



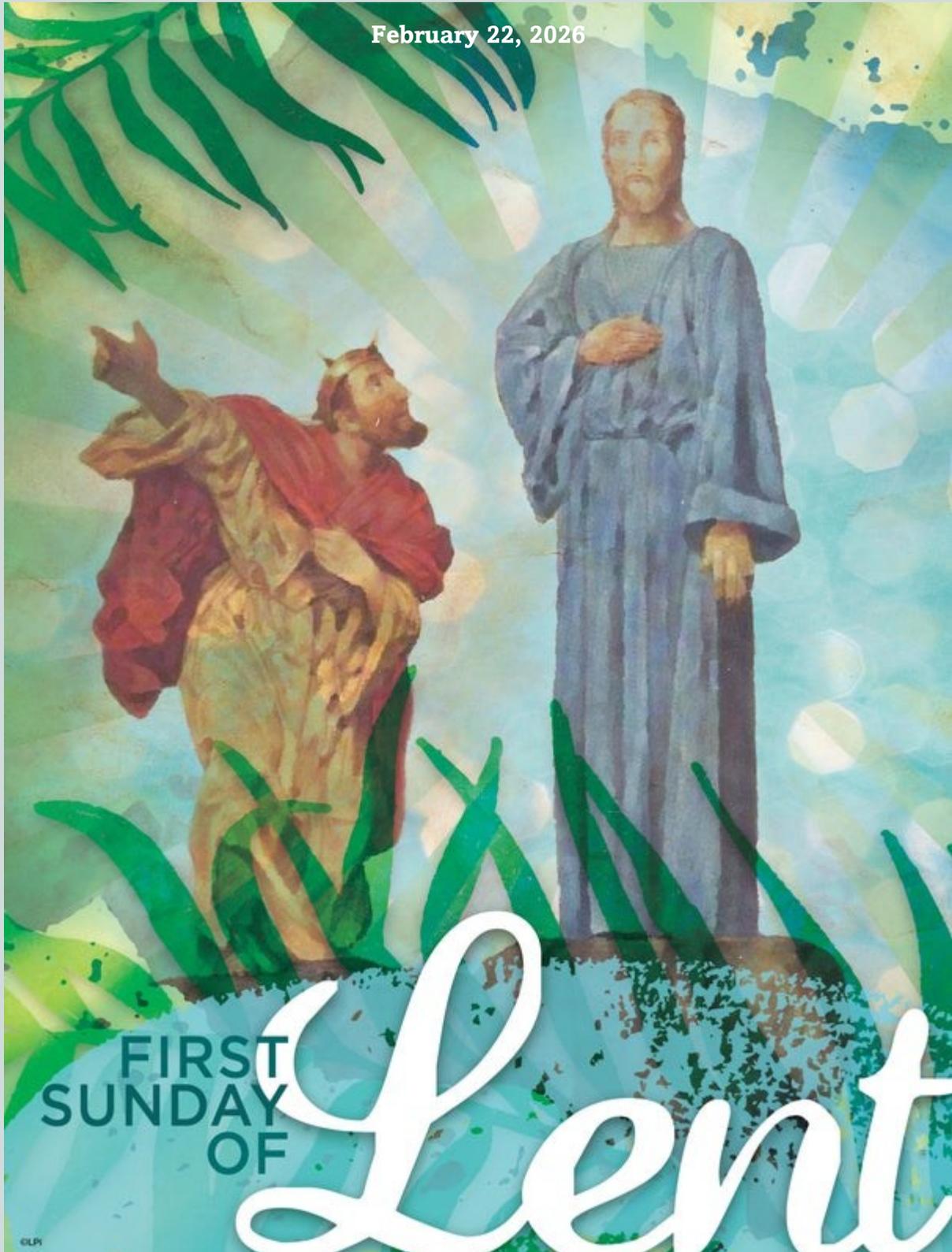
SAINT MARY'S

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

February 22, 2026



FIRST
SUNDAY
OF

Lent

FRIAR'S DESK

LENT AND PRETZELS

The popular pretzel was developed way back in the year 610, by a monk who lived in a monastery which was on the border of southern France and northern Italy.

