



Monday, December 25—Christmas

- 9:30 AM Gregory Klein
RB/Mr. & Mrs. Capobianco; and,
Natalie Malchiodi
RB/Helen & Mary
- 11:30 AM Christmas Flower Memorials

Tuesday, December 26

- 7:30 AM The Ricotta & Milano Families
RB/Mr. & Mrs. Capobianco
- 2:00 PM Rosary & Prayer Hour — Chapel

Wednesday, December 27

- 7:30 AM The Capobianco & Langone Families
RB/Mr. & Mrs. Capobianco
- 3:00 PM Prayers for Priests, Religious, and
Vocations
- 7:00 PM Novena & Adoration Hour

Thursday, December 28

- 7:30 AM Ruth Joyce
RB/Joseph Cozzi; and,
The Forgotten Souls in Purgatory
- 7:00 PM Mass for St. Mary's & Ss. Francis &
Clare Parishioners

Friday, December 29

- 7:30 AM Frank Z. Hawrylo
RB/Hawrylo Family

Saturday, December 30

- 4:00 PM Confessions
- 5:00 PM Mass for St. Mary's & Ss. Francis &
Clare Parishioners

Sunday, December 31

- 7:30 AM Christmas Flower Memorials
- 9:30 AM Robert O'Dwyer
RB/Deacon Tom & Helen Shea
- 11:30 AM Lawrence Steele
RB/Fillinger Brothers
- 4:00 PM Vigil Mass for Holyday,
Feast of Mary, Mother of God

MASSSES

Saturday Evening: 5:00 P.M.
Sundays: 7:30, 9:30, and 11:30AM.
Weekdays: Tuesday thru Friday at 7:30 A.M.; Thurs. 7PM
Eve before a Holy Day: 7:00 P.M.
Holy Days: 7:00 P.M.

Religious Education

Public elementary school children on Sunday morning at 8:00,
9:45, and 11:15 AM at St. Mary School; and Tuesdays at
5:00 and 6:15 PM at Holy Assumption Church.

BAPTISMS

Baptisms are done on 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month,
following the 11:30AM Masses. Please call the rectory office
to schedule.

COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Please notify the parish office when the sick, aged or
incapacitated are confined to home. Arrangements can be
made to bring Holy Communion to them.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The chapel is open daily. The Blessed Sacrament is
exposed for solemn adoration: M,Tu,W,F 8:00-
8:45AM; Th, 8:00AM-12:00Noon; Sat, 8:00-
10:00AM. Evening hours are Wed, 7-8PM.
Quarterly, special times & events are offered.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday from 4PM to 4:30PM; also by appointment.

NOVENA

In honor of the Miraculous Medal each Wednesday at 7PM.

MARRIAGES

Arrangements are to be made at least 1 year in advance.

SICK CALLS

Urgent calls any time of day or night. Arrangements for
Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion for those
confined to the home are to be made by contacting the rectory.

PARISH REGISTRATION

We welcome new parishioners to the parish, and we ask them to
register as soon as possible. If you are not registered we are not
able to issue letters for sponsorship for the Sacraments or
character references to schools or for employment. If you move
from the parish please notify the rectory.

ENVELOPE SYSTEM

The regular use of envelopes provides for a stable income to
the church. This enables the pastor to plan for repairs, future
expansion and improvements. We urge all parishioners to
make regular use of the envelopes.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS:

<i>Adoration</i>	<i>Ginny Olsen 947-3336</i>
<i>Adult Choir</i>	<i>Jac Madson 758-7243</i>
<i>Adult Faith Formation</i>	<i>Earl Alger 298-7071</i>
<i>Altar Linen Ministry</i>	<i>Helene Shea 298-7612</i>
<i>Church Ushers</i>	<i>Ferd Loretangeli 298-2131</i>
<i>Contemporary Choir</i>	<i>Cathy Alphonse 291-9204</i>
<i>Food Pantry</i>	<i>Mike Novalis 298-4664</i>
<i>Knights of Columbus</i>	<i>Ron White 903-0342</i>
<i>Liturgy Committee</i>	<i>Fr. Joe Hlubik 298-0261</i>
<i>Open Hearts, Willing Hands (Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer County)</i>	<i>609-393-9922</i>
<i>Pastoral Council</i>	<i>Deacon Gary Richardson</i>
<i>Rosary & Altar Society</i>	<i>Stephanie Salewski 291-1816</i>
<i>Sports Committee</i>	<i>John Bacovin 638-9054</i>
<i>St. Vincent de Paul Society</i>	<i>Sharon Callahan 298-1414</i>
<i>Word of Life Prayer Group</i>	<i>Pat Baylog 298-4249</i>

MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

There are no scheduled meetings in the parish center this week.

