



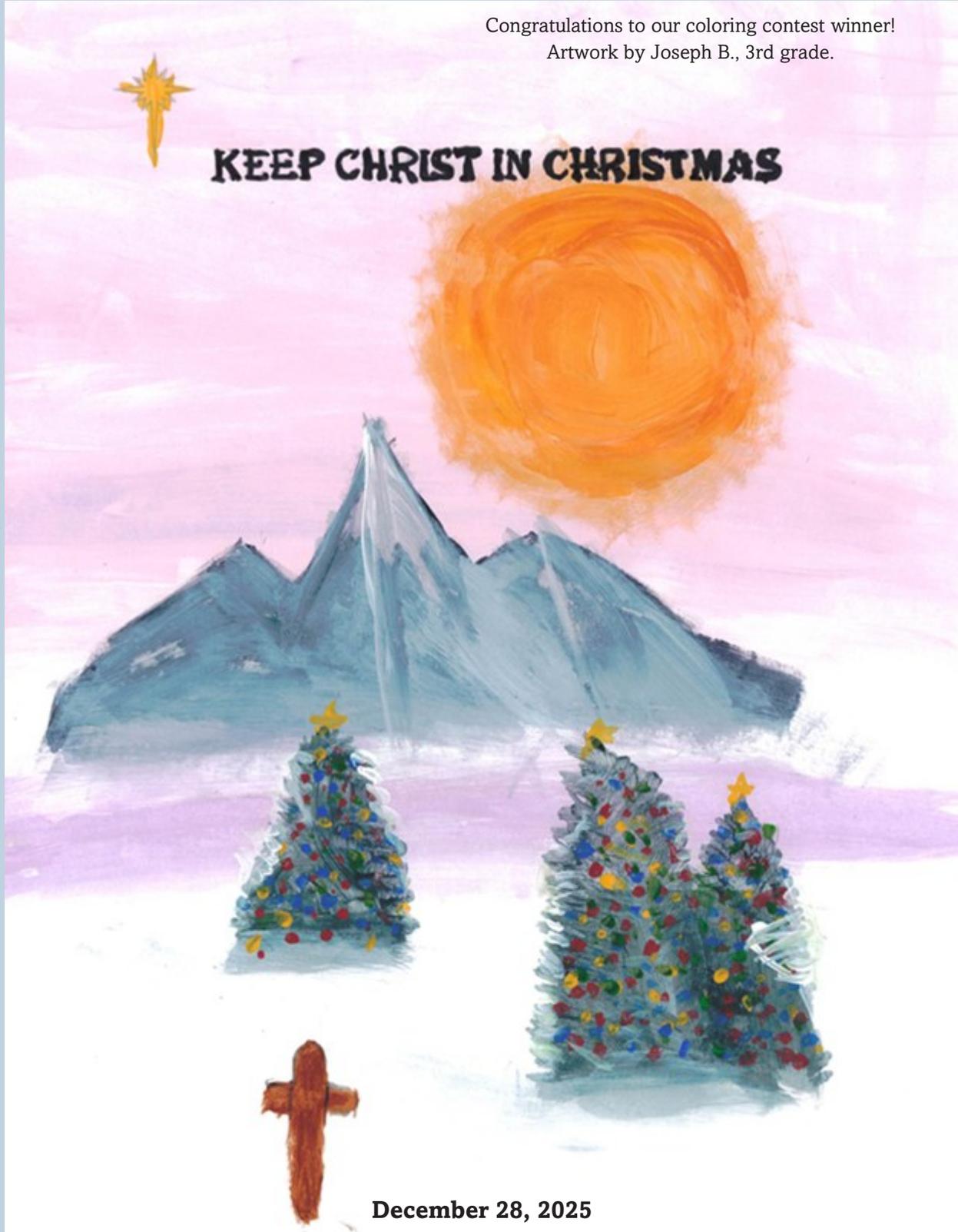
SAINT MARY'S

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

Congratulations to our coloring contest winner!
Artwork by Joseph B., 3rd grade.