After baking his loaves of bread, he would throw out the scraps of dough. One day he came up with the idea to use these scraps. So he took the scraps of dough and shaped them into "the arms of a child in prayer."

He buttered them, added salt, baked them, and called them 'pretiolas.' The Latin word for 'little reward'. Then he gave them to the children in town.

People loved them, and soon they became popular all the way into Austria and Germany. Here they were called 'bretzels'.

Pretzels are recognized by food experts as naturally healthy and completely nutritious. They are made of enriched wheat and are rich in protein and contain calcium, phosphate and other vital mineral elements.

The crispness of pretzels exercises the teeth and the salt helps body loss from heat. And pretzels are relatively low in calories. In fact, 6 or 7 thin pretzels contain only 100 calories.

Also, pretzels have less fat and fewer calories than almost every other snack. And thanks to modern packaging, the pretzel you buy today is as fresh and crisp as it was at the moment it was baked.

A stained-glass window in the cathedral in Berne, Switzerland depicts a bride and groom using a pretzel knot at their wedding. They made a wish and then pulled on the pretzel as we do with a wishbone.

The first pretzel factory in America was built by J.S. Bachman, in 1884 in Reading, Pennsylvania. They delivered the pretzels by horse-drawn carts. They were soon seen throughout the whole country.

As you think about your Lenten resolutions, stop and think about the pretzel. Maybe your resolution will be, "simplify my life, and not let one day pass by without folding my arms in prayer".

What resolution could be healthier and holier?

—Father John Alderson

CUARESMA Y PRETZELS

El popular pretzel fue creado allá por el año 610 por un monje que vivía en un monasterio ubicado en la frontera entre el sur de Francia y el norte de Italia.

Después de hornear sus panes, solía desechar los restos de masa. Un día se le ocurrió la idea de utilizar esos sobrantes. Entonces tomó los restos de masa y les dio forma como "los brazos de un niño en oración".

Los untó con mantequilla, les añadió sal, los horneó y los llamó "pretiolas", palabra latina que significa "pequeña recompensa". Luego se los daba a los niños del pueblo.

A la gente le encantaron, y pronto se hicieron populares incluso en Austria y Alemania. Allí se les llamó "bretzels".

Los expertos en nutrición reconocen que los pretzels son naturalmente saludables y completamente nutritivos. Están hechos de trigo enriquecido, son ricos en proteína y contienen calcio, fosfato y otros minerales esenciales.

La textura crujiente de los pretzels ejercita los dientes y la sal ayuda al cuerpo a reponer lo que pierde con el calor. Además, los pretzels son relativamente bajos en calorías. De hecho, 6 o 7 pretzels delgados contienen solamente 100 calorías.

Asimismo, los pretzels tienen menos grasa y menos calorías que casi cualquier otro bocadillo. Y gracias al empaque moderno, el pretzel que se compra hoy está tan fresco y crujiente como en el momento en que fue horneado.

Una vidriera en la catedral de Berna, Suiza, representa a una novia y a un novio usando un nudo de pretzel en su boda. Ellos pidieron un deseo y luego tiraron del pretzel como se hace con un hueso de la suerte.

La primera fábrica de pretzels en Estados Unidos fue construida por J.S. Bachman en 1884 en Reading, Pensilvania. Entregaban los pretzels en carretas tiradas por caballos. Pronto se vieron en todo el país.

Al pensar en sus propósitos de Cuaresma, deténgase un momento y piense en el pretzel. Tal vez su propósito podría ser: "simplificar mi vida y no dejar pasar un solo día sin cruzar mis brazos en oración".

¿Qué propósito podría ser más saludable y más santo?

—Father John Alderson

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

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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 cfeld@stmarys-pompton.org
Grades 6 to 8 & Confirmation
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>



LENTEN MISSION 3/1, 3/2, 3/3

Beyond The Days:

A Lenten Journey of Identity, Encounter and Transformation

Sunday, March 1st at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, March 2nd and Tuesday, March 3rd: abbreviated mission after noon Mass with the full mission at 7:00 p.m.

Our parish will embark on a mission that leads us to the very heart of Christian life. Through preaching at all Sunday Masses and three evening presentations, Fr. Ricky Manalo, CSP, will guide us into a deeper understanding of who we are, what we celebrate, and how God continues to transform us through sacred time, worship, and the way we live together as Church.

