

# CHURCH OF ST. MARY

*Serving Closter and Alpine † All are Welcome!*



## ST. MARY PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We the family of St. Mary of Closter, fervently believe in the fatherhood of God whom we come to know through the Lord Jesus Christ. We dedicate ourselves to the promotion of the spiritual and temporal welfare of our parish and our community. To this end, we direct our prayers to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through Mary the Blessed Mother and Patroness of our parish family.



### PARISH STAFF AND CONTACTS

**Pastor:** Rev. Joseph Scarangella, K.H.S.  
*fatherjoe@stmarycloster.org*

**Weekend Associate:**  
Rev. Ranees Anbukumar Rayappan, S.M.A.

**Permanent Deacon:** Deacon James P. Tobin  
*jimtobin1@aol.com*

**Director of Music:** Louis Scarpa  
*music@stmarycloster.org*

**Director of Stewardship:** Louis Scarpa

**Cantor:** Joseph Fritz

**Director of Religious Education:** Gail Ferraiolo  
*gferraiolo@stmarycloster.org*

**Parish Secretary:** Grace Ditzel  
*gditzel@stmarycloster.org*

**Business Admin./Parish Bookkeeper/  
Local Safe Environment Coordinator:**  
Canice Cristofolletti • *cristofolletti@stmarycloster.org*

**Religious Education Secretary:**  
Maria Matos • *reled@stmarycloster.org*

**Parish Trustees:** Pamela Derfus and John Hernandez  
*and assisted by the Pastoral Advisory Board  
and Financial Council*

### WE INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE THE EUCHARIST

**Saturday (Anticipated Sunday Mass)**-----5:00 PM

**Sunday**-----7:30 AM, 9:30 AM & 12:00 PM

First Sunday of July through Labor Day Weekend ----- 8:30 & 11:00 AM

**Weekdays (Monday through Saturday)**-----8:00 AM

**Holy Days & Civic Holidays**----- As announced the Sunday before

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**Saturday**-----4:15 - 4:45 PM  
or call for an appointment

### DEVOTIONS

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Wednesday - 8:30 - 9:30 AM and as scheduled.

**Holy Hour:** Thursday, 7:30 PM - Church

**Marian Devotions:** Miraculous Medal Novena and Recitation of the Rosary: Saturdays after 8:00 AM Mass.

*Information regarding Sacraments, Parish Ministries and Care  
of the Sick & Homebound can be found on our website.  
To arrange baptisms or weddings call Father or the parish office.*



**Please like us on Facebook:** [facebook.com/stmarycloster](https://www.facebook.com/stmarycloster)

### PARISH OFFICES

*Kindly notify the Rectory Office if you change your address or move from our parish community. Please see our website for Parish Calendar and more information about Sacraments and Parish Life.*

**RECTORY:**  
20 Legion Place, Closter, New Jersey 07624  
201-768-7565 • Parish Website: [stmarycloster.org](http://stmarycloster.org)

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday through Thursday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Friday: 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM  
*(Closed for lunch between 12 Noon & 1:00 PM)*

**CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**  
20 Legion Place, Closter, New Jersey 07624  
201-767-8247 • [reled@stmarycloster.org](mailto:reled@stmarycloster.org)

**CENTER HOURS:**  
Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM *and by appointment*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26 –

*Neh. 8: 2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor. 12: 12-30; Lk. 1: 1-4, 14-21*

5:00 PM Anne and Walter Brady / req. by Dennis Brady

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27 –

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Neh. 8: 2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor. 12: 12-30; Lk. 1: 1-4, 14-21*

7:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased

9:30 AM Mrs. Joan Lalli / req. by Krys and Lee Tunison

12:00 PM Christopher Cully / req. by the Torre Family

MONDAY, JANUARY 28 – ST. THOMAS AQUINAS,

PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

*Heb. 9: 15, 24-28; Mk. 3: 22-30*

8:00 AM Jean Gardeski

req. by Nancy and Frank Torre

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29 – WEEKDAY

*Heb. 10: 1-10; Mk. 3: 31-35*

8:00 AM Fr. Norbert Laskowski

req. by Ralph and Regina DeNicola

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30 – WEEKDAY

*Heb. 10: 11-18; Mk. 4: 1-20*

8:00 AM Jeanie Parron / req. by Joan Westervelt

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31 – ST. JOHN BASCO, PRIEST

*Heb. 10: 19-25; Mk. 4: 21-25*

8:00 AM Craig Stapleton / req. by Joe & Esther DeRosa

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1 – WEEKDAY

*Heb. 10: 32-39; Mk. 4: 26-34*

8:00 AM Erlinda Pilkington

req. by Gloria and Robert Chu

8:00 PM Healing for All Present

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2 –

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

*Mal. 3: 1-4; Heb. 2: 14-18; Lk. 2: 22-40 or 2: 22-32*

8:00 AM Catherine Tolan

req. by Margaret and Bill Tenny

5:00 PM Augie Zarski / req. by the Mangano Family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3 –

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Jer. 1: 4-5, 17-19; 1 Cor. 12: 31-13: 13 or 13: 4-13; Lk. 4: 21-30*

7:30 AM All Parishioners – Living and Deceased

9:30 AM Nella Bogacyz

req. by Michael, Patricia and Thomas Berrian

12:00 PM Ivan Zahija / req. by the Milovcic Family



**THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

**Blessed Virgin Mary Candle – Special intention.**

**ANNOUNCED SPECIAL INTENTIONS**

**Weekly offerings of:** Altar Bread, Altar Wine, Blessed Virgin Mary Candle and Sanctuary Candle are available throughout 2019.

**From the Pastor**

Dear Parishioners,

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas (candle mass) day, since the blessing of candles is included in today's liturgy. Parishioners are encouraged to bring candles from home to be blessed that they will use in their homes for religious purposes on **Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the 8:00 AM Mass.** Also the candles used for liturgy at St. Mary's will be blessed.

**The Feast of St. Blase and Blessing of Throats –**

The blessing of the sick by ministers of the Church is a very ancient custom, rooted in imitation of Christ himself and his apostles.

In the United States the annual blessing of throats is a traditional sign of the struggle against illness in the life of the Christian. This blessing will be given during Masses; on February 2<sup>nd</sup> the 5:00 PM Mass and all masses on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Saint Blase was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia during the fourth century and is the patron saint of those suffering afflictions of the throat.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Joe

**We Pray for the Sick**

Irene Abad, Paula Bertelloni, Christian Brueck,  
Fran Caldwell, Lee Ann Davito,

Lisa Deegan, Desiderio Fernandes, Frank Forte,  
Ed Koch, Sr. Dominic Marie McDonnell, Joseph Miele, Carol  
Munkins, David O'Hanlon, John Pagano,  
Alicia Parent, Joan Pinto, Richard Pinto, Samantha

**SECOND COLLECTION**

Next weekend, **February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>** the second collection is for the Archdiocesan Assessment.

**Why the ASSESSMENT COLLECTION?**

Each parish of the Archdiocese of Newark (RCAN), to which St. Mary's belongs, is assessed a percentage of regular donations and rental income. Donations to St. Mary, such as the Sunday collection, are assessed at 14%. RCAN uses these assessed funds to operate the chancery and help subsidize charitable works. The ASSESSMENT COLLECTION helps St. Mary's cover some of the monies due to RCAN. Thank you again for supporting St. Mary's and helping RCAN provide assistance beyond our doors.

### Year End Contribution / Donation Statements

If you would like to receive a 2018 Year End Contribution/Donation Statement and did not receive one last year please contact our Parish Secretary, Grace Ditzel at [gditzel@stmarycloster.org](mailto:gditzel@stmarycloster.org) or 201-768-7565 by **January 28<sup>th</sup>** and we will add you the list. If you received one last year you will automatically receive one this year.

Year end statements to all who donated to St. Mary's via Parish Giving will be e-mailed directly from PG. This is just a record of online contributions made through PG. This statement does not account for contributions made by check or envelope to St. Mary's.

### Hackensack Walk-In Dinner On Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### 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, FEBRUARY 6<sup>th</sup>**. 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 FEBRUARY 6<sup>th</sup>.

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!!

