



# 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

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



©LPi

December 21, 2025

## FRIAR'S DESK

### Fourth Advent Candle: Love

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about how God spoke to Joseph in a dream, advising him not to divorce Mary. This is an image that spoke to the heart of Pope Francis, who kept a small statue of St. Joseph, sound asleep, right on his desk. When a major problem popped up, Pope Francis would grab a piece of paper, write down the issue and slide the note right underneath that little sleeping statue. He would essentially ask St. Joseph to dream on the problem for him.

Advent is a time of dreaming. I'm sure many of our children have been dreaming about what will be under the Christmas tree. Many parents and grandparents might be dreaming of seeing their children and grandchildren over the holidays. Maybe we've been dreaming about what the new year might bring.

This Gospel story reminds us to take the time to dream about what God is asking of us as we prepare to welcome his Son into the world. To dream about what we can do to truly prepare the way of the Lord. To wonder about what is our part to play in bringing Christ into the world.

Pope Francis believed we should all embrace this "Joseph spirit." Pope Francis wanted all of us to be dreamers, but the practical kind. To dream of a better life and a better world and then actually do something about it.

Advent is a time to stop the worrying and start dreaming about what a world with "God with us" (Emmanuel) actually looks like. It undoubtedly looks like a world filled with hope. A world filled with peace. A world filled with joy. A world filled with love.

May that Love permeate your life and all of your dreams during this Fourth week of Advent.

—Father John Aherne, OFM

Fr. John Aherne's own statue of the sleeping St. Joseph, with the problems of the world underneath it!



### Cuarta vela de Adviento: Amor

En el evangelio de este domingo, oímos cómo Dios le habló a José en un sueño, aconsejándole que no se divorciara de María. Esta es una imagen que le tocó el corazón al Papa Francisco, quien tenía una pequeña estatua de San José, profundamente dormido, justo en su escritorio. Cuando surgía un problema importante, el Papa Francisco tomaba un trozo de papel, escribía el asunto y deslizaba la nota justo debajo de la pequeña estatua durmiente. Esencialmente le pedía a San José que "soñara" con el problema por él.

El Adviento es un tiempo para soñar. Estoy seguro de que muchos de nuestros hijos han estado soñando con lo que habrá debajo del árbol de Navidad. Muchos padres y abuelos quizás estén soñando con ver a sus hijos y nietos durante las fiestas. Tal vez hemos estado soñando con lo que podría traer el año nuevo.

Esta historia del evangelio nos recuerda que debemos tomarnos el tiempo para soñar con lo que Dios nos está pidiendo mientras nos preparamos para dar la bienvenida a su Hijo al mundo. Para soñar con lo que podemos hacer para preparar verdaderamente el camino del Señor. Para reflexionar sobre cuál es nuestro papel en traer a Cristo al mundo.

El Papa Francisco creía que todos deberíamos adoptar este "espíritu de José". El Papa Francisco quería que todos fuéramos soñadores, pero del tipo práctico. Soñar con una vida mejor y un mundo mejor y luego realmente hacer algo al respecto.

El Adviento es un tiempo para dejar de preocuparse y empezar a soñar con cómo se ve realmente un mundo con "Dios con nosotros" (Emmanuel). Indudablemente se ve como un mundo lleno de esperanza. Un mundo lleno de paz. Un mundo lleno de alegría. Un mundo lleno de amor.

Que ese Amor impregne tu vida y todos tus sueños durante esta Cuarta semana de Adviento.

—Father John Aherne, OFM

¡La propia estatua de San José durmiente del padre John Aherne, con los problemas del mundo debajo de ella!

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

**FRANCISCAN FRIARS SERVING YOU**

Fr. John Aherne, OFM, x139	<a href="mailto:jaherne@stmarys-pompton.org">jaherne@stmarys-pompton.org</a>
Fr. John Alderson, OFM	<a href="mailto:rochester14220@gmail.com">rochester14220@gmail.com</a>
Fr. John Coughlin, OFM, x169	<a href="mailto:jcoughlin@stmarys-pompton.org">jcoughlin@stmarys-pompton.org</a>
Deacon Tom Kimak	<a href="mailto:Tkimak@stmarys-pompton.org">Tkimak@stmarys-pompton.org</a>

**BAPTISMS**

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

**BUSINESS OFFICE**

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

**FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS**

Keith Orotosky, x145	<a href="mailto:korotosky@stmarys-pompton.org">korotosky@stmarys-pompton.org</a>
Phillip Epstein, x140	<a href="mailto:pepstein@stmarys-pompton.org">pepstein@stmarys-pompton.org</a>