Day 1: We will explore why the Lenten and Easter seasons form the spiritual core of the Church's year—the great "90 days" that tell the story of our Christian identity and call us to ongoing conversion.

Day 2: We will reflect on the Eucharist as the sacred threshold where heaven and earth meet, and where we are continually formed, re-formed, and transformed in Christ as one Body.

Day 3: We will reflect on the reality of polarization in our Church and society and how it shapes the way we see one another. Drawing on the Gospel and the Church's spiritual wisdom, this evening invites us to name division honestly while discovering paths toward healing, reconciliation, and deeper communion in Christ.

This mission is an invitation to slow down, listen more deeply, and enter the Paschal Mystery with renewed faith and hope. All are welcome—come and be strengthened for the journey ahead.



MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

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

Vigil Masses:

5:00 PM—English

7:00 PM—English

SUNDAY

7:30 AM—English

8:45 AM—Español (livestreamed)

9:00 AM—English (Carnevale Center)

10:30 AM—English (livestreamed)

12:00 PM—English

WEEKDAYS

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

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

7:00 PM—Wednesday en Español (livestreamed)

MASSES ONLINE AT:

www.stmarys-pompton.org

www.facebook.com/smcponpton

www.youtube.com/c/stmaryspomptonlakes

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48



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 honor of our grandfather's heavenly birthday, **Chichi Martinez**, with love from the Ciccarelli family.



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:

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, and orders can be placed on their website: www.holy-bones.org.

MASS INTENTIONS † = Deceased, L = Living

Saturday	February 21
5:00 p.m.	† Nancy King † Lester Kurylo † Tommy Dowd † Karen Butkieicz † Katherine Raczko
7:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Sunday	February 22
7:30 a.m.	† Lori Kim Colella (heavenly birthday) † Anne Helmstetter † Joseph McHugh
8:45 a.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish
9:00 a.m. (CC)	† Phylis D'Onofrio
10:30 a.m.	† Marlene Annarumma (1st Ann.) † Kathy Marshall † Marco Sciarra † Albert & Mary D'Aloia † Lori Kim Colella (heavenly birthday) † Marie Cioletti
12:00 p.m.	† James Nolan
Monday	February 23
8:00 a.m.	† Bruce Regione
12:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Tuesday	February 24
8:00 a.m.	† John Weir † Deigo McKenzie
12:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Wednesday	February 25
8:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
12:00 p.m.	† Anthony Scotti (heavenly birthday)
Thursday	February 26
8:00 a.m.	† Jack Robert Nacion (23rd heavenly birthday)
12:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Friday	February 27
8:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
12:00 p.m.	† James Nolan † Walter Winrow
Saturday	February 28
5:00 p.m.	† Maria Madera DeCastillo † John Dublanica (2nd Ann.) † Joyce M. Torisella † Ryszard Lewinski † Pat & Tom Sauerbrei
7:00 p.m.	† Millie Carrano
Sunday	March 1
7:30 a.m.	People of the Parish
8:45 a.m. (Spanish)	People of the Parish
9:00 a.m. (CC)	People of the Parish
10:30 a.m.	† Wladyslaw & Franciszka Wasilewski † Boleslaw Wasilewski † Michal & Elzbieta Bury † Leslie Graf (2nd Ann.) L. Kazimierz & Wanda Wiecek and family
12:00 p.m.	† Matthew Rosado † Mary Sorace (10th Ann.)



...THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY PASSED

Kenneth Rinaldi, Amarachi Okere, Angelo Toscano

...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, Rozalia Maziarz, David Grish, Bob Kruk, Jess Harman, Morgan Mahon, Ella Rose Mahon, Maria Gambatese, Terry Medino, Joy Wechter, Robert Rinaldi, Elisa Baisley, Darin Piccoli, Jama Rothschild, Linda Bedell Kwaitkowski, Eileen Donnelly, John Donnelly, James McMahan, Denise & Ray Karlyk, Jinni Fiornio, Pat Brady, Mike M.

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

...THOSE SERVING IN HARM'S WAY

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

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

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

Please join us in singing!

1. In Christ Alone

Verse 1

In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

Verse 2

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.