December 28, 2025

FRIAR'S DESK

Christmas and its Promise of Joy and Light

There are many popular traditional Christmas songs. One of the best-known tunes at this time of the year in the English language is *Joy to the World*. Christmas celebrates the incarnation – the mystery of God made flesh in the world, the divine Word being born of the Virgin Mary and entering the world as a human being named Jesus of Nazareth. Having a God who wants to share in our human story and journey is the cause of overwhelming joy. The song begins:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room

How do we receive our king and prepare room for him in our lives? By believing! The Gospel passage for Christmas Mass during the day is from John 1:1-18. In it we hear, “But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name” (1:12). Belief opens the door to He whose “life is the light of the human race” (1:4). By believing we open our hearts to the joy and light that will only transform our lives.

The Christian understanding of joy is that it is not something that we manufacture. It is not even produced by pleasurable circumstances we experience in the world. It is supernatural in origin, a gift of the Holy Spirit which allows believers to rejoice even when they face suffering. It is rooted in relationship with God through the Christ He sent us; and in it, we find a hope and contentment that nothing in this temporary world can give us.

The joy and light we receive from Christ are gifts that are greater than anything we may find wrapped with our name on it beneath a Christmas tree. And they are the kind of gifts that we can only hold onto by bringing them into the lives of others.

From the friars and staff of St. Mary's Church, we wish you all a Christmas season filled with joy and light.

—Father John Coughlin, OFM

La Navidad y su Promesa de Alegría y Luz

Hay muchos villancicos tradicionales populares. Uno de los más conocidos en esta época del año en lengua inglesa es *Joy to the World*. La Navidad celebra la encarnación: el misterio de Dios hecho carne en el mundo, la Palabra divina nacida de la Virgen María y que entra en el mundo como un ser humano llamado Jesús de Nazaret. Tener a un Dios que desea compartir nuestra historia y nuestro camino humanos es motivo de una alegría desbordante. El canto comienza:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Que la tierra reciba a su Rey
Que cada corazón le haga un espacio

¿Cómo recibimos a nuestro Rey y le preparamos un lugar en nuestras vidas? ¡Creyendo! El pasaje del Evangelio para la Misa de Navidad durante el día es de Juan 1,1-18. En él escuchamos: “Pero a quienes lo recibieron, a los que creen en su nombre, les dio la potestad de llegar a ser hijos de Dios” (1,12). La fe abre la puerta a Aquel cuya “vida es la luz de la humanidad” (1,4). Al creer, abrimos nuestros corazones a la alegría y a la luz que transformarán nuestras vidas.

La comprensión cristiana de la alegría es que no es algo que nosotros producimos. Ni siquiera surge de las circunstancias placenteras que experimentamos en el mundo. Su origen es sobrenatural, un don del Espíritu Santo que permite a los creyentes alegrarse incluso en medio del sufrimiento. Está enraizada en la relación con Dios a través del Cristo que Él nos envió; y en ella encontramos una esperanza y una plenitud que nada en este mundo pasajero puede darnos.

La alegría y la luz que recibimos de Cristo son dones más grandes que cualquier cosa que podamos encontrar envuelta con nuestro nombre debajo de un árbol de Navidad. Y son el tipo de dones que solo podemos conservar al llevarlos a la vida de los demás.

De parte de los frailes y del personal de la Iglesia de Santa María, les deseamos a todos una temporada navideña llena de alegría y luz.

—Padre John Coughlin, 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



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Thursday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

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

Vigil Masses:

5:00 PM—English

7:00 PM—English

SUNDAY

7:30 AM—English

8:45 AM—Español (livestreamed)

9:00 AM—English (Carnevale Center)

10:30 AM—English (livestreamed)

12:00 PM—English

WEEKDAYS

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

7:00 PM—Wednesday en Español (livestreamed)

MASSES ONLINE AT:

www.stmarys-pompton.org

www.facebook.com/smcpompton

www.youtube.com/c/stmaryspomptonlakes



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 the **Alfred and Dorothy Ferraro Family.**



The Parish Office will be closed from December 24th through January 4th. We will reopen on Monday, January 5th. If you need a priest for an anointing or last rites during this time, please call 973-513-5201. You can also call the Parish Office and be directed from there.