**HISPANIC MINISTRY**

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

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

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

**OUTREACH MINISTRY**

Food Pantry 973-831-4442	<a href="mailto:foodpantry@stmarys-pompton.org">foodpantry@stmarys-pompton.org</a>
Value our Veterans	<a href="mailto:valueourveterans@stmarys-pompton.org">valueourveterans@stmarys-pompton.org</a>

**PARISH SECRETARY**

Nicole Pizza-George [ngeorge@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:twong@stmarys-pompton.org">twong@stmarys-pompton.org</a>
Cathy Feld, x103	
Grades 6 to 8 & Confirmation	<a href="mailto:cfeld@stmarys-pompton.org">cfeld@stmarys-pompton.org</a>
Debbie Borroto, x130	
Admin. Asst./ Local Youth Protection/ Safe Environment Coordinator	<a href="mailto:debbie@stmarys-pompton.org">debbie@stmarys-pompton.org</a>

**SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY YOUNG ADULT & ADULT**

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

**SPECIAL NEEDS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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

**WEDDINGS**

Getting married at St. Mary's? We'd love to celebrate the sacrament of marriage with you! Please contact Lynda Rogalski at [lrogalski@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto:lrogalski@stmarys-pompton.org) six months to a year before your desired date.

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

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

**FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**



**UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO**

Please call **973-835-0374** or send an email to [smc@stmarys-pompton.org](mailto:smc@stmarys-pompton.org) if:

- your address, email address or telephone number has changed, and/or
- a parishioner has been married and/or
- a parishioner has moved.

Parish records need to be current so please be sure to inform us of any changes as soon as possible.

Thank you!

**Calendar of Events**

Please see our Parish Calendar for all the current events and activities going on at St. Mary's!

<https://stmarys-pompton.org/parish-calendar>



**Worship Adorar**

Scan for worship aids  
Escanea para ayudas para la adoración



**Online Giving Donaciones en línea**

Scan to make a donation  
Escanea para hacer una donación



**Pray**



**Orar**

**Serve**



**Atender**

**Give**



**Donar**



## MASS SCHEDULE

### **SATURDAY**

9:00 AM—Liturgy of the Word with Communion (Prayer Room)

Vigil Masses:

5:00 PM—English

7:00 PM—English

### **SUNDAY**

7:30 AM—English

8:45 AM—Español (livestreamed)

9:00 AM—English (Carnevale Center)

10:30 AM—English (livestreamed)

12:00 PM—English

### **WEEKDAYS**

8:00 AM—Monday-Friday in English (livestreamed)

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

7:00 PM—Wednesday en Español (livestreamed)

### **MASSES ONLINE AT:**

[www.stmarys-pompton.org](http://www.stmarys-pompton.org)

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

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



**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:** Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79. Christmas Eve Masses: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

**Thursday:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

**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 loving memory of **Loriann Brown Calogero** from her mother.



The Parish Office will be closed from December 24th through January 4th.



### 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](http://www.holy-bones.org).**

# MASS INTENTIONS † = Deceased, L = Living



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. SIMBANG GABI	† Joan & Vincent Phalon † Anna Chuda † Millie Carrano † Johanna Smith † Renzo Bonino
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
Monday	December 22
8:00 a.m.	L thanksgiving for blessings
12:00 p.m.	† Thomas McKenzie (5th Ann.)
Tuesday	December 23
8:00 a.m.	† Colleen Haerle † Mat & May Garofalo
12:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Wednesday	December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
8:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
NO NOON MASS	NO NOON MASS
2:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
4:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
6:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
8:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Thursday	December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
12:00 a.m. MIDNIGHT MASS	People of the Parish
7:30 a.m.	People of the Parish
9:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
10:30 a.m.	People of the Parish
12:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Friday	December 26 DAILY MASS AT 9:00 A.M.
9:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
Saturday	December 27
5:00 p.m.	† Sean & Nancy O'Flaherty † Deirdre O'Flaherty † Lucy M. Serrano
7:00 p.m.	† Rulour B. Torio (1st Ann.)
Sunday	December 28
7:30 a.m.	† Russ Pagana † William Terkanick
8:45 a.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish
9:00 a.m. (CC)	† Peter & Mary Barrett
10:30 a.m.	† Fatima Fries (heavenly birthday) † Teresa Marsala (1st Ann.) † Barbara Benucci † Walter James Dinehart † Timothy Violand (40th Ann.) † Rulour B. Torio (1st Ann.)
12:00 p.m.	† Veronica Picone † Fatima Fries (heavenly birthday)

## ...THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY PASSED

Carl P. Padula, Michael Feigenbaum, Donald E. Koonjy

## ...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, Erin Panzella, Rozalia Maziarz, Bernice Staudinger, Brian Carey, Amarachi Amadi Okere, Sherri Rocco, Tom Macallen, David Grish, Maria Gambatese, Richie Salch, Peggy Turpin