Verse 3

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

Verse 4

No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Be merciful, O Lord, have mercy on us,
for we have sinned. We come before
you, cleanse us from within, have mercy
on us, Lord.

2. To the Desert Follow Me

Chorus

To the desert follow me,
for I am God, who is your hope.
To the desert, follow me.

Verse 1

Return to me with all your heart
Let go the world and come to me
Rend your heart and not your clothes
For I am kind my name is mercy

Verse 2

Slow to anger is my way
My cup is filled with love for you
I will not send you to the foe
Nor scorn the ones I come to rescue

Verse 3

Gather my people says the Lord
Oh let them come to healing peace
Elders and children lost and found
Into this place of love's revealing

Verse 4

A blessing I will give to you
All you who wander and who thirst
The desert soon will bear a spring
Forgiving water shall restore you

3. In This Place

Verse 1

We are all hungry people
We need shelter and strength
We are one in our hurting
We are one in our pain
In our suffering and sadness
We are saved by the grace
Of the power and the Spirit
That is here in this place

Refrain

We are gathered at together
As one in the Lord
We are gathered as people
Who are living the Word
Our hearts and our spirits
Are nurtured by grace
It is Jesus who fills us
He is here in this place

Verse 2

All our lives are a mystery
We see not where they lead
We are asked now to trust You
And we know we must believe
As our feet become Christ's feet
We go forth with the grace

Of the power and the Spirit
That is here in this place

Verse 3

Though the world may tell us
To look at ourselves
We reach out to another
Where suffering dwells
As our hands become Christ's hands
We are healed by the grace
Of the power and the Spirit
That is here in this place

Verse 4

In the bread that is broken
Is the Christ that restores
As we take, now receive Him
We find love evermore
As the bread becomes body
We are filled with the grace
Of the power and the Spirit
That is here in this place

4. 40 Days

Verse 1

Forty days to wander
Forty days to die to self
Forty days to grow stronger
As faith breaks open the gates of hell
The jubilee is over
But grace is far from gone
In the hearts of the faithful
Broken on the wheels of love

Chorus

'Cause in the desert of temptation
Lies the storm of true conversion
Where springs of living water
Drown and refresh you
And as the Jordan pours out change
Your true self is all that remains
Where springs of living water
Bind and break you
(Bind and break you)

Verse 2

Forty days to remember
The Paschal sacrifice
Forty days to discover
His passion calls us to new life
The jubilee is over
But mercy's far from gone
In the arms of the Father
As the wayward child comes home



LENT AND HOLY WEEK



Lenten Disciplines of Fasting & Abstinence

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.

Weekdays During Lent

Mass at 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. in the church

Stations of the Cross

After the 12:00 p.m. Mass on Fridays in the church

Soup and Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent

- 6:00 p.m. Soup in Spina Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross in the church
- March 13 (bilingual)

Confessions

- Mondays from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Prayer Room
- Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the church
- Good Friday from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Prayer Room

Lenten Mission

- Sunday, March 1st: 7:00 p.m.
- Monday March 2nd and Tuesday, March 3rd abbreviated mission after noon Mass. Full mission at 7:00 p.m.
- All in the church

Lenten Penance Services

- Saturday, March 7th at 11:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, March 24th at 7:00 p.m.
- All in the church

No Greater Love

- Friday March 27th at 7:00p.m. in the church
- Presented by Xavier Company
- Experience the Passion of Christ in drama, song and dance

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 29th
Regular Mass Schedule

Women of Jerusalem

Monday, March 30th 7:00 p.m. in the church

Seder Dinner

Tuesday, March 31st
Mack's Restaurant – please pre-register !

La Santa Misa en español

Wednesday, April 1st
7:00 p.m. in the church

Holy Thursday

- Thursday, April 2nd
- 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer in the church
 - 7:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass of the Lord's Supper in the church

Good Friday

- Friday, April 3rd
- 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer in the church
 - 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Confessions in the Prayer Room
 - 3:00 p.m. Service of the Passion of the Lord in the church
 - 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae/Service of the Passion of the Lord in the church
 - 7:00 p.m. Via Crucis y Celebración de la Pasión del Señor (Carnevale Ctr.)

