Specializing in: Post & Prenatal Massage, Scar Tissue Release, Breast Massage, Castor Oil Liver Cleanses & Reiki

SPRING HOME REPAIRS - FREE ESTIMATES
ROOFING • CHIMNEYS • GUTTERS • MASONRY • SIDEWALKS & STEPS
We Find & Fix Leaks!

EXPERT CHIMNEY & ROOFING
Family Owned/Operated - Lic.#13VH11097900 • Bonded & Insured - 20 Years
Serving All of New Jersey
\$1100 OFF ANY NEW ROOF REPLACEMENT
20% OFF Any Roof, Chimney, Gutter, Masonry Repair & SENIORS
732-520-9554 | www.expertchimneyroofing.com

Oakland MEMORIAL HOME

330 Ramapo Valley Rd., Oakland, NJ • 201-337-6161 • Oaklandmemorial.com

Convenient for you and your NYC relations & friends. • Exit 58 off Rt. 287 1/4 mile on Rt. 202

Bradford R. Waudby
LICENSED MANAGER - NJ LIC. NO. 3497

Joseph C. Cardiello Jr.
DIRECTOR - NJ LIC. NO. 4384

Serving Pompton Lakes & The St. Mary's
Community With Understanding Since 1966
Pre-Arrangement & Pre-Planning



IRON EAGLE HAPKIDO MARTIAL ARTS ACADEMY

KIDS, TEENS, ADULTS

26 Lakeside Avenue, Pompton Lakes
hapkidoamerica.com • 973-839-9700
Master Mike D'Aloia, Parishioner



Tony's Boulevard Service Center, Inc.

Tony Cangialosi
276 Boulevard
Pompton Plains, NJ 07444
973-835-2333
547 Newark Pompton Tpke.
Pompton Plains, NJ 07444
973-835-1217



Heal Your Heart

LIFE & LOVE COACHING
REINVENT RELATIONSHIPS

Mary Howard

theleveluplifestyle.com



**WE BUY ALL VEHICLES
CAR & TRUCK RENTALS**
973-831-9005

Warranties On
All Vehicles



891 RINGWOOD AVENUE, HASKELL, NJ

www.Ameri-Cars.com



The Cardinal Cafe BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Monday-Friday 6am-3pm
Saturday 7am-3pm • Sunday 7am-2pm

973-831-6871

128 WANAQUE AVE., POMPTON LAKES

Choices to Honor Every Life
Serving the Community with Honor and Dignity
James T. Etheridge, CFSP, Manager | N.J. License No. 4148
86 Bartholdi Ave., Butler • 973-838-2290
themorrisonfuneralhome.com



scura

SCURA • WIGFIELD • HEYER
STEVENS • CAMMAROTA

A full service law firm, our
attorneys are prepared to serve
your legal needs in New Jersey.

Offices in Wayne, Hoboken, Hackensack, Newark & Secaucus



JOHN J. SCURA

1599 HAMBURG TPK., WAYNE, NJ • 973-696-8391

JSCURA@SCURA.COM • WWW.SCURA.COM



973.650.2620

Proudly Serving All Our Loyal Customers

Craig L. Wilkie

HEATING • WATER HEATERS
DRAIN CLEANING • GENERATOR SYSTEMS

Lic.# 11183



LAUREN TURANO, ABR

Sales Associate | REALTOR®

C. 973.600.7236

O. 973.694.8000

laurenturanosellsnj.com

LaurenTuranoNJRealtor@gmail.com

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE A
COMPLIMENTARY MARKET ANALYSIS!

1410 Valley Road • Wayne, NJ 07470
Owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC



Parishioner



Christine Bruno

Real Estate Sales and Consultation



COLDWELL
BANKER

Office 973-694-8000

Cell - 973-583-1958

SENIOR CITIZEN CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL

"Supporting Seniors Every Step of the way"
Empathy, Experience, and Empowerment
for the next chapter

Call today to schedule a complimentary market
analysis and ask about my "BLUE BOW" program.



Life long Parishioner
Cornerstone Sister
Religious Ed Volunteer



Scanlan's
WHERE LIFE IS CELEBRATED

973-831-1300

Amanda Gates,

NJ Lic. 4895, Manager

781 Newark-Pompton Tpke.,

Pompton Plains, NJ 07444

www.scanlanfuneralhome.com

office@scanlanfuneral.com



catholicmatch®
New Jersey



CatholicMatch.com/NJ



- Interior/Exterior Painting
- Soft Washing
- Concrete Floor Coating
- Cabinet Refinishing
- Carpentry

973-706-6033 • www.spectrumpaintingllc.com



Ad info. 1-800-477-4574 • Publication Support 1-800-888-4574 • www.4lpi.com

St. Mary's Church, Pompton Lakes, NJ

03-1364