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:

2026 - January 25th, February 22nd, March 22nd, April 19th, May 17th, June 14th



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 27
5:00 p.m.	† Sean & Nancy O'Flaherty † Deirdre O'Flaherty † Lucy M. Serrano † Marilyn Fatone † Teodoro Herrera (heavenly birthday)	
7:00 p.m.	† Roulour B. Torio (1st Ann.)	
Sunday		December 28
7:30 a.m.	† Russ Pagana † William Terkanick	
8:45 a.m. (Spanish)	† Enrique & Ligia Santander	
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.) † Roulour B. Torio (1st Ann.)	
12:00 p.m.	† Veronica Picone † Fatima Fries (heavenly birthday)	
Monday		December 29
8:00 a.m.	† Ariel Guzman	
Tuesday		December 30
8:00 a.m.	† Jack Famularo (1st Ann.)	
Wednesday		December 31
8:00 a.m.	† Roxanne Bedell	
7:00 p.m.	† Maria Madera DeCastillo	
Thursday		January 1 MASS AT 9:00 A.M. AND NOON
9:00 a.m.	† Matthew Rosado † Eileen Stampler	
12:00 p.m.	† Josephina Veluz Herrera (3rd Ann.)	
Friday		January 2 MASS AT 9:00 A.M.
9:00 a.m.	† Louis Lombardi	
Saturday		January 3
5:00 p.m.	† Edward Rafferty † Matthew Tavaglione (1st Ann.)	
7:00 p.m.	People of the Parish	
Sunday		January 4
7:30 a.m.	† Louis Vozzo † Gino Martino (1st Ann.) † John Joseph Bernard (26th Ann.)	
8:45 a.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish	
9:00 a.m. (CC)	People of the Parish	
10:30 a.m.	† Frank Tomaselli † William McEntee (1st Ann.) † Walter James Dinehart	
12:00 p.m.	† William Lindsay † Richard Kellner † Joseph Miglino	



...THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY PASSED

Dennis Kowalski

...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, 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, Joyce Hayes

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

...THOSE SERVING IN HARM'S WAY

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

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

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-prompton.org! For the most up-to-date report of the Parish Pastoral Council, please scan the QR code.



Diane



Toma



Zach



Kristine



Greg



Mark



Joanne



Dino



Katie

Thursday, January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Our (English-only) Mass Schedule is as follows:

Wed., December 31: Vigil Mass at 7:00 p.m. in English

Thurs., January 1: Mass at 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. in English



SCHEDULE



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

©LPI

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th

Daily Mass at 8:00 a.m.

NO NOON MASS

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.