Holy Saturday

- Saturday, April 4th
- 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
 - 12:00 p.m. Blessing of the Baskets
 - 7:30 p.m. Bilingual Easter Vigil
 - All in the church

Easter Sunday

- Sunday, April 5th
- 6:30 a.m Sunrise Mass (Pompton Lakes Elks Parking Lot)
 - Regular Sunday schedule in the church (additional Masses at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Carnevale Ctr.)

Divine Mercy Sunday

- Sunday, April 12th
- 2:00 p.m.– 2:45 p.m. Confessions
 - 3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet
 - All in the Prayer Room

Hispanic Ministry

- Domingo, 15 de febrero, 10:00 a.m. Charla de Cuaresma en Spina Hall.
- Viernes, 13 de marzo, 7:00 p.m. Via Crucis bilingüe en la iglesia; antes tendremos una comida sencilla de sopa en el sótano.
- Miércoles, 18 de marzo, 7:30 p.m. Servicio de Reconciliacion con confesiones individuales.

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



Congratulations to all our young people who recently received their Confirmation!

Payton Adrian
 Francesco Lobaton Alvarez
 Avery Always
 Ivan Moises Pluma Amezcua
 Maren Angeluzzi
 Claire Badami
 Drea Bailey
 Gianna Barnable
 Kaylan Bartolozzi
 Dante Bellina
 Rachel Bolduc
 Irys Bowser
 Chase Brancaleone
 Joseph Brooks
 Lucas Bush
 Catherina Callegari
 Matteo Carr
 Colin Chessin
 Conner Chessin
 Natalia Ciresi
 Kate Coursen
 Alondra Soperanes Cruz
 Brandon Cruz
 Isabella D'Aleo
 Abigail D'Angelo
 Bailey D'Angelo
 Chloe D'Angelo
 James Del Guidice
 Isabella De Martinis
 Luca Dilev

Todd DiPrima
 Matthew Dolan
 Alandra D'Orilia
 Carla Farina
 Kelly Faughnan
 Tyler Fazio
 Joseph Ferrary
 Juliana Finn
 Taylor Fleeson
 Gavin Forlai
 Claire Freeman
 Madelyn Frank
 Rocco Gallotta
 Taylor Gioia
 James Daniel Gonzalez
 Raben Alexa Gonzalez
 Matthew Harraka
 Marie Harrington
 Shawn Hawkins
 Jason Hatzel
 Caylee Hazen
 Dylan Hazen
 Addison Houlihan
 Madisyn Huther
 Yaretzi Camila Jimenez
 Truman Kane
 Alex Kwaszko
 Olivia Kloock
 Alan Jesus Galicia Lagunes
 David Sebastian Jerez Lazo

Nicholas Lebron
 Amy Liguori
 Gabriella Liscio
 Allison Lucero Lopez
 Britany Nicolle Lopez
 Abbey Martinelli
 Lilianna Martinelli
 Juliana Marseu
 Katherine McLean
 Dariana Medina-Terreros
 Ella Mehr
 Camila Mendez
 Carolina Mendez
 Brady Morano
 Annabell Muniz
 Andrew Murcia
 Mackenzie Murphy
 Eric Nieves
 Michelle Navarro
 Franklin Novitskie
 Amarachi Okere
 Camilia Melissa Espinoza Ortega
 Michael O'Shaughnessy
 Trevor Pacifico
 Caitlin Pakonis
 Jayson Isaac Pinzon
 Julia Pinzon
 Vincent Pizza
 Gabriella Polifonte
 Jocelyn Prall

Catalina Prezioso
 Natalie Rakowski
 Michaela Rooney
 Elizabeth Rotondo
 Julianna Russo
 Mia Sabatelli
 Ryan Sabric
 Gianna Salvanto
 Gianna Sarcona
 Mark Sapp
 Leo Miguel Samonte
 Jillian Sawyer
 Adeline Scott
 Marconi Sente
 Samantha Simon
 Laura Solarino
 Nicholas Solis
 Mikaela Sotto
 Brandon Stone
 Hunter Struble
 Willem Talbot
 Ryder Turi
 Isabella Tyminski
 Allison Warfield
 Chad Watson Jr.
 Sydney West
 Sydney Woodard
 Lily Zak



Through the waters of Baptism, we welcome into the Body of Christ...



