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

January 11, 2026

PLEASED

A voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

MATTHEW 3:17

Una voz que decía, desde el cielo: "Este es mi Hijo muy amado, en quien tengo mis complacencias".

MATEO 3, 17

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
Leccionario I © 1976 Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano. ©LPi

FRIAR'S DESK

Wake Up, It's Your Baptism

Last week, I had the privilege of baptizing little Vittorio Richard Pesci, a little boy who managed to pull off quite a feat. Amidst the gathered family, the flashing cameras, and the liturgical movements, he slept through the entire thing. The shock of the cold holy water on his forehead? He didn't flinch. The strong, sweet aroma of the Chrism oil? He didn't sniff. The brightness of the baptismal candle? He didn't blink. Even at the end, when the whole church erupted in applause to welcome him, he didn't make a peep. He just kept on sleeping.

Even when I solemnly anointed him as "Priest, Prophet, and King," he remained totally checked out.

In a way, he's my kind of guy! Who doesn't appreciate the ability to remain calm—or unconscious—in the middle of a storm? However, while sleeping through baptism is adorable for an infant, it is a dangerous habit for the rest of us. Far too many of us adults are effectively doing the same thing: we are spiritually asleep, hitting the snooze button on our faith, coasting through our membership in the Church without ever really waking up to what it means.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is our spiritual alarm clock. It is a reminder that our baptism wasn't just a one-time ceremony; it was a commissioning. We were anointed for a purpose, and we need to wake up and claim that identity.

First, we must wake up to our call as **Priests**. This doesn't mean we all stand at the altar, but it means we are called to be people of prayer, offering our daily lives and the needs of the world up to God.

Second, we must wake up to our call as **Prophets**. We cannot be silent in a noisy world. We are tasked with proclaiming Gospel values—standing up for the poor, the marginalized, and the truth, even when it is uncomfortable.

Finally, we must wake up to our **Royal** dignity. Being a King in the Christian sense isn't about being served; it is about leading by example. It is the royalty of service, showing the world what it looks like to follow Christ.

At the Jordan River, God the Father said, "This is my beloved Son." By grace, He says the same of us. But being a beloved child requires participation in the family business. Let us stop sleeping through our calling. Let us wake up, get involved, and be the Church we were baptized to be.

Despierta, es tu bautismo

La semana pasada tuve el privilegio de bautizar a un niño pequeño que logró una verdadera hazaña. En medio de la familia reunida, los flashes de las cámaras y los movimientos litúrgicos, durmió durante todo el evento. ¿El impacto del agua bendita fría en su frente? Ni se inmutó. ¿El aroma fuerte y dulce del santo crisma? No hizo ni un gesto. ¿El brillo de la vela bautismal? No parpadeó. Incluso al final, cuando toda la iglesia estalló en aplausos para darle la bienvenida, no emitió ni un sonido. Simplemente siguió durmiendo.

Incluso cuando lo ungí solemnemente como "Sacerdote, Profeta y Rey", permaneció totalmente ajeno a todo.

En cierto modo, ¡es de los míos! ¿Quién no aprecia la capacidad de mantener la calma —o la inconsciencia— en medio de una tormenta? Sin embargo, aunque dormir durante el bautismo es adorable para un bebé, es un hábito peligroso para el resto de nosotros. Demasiados de nosotros, los adultos, estamos haciendo efectivamente lo mismo: estamos espiritualmente dormidos, posponiendo el despertar de nuestra fe, pasando por nuestra pertenencia a la Iglesia sin despertar realmente a lo que eso significa.

La Fiesta del Bautismo del Señor es nuestro despertador espiritual. Es un recordatorio de que nuestro bautismo no fue solo una ceremonia de una sola vez; fue un envío a una misión. Fuimos ungidos con un propósito y necesitamos despertar y reclamar esa identidad.

Primero, debemos despertar a nuestro llamado como **Sacerdotes**. Esto no significa que todos debamos estar en el altar, sino que estamos llamados a ser personas de oración, ofreciendo nuestras vidas diarias y las necesidades del mundo a Dios.

Segundo, debemos despertar a nuestro llamado como **Profetas**. No podemos permanecer callados en un mundo ruidoso. Tenemos la tarea de proclamar los valores del Evangelio: defendiendo a los pobres, a los marginados y a la verdad, incluso cuando sea incómodo.