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. Mepp Ashley, SGT Ryan J. Heppel, SPC Dean V. Lucas, LCpl Michael Vignuli, Major Daniel J. Ciccarelli, Sgt. Justyn Shovlowsky, Captain Austin Canning, SSG Tiffany Thumann, TSSgt. Scott Miller, Capt. Krystal Thumann, Cpl F. S. Raza, Sean Flanagan, Capt. Matthew W. D'Amico, USMC Lt. 1st Thomas Seneski; Sgt. Anthony W. Gabriel; Brian Hansen, Sgt. Ashlee Quigle; Capt. Daniel M. Kearney, USMC; 2nd LT Emily Simone and Navy Lt. Ryan Hackett, Tracie Kasko, LT Vincent Bellomo, Staff Sergeant Andrew Murphy, Emmanuel Folleco, Sergeant Denise Gonzalez, Staff Sergeant Victoria Zimbaro.

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

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](mailto:parishcouncil@stmarys-pompton.org)! For the most up-to-date report of the Parish Pastoral Council, please scan the QR code.



**Diane**



**Toma**



**Zach**



**Kristine**



**Greg**



**Mark**



**Joanne**



**Dino**



**Katie**



# SCHEDULE



## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

©LPI

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

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  
NO NOON 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



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.



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



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.



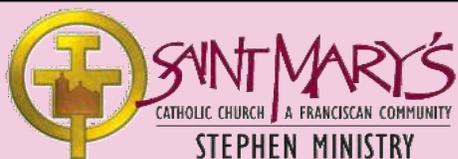
*Music Ministry in Concert*

# 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 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*

**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**




**scan to register**

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



Santa definitely brought the joy at our Special Needs Christmas Dinner Dance!  
Thanks to everyone who helped make it a magical night. Merry Christmas to all!



Thank you to all who joined us for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe! From the lively procession to the inspiring Mass and the joyful fellowship that followed, the celebration was filled with faith, community, and heartfelt devotion.



Through the waters of Baptism, we welcome into the Body of Christ...**Nora Marie Lauck.**



We had a wonderful time at the Christmas Family Sing-a-long. We sang carols, made ornaments, and had hot chocolate and cookies as we watched Frosty the Snowman. Mark your calendars for next year so you don't miss out on this fun family activity!



## FOOD PANTRY

### Upcoming Food Pantry distribution dates/times:

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)
Saturday, January 24	9:30am to 3:30pm (arrive by 3:00)
Wednesday, January 28	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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mcioletti@stmarys-pompton.org).

## 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

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Set aside the hustle and bustle of the season and come join us on Christmas Eve with the presentation of the **Children's Christmas Pageant**. You will hear angelic voices singing and costumed children presenting of the story of the birth of Jesus. The cast attended rehearsals and worked hard to prepare to entertain our community!

The pageant begins at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Church and you can join them for the celebration of Christmas Mass immediately following the pageant.

## SPECIAL NEEDS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Registration is open for our Special Needs Religious Education classes. First Reconciliation and First Eucharist classes will begin in January for students in Grade 2 or above. Students need to have already been baptized. Anyone wishing to register their child and/or would like further information, please contact Andrea Piccirillo at 973-835-0374.



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](mailto:smc@stmarys-pompton.org) for more information.



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>



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.



St. 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 Cornerstone Retreat makes a great gift for that special woman in your life! Call for more info!***

Thanks to funding from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in West & Central Africa, **Catholic Relief Services** is supporting over 1,100 families in the Lake region of Chad with cash for food and other needs, farming tools and seeds. More than 268,000 people have been displaced—many due to violence. You can help support this work. Please visit [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org) for more information!



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*Jubilee Year of Hope*  
**CLOSING  
MASS**

Join Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney and all the faithful as we close the Jubilee Year.

**Sunday,  
Dec. 28, 2025** **Cathedral of  
St. John the Baptist,  
Paterson**

**2:45 p.m.** Procession from Rodimer Center to Cathedral with parish banners.  
**3 p.m.** Mass. We ask all other faithful to be seated before Mass.

A special invitation to pilgrims, who participated in local pilgrimages and Rome. Special recognition will be given by Bishop Sweeney.

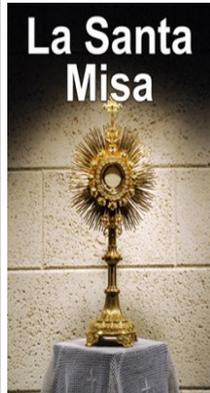
## MINISTERIO HISPANO DE SANTA MARIA

### La Santa Misa en español

Miércoles a las 7:00pm

Domingos a las 8:45am

En la iglesia Principal



### Bautismos en español

Requisitos: Certificado de Nacimiento del(a) niño(a), padrinos y asistir a una clase antes de la celebración del Sacramento (padres y padrinos). Información: Milagros Anto. Si desea bautizar su hijo(a) en inglés debe asistir a una clase y llamar a Lynda 973-835-0374 Ext 192.



