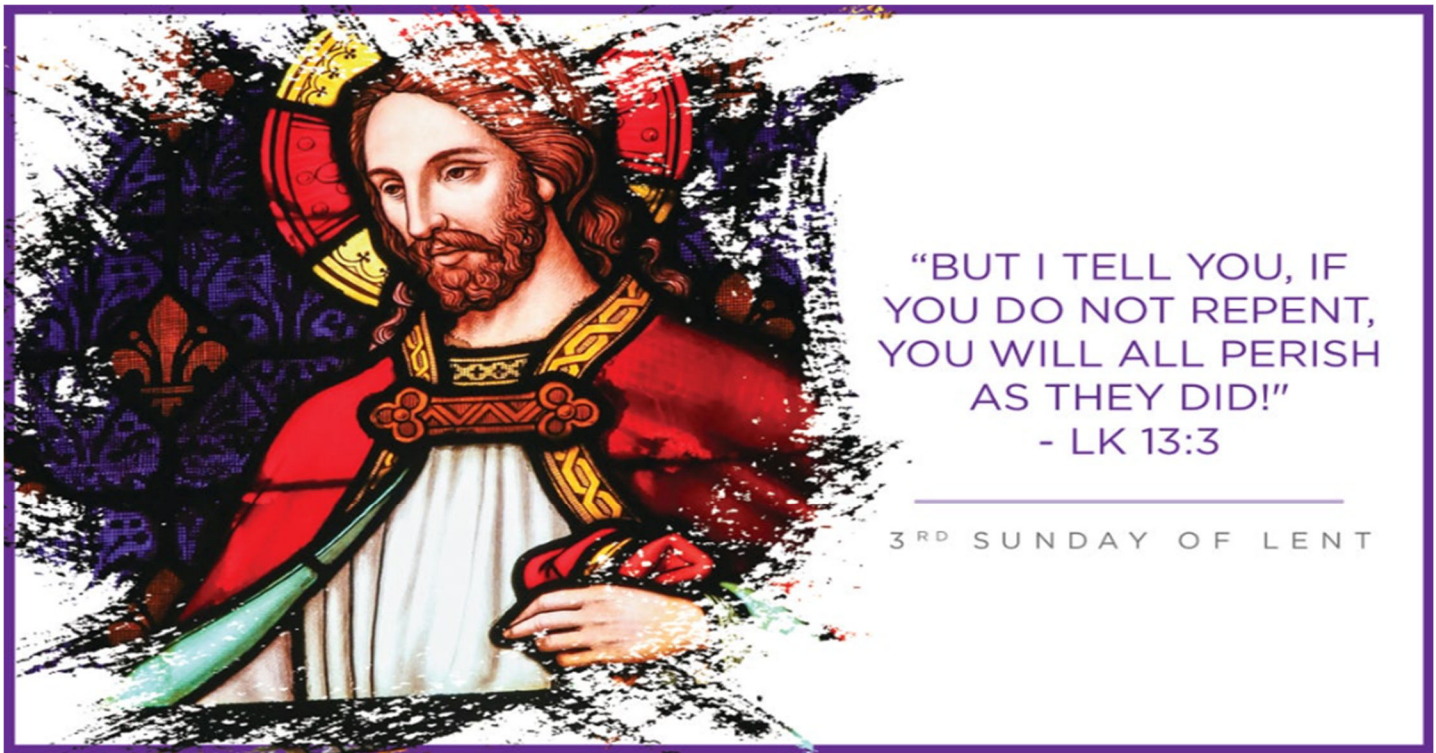


SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT ✝ MARCH 23, 2025

PASTOR

Very Rev. Joseph J. Piekarski, V.F.

CELEBRATION OF MASS

Mon–Fri 8:30 AM

Saturday 8:30 AM
5:00 PM

Sunday 7:30 AM
9:30 AM
11:30 AM

PARISH INFORMATION

Saint Mary of the Assumption
7200 Lancaster Pike
Hockessin, DE 19707
302-239-7100
www.smachurch.com



Matt Terranova



From Father Joe. . .

Catholics are among the only Christians who freely don't eat meat on Fridays during Lent. Why Friday? Catholic peoples from time immemorial have set apart Friday for special penitential observance of the day Jesus died for us. For much of the Church's history meat was singled out as a worthy sacrifice on account of its association with feasts and celebrations. "Carnis," animal flesh or meat from animals that live on the land or birds of the air, were considered meat and were inserted in the Abstinence Laws of the Church.

Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, reptiles (cold-blooded animals) and shellfish are in a different category and permitted. Additionally, fish in various cultures were not considered a "celebratory" meal but basic. Our current culture is much different as meat is generally considered the cheaper option than lobster, crab, shrimp. This is why many people are confused about the regulations, especially those who love to eat fish and do not consider it a penance.

In the end, the Church's intention is to encourage the faithful to offer up a sacrifice to God that comes from the heart and unites one's suffering to that of Christ on the cross. Meat is given as the very basic penance, while the purpose of the regulation should always be kept in mind.

Jesus told His disciples in Luke 5:35: "The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast." Why do we fast? Because we have a hunger for God. We're meant to feel that hunger so that it can direct us toward God. If we allow the superficial hunger of our lives to dominate, we never reach the deepest hunger. Like little children in their persistence and tendency to dominate, unless and until they are disciplined, we have a skewed function of our existence and purpose.

Embracing the gospel message, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13), we invite you to join in our diocesan **2025 Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal** under the theme "Together in Hope." This Appeal is a call for us to unite in faith, as a community bound by hope in God. Ministries and Services Supported by the Appeal:

TOGETHER
IN hope

1. **Catholic Education** in Catholic schools; Religious Ed Programs; OCIA Programs; Deaf & Special Needs Ministries; Campus & Young Adult Ministry;
2. **Pastoral Services** supports Chaplaincies; Deacon Formation and Ministries; Hispanic Ministry; Ministry for Black Catholics; Office for Religious; Office of Worship; the Office of Vocations and support of Seminarians, and Pro-Life Activities.
3. **Catholic Charities** offers assistance and resources to all people in need in Bayard House; Behavioral Health; Casa San Francisco; Food Assistance; HIV Services; Immigration Program; LIHEAP; Marydale; and Seton Center.
4. **Administration** oversees Diocesan Archives; Chancery Office; Development Office; Office of the Bishop; Tribunal Office; and the Office of Safe Environment.
5. **Communications** sends messaging and communications through Public Relations and Media; The Dialog, and Catholic Press.

Thank you to everyone who has pledged to the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal. If you have not yet participated, please consider doing so today. Your gift makes a real and lasting impact on the lives of individuals and families across our 12-county diocese. Pledge envelopes are available in the pews this weekend and can be placed in the offertory basket. Thank you for your generosity and support. To learn more, visit www.cdow.org; click "Giving" then "Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal," or simply scan this QR code.



MASS INTENTIONS

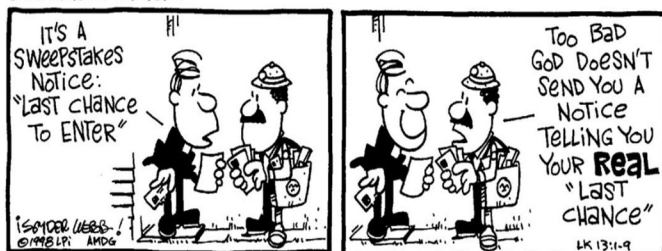
MONDAY	MARCH 24, 2025
8:30 am	Ray Abruzzese
TUESDAY	MARCH 25, 2025
8:30 am	James McManus
WEDNESDAY	MARCH 26, 2025
8:30 am	Eileen Frabizzio
THURSDAY	MARCH 27, 2025
8:30 am	Tom Calwonsen
FRIDAY	MARCH 28, 2025
8:30 am	Nikki Overman
SATURDAY	MARCH 29, 2025
8:30 am	Charles Tomlinson Audrey M. Sinko Gary Tomovich Daniel D'Alessandro Roy Argelander Thomas Cannon
5:00 pm	Parishioners
SUNDAY	MARCH 30, 2025
7:30 am	Kathryn Flanagan Farrell
9:30 am	Margaret Mary Filoromo
11:30 am	Benjamin Matwey

*In your charity, please pray for all who have
gone before us and all the deceased of
St. Mary of the Assumption*