Finalmente, debemos despertar a nuestra dignidad **Real**. Ser Rey en el sentido cristiano no se trata de ser servido; se trata de liderar con el ejemplo. Es la realeza del servicio, mostrando al mundo cómo se ve seguir a Cristo.

En el río Jordán, Dios Padre dijo: "Este es mi Hijo amado". Por gracia, Él dice lo mismo de nosotros. Pero ser un hijo amado requiere participación en la obra de la familia. Dejemos de dormir ante nuestro llamado. Despertemos, involucrémonos y seamos la Iglesia que fuimos bautizados para ser.

—Father John Aherne, OFM

...still sleeping...

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
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OUTREACH MINISTRY
Food Pantry 973-831-4442 foodpantry@stmarys-pompton.org
Value our Veterans valueourveterans@stmarys-pompton.org

PARISH SECRETARY
Nicole Pizza-George ngeorge@stmarys-pompton.org

PASTORAL MINISTRY
Dr. Pamela Hall, 973-835-6337 Pathways Counseling Center
Clare Russo, 973-835-0374 x113 Stephen Ministry

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 973-835-7750
Toni Wong, x102 Grades 1 to 5 twong@stmarys-pompton.org
Cathy Feld, x103
Grades 6 to 8 & Confirmation cfeld@stmarys-pompton.org
Debbie Borroto, x130
Admin. Asst./ Local Youth Protection/
Safe Environment Coordinator debbie@stmarys-pompton.org

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY YOUNG ADULT & ADULT
Karen Niemann kniemann@stmarys-pompton.org

SPECIAL NEEDS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Andrea Piccirillo apiccirillo@stmarys-pompton.org

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

YOUTH MINISTRY
Trevor George, 862-274-5171 tgeorge@stmarys-pompton.org

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

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

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

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

Calendar of Events

Please see our Parish Calendar for all the current events and activities going on at St. Mary's!
https://stmarys-pompton.org/parish-calendar

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

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

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 Altar Flowers have been donated in memory of **Michael Riley**, with love from his family.

This week, the Bread and Wine have been donated in loving memory of **Jackie and Louis Vozzo**.

Sensory Mass

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:

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	January 10
5:00 p.m.	† George Graf † Dominick Sigismondi † Joseph Watkins (6th Ann.) † Kathy & Tony Michalski L Baby Hector Molina
7:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Sunday	January 11
7:30 a.m.	† Jackie Vozzo † Michael Feigenbaum † Edward Rodzen (18th Ann.)
8:45 a.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish
9:00 a.m. (CC)	† Phylis D'Onofrio † Maureen Kincaid L Baby Hector Molina
10:30 a.m.	L Fr. Dailon Lisabet † Walter James Dinehart † Francis & Lucille Marshall † Rocco Lasquadro L Jenaton Su
12:00 p.m.	† Michael Riley (20th Ann.) † Mark J. Brennis † Michael Feighenbaum † Eugenia Pastuszak
Monday	January 12
8:00 a.m.	† Anne Marie Michaels L Fran Gusmano (82nd Birthday) L Baby Hector Molina
Tuesday	January 13
8:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
Wednesday	January 14
8:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
7:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Thursday	January 15
9:00 a.m.	† Miguel Angel Fernandez (6th Ann.) † Richard Collett (1st Ann.)
Friday	January 16
9:00 a.m.	† Al Willever (5th Ann.)
Saturday	January 17
5:00 p.m.	† Kathleen Rowan † Eileen Amoruso
7:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Sunday	January 18
7:30 a.m.	† Edward Egan † Henry Dec (5th Ann.)
8:45 a.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish
9:00 a.m. (CC)	† Jim Vacco, OFM
10:30 a.m.	† Michele Moyle † Lisa A. White † Jim Vacco, OFM
12:00 p.m.	People of the Parish

...THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY PASSED

Heidi Dobsa, Janet Ryan, Alan Surdyka

...THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Angelo, John, Frank Furnari, John Molaro, Marc Rocco, Kellie Diemer, Lynn Hutman, Susan Esposito, Kathy Green, Paula Tedesco Carreras, Ana Panzardi, Ed Dittman, Eric Huss, Magnus Slyfield, Erin Panzella, Rozalia Maziarz, David Grish, Joyce Hayes, Alan Surdyka, Eileen Phillips, Edward Tieghe, Jama Rothschild, Linda Bedell Kwaitkowski, Eileen Donnelly, John Donnelly, James McMahon, Theresa Medino, Pat Tompkins

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 Zimbardo.