### Visita de "Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe" a tu hogar.

Si deseas que Nuestra Morenita visite tu hogar ponte en contacto con **Angelina Nuci** después de nuestra misa dominical o escríbele al siguiente correo electrónico: [angehannuci@yahoo.com](mailto:angehannuci@yahoo.com). Cada domingo en misa con la bendición de nuestra comunidad; "Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe" es enviada a visitar cada familia que así lo requiere.

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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 21 de enero de 2026. Si alguien no puede comulgar por enfermedad u otra razón, avisa al Padre John Coughlin para una visita.

2.- **POSADAS 2025:** Agradecemos a las familias de Santa María que acogieron las posadas 2025 en sus hogares, donde compartimos fe, oración, cantos y alegría fraterna, fortaleciendo nuestra unión como comunidad de esperanza cristiana. Agradecemos también la generosidad y solidaridad de Mitchell y Verónica Ramírez quienes fueron los padrinos del Niño Jesús comunitario este 2025. Gracias infinitas.

### 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.

### Lecturas Bíblicas –Ciclo A – IV Domingo de Advient ( 21 de diciembre de 2025)

**Primera Lectura:** Isaías 7, 10-14  
**Salmo Responsorial:** Salmo 23, 1-2. 3-4ab. 5-6  
**Segunda Lectura:** Romanos 1, 1-7  
**+Evangelio:** Mateo 1, 18-24

### Ministerio de Proclamadores de la Palabra

Por favor comunicarse con Lourdes Huerta (973-270-3453). Este Ministerio se reunirá el lunes 19 de enero de 2026 de 7:30pm a 8:30pm en el salón Alma Banta del Centro Carnevale.



La Navidad de 2025 nos vuelve a colocar frente al corazón de la fe: Dios se hace niño, pobre y cercano, y decide habitar en medio de nosotros. El nacimiento de Jesús no es solo un recuerdo bonito del pasado, sino un acontecimiento vivo que transforma la manera en que miramos a Dios, a los demás y a nosotros mismos. En Belén, el Señor se nos revela humilde, frágil, necesitado de brazos que lo sostengan; así nos enseña que la verdadera grandeza está en el servicio y en la capacidad de amar sin condiciones. Como comunidad parroquial, estamos llamados a dejarnos asombrar de nuevo por este Dios que se hace uno de nosotros para caminar con su pueblo. En la vida comunitaria de Santa María, el pesebre nos recuerda que

la Iglesia está llamada a ser casa y familia para todos. Jesús nace en un establo porque no había lugar para Él, y esto nos interpela: ¿hay lugar para Cristo en nuestras agendas, en nuestros hogares, en nuestras prioridades? Cada vez que acogemos al que llega solo, al que está triste o confundido, estamos abriendo un “Belén” en nuestra parroquia. Las celebraciones litúrgicas, los villancicos, las confesiones, la Misa de Navidad y los gestos de caridad del tiempo navideño tienen sentido cuando se convierten en espacios concretos de encuentro, reconciliación y cercanía fraterna. Esta Navidad también nos enseña que Dios se manifiesta en lo pequeño y cotidiano. Jesús no nació entre aplausos y reflectores, sino en el silencio de la noche, acompañado por una familia sencilla y por pastores que trabajaban. Encarnar la Navidad en la vida diaria significa aprender a descubrir a Dios en lo simple: en la mesa compartida, en el trabajo honesto, en la paciencia con los hijos, en la escucha al anciano, en el perdón ofrecido y recibido. Cuando llevamos el espíritu de la Navidad a la escuela, al trabajo, al vecindario y a los espacios digitales, el “Gloria a Dios en el cielo” se convierte también en “paz en la tierra” aquí y ahora. Por eso, no basta con poner luces y regalos; la invitación es a dejar que el Niño Dios ilumine nuestras decisiones, nuestro uso del tiempo y de los recursos, nuestras relaciones y proyectos. Como comunidad hispana y parroquial, estamos llamados a salir de la rutina y preguntarnos: ¿qué cambio concreto me pide el Señor en esta Navidad? ¿Con quién debo reconciliarme? ¿A quién puedo acompañar o sostener? Si cada familia de Santa María encarna el mensaje de Belén con un gesto de amor, de justicia o de misericordia, entonces esta Navidad 2025 no será solo una fecha en el calendario, sino un verdadero nacimiento de Jesús en nuestra historia comunitaria. **FUENTE: ACIPRENSA.COM**

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