The rectory office will be closed on December 25 & 26.

Mary's Weavers, St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Knights of Columbus, RCIA and the Word of Life Prayer Group will not meet again until 2018.



St. Vincent de Paul Society

December 24, 2017: 4th Sunday of Advent

Joseph receives little attention these days, even in Advent, but Joseph stands right beside Mary at the center of the stage. Joseph stands, with eager expectation, at the threshold of transcendence. From the darkness of his own limited understanding, he is continually peering into the mystery of God. Surely he cannot fathom the virginal conception of Jesus that the angel announces, but with loving compassion he bows in reverence to God's incomprehensible ways. Surely he does not understand how this child, who seems like any other, could be "God with us", but he abandons himself, in faith, to the task of loving the child and educating him. There is something very beautiful about Joseph's contact with the transcendent mystery of God. He was a carpenter and in the midst of his daily manual labor and family life, Joseph was surrounded by the mystery of God and he penetrated it with faith. He trusted in God's daily providence.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society wishes everyone a Blessed Christmas!!!

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, call our confidential helpline (609) 298-1414.

After 70 years as an organist for many Catholic parishes, including assignments all over the globe during a 25-year military career, Bob Scara is finally stepping aside to lessen his duties in retirement. Mr. Scara was the organist, cantor and choir director at St. Paul's church in Burlington for 27 years, and more recently served at Holy Assumption Church in Roebling for several years. He is resigning from his duties at Holy Assumption at the end of December.

Imagine the beautiful music Bob produced in a 70-year career! Many thanks for your terrific example and wonderful service over these many years, and best wishes for your retirement!

—parishioners of St. Mary's & Ss. Francis & Clare

Altar Servers — December 30th & 31st

5:00PM	Team #3	Zola
7:30AM	Team #4	Ritter
9:30AM	Team #8	Labissiere
11:30AM	Team #10	Ogbutor

FR. JOE'S MESSAGES:

Can you name our parish?

As you may know, when our parishes of St. Mary's and Ss. Francis & Clare are officially merged next July, the combined parish will be known by a new name (while retaining the names of each church). You are invited to suggest your favorite name, to our parish office staff, either via mail or phone, **prior to Dec. 31st.**



A Blessed Christmas to All

On behalf of Fr. Daison, our Deacons and parish staff, I wish everyone in our two parish communities a most joyful and blessed Christmas! Let us show our families, friends and neighbors the true meaning of the season by our witness and example.

—Fr. Joe Hlubik



2018 March for Life

The **Knights of Columbus Council 570** is co-sponsoring a bus trip to the March for Life in Washington, DC on **Friday, January 19, 2018.** The bus will depart at 8AM, following our 7:30AM Mass, from St. Mary's parking lot. The March will be approximately 2 hours; we may visit the National Shrine; our group will stop for an evening meal at the Golden Corral; and return by 10PM. Suggested donation is \$25.00. Seats are limited; please call Ed Connor at 609-291-9750, or email at edconmba@gmail.com

"I wear a crucifix because I don't want to forget that God is with me. I like to hold on to Him when things get difficult because it reminds me how much Jesus loves me."

—Mother Angelica's Little Book of Life Lessons and Everyday Spirituality

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Vigil Masses on Sunday, December 24th

St. Mary's: 3:30, 5:30, 8:30, & 11:00 PM

(3:30 is the Baby Jesus Mass for young children)

Holy Assumption: 3:30 & 5:30 PM

(3:30 is the Baby Jesus Mass for young children)

Masses on Monday, December 25th

St. Mary's: 9:30 & 11:30 AM

Holy Assumption: 10:30 AM

There will be no evening Masses on Christmas Day.



Please also note ...

Our parish office will be closed for the Christmas holidays on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday December 26.

We will reopen on Wednesday, December 27 at 9 AM.