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

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

Diane

Toma

Zach

Kristine

Greg

Mark

Joanne

Dino

Katie

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are looking forward to a very blessed year with the students beginning / continuing their journey of faith with us.

Congratulations to the winners of our 2025
"Keep Christ in Christmas" coloring contest!

1st place: Joseph B. (3rd grade)
2nd place: Reilly B. (4th grade)

7th and 9th grade classes started today.

1st graders and their families will be celebrating a Welcome Mass on Sunday, January 18th at 5 p.m.

1st grade classes start the week of January 26th.
2nd grade classes start the week of January 20th.

Please keep the children in your prayers.

"As we step into the New Year may our families be blessed with love that deepens and joy that multiplies."
—Rev R. Nelson

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 for more information.

Mass INTENTIONS

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

SAINT MARY'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH | A FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY

STEPHEN MINISTRY

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

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.

Through the waters of Baptism, we welcome into the Body of Christ...**Lincoln Tierney Rogers**.

Kathy Arts, **Debbie Henry** and **Cathi Decker** joined two Fr. Johns to celebrate the close of the Jubilee Year of Hope at St. John's Cathedral in Paterson.
May we continue to be pilgrims of Hope!

Congratulations to **Carlyn Salus and Christopher Senyk** on their recent wedding, and to **Graciela and Huga Balta** for having their marriage convalidated! If you've been legally married, and would like to celebrate the full sacrament of marriage and have your marriage formally recognized by the Church, please give one of the friars a call. We'd be happy to help!

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.

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	Bloomingdale	$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

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!

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!

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

Volunteer OPPORTUNITIES

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.

Support Group for Caregivers of loved ones with Dementia

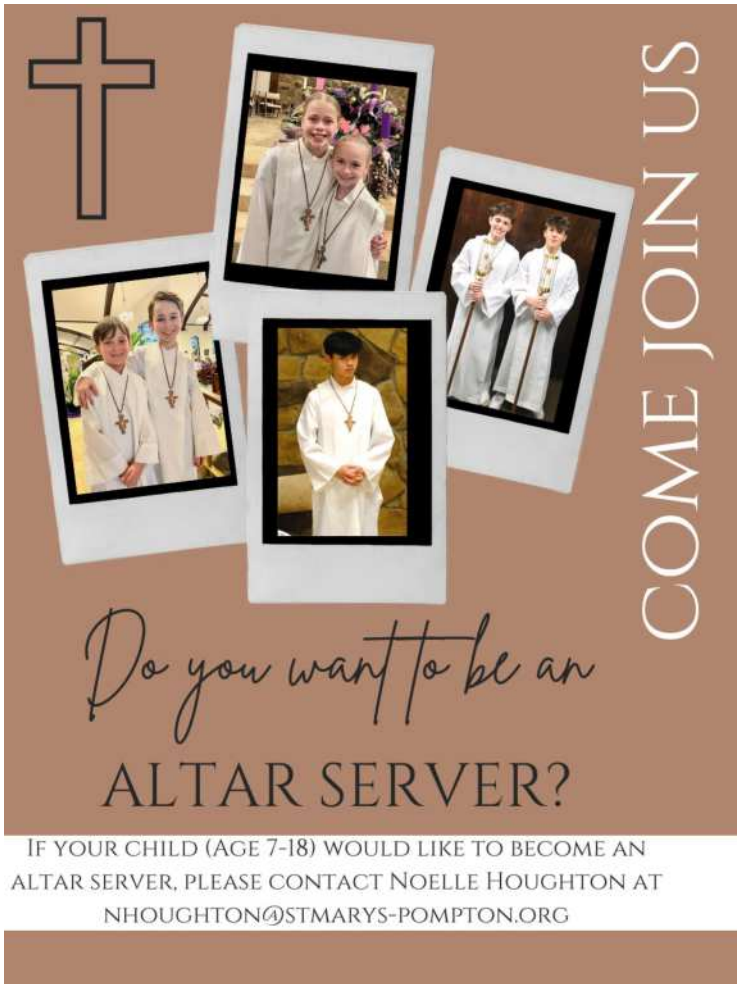
A monthly meeting is held in the Carnevale Center (room 203/204) for caregivers assisting loved ones with dementia.