### Closter Food Pantry News – St Mary's Bringing The Spirit At Thanksgiving,



the Confirmation Class at St. Mary's Catholic Church (Closter) collected, organized, bagged and delivered a wonderful collection of foods donated by St. Mary's parishioners. Also included in the collection was \$100 in grocery store gift cards! This Thanksgiving food drive has been an annual tradition that St. Mary's is kind enough to continue on our behalf.

Special thanks to Maria Matos (Closter) and her son Noah who delivered all these bags directly to the Senior Center where we created Thanksgiving bags for each family. And at Christmas, the collection candy cane reindeers were created for our families by St. Mary's 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Religious Education classes. What fun!

### New Altar Server Welcome!

We welcome Sarah who served Holy Mass for the first time last weekend! What an honor it is to serve at the altar and a great way for our students to learn about serving others as well. Boys and girls, 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up, consider serving and seeing the Mass from a different angle. Training is simple and flexible schedules are arranged. See Father Joe or Mr. Scarpa after mass, or send an e to [ministry@stmarycloster.org](mailto:ministry@stmarycloster.org).

### How To Report Abuse

The Archdiocese takes very seriously any and all allegations of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the Archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform us immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse.

Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at 201-407-3256.

### THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY PARISH

#### Jan. 27:

9:30 AM – LWC  
10:30 AM – 11:50 AM – Religious Education – Grades K – 6  
10:30 AM – 11:50 AM – Confirmation Class

#### Jan. 28:

10:00 AM – Prayer Shawl Ministry – Parish Life Room  
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM – Deepening the Journey – Parish Life Room

#### Jan. 29:

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM – Religious Education – Grades 6 – 7  
7:30 PM – Parish Choir Rehearsal – Church

#### Jan. 30

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

#### Jan. 31:

7:30 PM – Marian / Eucharistic Holy Hour

#### Feb. 1:

8:00 PM – First Friday Healing Mass

#### Feb. 2:

4:15 – 4:45 PM – Reconciliation

#### Feb. 3:

9:30 AM – LWC  
10:30 AM – 11:50 AM – Religious Education – Grades K – 6

### Upcoming St. Mary's Social Happenings: Join the Team

The Parish is planning a volunteer party, a St. Patrick's Day party and a Fish Fry! Details will follow. Would you like to be on a team to help with these parties: planning, communication, environment, worker bee? Do you have a knack for hospitality and want to enhance community at St. Mary's? Then be in touch with Lou Scarpa at [ministry@stmarycloster.org](mailto:ministry@stmarycloster.org).

*"To convert somebody go and take them by the hand and guide them."*  
– St. Thomas Aquinas

### Food Pantry

We no longer have a food pantry. **Please do not leave** bags of food in the vestibules. You are welcome to bring them down to the Closter food pantry located on the ground floor level of Borough Hall at 295 Closter Dock Road.

### Parish Registry

Like all non-profits, St. Mary's must keep her database updated. We will be reaching out to those on the parish registry who are currently receiving offering envelopes but do not use them or who do not support the parish via giving or bank draft. The letter will be an opportunity to reach out to folks and invite them to worship with us, to become engaged in the parish's life, ask if they have moved on, etc. Regular stewardship support of St Mary's is one of the main ways the administration can determine if a person is engaged in the parish's life, a parishioner. St. Mary's is mailing hundreds of offertory envelopes to non-users, this is not a best practice and use of YOUR offerings. Donations of cash cannot be tracked. *Even if one cannot afford to place anything into the envelope, we ask that the envelope, even if empty, be placed in the offertory.* We also must know the demographics to better minister and administer. May God prosper St. Mary's mission in 2019!



Catholic Schools Week is being recognized nation-wide from Sunday, **January 27<sup>th</sup> through February 1<sup>st</sup>**. The Academy of St. Therese, located at 220 Jefferson Avenue in Cresskill, offers an outstanding academic curriculum in a Catholic setting for children in preschool through eighth grade. The week begins with an Open House on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM and again on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Private tours are available, by appointment, on Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. At the Academy of St. Therese our motto is: Learning [Today](#) to Lead [Tomorrow!](#) Please contact the Academy at 201-568-4296 to arrange for a visit or gather further information.