Andre Antonio Ruiz Jr.



Gaia Katarina Ulqinaku



Noah Matthew Thissen



Carter Desmond Garcia



Luke Zachary Adamczyk



May God rest the soul of 15-year-old Amarachi Okere, who joyfully received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Mary's Church on January 1st. After a brave battle with cancer, she was called home to the Lord on February 8th. We entrust her to God's loving mercy and ask our parish community to keep her family in your prayers during this difficult time. Memorial donations to honor Amarachi's life can be directed to the Amarachi Foundation (<https://amarachifoundation.com>).



IRISH DANCING WITH FATHER JOHN

**Learn to dance in time for the
Ringwood St. Patrick's Day Parade!**

Wednesday, February 25th to Wednesday, March 25th
7-8 p.m. in St. Clare Hall (Carnevale Center)

Suggested donation \$25 (\$5 per class)

Dancers should be prepared to sweat a little, so comfortable workout clothes and water bottles are recommended. Light, flexible, and smooth-soled shoes or dancing sneakers are best but regular sneakers are fine, too!

For this semester, we will put together a little routine to dance in the Ringwood St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Please register at
<https://www.stmarys-pompton.org/irish-dancing-with-father-john>
or call the Parish Office.





St. Mary's Church invites you
to be part of

WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE

Many Paths, ONE Destination

March 13th-14th 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!***




Saturday, March 7th at 6:00 p.m.
in the Carnevale Center



\$25 p/person for an Irish dinner including corned beef, cabbage, shepherds pie, Irish soda bread & more! Coffee, tea and soft drinks included with the meal. BYOB (beer and wine). Music and entertainment included!

For reservations, please contact Keith Ahearn at
201-388-7346 or kofc3801@gmail.com



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>

Holy Bones is actively seeking the
following volunteers to join our team:



Social Media Marketing
Holy Bones is looking for a creative individual who can help promote their products on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok. Must be 18 + years old. Marketing students ok to apply.

Sales Associate
Holy Bones is looking for a volunteer to assist their sales team in taking orders and delivering product to stores in the area. Must be 18 + years old and have reliable transportation. Mileage will be reimbursed.

Anyone interested should email Marie at
mcioletti@stmarys-pompton.org.



In the past five years in Rwanda, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has reached over 300,000 young children with early learning and nutrition support, trained over 5,000 caregivers to nurture healthy growth, and built and equipped 174 community centers where children can learn and play safely. Please consider donating today at www.crs.org. Thanks for your support!

A JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF

Wednesdays, March 18th through April 22nd from 7-8:30 p.m.
Carnevale Center, Banta Room (handicapped accessible)

Susan Fecko, LCSW, will facilitate this bereavement group which is open to all who have recently experienced the death of a significant loved one. We aim to create a supportive group in which one's unique journey through the grief process is examined and respected.

Participation is free of charge through the sponsorship of Pathways Counseling Center and St. Mary's Church.

Registration is required. Please call Pathways at 973-835-6337 or visit www.stmarys-pompton.org



There will be a meeting of the Bereavement Support Group on March 9th at 7:00 pm in the Banta Room of the Carnevale Center. This group is open to anyone whose significant loved one has died more than one year ago. If you are struggling in the aftermath of your loss, or if you just want to connect with others who are rebuilding their life after loss, then THIS GROUP IS FOR YOU! You will find a welcoming, supportive, comforting space to discuss your journey.

FOOD PANTRY

Upcoming Food Pantry distribution dates/times:

Saturday, February 21	9:30am to 3:30pm (arrive by 3:00)
Wednesday, February 25	4:00pm to 7:00pm (arrive by 6:30)
Saturday, February 28	9:30am to 3:30pm (arrive by 3:00)
Wednesday, March 4	4:00pm to 7:00pm (arrive by 6:30)
Saturday, March 21	9:30am to 3:30pm (arrive by 3:00)
Wednesday, March 25	4:00pm to 7:00pm (arrive by 6:30)
Saturday, March 28	9:30am to 3:30pm (arrive by 3:00)
Wednesday, April 1	4:00pm to 7:00pm (arrive by 6:30)



Current Needs

Current needed items:

Decaf coffee, regular and decaf instant coffee, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, tissues

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 shipped directly to the church at
31 Pompton Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442

NO CLOTHING DONATIONS PLEASE.