Rosary Recitations



ALL ARE WELCOME—PLEASE JOIN US IN THESE PRAYER SESSIONS:

- ♦ **Daily Rosary** – 7:00AM and 8:00AM in the chapel (before and after the 7:30AM Mass);
- ♦ **Tuesdays** from 2:00—3:00PM in the chapel;
- ♦ **Wednesdays** at 3:00PM for priests and religious;
- ♦ **Saturdays** at 9:00AM the “Timeless Rosary” is recited.

Pray the Rosary as a family, even if only a decade a day—just begin.

“The Rosary is a great test of Faith, the touchstone by which the soul is judged in its humility. The mark of the Christian is the willingness to look for the Divine in the flesh of a babe in a crib, the continuing presence of Christ under the appearance of bread on an altar, and a meditation and a prayer on a string of beads.” —Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

UPCOMING EVENTS:

>>CLARE ESTATE ROSARY—First Tuesday at 10:30; next recitation scheduled—January 2nd. All are welcome.

>>PRAYER SHAWL PROJECT – Mary’s Weavers —Monday evenings at 7 PM in the downstairs meeting room, Parish Center. Call Helene Shea for more information at 298-7612. Next Meeting is on January 8th.

>>ROSARIAN MONTHLY ROSARY—Rosarians will meet to recite together their monthly public Rosary during the regular Tuesday Rosary Hour on January 9th at 2:00 PM, in the Chapel.

>>COMMUNION SUNDAY – January 14th—9:30 AM Mass for all Rosarians, living and deceased.

Holy Father’s Prayer Intentions for December:

- *The Elderly*—That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming new generations.

Let us pray Our Lady of Lourdes, we pray for our currently ill or suffering members, family and friends: Samme; Ruth B.; Patricia H.; Mary M., Maryann, and Joe C. for the healing of cancer; Mary for remission of cancer; Emily for upcoming surgery; John Mullen; David; Daniel; Catherine; Ginny’s brother Bob; B.J. and Pam; George T.; Ginny M.; Veronica Shea; Amelia; Carol P.; Bill S; Paul Shea; Michael S.; Attila, Pat & family; Deacon Ron S.; Marge Johnson; Josephine H.; Christy, Joan and family members; for Jo for healing in her grief; Benjamin; Nancy P.; Nancy K.; Gail; Marilyn Rogalski; Julie and family; Addie; and Rosemarie Brodowski. We continue to pray for peace in our world and in our country that we may come together in harmony and mutual respect for each other; for our religious freedoms and conscience rights; for the recognition of the civil right of the unborn to be recognized as persons; for the family and sacramental marriage; for our civil protectors in the military, the police, firefighters and EMTs; for vocations; for the people affected by natural disasters; and for the Holy Father and the Church throughout the world. We ask for the continuing health of our parish clergy, and give thanks for our Deacons and their families for their dedication and self-giving help in the ministries of the Church. We pray for our homebound that they may know that they remain with us in our hearts and prayers.

Do you remember the parable about the foolish rich man? When his barns were filled with all his possessions, he decided to tear them down and build bigger ones. Why is he a fool?

Because—and I want you to repeat this to yourself as I say it—you have everything you need right now to be happy.

—Bishop Robert Barron

Parish Offerings:

For the weekend of December 17th, we received \$10,352 in our regular collection, and \$1,302 for our Stewardship offerings.

Many thanks for your generosity!

Sharing the "Joy of the Gospel" on Catholic Radio!
Tune into WFJS Catholic Radio 1260am/89.3FM.
Download the WFJS smart phone app. Or listen live on line at www.DomesticChurchMedia.org



St. John the Apostle – Feast Day is Dec. 27

Following the death of Jesus, St. John, the apostle and evangelist, is said to have remained in Jerusalem for many years, occasionally preaching abroad. He eventually moved to Ephesus, located in modern-day Turkey, and then to Rome during the reign of the Roman Emperor Domitian (81-96 A.D.).

Tradition says that John was arrested in Rome, and plunged into a cauldron of boiling oil from which he suffered no injuries. The elderly John was then exiled to the small Greek island of Patmos in 95 A.D. Located in the Aegean Sea, near the west coast of modern-day Turkey, Patmos was a rocky, volcanic island with few trees.

