



HE HAS RISEN!

Mark 16:6

Rejoice

Church of Saint Mary
CLOSTER, NEW JERSEY

ST. MARY PARISH WORSHIPPING SINCE 1911

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 31 –

Gn. 1: 1-2: 2 or 1: 1, 26-31a; Gn. 22: 1-18 or 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ex. 14: 15- 15: 1; Is. 54: 5-14; is. 55: 1-11; Bar. 3: 9-15, 23- 4: 4; Ez. 36: 16-17a, 18: 28; Rom 6: 3-11; Mk. 16: 1-7

8:00 PM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased

SUNDAY, APRIL 1 – EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Acts 10: 34a, 37-43; Col. 3: 1-4 or 1 Cor. 5: 6b-8; Jn. 20: 1-9 or Mk. 16: 1-7

7:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased

9:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased

12:00 PM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased

MONDAY, APRIL 2 –

MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Acts 2: 14, 28-33; Mt. 28: 8-15

8:00 AM Jack Caldwell
req. by Breige, Lance and Lauren Alexander

TUESDAY, APRIL 3 –

TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Acts 2: 36-41; Jn. 20: 11-18

8:00 AM James Green / req. by Dick and Jane Bishop

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4 –

WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Acts 3: 1-10; Lk. 24: 13-35

8:00 AM Dino Cristofoletti
req. by John and Canice Cristofoletti

THURSDAY, APRIL 5 –

THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Acts 3: 11-26; Lk. 24: 35-48

8:00 AM Catherine Marino
req. by Mary and Bruno Macchiavelli & Family

FRIDAY, APRIL 6 –

FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Acts 4: 1-12; Jn. 21: 1-14

8:00 AM Peter and Veronic DeFabiis
req. by Gloria Tropiano

8:00 PM Samuel Sullivan / req. by Mona Grbic

SATURDAY, APRIL 7 –

SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Acts 4: 13-21; Mk. 16: 9-15

8:00 AM Jack Caldwell / req. by American Legion
Leroy S. Mead Post 111

5:00 PM Michael Conmy / req. by Alice O'Sullivan

SUNDAY, APRIL 8 – SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

Acts 4: 32-35; 1 Jn. 5: 1-6; Jn. 20: 19-31

7:30 AM Philip Corletta / req. by Phyllis Buonomo

9:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased

12:00 PM Fiore Caccioppoli
req. by Dick and Mary Flammer

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Dear Parishioners,

This is the Day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

*Lord God,
You loved this world so much,
That you gave your one and only Son,
That we might be called your children too.
Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace
Of Easter Sunday, everyday.
Let us have hearts of thankfulness
For your sacrifice.
Let us have eyes that look upon
Your grace and rejoice in our salvation.
Help us to walk in that mighty grace
And tell your good news to the world.
All for your glory do we pray, Lord, Amen.*

On behalf of all the priests, deacon, staff of St. Mary Parish, we wish you and all your loved ones a blessed and joyous Easter Day.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Joe

ST. MARY PARISH IS A PARISH THAT PRACTICES STEWARDSHIP

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS ON STEWARDSHIP

*"Think of what is above, not of what is on earth." –
– Colossians 3: 2*

On this day we thank God for His Son, Jesus, who died and rose for us. We celebrate and sing "Alleluia." Let's try to keep the joy of this Easter season in our hearts throughout the year! Pray daily and listen for how He is calling each of us to joyfully use our gifts to fulfill His salvation plan.

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Altar Bread – In memory of deceased members of the Raftery Family.

Blessed Virgin Mary Candle – For the health and healing of Sr. Dominic Marie.