English as a Learned Language (ELL) classes are being offered at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Pompton Lakes. Classes will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6-7 pm beginning on March 3rd. Three levels of instruction are available. Level 1 "Introduction to English" for those with very little knowledge and use of English. Emphasis is on simple sentences and vocabulary recognition and use. Level 2, "Intermediate Class" for those with a speaking knowledge of the language, and Level 3, "Advanced Class" for those who are comfortable reading, writing, and speaking English. St. Mary's has offered these classes for speakers of all languages for over 25 years, and many have gained financially and socially from their hard work and regular attendance. If interested, please register in the Carnevale Center on Lenox Ave on Tuesday, February 24, from 6-7 pm. We look forward to seeing and serving you.

Se ofrecen clases de inglés como lengua aprendida (ELL) en la Iglesia Católica Romana de St. Mary en Pompton Lakes. Las clases se llevarán a cabo los martes y miércoles por la noche de 6 a 7 pm a partir del 3 de marzo. Hay tres niveles de instrucción disponibles. Nivel 1 "Introducción al inglés" para aquellos con muy poco conocimiento y uso del inglés. Se hace hincapié en oraciones simples y en el reconocimiento y uso de vocabulario. Nivel 2, "Clase Intermedia" para aquellos con conocimiento oral del idioma, y Nivel 3, "Clase Avanzada" para aquellos que se sienten cómodos leyendo, escribiendo y hablando inglés. St. Mary's ha ofrecido estas clases para hablantes de todos los idiomas durante más de 25 años, y muchos se han beneficiado financieramente y socialmente de su arduo trabajo y asistencia regular. Si está interesado, regístrese en el Carnevale Center en Lenox Ave el martes 24 de febrero de 6 a 7 p.m. Esperamos verlo y servirle.



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.

**ALL
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS
WELCOME!**



**EMMAUS RETREAT
FEBRUARY 27TH-MARCH 1ST
CAMP SHILOH**



Saint Mary's Youth Ministry is offering its annual Emmaus Retreat, from February 27th-March 1st.

This retreat experience gives our high schoolers a great opportunity to continue growing in their faith while also developing their own faith community. It will be taking place at Camp Shiloh in Hewitt, NJ, and all high school-aged students are welcome to attend!



COME AND SING WITH US! CHILDREN'S CHOIR

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4-5 PM In the Church

Fridays, February 27th -March 27th

Sing Easter Mass April 5th at noon

**CONTACT DOROTHY
DLIMEY@STMARYS-POMPTON.ORG**

Scan to Register



SPECIAL NEEDS
Religious Education Program

Registration is open for our Special Needs Religious Education classes.

Anyone wishing to register their child and/or would like further information, please contact Andrea Piccirillo at 973-835-0374.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Welcome back from our winter break!

The final 2nd grade Reconciliation Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, February 28th. We will be celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation over several evenings in March. Please keep the children in your prayers.

Our 1st and 2nd graders are scheduled to participate in Lenten Workshops during their regular class period this week. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades are scheduled on the weekends. Reminders will be sent of the scheduled date and times.

"Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves... What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out without a moment of hesitation!"

—Catherine Doherty

EASTER EGG HUNT

MARCH 28TH 11 AM

Children Ages

Birth - 5th Grade



Register Here



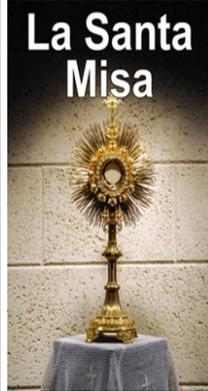
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La Santa Misa en español

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.

Iglesia Católica de Santa María y
Comunidad Franciscana

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

2.- Cuaresma 2026:

* VIA CRUCIS BILLINGUE: viernes 13 de marzo a las 7:00pm; en la iglesia; antes tendremos una comida sencilla de sopa en el sótano.

*SERVICIO DE RECONCILIACION: miércoles 18 de marzo a las 7:30 p.m., después de la Misa en la Iglesia Principal. Les invitamos a participar para fortalecer juntos nuestra vivencia de este tiempo de fe.