Meetings are on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. Our next meeting date is February 12th.

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

THE FRANCISCAN STORE

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!



Lessons from Baptizing a Frog

I used to lead an RCIA session on baptism, where I would bring in my Kermit the Frog toy from when I was a child and pretend to baptize it. It was a session I especially made sure I led when we had children preparing for Easter sacraments. You would think Kermit would have become super holy having been baptized so many times, year after year. But, if he had been real, he would not have been any holier due to multiple baptisms than he was after the first baptism. He couldn't be re-baptized. (Not to mention, of course, he is a FROG.)

When Jesus came to John for baptism, he transformed the baptism of repentance that John was practicing into a baptism of redemption. And although we are called to repentance over and over in our life, redemption comes to us only once. We cannot get baptized again in the Jordan or Sea of Galilee because of romantic notions, or come into the Catholic Church by a second baptism so we can start all over. Our baptism, whether we can remember it or not, is a one-time deal. But it is the real deal. Whether you feel it or not, you are sealed for Christ, and the stain of original sin has been washed away.

Too many of us take that moment for granted. Yes, you may have been baptized as an infant. But much time has passed since then, and you can work to understand the impact that it had on your life. We sometimes look for a good time to begin living a stewardship way of life. However, that time already passed, and God has been waiting. We are called to reflect on our baptism and respond to the call it has placed on our lives. We can respond and be disciples, or we can be like Kermit the Frog, always searching for a new start that never comes.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

MEMORIAL OPPORTUNTIES

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.

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

- 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.

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

SERVE WITH US

Food Pantry Ministry: We are a ministry of the parish that provides food and household supplies to people in need from Pompton Lakes and the surrounding communities.

Good Works Gang Ministry: We help other parishioners and members of the community who are in need of help with various projects, i.e. light yard clean ups, moving personal items and projects that, for various reasons, they are unable to do themselves.

Helping Hands/Social Worker Ministry: We provide concrete services and material assistance to needy, sick or disabled persons or families in our local community.

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

Hospitality Ministry: We provide and serve food and drink at Parish events both large and small. Opportunities to volunteer include: baking, decorating, setup, food service, and cleanup, and each role is essential to the success of the event.

Lasagna Love: Our mission is simply this: to feed families, spread kindness, and strengthen communities. Volunteers from this wonderful organization make meals for our Food Pantry families.

Meals with Love: We help the NJ Buddies serve people living with HIV/AIDS while they rebuild their lives. It is simply a ministry of making home-cooked meals for 8 people and delivering them twice a month to Paramus.

Military Assistance Pantry: We support the Military Assistance Pantry located in Paterson. We serve Northern NJ Veterans and their families who are facing food insecurity. Every other month, our parishioners make baked ziti and brownies. We distribute the home-cooked meals and desserts directly to the Veterans.

Thanksgiving Dinner Ministry: We prepare and cook Thanksgiving Dinner for residents of local Care Centers on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

WORSHIP WITH US

Altar Servers: We are a group of young men and women ages 7-18 who assist the priests, deacons and Mass captains during the celebration of the Eucharist. Altar Servers learn more about the Mass and grow in their faith. Scheduling is flexible and based around their normally attended Mass.

Church Ambiance: We gather to clean and tidy up our church building on a regular basis.

Church Decorators: We add a welcoming, beautiful, spiritual and reverent atmosphere as we worship together.

Eucharistic Ministry: We distribute the body and blood of Jesus Christ at Masses, and also bring Eucharist to people in hospitals, rehab facilities and to people who cannot make it to Church.

Funeral Servers: We assist the friars in setting up for and serving funeral Masses at St. Mary's Church.

Lectors: We proclaim Scripture at Sunday Masses and other liturgical celebrations throughout the year.

Music Ministry: We provide music for all parish Masses and celebrations. We are open to every parishioner, no matter their age or level of experience.

Purificator Ministry: We take home, wash, and press the sacred linens that are used during the Mass. These linens are considered sacred because they touch the body and blood of Christ during the Mass.