Sanctuary Candle – In memory of Lee and George Hofmann.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

The second collection this weekend is for the Archdiocese Assessment.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Irene Abad, Paula Bertelloni, Alana Bronze, Diego Bronze, Christian Brueck, Dolores Collier, Lee Ann Davito, Desiderio Fernandes, Frank Forte, Chris Gerabedian, Lillian Guyt, Ed Koch, Sr. Dominic Marie McDonnell, David O'Hanlon, Donna Oettinger, John Pagano, Alicia Parent, Joan Pinto, Richard Pinto, Jim Walsh, Augie Zarski

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY PARISH

4/1 – EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM and 12:00 PM
9:00 AM – Choristers Call
No – LWC
9:30 AM – Choristers at Mass
11:00 AM – Parish Choir Call
12:00 PM – Parish Choir at Mass

4/2 – MONDAY

All Parish Offices Closed
10:00 AM – Prayer Shawl Ministry
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM – Deepening the Journey – Center for Spiritual Development

4/3 – TUESDAY

No – Parish Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM – Women’s Cornerstone – Parish Life Room

4/4 – WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Morning Scripture Study – Parish Life Room
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM – Evening Scripture Study – Center for Spiritual Development

4/5 – THURSDAY

7:30 PM – Marian / Eucharistic Holy Hour

4/6 – FRIDAY

7:15 PM – 7:45 PM – Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet
8:00 PM – Healing Mass followed by Priest’s Blessing

4/7 – SATURDAY

4:15 PM – 4:45 PM – Reconciliation

4/8 – SUNDAY

No – LWC
11:00 AM – Parish Choir Call
12:00 PM – Parish Choir at Mass

HACKENSACK WALK-IN DINNER
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO PREPARE FOOD

Once again, our Parish will be serving dinner to the homeless and working poor at the Family Promise Shelter in Hackensack on Wednesday, May 9th. We anticipate feeding about 125 people. We are in need of volunteers to prepare various food dishes in their homes and to bring the hot food to the Fr. Roger Troy Hall between 12:30 PM and 3:00 PM on May 9th. Information and sign-up sheets are located in the outer vestibules of the church. For further information, please call Jane Bishop at 201-739-5622. Thank you for your generous support!!

PLAY AN INSTRUMENT?

If you are in high school or older and play a musical instrument, why not lend your skills to our parish by playing at mass on occasion? Please contact Louis at music@stmarycloster.org or see him after any mass and say hello.

ST. MARY PARISH IS A PARISH THAT PRACTICES STEWARDSHIP

COLLECTIONS AND INCOME FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

Table with financial data for March: Regular Sunday Collection (\$22,258.00), Total Collected for Diocesan Assessment (\$3,781.00), Maintenance and Repairs Collection (\$1,958.00), Other Income (\$14,483.00), Total Income for the month (\$42,480.00)

March Monthly Expenses.....\$46,085.00

Table with financial data: Archdiocese Retired Priests (additional) \$65.00, Total Collected for Peter’s Pence \$680.00



PASCHAL CANDLE

The Paschal Candle has been donated in memory of Jack McTigue by his family.

2019 MASS INTENTION BOOK

On a fixed date each year, we “open” the Intention Book for Masses which will be said here in St. Mary Church during the next year. On Friday, April 13th, we will formally begin taking mass intentions for 2019. We recommend that parishioners write their request and mail them along with the \$10.00 stipend to the attention of Grace Ditzel by the 13th. This would forestall a “run” on the rectory. These requests will be honored by when they are received in the mail. Masses booked in person after the 13th will be honored according to availability of dates. No phone requests will be taken. Please Note: In fairness to everyone we are limiting the amount of Mass requests for 2019 to a maximum of SIX (6) masses per family and not all requests can be for Sunday Masses.

CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY LITURGIES

Every couple who will be celebrating five, twenty-five and fifty years of Christian marriage during 2018 is invited to celebrate this anniversary liturgy with Cardinal Joseph Tobin in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Five and twenty-five years on Sunday, April 29th at 3:00 PM and fifty years on Sunday, May 6th at 3:00 PM. Please call the rectory to register. The deadline for April 29th is Monday, April 16th and the deadline for May 6th is Monday, April 23rd.

STEPHANIE CYWINSKI-OBRIEN STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

For the 11th consecutive year, student scholarships are being offered through the Stephanie Cywinski-O’Brien Trust. Applications are now being accepted from parish 7th and 8th grade students attending a Catholic grammar school (primary consideration), as well as Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors attending a Catholic high school (secondary consideration) and continuing their education at a Catholic school. Applications and eligibility requirements are available at the parish office. Applications are due April 16th with decisions to be made by April 30th.

Why go to Mass?