SEMANA SANTA 2026

*Domingo de Ramos: 29 de marzo; misa a las 8:45am en la iglesia principal

*Miércoles Santo: primero de abril; misa en español a las 7:00pm en el Centro Carnevale

*Jueves Santo: 2 de abril; misa bilingüe a las 7:00pm en la iglesia principal

*Viernes Santo: 3 de abril; VIA CRUCIS seguido de la Liturgia de la Palabra a las 7:00pm en el centro Carnevale.

*Vigilia Pascual: 4 de abril; misa bilingüe a las 7:00pm en la Iglesia Principal

*Domingo de RESURRECCION: EASTER: 5 de abril; misa en español a las 8:45am en la iglesia principal.

Lecturas Bíblicas –I Domingo de Cuaresma - Ciclo A – (22 de febrero de 2026)

Primera Lectura: Génesis 2, 7-9; 3, 1-7

Salmo Responsorial: Salmo 50, 3-4. 5-6a. 12-13. 14 y 17

Segunda Lectura: Romanos 5, 12-19

+Evangelio: Mateo 4, 1-11

Ministerio de Proclamadores de la Palabra

Por favor comunicarse con Lourdes Huerta (973-270-3453). Este Ministerio se reunirá el lunes 23 de febrero de 2026 de 7:30pm a 8:30pm en el salón Alma Banta del Centro Carnevale.

DOMINGOS DE CUARESMA



En los domingos de Cuaresma del ciclo A, la Iglesia nos ofrece un camino muy claro para acercarnos a Cristo y preparar el corazón para la Pascua. Cada domingo tiene un tema fuerte: la tentación de Jesús en el desierto, la transfiguración, el encuentro con la samaritana, la curación del ciego de nacimiento y la resurrección de Lázaro. Estos evangelios nos muestran a Jesús que vence el mal, revela su gloria, sacia la sed más profunda, abre los ojos de la fe y devuelve la vida donde parecía

haber solo muerte. Para nuestra comunidad de Santa María en Pompton Lakes, son como cinco pasos que nos ayudan a revisar nuestra vida y dejarnos renovar por el Señor. El primer gran tema es la lucha contra la tentación y la llamada a la conversión del corazón. Jesús en el desierto nos enseña a no dejarnos engañar por las falsas promesas del mundo: poder, egoísmo, comodidad sin compromiso. En nuestra realidad diaria trabajo, familia, preocupaciones migratorias y económicas este mensaje es muy concreto: elegir la verdad y la justicia, cuidar nuestro lenguaje, renunciar a rencores, vicios y todo lo que nos aleja de Dios.

La Cuaresma, especialmente en sus primeros domingos, nos recuerda que no estamos solos en esta lucha; Jesús camina con nosotros y nos da su gracia para empezar de nuevo. Otro tema central de los domingos de Cuaresma en el ciclo A es el encuentro personal con Jesús que transforma la vida. La samaritana, el ciego de nacimiento y Lázaro representan a personas que, desde su historia herida, son alcanzadas por la misericordia de Dios. También nosotros, como comunidad hispana de Santa María, llevamos heridas, cansancio, dudas y miedos. Estos evangelios nos invitan a dejar que Cristo toque aquello que está seco o apagado en nosotros: nuestra oración, nuestra confianza, nuestras relaciones familiares, nuestra participación en la parroquia.

Jesús quiere darnos agua viva, abrir nuestros ojos y levantarnos de todo lo que huele a muerte: desánimo, división, pecado. Finalmente, los domingos de Cuaresma nos llaman a vivir la fe de forma comunitaria y misionera. No caminamos solos: somos parte de una comunidad que reza, escucha la Palabra, celebra los sacramentos y sirve a los más necesitados. En Santa María, esto significa hacer de la Cuaresma un tiempo para fortalecer la unidad entre los distintos grupos, apoyar a quienes sufren soledad o inseguridad, y animar a los jóvenes y niños a vivir estos domingos con sentido. Si como comunidad damos pasos concretos participar en la Misa, acercarnos a la confesión, unimos a iniciativas de caridad la Cuaresma 2026, ciclo A, será para nuestra parroquia un verdadero tiempo de gracia, reconciliación y esperanza compartida.

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