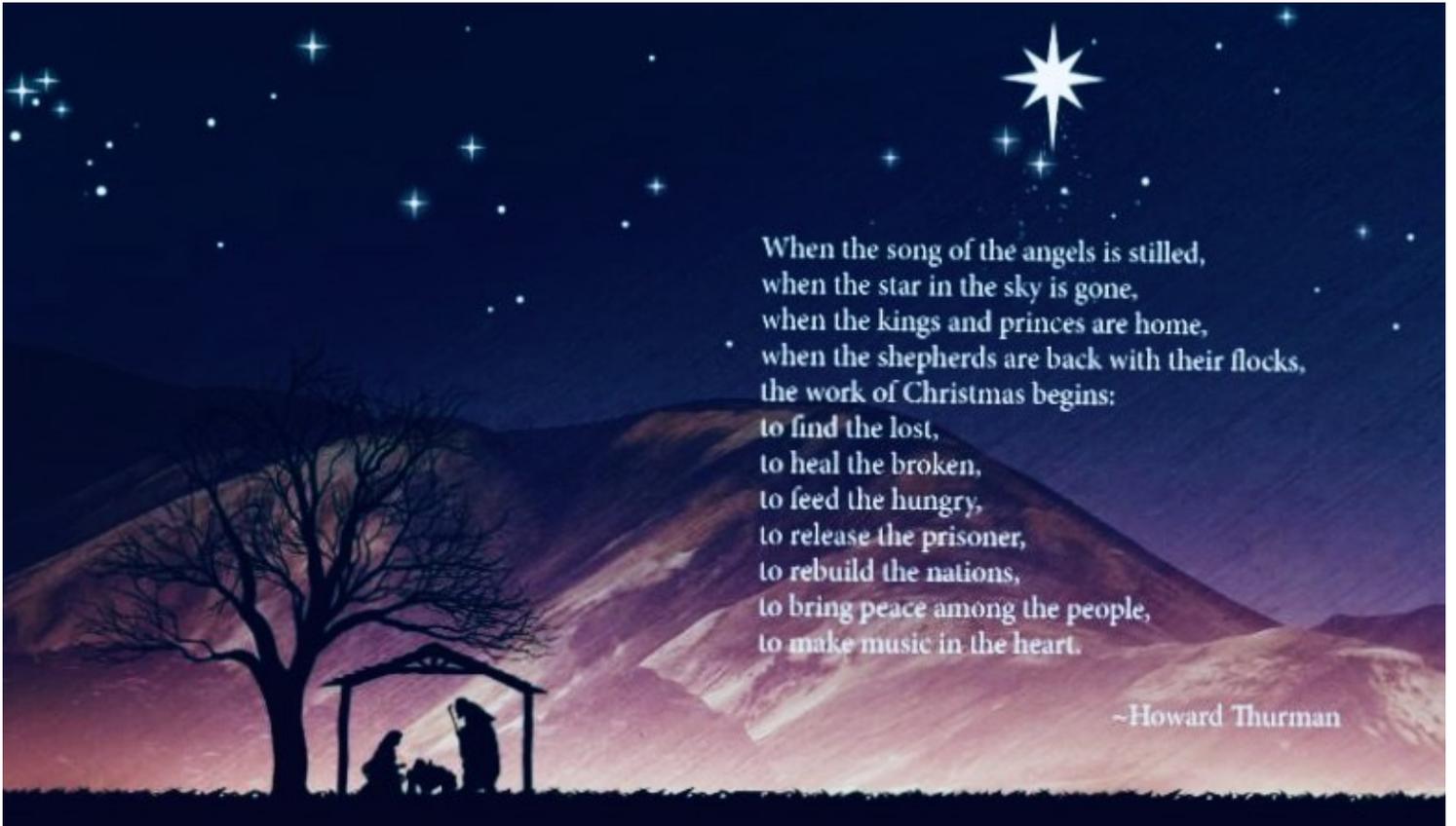
Thursday, January 1st at 9:00 a.m. and noon

No Spanish Mass

Christmas Concert

Music Ministry Concert

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



When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

~Howard Thurman

FOOD PANTRY

Upcoming Food Pantry distribution dates/times:

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

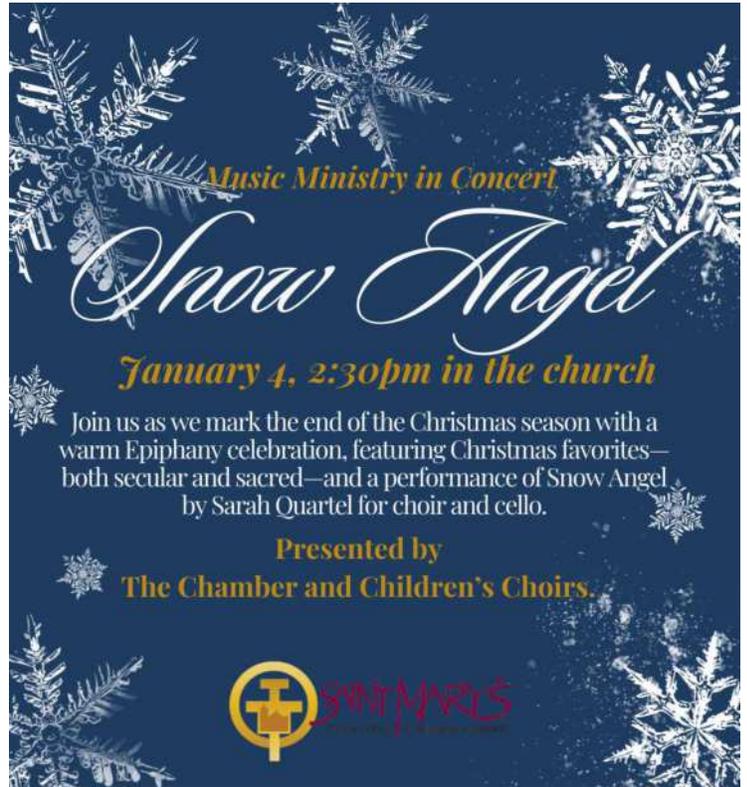
We need drivers for the pantry's truck. A special license is not needed! Please call the Parish Office if interested.

