

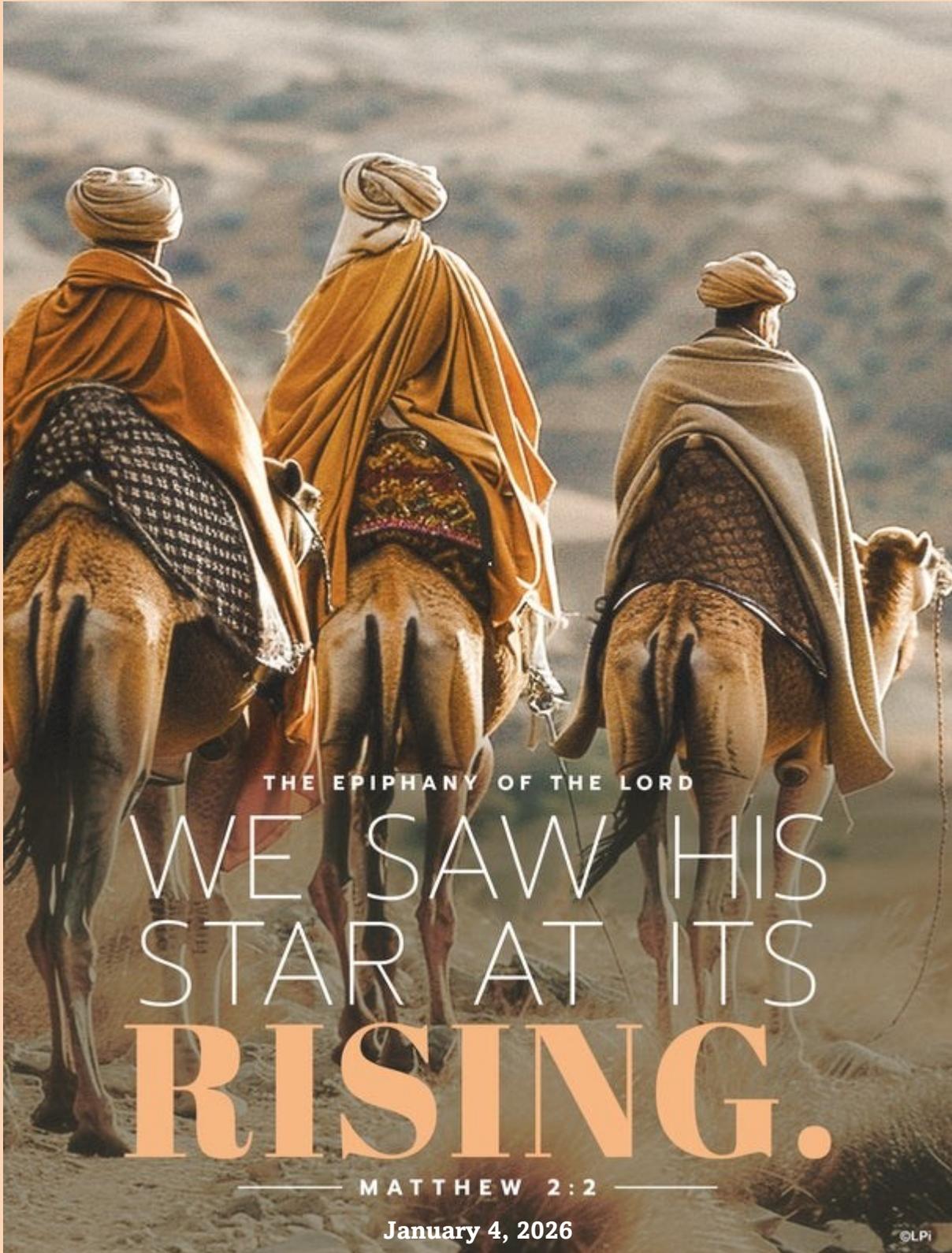


SAINT MARY'S

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



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

WE SAW HIS
STAR AT ITS
RISING.

MATTHEW 2:2

January 4, 2026

©LPI

FRIAR'S DESK

THE LEGEND OF BEFANA

Befana, the housewife, scrubbing her pane,
Saw three wise men ride down the lane.
She saw three travelers pass her door;
Caspar, Balthazar and Melchior.