+Edward Szczerba
Parishioner

3 RD SUNDAY OF LENT



PARISH CALENDAR

MONDAY	MARCH 24, 2025
8:30 am	Mass (C)
8:00 am	St. John of the Beloved—Faculty Retreat (M)
9:00 am	Legion of Mary—Rosary Prayers (C)
9:30 am	Bible Study Group Meeting (CP)
6:00 pm	Monday Evening PREP (CR)
7:00 pm	Parish Choir Easter Rehearsals (C)
TUESDAY	MARCH 25, 2025
8:30 am	Mass (C)
10:00 am	Divine Will Group Meeting (J)
7:00 pm	SMA Bell Choir Rehearsals (C)
7:00 pm	Bible Symposium w/ Fr. Piekarski (M)
WEDNESDAY	MARCH 26, 2025
8:30 am	Mass (C)
10:00 am	Ladies Guild Meeting (M)
7:00 pm	Parish Choir Rehearsal (C)
THURSDAY	MARCH 27, 2025
8:30 am	Mass (C)
2:00 pm	K of C—Fish Fry SETUP (H)
6:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop 803 Meeting (H)
FRIDAY	MARCH 28, 2025
8:30 am	Mass (C)
9:15 am	Mother's Prayer Group Meeting (CP)
9:15 am	Women's Faith Sharing Meeting (M)
9:30 am	Legion of Mary Meeting (CF)
2:00 pm	SMA Men Connect SETUP (M)
5:00 pm	K of C Fish Fry Dinner (H)
7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross (C)
SATURDAY	MARCH 29, 2025
8:30 am	Mass (C)
8:30 am	SMA Men Connect Event (M)
3:30 pm	Confessions (CP)
5:00 pm	Mass (C)
SUNDAY	MARCH 30, 2025—**2nd SCRUTINY**
7:30 am	Mass (C)
9:30 am	Mass (C)
9:30 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word (CF)
10:00 am	OCIA— Weekly Sunday Meeting (M)
10:40 am	Confirmation 2025 Small Group Session (J)
11:30 am	Mass (C)
12:15 pm	Legion of Mary—Junior Praesidium (CF)
12:45 pm	Confirmation 2025 Small Group Session (M)

Submit bulletin articles 2 weeks ahead of time.

PARISH ROOMS

(C) Church
(CP) Chapel
(GS) Gathering Space
(H) Hall

(CF) Coffee Run Room
(J) St. John Room
(M) St. Mary Room
(CR) Classrooms



In today's Gospel Jesus is quite clear in his message: "bear fruit or be cut down." This Lent we are called to cultivate and fertilize our spiritual lives through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Through your almsgiving you are performing a good work; far greater than you think. Know that your nickel, dime or quarter is multiplied by the coins place by others in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box.



Calling all youth musicians!!

Are you a young singer or do you play an instrument? St. Mary's music ministry is looking to increase youth involvement in our liturgies.

If you are a singer, grade 3 through age 35, or an instrumentalist aged 15 or older, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Matthew Jewell, our

Director of Music, either by email:

(music@smachurch.com) or at the parish office, ext. 16. to discuss potential opportunities.

Thank you!!

**PREPARE YOUR HEART
FOR EASTER**

**RECONCILIATION
MONDAY
APRIL 14 · 3-8 PM**

VISIT A CATHOLIC CHURCH IN DELAWARE OR MARYLAND'S EASTERN SHORE DURING OUR EXTENDED CONFESSION HOURS. VISIT CDOW.ORG TO FIND A CHURCH NEAR YOU.



JUNIOR LEGION OF MARY

Ages 7-17

Do you have time for the Rosary? If not, here's a solution!!!

Come to Junior Legion of Mary, we invite children ages 7-17 and we provide lunch! We meet every Sunday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Coffee Run room of St. Mary of the Assumption Church. There are a lot of fun activities. Some days we visit the elderly. We have been learning about Mary and the saints and sharing our faith. And we make rosaries, cards, gifts for newly baptized babies and hospital patients and bring the Pilgrim Virgin Mary to people's home.

If interested,
please email us:
lom.jr.sma@gmail.com



Location

St. Mary of the Assumption
Church (Parish Hall)

7200 Lancaster Pike,
Hockessin, DE

Friday Fish Fry



**Each Friday During Lent: 2025
March 7, 14, 21, 28 & April 4 and 11**

Dinner Served 5 – 7 PM

Pricing

Includes choice of 2 Sides

- Single Dinner \$14
- Double Dinner \$19
- Kids Dinner \$5*

*Fish Sticks and Fries

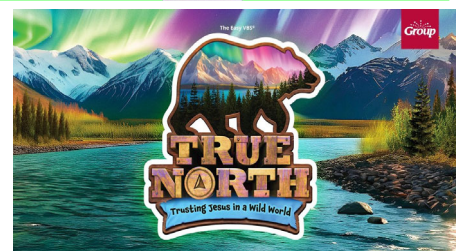
Cash or check ONLY

Carry out Available

<https://www.smachurch.com/>

Menu

Main Dish	Sides	Other
• Baked Flounder	• French Fries	• Tossed Salad
• Fried Flounder	• Mac n Cheese	• Clam Chowder
• Crab Cake	• Green Beans	• Seafood Gumbo
	• Cole Slaw	



2025 Vacation Bible School

This year we are combining with
St. John of the Beloved's VBS.