Ushers: We who assist at our Sunday Liturgies by welcoming parishioners, showing people to their seats, and taking up the collection.

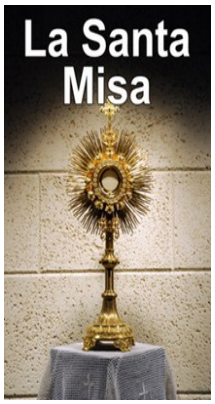
MINISTERIO HISPANO DE SANTA MARIA

La Santa Misa en español

Miércoles a las 7:00pm

Domingos a las 8:45am

En la iglesia Principal



Bautismos en español

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

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

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

ANUNCIOS

1.- Adorar al **Santísimo** es un encuentro personal con Dios. Habrá exposición al Santísimo después de la misa en español el miércoles 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

Se agradece de corazón a todas las personas que, con su servicio generoso, hicieron de este tiempo de Navidad un período lleno de fe, belleza y alegría compartida en nuestra comunidad. Agradecemos de manera especial a las familias de Santa María, cuya disponibilidad y cercanía hicieron de nuestras celebraciones y encuentros navideños verdaderos espacios de oración, cantos y fraternidad, fortaleciendo nuestra unidad como comunidad de esperanza. Reconocemos también a quienes colaboraron para que nuestras tradiciones navideñas permanezcan vivas y se sigan transmitiendo a las nuevas generaciones como un tesoro de fe para todo el Pueblo de Dios. 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, pidiendo al Señor que bendiga abundantemente su generosidad y a sus familias. Gracias a todos por tanto y por todo. Dios mediante seguiremos celebrando el domingo primero de febrero en la Candelaria.

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 del Bautismo del Señor. (11 de enero de 2026)

Primera Lectura:	Isaías 42, 1-4. 6-7
Salmo Responsorial:	Salmo 28, 1a y 2. 3ac-4. 3b y 9b-10
Segunda Lectura:	Hechos 10, 34-38
+Evangelio:	Mateo 3, 13-17

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.

JUBILEO 2025
PEREGRINOS
DE ESPERANZA

Legado del Jubileo 2025: un regalo para hoy

El Jubileo ha sido para toda la Iglesia católica un tiempo de gracia en el que se nos recordó que Dios abre siempre puertas de misericordia, reconciliación y esperanza. A través de celebraciones, peregrinaciones y gestos concretos de caridad, se hizo visible que la fe no es solo una idea, sino un camino que transforma la vida diaria de las personas y de las comunidades. Este legado nos invita a seguir viviendo como discípulos alegres, capaces de reconocer la presencia de Dios en la historia y de ofrecer al mundo una palabra de consuelo y de paz. Para la comunidad parroquial de Santa María en Pompton Lakes, el Jubileo dejó la enseñanza de que cada bautizado es protagonista de la misión de la Iglesia. No se trata solo de "ir a misa", sino de descubrir que cada ministerio, cada servicio, cada pequeño gesto de ayuda y cercanía es parte de una gran obra que el Señor realiza en medio de nosotros. Nuestro legado es una comunidad que reza unida, celebra con alegría y sale al encuentro de los más necesitados, sabiendo que la parroquia es una casa abierta para todos. En la Diócesis de Paterson, el Jubileo impulsó un renovado sentido de comunión entre parroquias, movimientos y ministerios, recordándonos que formamos una sola Iglesia, diversa pero unida en la misma fe. Las iniciativas diocesanas, las celebraciones comunes y los proyectos de evangelización mostraron que, cuando se comparte la fe y se trabaja en equipo, el testimonio se vuelve más creíble y más fecundo. Este legado nos anima a seguir fortaleciendo los lazos entre diócesis, parroquia y familias, para que nadie se sienta solo en su camino de fe. Mirando hacia adelante, el Jubileo nos deja un compromiso: no dejar que todo quede en "recuerdos bonitos", sino traducirlo en decisiones concretas de conversión, servicio y cercanía al prójimo.

Como comunidad de Santa María y como parte de la Diócesis de Paterson, estamos llamados a cultivar una fe más profunda, una esperanza más firme y una caridad más creativa, especialmente con los pobres y los que sufren. Así, el Jubileo no termina, sino que continúa en cada gesto cotidiano de perdón, solidaridad y anuncio del Evangelio.

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