"Where journey you, sirs?" she asked of them.
And Balthazar answered, "to Bethlehem.
For we have news of a marvelous thing,
Born in a stable is Christ the King".

"Give him my welcome", Befana cried,
And then Caspar gave her a smile.
"Come with us, dear lady, to greet the child".

"Oh happily, happily would I fare,
Were my dusting through and I had polished the stair."
Old Melchior leaned on his saddle horn,
"Then send but a gift to the tiny newborn".

"Oh gladly, gladly I'd send him one,
Were the fireplace swept and my weaving done.
But as soon as I have baked my bread,
I'll fetch him a pillow for his head,
And a blanket too", Befana said.

"When the rooms are aired and the linen dry,
I'll visit the babe", but the three rode by.
She worked for a day and a night and a day,
Then, gifts in her hands, got on her way.

But she never found where the Christ Child lay.

And still she wanders at Christmas-tide
Homeless is she, whose home was all her pride.
Whose heart was tardy, whose gifts were late
She wanders and knocks at every gate.

Crying, "Good people, the bells begin!
Put off your busyness, and let love in."

The people of Eastern Europe remember that God didn't make himself visible only that one time, in the stable of Bethlehem. No, they remember that God speaks to our hearts and makes himself visible to us every day of our lives.

What joy the magi experienced when they finally found the Christ Child. May we experience their joy by seeing him every day. If only we take the time out of our busy lives to find him, where he is to be found.

—Father John Alderson, OFM

LA LEYENDA DE BEFANA

Befana, la ama de casa, limpiando su ventana,
vio a tres reyes magos cabalgar por el camino.
Vio pasar a tres viajeros frente a su puerta:
Caspar, Baltasar y Melchor.

¿Hacia dónde viajan, señores? les preguntó.
Y Baltasar respondió: "A Belén,
pues traemos noticias de algo maravilloso:
en un pesebre ha nacido Cristo, el Rey."

"Denle mi bienvenida" exclamó Befana.
Entonces Caspar le sonrió y dijo:
"Ven con nosotros, buena mujer, a saludar al niño."

"¡Oh, felizmente, felizmente iría!
si ya hubiera terminado de sacudir y pulido la escalera.
El viejo Melchor, apoyado en el cuerno de su montura,
dijo "Entonces envíale al menos un regalo al pequeño recién nacido."

"Con gusto, con gusto le enviaría uno,
si ya hubiera barrido la chimenea y terminado de tejer.
Pero en cuanto haya horneado el pan,
le llevaré una almohada para su cabeza
y también una manta" dijo Befana.

"Cuando las habitaciones estén aireadas
y la ropa esté seca, visitaré al niño" pero los tres ya se habían marchado.
Trabajó un día, una noche y otro día más;
luego, con regalos en las manos, emprendió el camino.

Pero nunca encontró el lugar donde yacía el Niño Jesús.

Y todavía hoy vaga en tiempo de Navidad.
Sin hogar está ella, cuyo hogar era todo su orgullo.
Su corazón fue lento, sus regalos llegaron tarde.
Vaga y llama a cada puerta,

Clamando "¡Buena gente, ya suenan las campanas!
Dejen a un lado sus ocupaciones y dejen entrar al amor."

Los pueblos de Europa Oriental recuerdan que Dios no se hizo visible solo una vez, en el pesebre de Belén. Recuerdan que Dios habla a nuestros corazones y se hace visible para nosotros cada día de nuestras vidas.

Qué alegría experimentaron los Reyes Magos cuando por fin encontraron al Niño Cristo. Que nosotros también experimentemos esa alegría al verlo cada día, si tan solo nos damos el tiempo, en medio de nuestras vidas tan ocupadas, para encontrarlo allí donde se deja encontrar.

—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



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30

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 memory of **Frank Tomaselli** with love from his family.



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



...THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY PASSED

Luz Stella Posada

...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, Alan Surdyka, Eileen Phillips, Edward Tieghe

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!