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.



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.**



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



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



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 for more information!



St. Mary's Knights of Columbus

CHARITY BEEFSTEAK DINNER

**Sat. Jan. 31, 7pm
Carnevale Center**

\$60 per person includes Beefsteak Dinner, coffee, tea & soft drinks. BYO beer/wine

Tricky Tray, 50/50 & DJ!

(21 & over please)

For tickets, please call Chris Arts (973) 492-2708

All tickets must be purchased in advance - NO WALKUPS!

DIOCESE PATERSON

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.

SPIRITUAL GUIDED MEDITATION HOUR

Journey with us in prayer, meditation and reflection as we navigate *The Road Ahead*.

Thursday, January 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Prayer Room.



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.

On Saturday November 29th **Music Together** held Food Pantry Saturday classes which were a great success. We had 21 families register and attend the classes and everyone brought donations for the Food Pantry. Together our families donated 12 fully stuffed grocery bags.

It was a wonderful morning of music, friendship and community. We had new families, returning families, and some families who have aged out of the program or who have been unable to attend for any number of reasons, came back to make music with us.

Thank you to all who participated!



MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES

We have several ways that you can remember your loved ones at St. Mary's.

- **Mass intentions:** Mass intentions are listed in the bulletin and announced during Mass. Suggested offerings is \$20 for both weekday Masses and weekend Masses.
- **Bread and Wine:** This offering covers the cost of the bread and wine we use during the week. This offering is listed in the bulletin and announced at weekend Masses. Suggested offering is \$35.
- **Altar Flowers:** This offering covers the cost of the flowers on the altar during the week. This offering is listed in the bulletin and announced at weekend Masses. Suggested offering is \$50.
- **Vigil Lights:** Vigil Lights are the candles in the vestibule of the church which burn for one year. A small plaque can be placed on the candle commemorating your loved one. Offering is \$100 for one year (with the option to renew every year) and \$25 to engrave the plaque. We currently have 3 vigil lights available.
- **Paving Stones:** You can have a stone with your loved one's name placed in our prayer garden which will remain in perpetuity and be cleaned on a regular basis. Stones are \$350. Please be aware that it may take several months for your stone to be engraved and placed.
- **Tree of Life:** In the vestibule of the church, you will see our Tree of Life, which has the names of people who have died. Leaves are \$500 and stones are \$1,000.
- **Intenciones de Misa:** Las intenciones de misa se enumeran en el boletín y se anuncian durante la misa. Las ofrendas sugeridas son \$20 para las misas entre semana y \$20 para las misas de fin de semana.
- **Pan y Vino:** Esta ofrenda cubre el costo del pan y el vino que usamos durante la semana. Esta ofrenda aparece en el boletín y se anuncia en las misas de fin de semana. La ofrenda es de \$35.
- **Flores del Altar:** Esta ofrenda cubre el costo de las flores del altar durante la semana. Esta ofrenda aparece en el boletín y se anuncia en las misas de fin de semana. La ofrenda es de \$50.
- **Luces de Vigilia:** Las Luces de Vigilia son las velas en el vestíbulo de la iglesia que arden por un año. Se coloca una pequeña placa en la vela conmemorando a su ser querido. La ofrenda es de \$100 por un año, con la opción de renovar cada año. Actualmente tenemos 3 luces de vigilia disponibles.
- **Ladrillos:** Usted puede tener una piedra con el nombre de su ser querido colocado en nuestro jardín de oración que permanecerá en la perpetuidad, y limpiado sobre una base regular. Las piedras cuestan \$350. Tenga en cuenta que su piedra puede tardar varios meses en ser grabada y colocada.
- **Árbol de la Vida:** En el vestíbulo de la Iglesia, verá nuestro Árbol de la Vida, que tiene los nombres de personas que han fallecido. Las hojas cuestan \$500 y las piedras \$1000.

Please call the Parish Office or email us at smc@stmarys-pompton.org for more information about these memorial opportunities.

Por favor llame a la oficina de la parroquia o envíenos un correo electrónico a smc@stmarys-pompton.org para más información sobre estas oportunidades conmemorativas.