Dear Brother and Sisters,

Happy and Blessed Easter to each and every one of you. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

On December 13 of last year, Pope Francis, at his general audience spoke on the importance of going to Mass on Sunday. I like to share some of what he said on that day.

Taking up the series of catechesis on the Mass, today we ask ourselves: Why go to Mass on Sunday?

The Sunday celebration of the Eucharist is at the center of the life of the Church (Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 2177). We Christians go to Mass on Sunday to encounter the Risen Lord, or, better, to let ourselves be encountered by Him, to listen to His word, to eat at His table, and thus become Church, that is, His living Mystical Body in the world today.

It was understood, from the first moment, by Jesus' disciples, who celebrated the Eucharistic encounter with the Lord in the day of the week that the Jews called "the first of the week" and the Romans "day of the sun," because on that day Jesus rose from the dead and He appeared to His disciples, speaking with them, eating with them, giving them the Holy Spirit (Cf. Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:9.14; Luke 24:1.13; John 20:1.19), as we heard in the biblical Reading. The great effusion of the Holy Spirit also happened on Sunday, the fiftieth day after Jesus' Resurrection. For these reasons, Sunday is a holy day for us, sanctified by the Eucharistic celebration, the Lord's living presence among us and for us. Hence, it is the Mass that makes Sunday Christian! The Christian Sunday revolves around the Mass. For a Christian, what sort of Sunday is it that lacks the encounter with the Lord?

Unfortunately, there are Christian communities that cannot enjoy the Mass every Sunday; however, on this holy day, they are also called to recollect themselves in prayer in the Lord's name, listening to the Word of God and keeping alive the desire of the Eucharist.

Some secularized societies have lost the Christian sense of Sunday illumined by the Eucharist. This is sin! In these contexts, it's necessary to revive this awareness, to recover the meaning of the celebration, of the joy of the parish community, of solidarity, of the rest that restores the soul and the body (Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, nn. 2177-2188). The Eucharist is the teacher of all these values, Sunday after Sunday. Therefore, Vatican Council II wanted to confirm that "Sunday is the primordial day of celebration which must be proposed and inculcated in the piety of the faithful, so that it also becomes a day of joy and of abstention from work" (Constitution Sacrosanctum Concilium, 106).

Why go to Mass?

Sunday's abstention from work didn't exist in the first centuries: it's a specific contribution of Christianity. By biblical tradition the Jews rest on Saturday, while in Roman society a weekday of abstention from servile works was not foreseen. It was the Christian sense of living as children and not as slaves, animated by the Eucharist, which made Sunday – almost universally – the day of rest.

Without Christ we are condemned to be dominated by tiredness of the every day, with its preoccupations and the fear of tomorrow. The Sunday encounter with the Lord gives us strength to live today with trust and courage and to go on with hope. This is why we Christians go to encounter the Lord on Sunday in the Eucharistic celebration.

Eucharistic Communion with Jesus, Risen and Living for ever, anticipates the Sunday without sunset, when there will no longer be fatigue, or pain, or mourning, or tears, but only the joy of living fully and for ever with the Lord. Sunday Mass also speaks of this blessed rest, teaching us, in the flow of the week, to entrust ourselves to the hands of the Father who is in Heaven.

What can we answer one who says there is no need to go to Mass, not even on Sunday, because what is important is to live well, to love one's neighbor? It's true that the quality of a Christian life is measured by the capacity to love, as Jesus said: "By this all men will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another" (John 13:35); but how can we practice the Gospel without drawing the necessary energy to do so, Sunday after Sunday, from the inexhaustible source of the Eucharist? We don't go to Mass to give God something, but to receive from Him what we truly need. The prayer of the Church reminds us of this, which addresses God thus: "You do not need our praise, but by a gift of your love you call us to render thanks to you; our hymns of blessing do not enhance your grandeur, but obtain for us the grace that saves us" (Roman Missal, Ordinary Preface IV).

In conclusion, why go to Mass on Sunday? It's not enough to answer that it's a precept of the Church; this helps to keep its value, but it's not enough on its own. We Christians need to take part in Sunday Mass because only with Jesus' grace, with His living presence in us and among us, can we put into practice His commandment, and thus be His credible witnesses

Blessed Easter to all,

Fr. Joe

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~ ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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