Saturday	January 3
5:00 p.m.	† Edward Rafferty † Matthew Tavaglione (1st Ann.) † Patricia Colella (4th Ann.) † Herbert Colella (heavenly birthday) † John Gallo
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
Monday	January 5
8:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
Tuesday	January 6
8:00 a.m.	† Peter & Margaret Franco
Wednesday	January 7
8:00 a.m.	† Rosemarie Fioranelli (19th Ann.) † Dorothy Sprich (2nd Ann.)
7:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Thursday	January 8
9:00 a.m.	† George & Catherine Conroy † Mary Gillen † Margaret C. Moyle (1st Ann.)
Friday	January 9
9:00 a.m.	† Kathleen A. Strall
Saturday	January 10
5:00 p.m.	† George Graf † Dominick Sigismondi † Joseph Watkins (6th Ann.) † Kathy & Tony Michalski
7:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Sunday	January 11
7:30 a.m.	† Jackie Vozzo † Michael Feigenbaum
8:45 a.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish
9:00 a.m. (CC)	† Phylis D'Onofrio † Maureen Kincaid
10:30 a.m.	L Fr. Dailon Lisabet † Walter James Dinehart † Francis & Lucille Marshall
12:00 p.m.	† Michael Riley (20th Ann.) † Mark J. Brennis † Michael Feighenbaum † Eugenia Pastuszak



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



This weekend, as we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, we will chalk the lintels of St. Mary's Church and invite God to bless everyone who comes into our Church building.

We invite you to adopt this custom in your family. The family gathers and chalks their doorway to ask God's blessing on their home and on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 26. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2026 is the year.

We will bless chalk and mark our doorways at the 5 p.m. Mass on January 3rd and the 10:30 Mass on January 4th, and invite you to take a piece of chalk and do the same at your home!



The start of a new year is often filled with excitement and anticipation, 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. 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



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.



There will be a meeting of the Bereavement Support Group on Monday, January 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the Carnevale Center.



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>

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:

Red kidney beans, dish detergent, shampoo, tissues, decaf coffee

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.



Congratulations and God bless **Karina Padraza** and **Jake Veliky** (pictured above). Karina and Jake both attended The College of New Jersey where they lived across the hall from each other. They discovered they were both parishioners of St. Mary's and had mutual friends at home. What a small world!



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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Happy New Year!

1st grade: Mandatory Parent meeting on January 6th at 7 p.m. in the Carnevale Center. Welcome Mass on January 18th at 5 p.m. Classes begin the week of January 26th.

2nd grade: Mandatory Parent meeting on January 7th at 7 p.m. in the Carnevale Center. Classes begin the week of January 20th.

7th and 9th grades: Classes begin the week of January 11th.

10th grade: Confirmation Ceremony Rehearsal on Friday, February 6th at 7 p.m. in the church for all candidates and their sponsors. Confirmation ceremonies will be on Saturday, February 7th at 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. in the church .

A New Year is God's Gift
 In the joyful moments, thank God
 In the busy moments, thank God
 In the trying moments, trust God
 In the quiet moments, praise God

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.

Music Ministry in Concert

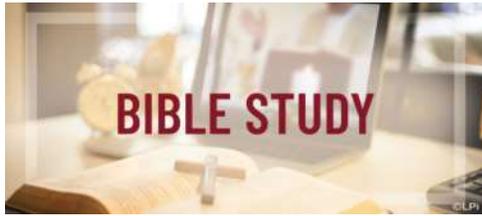
Snow Angel

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.

ST. MARY'S



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.



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.

A poster for a Young Adult Ministry Social. It features silhouettes of four people sitting around a table, talking. The background is a warm orange and red gradient with a white cross and a window icon. Text includes "Young Adult Ministry Social", "REGISTRATION REQUIRED-PLEASE SCAN QR CODE", "JANUARY 16TH", "7pm - 10pm", "SPINA HALL", and a QR code at the bottom.

**Young Adult
Ministry
Social**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED-PLEASE
SCAN QR CODE

JANUARY 16TH
7pm - 10pm
SPINA HALL

A QR code for registration for the Young Adult Ministry Social.

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!

THE ST. FRANCIS INN



JANUARY 24TH

JOIN US AS WE TRAVEL TO PHILADELPHIA TO WORK WITH THE ST. FRANCIS INN, WHERE WE WILL FEED THE UNHOUSED AND THOSE EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY. THIS TRIP IS OPEN TO THOSE IN HIGH SCHOOL AND OLDER. ANYONE UNDER 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT. PLEASE REGISTER FOR THIS ALL-DAY EVENT.

