

The Season of Advent is a time to let go of worldly distractions that take us away from God, and focus on growing closer to Him through prayer and concern for others.

ADVENT MISSION



**December 3
2018
7:30 - 8:30 pm**

Vespers
Prayer and Reflection
Inspired Preaching by
Bishop John Flesey
All are Welcome

The Church of Saint Mary
20 Legion Place
Closter, NJ
www.stmarycloster,.org

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1 –

Jer. 33: 14-16; 1 Thes. 3: 12- 4: 2; Lk. 21: 25-28, 34-36

5:00 PM Paul and Marie Vecchio
req. by the Bertelloni Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 –

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jer. 33: 14-16; 1 Thes. 3: 12- 4: 2; Lk. 21: 25-28, 34-36

7:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased
9:30 AM Olga and Erne Hau / req. by the Griffin Family
12:00 PM Russell Burnside
req. by Arthur and Marie Battaglia

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3 – ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST

Is. 2: 1-5; Mt. 8: 5-11

8:00 AM Anne Terry / req. by Thom and Grace Calabro

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4 – ST. JOHN DAMASCENE,
PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Is. 11: 1-10; Lk. 10: 21-24

8:00 AM Francis Hesketh, Jr. / req. by the Borelli Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5 – ADVENT WEEKDAY

Is. 25: 6-10a; Mt. 15: 29-37

8:00 AM Francisca and Julio Landrito
req. by Roy and Espie Landrito

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6 – ST. NICHOLAS, BISHOP

Is. 26: 1-6; Mt. 7: 21, 24-27

8:00 AM Anthony DaPuzzo
req. by Thom and Grace Calabro

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7 – ST. AMBROSE, BISHOP AND
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Is. 29: 17-24; Mt. 9: 27-31

8:00 AM Joseph Vecchio / req. by the Grieco Family
7:30 PM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 – THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Gn. 3: 9-15, 20; Eph. 1: 3-6, 11-12; Lk. 1: 26-38

8:00 AM Pete R. Murphy
req. by the Cristofolletti Family
5:00 PM Fanny Bermudez / req. by Mildred Petrinic

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 –

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Bar. 5: 1-9; Phil. 1: 4-6, 8-11; Lk. 3: 1-6

7:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased
9:30 AM Deceased Members of the Bishop and Hau
Families / req. by Dick and Jane Bishop
12:00 PM Angelica Bettinardi
req. by the Bettinardi Family

From the Director of Religious Education

Advent – Finding Balance

In the early days of our country people lived on farms or in the woods. The nearest neighbor might be a mile or more away, a town even further. A woman would be confined to household chores while her husband worked in the fields or hunted. Children may have walked miles to a rural school house or played by a local stream. Everyone experienced periods of silence throughout the day. The end of the day brought the family together for dinner and conversation. No TV, no i-pods, no video games, no telephones or e-mail. There was time for reflection and reading. For many families, the family Bible might be their only book. Sundays everything stopped so they could travel miles by horse and wagon to join neighbors for worship.

Every day was most likely punctuated with prayer – morning prayer, grace before meals, and quoting scripture when appropriate. Family life had focus and balance. As we enter the Advent Season, we are called to find that balance in our own lives. Advent is a time for waiting and listening and personal renewal.

Has there been too much focus on shopping and decoration? For some, the fact that we await the celebration of the birth of Jesus has been lost in the preparation. Christmas has become no more than a hollow custom.

Where to begin? Start with some personal quiet time for reflection, prayer, or spiritual reading. Examine your expectations for the coming of Christmas. Turn off the television (don't replace it with other noisy activities), if only for an hour. Everyone may complain; stand firm! Share Christmas preparations with family and friends. Give something to someone in need. Remember, loneliness or poor health can predict need as well as finances; your time can, be a great gift. And please, come join your parish family for mass on the Sundays of Advent.

How do you prepare yourself this Advent: What will be your gift to the Christ Child?

Gail

We Pray for the Sick

Irene Abad, Paula Bertelloni, Christian Brueck, Fran Caldwell, Dolores Collier, Lee Ann Davito, Lisa Deegan, Desiderio Fernandes, Frank Forte, Ed Koch, Sr. Dominic Marie McDonnell, Carol Munkins, David O'Hanlon, John Pagano, Alicia Parent, Joan Pinto, Richard Pinto, Jim Walsh, Samantha

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Altar Bread – In memory of Kathleen and Joseph Mann.