While John was there, he had several dreams which inspired him to write the Book of Revelation. It is said that John dictated his dreams to Procorus, one of the seven original deacons of the early Church who served as his assistant.

After Domitian’s death in 96 A.D., John returned to Ephesus where he later died.

[source: [The Little Blue Book 2017-18](#); Diocese of Saginaw, MI; littlebooks.org]

ALTAR LINEN MINISTRY**Week of December 24: Helene Shea****Week of December 31: Marge Devennie**

For more information, call Helene Shea at 298-7612

St. Mary's Community Food Pantry

We are a supplemental food source run by volunteers who donate their time collecting and distributing food to over 300 families in need in Bordentown, Chesterfield, Crosswicks, Fieldsboro, and 4 area motels that house people on our register.

We are funded by generous parishioners, community churches and members, to whom we are most grateful!

Current needs: toothpaste; shampoo; soap; and razors



Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

Our food pantry hours are as follows: **M-W-F 2-3:00 PM; Tu-Th 9-10:00 AM and 6-7:00 PM; and Sat. 9-10:00 AM.**

To learn more, go to: [Facebook.com/St.MarysFoodPantry](https://www.facebook.com/St.MarysFoodPantry).

Pray for ...

...THE SICK who have been recommended to our prayers:

Sr. Joyce Marie Riley, Victoria Seda, Marilyn Rogalski, Lois MacArthur, Francis Schuessler, Lucy Johnson, John Young, D.J. Hoch, Raleigh Sunday, Alvah Schully, Nicole Cochran, Boleslaw Pacholek, Tony LaPointe, John Campo, Quincy Johnson, Elizabeth Gusrang, Maida Burke, Dave and Arlene Bibus, Gerry Jacobs, Debbie LePre, Thaddeus Custer, Donald & Ann McGarrity, Rev. John Owens, Maureen Fabriano, John Fitzgerald, Anna Vosila, Hugh Delaney, Mary Louise Torriello, Cindy Marriot, Michael Albano, Brody Lingle, Nadine Daddona, Patricia Gates and all of the sick of the parish.

Pray For Our Deceased

Lorraine Wolfe; Stuart Anker

Chapel Sanctuary LampAda DiPietro
RB/Family**Church Sanctuary Lamp**Edward MacMullan
RB/Wife

NOTE: Prayer List entries will be removed after 90 days unless we are notified that your loved one requires continued prayer support.

**Religious Education & Sacramental Programs****For St. Mary's and Ss. Francis & Clare Parishes**1st through 8th Grade & High School**December 24.....Baby Jesus Christmas Eve Mass—3:30PM at St. Mary's Church****December 24.....Baby Jesus Christmas Eve Mass—3:30PM at Holy Assumption Church****January 7, 21, 28.....January RE Classes at 8:00, 9:45, and 11:15 AM in St. Mary's School****January 9, 23, 30.....January RE Classes at 5:00 and 6:30 PM in Holy Assumption Church****January 6.....First Penance Retreat****January 7.....Final day to turn in ALL Confirmation paperwork****January 7.....AT-HOME FAITH Unit 2 Test is due**

A Merry Christmas to all our RE Catechists, Assistants, Volunteers and families. We embrace the birth of our Savior, Christ the Lord. The feast of this season reflects the light of Christ. Rejoice in the everlasting truth that Jesus Christ is our light and our life. How will you celebrate that Jesus Christ is your light and your life?

The Twelve Days of Christmas – The song, “*The Twelve Days of Christmas*” is an English Christmas carol. From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. Here are the hidden meanings— 1 bird willing to sacrifice life for its young; 2 books of the Bible: Old and New Testaments; 3 hens representing faith, hope and love; 4 Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; 5 first books of the Old Testament; 6 days of creation; 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit; 8 Beatitudes; 9 Fruits of the Holy Spirit; Ten Commandments; 11 faithful Apostles; and 12 points of doctrine (belief) in The Apostles' Creed.

First Penance — Our 2nd graders will have practice and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in January. Please pray for all our boys and girls that they may open their hearts and minds to this beautiful sacrament of forgiveness. Help them turn to God for forgiveness.

Confirmation Candidates – all your paperwork is due by January 7th. You will be receiving information about your Confirmation Interview in early February. If all of your paperwork and service hours are finished, you will be receiving your Confirmation Application. You will also be measured for Confirmation Robes.