REGISTER HERE



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!

Everyday Stewardship by Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

“The Story of the Other Wise Man” by Henry Van Dyke was first published in 1895. It tells the fictional story of Artaban, a fourth wise man who began a journey to visit Jesus, the newborn King. Unlike his fellow Magi, he failed to make it there for the birth of Jesus because he kept pausing to help various people in need. In fact, it took him about 33 years of searching before his quest comes to an abrupt end when he is hit in the head with a falling roof shingle. His final breath takes place in Jerusalem near the place where Jesus is being crucified. As he lies dying, he hears the voice of Jesus telling him that the gifts he has given all along the way to “the least of these” he has actually given to Jesus himself.

If you have never read this story or seen the made-for-television movie based on the tale, you really should seek it out. It is a story that reminds us of a profound truth: Jesus himself rests in the lives of all those around us in need. In the story, it was the wise man’s constant response to a stewardship call that prevented him from getting where he wanted to go. In the end, where he needed to go was more significant than where he thought he should go.

If we live lives of generosity and graciousness, we may find ourselves on constant detours from the road on which we are traveling. It is in the detours and the unexpected circumstances of our journey that often times we find our true purpose in life. We think God is somewhere we must travel to, when in reality, God is closer than we think in the least likely of places.



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



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.



Knights of Columbus



SAINT MARY'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH | A FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY

Proceeds to Benefit K of C Charitable Causes & St. Mary's Parish Ministries

Calendar Raffle WINNERS

11/27/2025	Theresa Medino	Pompton Lakes	\$100
11/28/2025	Robert Cereen	Paterson	\$50
11/29/2025	Scott Brown	Pompton Lakes	\$70
11/30/2025	Brenda Kassclch	Pompton Lakes	\$100
12/1/2025	David Peirce	Bloomingtondale	\$50
12/2/2025	Mathew Russo	Wayne	\$50
12/3/2025	Pat Ledford	Pompton Plains	\$50
12/4/2025	Tom Medino	Pompton Lakes	\$50
12/5/2025	Tony Ann Rust	Pompton Lakes	\$50
12/6/2025	Lynn Daly	Wayne	\$70



Do you have a loved one or family friend who will be receiving a sacrament? Our province has an online store with many beautiful and appropriate gifts for Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. The store also has an abundance of religious articles and gifts for any occasion.

Flyers for <https://TheFranciscanStore.org> are available in the rear of the church. When you make purchases through The Franciscan Store you are helping our province educate our young friars, care for our elderly friars, and support the various Franciscan Ministries that feed, clothe and serve the poor!



COME JOIN US

Do you want to be an

ALTAR SERVER?

IF YOUR CHILD (AGE 7-18) WOULD LIKE TO BECOME AN ALTAR SERVER, PLEASE CONTACT NOELLE HOUGHTON AT NHOUGHTON@STMARYS-POMPTON.ORG

Peace and all good!

Every church has its own history and traditions when it comes to celebrating Mass, which is all good. At the same time, there is real beauty when we pray in unison. We demonstrate our unity with one another in Christ by sitting and standing and kneeling together, not only during Mass at St. Mary's, but in unison with our brothers and sisters celebrating Mass throughout the world. This is especially important when we have visitors or people joining us at Mass for the first time. We want to make sure that anyone who comes to St. Mary's to pray will immediately feel at home.



To that end, there are three places in the Mass where everyone does something a little bit different, and the friars are often asked questions about when we should stand or kneel, etc. So, in the interest of getting us all on the same page (or kneeler), here are some general guidelines:

After the presentation of the gifts: People are normally seated during the collection and the presentation of bread and wine. Once the priest has prepared the bread and wine, he will say: "Pray brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father." The congregation should rise and simultaneously respond: "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands..."

After singing or reciting the Lamb of God: The congregation is invited to kneel if there are kneelers available or to sit if they are unable to do so. If there are no kneelers available, the congregation can remain standing.

After receiving communion: The congregation is invited to kneel or sit.

In these divided times, I think it's important to note that these guidelines don't imply a judgement call about which way is better or more conservative or more liberal or whatever. And we're certainly not going to become rigid about this. It's simply our hope that these guidelines will strengthen our worship and bring us closer to one another and to the Lord.