Blessed Virgin Mary Candle – In memory of Catherine Scarpa, req. by Thom and Grace Calabro.

SECOND COLLECTION

Next weekend, **December 8th** and **9th** the second collection is for the Retirement Collection for the Religious.

Collections and Income for November 2018

Regular Sunday Collection	\$20,093.00
Maintenance & Repair Coll.	\$1,777.00
Archdiocesan Assessment	\$3,677.00
Religious Ed	\$175.00
Other Income	\$11,559.00
(primarily from school rental)	
November Total Income	\$37,281.00
November Expenses	\$42,884.00
Total Outstanding Debt to Archdiocese.....	\$119,662.00
Black and Indian Collection	\$915.00

Thank you for your continued support of the regular collections. St. Mary's relies upon your support all year long. Please remember to support the parish even if you are traveling. Why not give through electronic giving. Signup at Parishgiving.org. God bless you!



Place Your Christmas Gift Order TODAY: A Win for St. Mary's!

We will be placing an order for Scrip Gift Cards Monday morning, **December 3rd**. Scrip cards are prepaid cards, used like cash at many different stores, restaurants, gas stations, hotels, etc. The Church of St. Mary receives a certain

percentage of each card purchased (2% to 15% or more depending on the card) and doesn't cost you anything extra. Please have your orders to us no later than 10:00 AM Monday. Info and order forms can be found in the vestibules and on our website or you can setup an account online at www.ShopwithScrip.com (registration # is D84E6EB522L51) pay either by PrestoPay or check made out to Church of St. Mary. If you don't see a certain card on the list feel free to call, it may be available. Contact John Hernandez at jah21344@aol.com or 201-768-8871 or Grace Ditzel at gditzel@stmarycloster.org or 201-768-7565 for further information. GIFT CARDS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS! We will be placing this order and one more on December 17th. We will contact you when your order is available for pickup at the Rectory, usually Wednesday afternoon on.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be Friday at 7:30 PM and Saturday at 8:00 AM.

HACKENSACK WALK-IN DINNER ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

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, DECEMBER 12TH**. We anticipate feeding about 120 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 December 12th.

Information and sign up sheets are located on easels in the outer vestibules of the church.

For further information, please call Jane Bishop at 201-739-5622. Thank you for your generous support!!

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY PARISH

Dec. 2:

No – LWC
 10:30 AM – 11:50 AM – Religious Education – Grades K – 6
 10:30 AM – 11:50 AM – Confirmation Class – Fr. Roger Troy Hall
 11:15 AM – Parish Choir meet
 12:00 PM – Parish Choir at Mass

Dec. 3:

Scrip Orders being placed
 10:00 AM – Prayer Shawl Ministry – Parish Life Room
 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM – Advent Vespers – Church
 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM – Deepening the Journey – Parish Life Room

Dec. 4:

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM – Religious Education – Grades 6 – 7
 7:30 PM – Parish Choir Rehearsal – Church
 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM – Women's Cornerstone – Parish Life Room

Dec. 5:

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM – Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament – Church
 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Morning Scripture Sturdy – Parish Life Room
 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM – Evening Scripture Study – Conference Room

Dec. 6:

7:30 PM – Marian / Eucharistic Holy Hour

Dec. 7:

7:30 PM – Mass – Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation

Dec. 8:

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM – Choristers Rehearsal – Church
 4:15 – 4:45 PM – Reconciliation

Dec. 9:

9:30 AM – LWC
 10:30 AM – 11:50 AM – Religious Education – Grades K – 6
 Christmas Food Drive
 11:15 AM – Parish Choir meet
 12:00 PM – Parish Choir at Mass

Altar Linen Help Needed

Our parish altar linen ministers are responsible for laundering the liturgical linens (purificators, corporals, and towels) used during Mass and baptisms. We need volunteers to help with weekly laundering and ironing. The commitment is one assigned week per month, takes less than one hour, and is an easy way to share your time and talent with the parish. If you can assist please call Chris Hofmann at 201-768-6535. Thank you!