Calling all Women of the Parish...
Join us to Make Your Own Vision Board
Wednesday, January 7th 7-8:30pm
St. Mary's Carnevale Center, Banta Room

Join us for a night of inspiration and creativity.
No talent necessary!
BYOB – bring your own beverage
Any questions, text or call:
Annette 973-902-3209 or Amy 862-228-4096



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.



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.



I'm Possible Café – Where Inclusion is Served Daily

In Pine Brook, the I'm Possible Café is more than a coffee shop — it's a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, providing meaningful jobs and community for adults with special needs, run by some of our very own St. Mary's parishioners. There, every cup served carries a story of courage, growth, and dignity. Every meal supports not just a mission — but a movement. All proceeds go back to empowering their amazing team members with job coaching, life-skills training, and confidence-building.

When you visit, you'll feel the warmth, joy, and sense of belonging that make this café a true community.

How You Can Support:

- Stop in for coffee or a meal
- Share their mission with others
- Donate to help expand training and employment opportunities
- Invite friends, schools, or groups to experience inclusion in action

Together, we can help every person thrive and shine.

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Joe and Paulette Rude

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321 Changebridge Road, Pine Brook, NJ

<https://www.im-possiblecafe.org/>

Info@im-possiblecafe.org

Hours: Thursday – Saturday from 8:30-11:30 a.m.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our 3rd and 4th grade classes have ended. We are so grateful and would like to thank the dedicated teachers that worked diligently to keep the children's faith journey alive!

3rd grade: Joanne D'Aloia, Eileen McQuade, Gerlyn Boyce, Mary Raczko, Emily Crampton, Jen Revis, Danielle Singleton, Mary Ellen Brucato.

4th grade: Linh Minore, Tom Andrea, Joanne D'Aloia, Corrine Manzolillo, Erin VanWyck, Dayamin Morales-Ruiz.

A special note: This year we were fortunate to have many of our teachers from last year teach again. I am so grateful for our volunteers as they have grown children and grandchildren of their own. They have a gift to teach the children about their faith. We are truly blessed to have them on our Religious Education team! Thanks to all our parents for entrusting your children's religious education to us. This year you have been exemplary in your faith and support.

Wishing all of you a very blessed magical Christmas Season!

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.



Do you know?

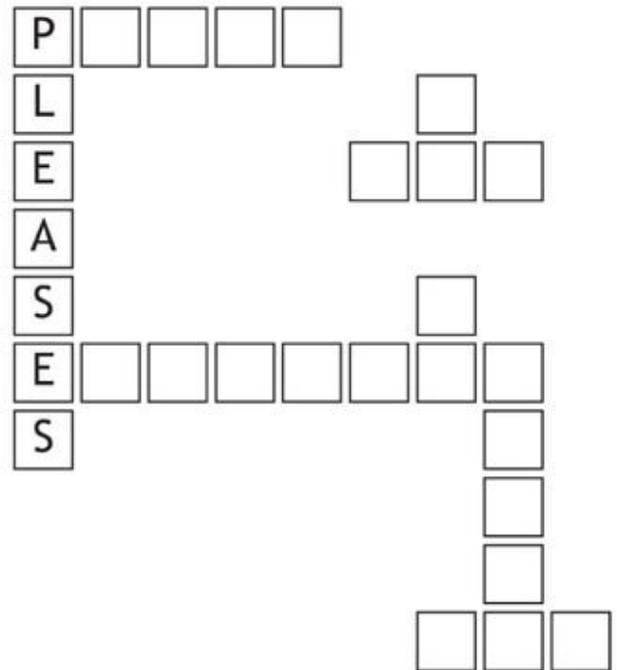
Question: According to tradition, who were the three kings who visited baby Jesus?

Answer: Balthasar, Melchior, and Casper

PUZZLE

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God.





It's Christmas

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes
I love thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh

Refrain

It's Christmas, The angels are singing
And I know the reason The Savior is born
It's Christmas, The bells are ringing
And I feel like shouting, Joy to the world

Be near me, Lord Jesus I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
And bless all the dear children in thy tender
care
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is
born

Refrain



O Come all ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful, joyful and
triumphant, O come ye, come ye to
Bethlehem.

Come and behold Him, born the king
of angels; O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light, lo! He comes
forth from the Virgin's womb;
Our very God begotten not created: O
come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing choirs of angels sing in exultation.
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest: O
come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this
happy morning Jesus, to Thee be all
glory given;

Word of the Father now in flesh
appearing; O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria,
in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains
prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly
song?