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.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

GROW WITH US

JPIC (Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation): We take our inspiration from the life of St. Francis and the Franciscan movement. We are guided by our passion for peace, justice and sustainability for the Earth and all on it. For more information, please visit our website at www.stmarys-pompton.org/jpic or email jpic@stmarys-pompton.org.

Men's Emmaus Fellowship: We are a men's group that gathers to consider the scripture readings for the current weekend. We discuss scripture and how it applies to the challenges and opportunities we have as Catholic Christian men today.

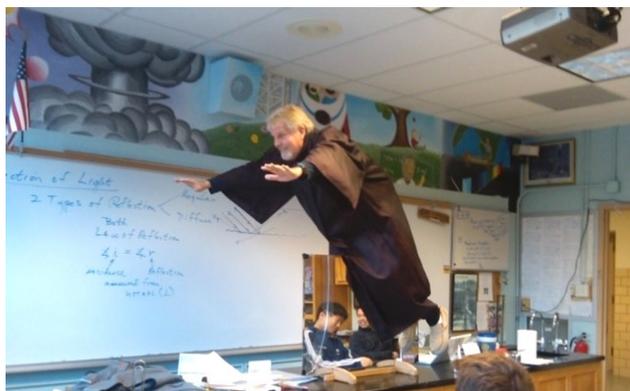
Rosary/Divine Mercy Ministry: We pray the Holy Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet as well as prayers from other Catholic luminaries.

Special Needs Ministry: We provide children and adults with religious and social services. The children's portion provides special education religious education for students receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. The adult portion provides social events. Workshops and day-long retreats are scheduled throughout the year, along with our week-long bible camp every summer.

Women of Prayer & Spirit: We are a group of women who bring prayer intentions to the group and meet to discuss spiritually-themed books, one chapter at a time. All are welcome!

Women's Cornerstone Ministry: We provide an opportunity for women in the community to revitalize and deepen their spiritual lives through a combination of quiet reflection, prayer and social interaction and sharing the story of one's own personal faith journey.

Women's Faith Reflection: We are a group of women that gather and reflect on the upcoming Sunday's readings. We meet at 9:45 - 11:30 AM in the Carnevale Center Banta Room (first floor). No registration needed, just come by!



Physics Tutoring Available

A longtime St. Mary's parishioner, Bob Barkovitz, retired from 47 years of physics teaching, will offer tutoring/help/explanations to interested high school students. A student must be currently enrolled in high school/college physics. He will work in person at St Mary's with individuals or groups. He is very passionate and knowledgeable about this subject, and is interested in motivating and helping inquisitive pupils. A donation of \$20 per class will be charged to benefit the ministries of St. Mary's. For further information, parents please contact Bob at mrbarque@gmail.com.

Bob Barkovitz, un feligrés de Santa María desde hace mucho tiempo, recientemente retirado después de 47 años de enseñar física, ofrece tutoría / ayuda / explicaciones a estudiantes de secundaria. El (la) estudiante debe estar matriculado(a) en física en la escuela secundaria o universidad. Trabjará en persona en St Mary's con individuos o grupos. Se pedirá una donación de \$20 por clase para beneficiar a los ministerios de Santa María.

Para más información, los padres por favor contacten a Bob al correo mrbarque@gmail.com.

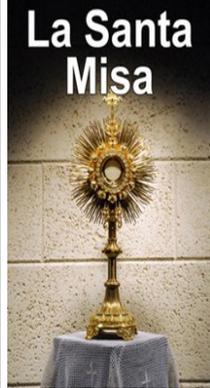
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La Santa Misa en español

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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.

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

Porque es dando que recibimos



ANUNCIOS

1.- Adorar al **Santísimo** es un encuentro personal con Dios. Habrá exposición al Santísimo después de la misa en español el miércoles 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 todas las personas que trabajaron para que nuestra fiesta guadalupana 2025, la Noche de las Velitas y las POSADAS fueran celebraciones llenas de fe, belleza y alegría comunitaria. Gracias muy especialmente a las familias de Santa María que abrieron sus hogares para la Novena a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y para las posadas, donde compartimos oración, cantos y fraternidad, fortaleciendo nuestra unidad como comunidad de esperanza. Reconocemos, además, a todos los que colaboraron para que estas tradiciones sigan vivas y se transmitan a las nuevas generaciones. De modo particular, expresamos nuestra gratitud a Mitchell y Verónica Ramírez, padrinos del Niño Jesús comunitario en 2025, y a Óscar Rivera y Marbella Castillo, padrinos para este nuevo año 2026; pedimos al Señor que bendiga abundantemente su generosidad y a sus familias.