June 16th to 20th

9:00 am—12:00 pm

All children entering Pre K4—4th
grade in the Fall of 2025.

Volunteer are needed!!

Registration opened March 17th for
participants and volunteers!



Brothers - We are happy to announce that the St. Mary's Men Connect Spring event
"Being a Man Of Faith" is ready for registration. Details below:

ST. MARY'S MEN CONNECT

"BEING A MAN OF FAITH"

A FREE half-day program for Men

Saturday, March 29, 2025

8:30 am to 1:00 pm



Our retreat leader is:

Damon Owens

Founder and Executive Director of joytob.org

Damon invites us to ponder our identity, to explore how we build relationships on our spiritual Mission.

After brief presentations you will have opportunities to participate in table discussions with other men.

NOTE: Lunch and snacks provided. There is no cost for this event !

Questions?

Contact Mike McDonnell @ 610-442-7250 or michael.m.mcdonnell@gmail.com

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls - Matthew 11:29

Go to www.smachurch.com to sign up!!



Stay up to date on Parish events and news!!!



BIBLE SYMPOSIUM WITH VY. REV. JOSEPH J. PIEKARSKI



TUESDAY EVENINGS

ST. MARY'S ROOM

7:00 PM

**FINAL SESSION!
MARCH 25**

There is no cost, all are welcome!



RELIGIOUS ED. at SMA (PREP)

We support parents in their efforts to raise their children in the Catholic faith. Options are available for parish children in grades 1 to 8 who do not attend a Catholic school.

Grade 1 is required to prepare for Sacraments in second grade.

Rising 9th graders will receive information for Confirmation preparation this summer.

Our in-person sessions need catechists! Please prayerfully consider if God may be calling you to share your faith with the young people of our parish. Training materials and support will be provided.

Two Different Sessions:

August Session:

August 4th-7th and August 11th-14th
9:30 am to 11:30 am

Monday Sessions:

6:00 pm to 7:15 pm during the school year

WELCOME TO SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH

CHURCH STAFF

Very Rev. Joseph J. Piekarski, V.F., Pastor
Deacon John Giacci
Deacon Larry Brecht
Deacon Joseph Jackson
Deacon Joseph LoPorto
Deacon Larry Morris

PARISH OFFICE STAFF

Jeannine Caporaso, Afternoon Receptionist..ext. 10
Daniel DiGiacobbe, Business Managerext. 11
Sandy Fiscella, Director of Religious Edext. 18
Flora Giacci, Morning Receptionist.....ext. 10
Deacon John Giacci, Director of Liturgyext. 32
Matthew Jewell, Director of Musicext. 16
Cindy Krebs, Director of Preschool.....ext. 34
Denise Troise, Bookkeeperext. 14

OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.
Office closed for lunch from
12:30 pm to 1:30 pm.

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

PREP: Grades 1 through 8.
Confirmation: Grade 9.
Sandy Fiscella, DRE,
302-239-7100, ext. 18.

SAINT MARY'S PRESCHOOL

Ages 2 through Pre-K.
Cindy Krebs, Director,
302-239-7100, ext. 34.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30 pm or by appointment.

ANointing OF THE SICK

Contact the Parish Office,
302-239-7100.

ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY

Contact Daniel DiGiacobbe,
302-239-7100, ext. 11.

BAPTISM

During a Mass or Sunday afternoon a 1:00 pm.
Baptisms are scheduled the second and fourth
Sundays of the month.
Baptism classes are every other month.
Contact the Parish Office for details.

MARRIAGE

Contact the Parish Office before a wedding date
is finalized. The Diocese requires one year of
preparation.

NEED A RIDE?

Do you occasionally need a ride to Church or per-
haps elsewhere? As one of the service organizations
of our parish, the Knights of Columbus may be able
to help. Contact Pete Seely, 302-239-7100, ext. 81.

Please consider online giving at
<https://smachurch.com/online-giving>.



Thank You!

HELPING YOU STAY SOCIALLY CONNECTED!

Join us every Sunday for the 9:30 AM Mass,
Live-Streamed on www.smachurch.com or
<http://www.youtube.com/c/smachurch>.