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels
sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,

Christ the Lord, the newborn
King.

O little town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him,
still the dear Christ enters in.



For Unto Us/Open the Eyes in my Heart

For unto us a Child is born,
a Son is given,
a Son is given.

For unto us a Child is born,
a Son is given,
a Son is given.
The Messiah, oh to see Him,

To see Him high
and lifted up,
Shining in the light
of Your glory.
Pour out Your power
and love

As we sing Holy Holy Holy



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He has Come For Us

God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ, our Savior was
born on Christmas day.
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray
O, tidings of comfort and joy.
Comfort and joy
O, tidings of comfort and joy

He has come for us, this Jesus.
He's the hope for all mankind.
He has come for us, the Messiah,
Born to give us life

From God, our heavenly Father
a blessed angel came.
And unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same.
How that in Bethlehem was born,
the Son of God by name.
O, tidings of comfort and joy.
Comfort and joy
O, tidings of comfort and joy

Refrain

All the angels sing "Hallelujah! "
Jesus Christ is born!"
All the children sing "Hallelujah!
"He is Christ the Lord!"



Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and
Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is
come: Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare Him
room, and heaven and nature
sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior
reigns, let us, our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks,
hills and plains repeat the
sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth
and grace, and makes the
nations prove

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

CONNECT WITH US

Active Seniors: We are a group for men and women over 55. We meet regularly, host speakers and plan trips and outings to promote community.

Filipino Ministry: We are a lay ministry of St. Mary's Parish. Most of us are both affiliate members of Our Lady of Fatima Prayer Group and the Missionary Families of Christ. We pray the Rosary and recite the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. We meet on a regular basis as a household to worship, pray and hold fellowship.

Hispanic Ministry: We are people who promote a truly Catholic formation that will help the community better respond to the challenges they face today. We are also all the people who speak Spanish as a first language. We are from different countries of the Americas: Honduras, Mexico, Colombia, Argentina, Bolivia, Cuba, Peru, Guatemala, Ecuador, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador. Most of us are immigrants who want to have legal status to be citizens of the United States and contribute to this country based on honesty, integrity and justice.

Knights of Columbus: We are the world's largest Catholic benefit society, providing both financial aid and volunteer hours to those in need. The principals are Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

LGBTQ+ Spirituality Group: We are the parish faith sharing group for Catholic gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning persons 18 and over and their families. We are in frequent collaboration with our brothers and sisters across central NJ. We acknowledge and respect the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church and strive to create an environment where people may honestly and faithfully share their stories and faith lives.

Original St. Mary's Seniors: We are a group of Seniors 55 years or older who reside in Pompton Lakes and get together for fellowship in social and educational experiences.

Young Adult Ministry: We are a group of men and women between the ages of 18 – 35 who desire to grow closer to God and to each other through service, prayer and fellowship.

Youth Ministry: We are a group of high school age men and women who gather weekly and go on periodic retreats to grow in our faith with God and friendship with one another.

LEARN WITH US

Bible Study: We offer periodic scripture experiences that typically study a particular book or theme of the Bible. Sessions are conducted in a faith-sharing style of learning. They are facilitated scripture study groups in English and Spanish alternately.

Baptismal Preparation: We offer catechesis to parents interested in having their babies or other young children baptized in the Catholic Church. The class gives instruction on the sacrament of baptism and other key teachings of the Church. It also provides ideas, resources, and inspiration to parents in their efforts to raise their children as practicing Catholics.

Book Group Ministry: We are a group of parishioners who gather to read and discuss books based on religious and spiritual themes.

Marriage Preparation: We are a team of married St. Mary's couples who lead an interactive and uplifting seminar illustrating aspects of a successful Catholic Christian marriage. We use personal experiences, small group discussions and base the day on the St. Mary's Franciscan spirit of openness.

Men's Book Group: We are a group of men who meet throughout the year to read and discuss books on faith.

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults): The OCIA is designed for adults as a process for people who wish to become part of the Catholic community of faith including those who have never been Baptized, Catholics who have been Baptized but never received the sacraments of First Eucharist or Confirmation, and those from a different faith who wish to convert to Catholicism.