### Stephanie Cywinski-O'Brien Student Scholarship Applications

For the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, student scholarships are being offered through the Stephanie Cywinski-O'Brien Trust. Applications are now being accepted from parish 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 **March 31<sup>st</sup>** with decisions to be made by April 21<sup>st</sup>.



### 2019 Women's Day of Reflection / Catholic Men's Conference

The dates for the 2019 Women's Day of Reflection is on Saturday, **March 9<sup>th</sup>** and the Catholic Men's Conference is on Saturday, **March 16<sup>th</sup>**. Both events will be held at Seton Hall University, have English and Spanish tracks and include Breakfast and Lunch. Registration fee is \$25.00. Time of events is 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Some of the advantages of attending these events are:

- Listen to speakers who inspire us to learn, love and live our faith better
- Times of prayer and worship
  - Holy Mass
  - Holy Hour
  - Adoration Chapel
- Availability of confession
- Meet and fellowship with like-minded Catholics
- Help others to experience the faith
- Learn about ministries of the Archdiocese
- Catholic gifts and books for sale

More information can be found soon at

[www.rcan.org/womenscommission](http://www.rcan.org/womenscommission) or [www.NJCatholicMen.org](http://www.NJCatholicMen.org).

### Support Groups

Many who hunger for God's consolation after the loss of a loved one, separation or divorce or other circumstance will find that faith based programs can offer them hope and comfort. A listing of parish support groups are now available on the Family Life Office webpage. Currently, the Archdiocese of Newark has over 60 different types of support groups ministering to an estimate of 1,200 people each year. The types of groups include: general bereavement, bereaved parents, separated & divorced, single parents & same sex attraction. To find a support group near you, please go to: [www.rcan.org/about-parish-based-support-groups-0](http://www.rcan.org/about-parish-based-support-groups-0) and select the group type from the menu on the right. To make updates to our list please contact Lauren Egan at 973-497-4327 or [Lauren.Egan@rcan.org](mailto:Lauren.Egan@rcan.org).



# St. Mary's Pastoral Council Nominations

The Parish Staff and Father Joe, our pastor, wish to re-institute the Parish Pastoral Council which acts as a *consultative* body, pastoral in nature, because it strives to discern the movement of the Holy Spirit among God's people in the parish. A Parish Pastoral Council gives its help to the Pastor in fostering pastoral activity; it evaluates, under the leadership of the Pastor, all those things which pertain to pastoral works to ponder them, and to propose practical conclusions about them. (The Pastoral Council's responsibilities do not include consulting on administrative areas.)

Specifically, the Parish Pastoral Council's purpose is to enhance the process of:

- pastoral planning
- developing pastoral programs
- improving pastoral services
- evaluating the pastoral effectiveness of various programs and services

Council members serve a two-year term, renewable once; or one three-year term. Meetings are held once every other month.

*We are accepting nominations of parishioners to serve on the council. Serving on the council is a ministry to the whole parish. When considering membership on the council, the following criteria should be kept in mind. Potential candidates should be:*

- of proven faith,
- with sound morals,
- demonstrating the gifts of wisdom and prudence,
- willing to commit their time, talent and wisdom in a consultative and collaborative manner,
- those who participate in the Mass and sacraments at St. Mary's, being registered and active members of the parish.

Council members should have the ability to study and reflect prayerfully, and to recognize and respect the viewpoints of others.

Official Church documents state that the Pastoral Councils are to represent the people of God, but not in the legal sense. Rather, council members are representative in that they are a witness or a sign of the whole community. They make its wisdom present. (Sacred Congregation for the Clergy, *Private letter on Pastoral Councils*, # 7).

The Pastoral Council is a representative body rather than a body of representatives. A council member is *not* a representative for a particular ministry or parish group, a certain age bracket, special interest group or other religious or non-parish organizations.

After prayerful consideration, please send your nominations (s) to Father Joe at the Rectory or by emailing Louis Scarpa, Stewardship Ministry, at [ministry@stmarycloster.org](mailto:ministry@stmarycloster.org).

May God bless St. Mary's and all those who enable her to minister, heal and serve in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

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