AT-HOME FAITH students — your Unit 2 tests are due back in the RE office no later than January 7th.

St. Mary's and Ss. Francis & Clare RE Office

Phone: (609) 291-8281 ext. 18 (CRE) or ext.17 (Asst.); Fax: (609) 298-7178

Email: office@stmarysre.org or office2@stmarysre.org; Website: www.stmarysre.org.

Facebook page: St. Mary's Church—Bordentown, NJ

The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

What Are the Holy Days of Obligation?

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains the holy days of obligation this way:

On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are to refrain from engaging in work or activities that hinder the worship that is owed to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, the performance of the works of mercy, and the appropriate relaxation of mind and body. Family needs or important social service can legitimately excuse from the obligation of Sunday rest. The faithful should see to it that legitimate excuses do not lead to habits prejudicial to religion, family life, and health. [CCC 2185]

The *Code of Canon Law* spells out when the holy days of obligation are on the Church's universal calendar:

Sunday, on which by apostolic tradition the Paschal Mystery is celebrated, must be observed in the universal Church as the primordial holy day of obligation.

The following days must also be observed:

- ♦ The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ;
- ♦ The Epiphany;
- ♦ The Ascension of Our Lord;
- ♦ The Body and Blood of Christ;
- ♦ Holy Mary, the Mother of God;
- ♦ The Immaculate Conception of Mary;
- ♦ The Assumption of Mary;
- ♦ Feast of St. Joseph;
- ♦ Feast of the Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul;
- ♦ Feast of All Saints

The above ten are the exact holy days that are celebrated in Vatican City, but there is variation elsewhere, because the *Code of Canon Law* also states that, "With the prior approval of the Apostolic See, however, the conference of bishops can suppress some of the holy days of obligation or transfer them to a Sunday." Therefore, the entire Church celebrates Sundays, but there is variation from country to country on the other holy days.

In the continental United States, we celebrate eight of these ten holy days, although two have been transferred to a Sunday, and another (the Ascension) has also been transferred to a Sunday depending on your area of the U. S.:

- ♦ **Mary, the Mother of God**—is always celebrated on January 1, but if this occurs on a Saturday or a Monday there is no obligation to go to Mass;
- ♦ **The Epiphany**—permanently transferred to the first Sunday after January 1;
- ♦ **The Ascension of Our Lord**—for Nebraska and northeastern U.S. it is still celebrated on the traditional date, the Thursday of the sixth week of Easter; other parts of the U.S. have transferred it to the seventh Sunday of Easter;
- ♦ **The Body and Blood of Christ**—permanently transferred to the second Sunday after Pentecost;
- ♦ **The Assumption of Mary**—always celebrated on August 15, but if this occurs on a Saturday or a Monday there is no obligation to go to Mass;
- ♦ **All Saints Day**—always celebrated on November 1, but if this occurs on a Saturday or a Monday there is no obligation to go to Mass;
- ♦ **The Immaculate Conception of Mary**—always celebrated on December 8;
- ♦ **Christmas**—always celebrated on December 25.

One more oddity about the United States' schedule is the state of Hawaii. Because they have requested to conform to the surrounding dioceses (Conference of Bishops of the South Pacific), they celebrate only two holy days besides Sundays—the Immaculate Conception of Mary, and Christmas.

[source: Jimmy Akin, Catholic Answers; catholic.com/magazine]

Christmas Bulletins

In addition to our regular parish bulletins, we have special Christmas bulletins containing prayers and blessings for the Christmas season, at our church exits and in the parish center. Please feel free to take one home with you.

2018 Parish Calendars

Parish Calendars for 2018 are now available at our church exits, from our ushers, and in our parish center.

January 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Happy New Year's Eve Party



- ♦ **Where:** St. Raphael's parish center, Hamilton
- ♦ **When:** Dec. 31st, 6:30PM—1:00AM
- ♦ **Cost:** \$35/person
- ♦ **Contact:** call Agnes (609-802-1711) by 12/27

Party includes hot buffet (catered by Amari's), live music, noisemakers, BYOB, and "Ed the One-Man-Band". Proceeds benefit the St. Raphael/Holy Angels Elderberry Club.

Come join the fun!