Religious Education: Religious education begins a lifelong process that helps children develop a strong religious foundation which will continue with their family, community and the Church. Religious Education and the Confirmation program provides religious education and sacramental preparation vital to a child's development as a Catholic.

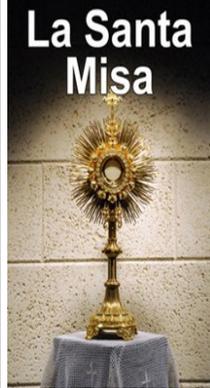
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Domingos a las 8:45am

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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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.- AGRADECIMIENTO

Agradecemos de corazón a las familias de Santa María que abrieron sus hogares para las posadas 2025, donde compartimos fe, oración, cantos y una alegría fraterna que fortaleció nuestra unidad como comunidad de esperanza cristiana. También expresamos nuestro reconocimiento a todos los que colaboraron para que esta hermosa tradición continúe viva y se siga transmitiendo a las nuevas generaciones. De modo especial, damos gracias por la generosidad de Mitchell y Verónica Ramírez, padrinos del Niño Jesús comunitario en 2025, por su testimonio de entrega y servicio. Y elevamos nuestra gratitud a los padrinos del Niño Jesús para este nuevo año 2026, Óscar Rivera y Marbella Castillo, pidiendo al Señor que los bendiga abundantemente a ellos y a sus familias.

3.- **No habrá misa en español el miércoles 31 de diciembre a las 7:00pm.**

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

5.- **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 –Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia - (28 de diciembre de 2025)

Primera Lectura: Sirácida 3, 3-7. 14-17a

Salmo Responsorial: Salmo 127, 1-2. 3. 4-5

Segunda Lectura: Colosenses 3, 12-21

+Evangelio: Mt 2, 13-15. 19-23

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.

SAGRADA FAMILIA



La fiesta de la Sagrada Familia nos recuerda que Dios quiso nacer y crecer en el seno de un hogar concreto, con un padre, una madre y una historia, igual que cada uno de nosotros. Jesús, María y José muestran que la santidad no se vive en cosas extraordinarias, sino en lo cotidiano: el trabajo, la educación de los hijos, las dificultades económicas, las decisiones de cada día. Esta fiesta invita a mirar nuestra propia familia con sus límites y riquezas como un lugar donde Dios quiere habitar, sanar, acompañar y hacer crecer el amor. En la vida comunitaria de la parroquia de Santa María, la Sagrada Familia es modelo de acogida, obediencia a Dios y unidad

en medio de las pruebas. José protege, María confía y Jesús aprende y crece bajo su cuidado. De ellos aprendemos a escucharnos, a cuidarnos, a tomar decisiones buscando la voluntad de Dios y no solo el propio interés. Como comunidad, estamos llamados a apoyar a las familias que sufren, a acompañar a los matrimonios en crisis, a sostener a quienes crían solos, y a hacer de la parroquia una verdadera “familia de familias” donde nadie se sienta solo. Esta fiesta también nos enseña que ninguna familia es perfecta, pero todas pueden caminar hacia la santidad. La huida a Egipto, la pobreza de Belén, el extravío del Niño en el templo muestran que la Sagrada Familia también vivió miedo, preocupación y desajustes. Lo que la hace santa no es la ausencia de problemas, sino la forma en que los enfrenta: juntos, en oración, confiando en Dios y cuidándose mutuamente. Encarnar esta fiesta en la vida diaria significa aprender a dialogar más, criticar menos, perdonar con más rapidez y sostenernos con paciencia en medio de las tensiones de la vida familiar. Por eso, la fiesta de la Sagrada Familia no es solo una fecha litúrgica, sino una llamada concreta a revisar nuestro hogar y nuestra comunidad. ¿Cómo están nuestras relaciones en casa? ¿Dedicamos tiempo de calidad a los hijos, a los abuelos, a la oración en familia? ¿Somos, como parroquia, un espacio seguro y cercano para las familias que llegan heridas o cansadas? Si dejamos que el ejemplo de Jesús, María y José inspire nuestras decisiones, nuestras casas se convertirán en pequeños Nazaret donde se aprende a amar, a servir y a crecer en fe, y nuestra parroquia será signo vivo del amor de Dios en medio del mundo.

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