**Advent Giving Tree – Gifts Due
December 16th**

Our parish Advent Giving Tree again supports the New Bridge Medical Center (formerly Bergen Regional MC) in the “Share the Christmas Spirit” program for their 575 long-term care residents. Take a gift tag (or two) that has the resident’s desired gift, unit and room number. Shop for the gift, wrap it, and tape the

gift tag with the unit and room number facing outward. **Please return all gifts no later than Sunday, December 16th, and place under the Giving Tree.** No late gifts will be accepted – you will need to drive the gift to Paramus. Thank you for your generosity!

**Your Christmas Gift to Beloved St. Mary's:
Needed Now More Than Ever**

As the end of year and Christmas approaches, now is the time to remember a special stewardship gift to support the work of St Mary's financially. As we report it monthly in our bulletin, St, Mary's is challenged in meeting operating expenses and is in debt. The

Sunday collections, special collections and school rental income are not covering the operating expenses, which themselves have been carefully scrutinized for saving opportunities without cutting back on basic ministries and services offered by St. Mary's. The parish is relying on year-end and Christmas gifts to help offset the deficit. All parishioners and friends are asked to make a very special stewardship gift at Christmas to beloved St. Mary's. Tax advantages may benefit the donor. Most importantly, in light of all that God has given to us, your gift will help St. Mary's continue to be the hands of Christ in the local community and beyond. Please consider a generous Christmas gift today. The best way to donate is via parishgiving.org or a check payable to St. Mary's Church. May God's peace reign in your hearts and may those in need spiritually or materially know that St. Mary's will be here to serve. God bless you and yours!

Advent Meanings

Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

The liturgical color for Advent is purple, just like Lent – as both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Also Advent (like Lent) includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. This penitential dimension is expressed through the color purple, but also through the restrained manner of decorating the church and altar: “During Advent the floral decoration of the altar should be marked by a moderation suited to the character of this time of year, without expressing in anticipation the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord . . . (also) the use of musical instruments should be marked by a (similar) moderation . . . ” (General instruction of the Roman Missal)

The Glory to God is omitted for the liturgy during this time, as this is a hymn of great joy and we refrain from that exuberance until the Solemnity of Christmas. We will occasionally sing the Kyrie Eleison / Lord Have Mercy to mark the penitential aspect of Advent.

First Thanksgiving Celebrated in Closter! Story in Stained Glass

On December 3rd, 1911, the first Eucharist (meaning Thanksgiving) was celebrated in Closter at Hammond Hall. You will see a beautiful and most unique rendition of this history in the stained glass window located in the church "cry room." Please visit the window and offer a special prayer of thanksgiving to those priests and parishioners who founded beloved St. Mary's. For founders faithful, we are grateful!



**INVITING
ALL
WOMEN –
Come away
for**

**awhile . . . to an oasis of
peace and healing**

Spiritual weekend retreat, **January 11th – 13th, 2019.** Come for a wonderful weekend after the hustle and bustle of the Holidays. St. Francis Center for Renewal, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. “The Journey is Made Holy by Walking”. Price \$175.00 per person single, \$165.00 per person doubles. \$80.00 deposit (payable to St. Francis Center for Renewal) balance paid at retreat center. Leave from St. Mary 2:00 PM Friday, January 11th and return after lunch on January 13th. For information call Victoria Maiorino at 201-767-1698.

**St. Mary's Benefits from
Amazon Smile**

Did you know your purchases can make a difference? AmazonSmile donates to St. Mary's Catholic Church when you do your holiday shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/22-1512275.

Follow and Like St. Mary's

Follow and like St. Mary's on FaceBook. Why? Because the latest news and announcements are posted there and by "liking," St. Mary's we reach more circles of people. www.facebook.com/stmarycloster.

**Parish Mission at Immaculate
Conception, Norwood**

Please join Deacon Anthony Liguori and his son, Christian, as they present a three evening Parish Mission in prayerful reflections and heartfelt songs as we journey together through Advent. **Tuesday, December 11th, Wednesday, December 12th and Thursday, December 13th, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM.** If you need more information you may contact Immaculate Conception at 201-768-1600.

YOUTH SING CHRISTMAS

*Help Saint Mary's
Celebrate the Birth of Christ
Sing at Christmas Eve Mass*

High School - Grade 3

Rehearsals

Saturdays December 8,15,22: 1—2 pm in Church

**Wednesday, 12/19: 3:30—4:30 pm church with a
healthy snack provided**

Christmas Eve arrive 4:15 for 5 pm Mass

**Send a message to Mr. Scarpa at
ministry@stmarycloster.org to get started**

**The Church of Saint Mary
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