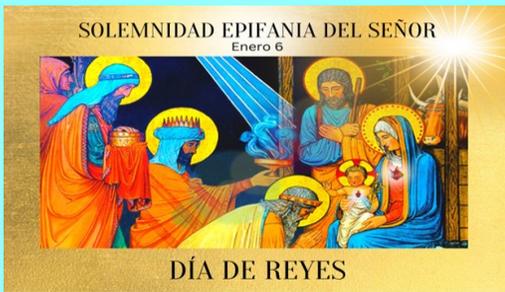
3.- **Señor de Esquipulas** – La festividad se celebrará el domingo 19 de enero de 2026. Se invita a todos los que deseen participar en la celebración del Cristo Negro de Esquipulas a ponerse en contacto con Milagros Anto.

Lecturas Bíblicas –Ciclo A –Fiesta de la Epifanía del Señor. (4 de enero de 2026)

Primera Lectura: Isaías 60, 1-6
Salmo Responsorial: Salmo 71, 1-2. 7-8. 10-11. 12-13
Segunda Lectura: Efesios 3, 2-3a. 5-6
+Evangelio: Mateo 2, 1-12

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 fiesta de la Epifanía del Señor nos recuerda que Jesús no viene solo para unos pocos, sino para todos los pueblos y culturas. Los Magos, que llegan de lejos guiados por la estrella, representan a la humanidad entera que busca luz, verdad y sentido para su vida. En esta solemnidad contemplamos a un Dios que se deja encontrar, que se revela como luz para las naciones y que rompe fronteras, invitando a todos a acercarse al pesebre. Para una comunidad parroquial como Santa María, la Epifanía es una llamada a reconocer que nuestra diversidad de idiomas, historias y rostros es un reflejo de ese Evangelio abierto a todos. La actitud de los Magos nos ofrece enseñanzas muy concretas para la vida

comunitaria. Ellos se ponen en camino, preguntan, se dejan corregir, se alegran al ver la estrella de nuevo y, al encontrar al Niño, se postran y lo adoran. Así también, en la parroquia estamos invitados a vivir una fe en movimiento: no quedarnos instalados, sino buscar al Señor en la oración, en los sacramentos y en los hermanos. La comunidad crece cuando, como los Magos, compartimos nuestras búsquedas, nos ayudamos a discernir y reconocemos juntos los signos de Dios en la realidad. Otro gesto clave de la Epifanía son los dones: oro, incienso y mirra, símbolo de lo mejor que cada uno puede ofrecer. Encarnar esta fiesta significa descubrir que también nosotros tenemos algo valioso que traer a Jesús y poner al servicio de la comunidad: nuestro tiempo, nuestros talentos, nuestra experiencia, nuestro compromiso con los más pobres. En una parroquia, la Epifanía se vuelve vida cuando cada feligrés deja de ser solo “asistente” y se convierte en colaborador, catequista, ministro, servidor, acompañante, intercesor. Finalmente, la Epifanía nos invita a ser luz para otros. Después de encontrarse con el Niño, los Magos “regresan por otro camino”: el encuentro con Cristo cambia la ruta de la vida. Vivir esta fiesta en lo cotidiano implica dejar que nuestra fe ilumine decisiones, relaciones, trabajo, uso del dinero y del tiempo. Como comunidad, estamos llamados a ser una “estrella” que oriente a quienes se sienten perdidos: acogiendo con calidez a los nuevos, anunciando el Evangelio con alegría, sosteniendo a quienes sufren y mostrando, con obras sencillas, que Dios sigue manifestándose hoy a través de su pueblo.

De este modo, la Epifanía no será solo una fecha del calendario, sino un estilo de vida: dejar que Cristo se revele al mundo por medio de nuestra parroquia y de cada uno de nosotros.

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