



The People of God called to form the Christian Community of

St. Mary's Church

280 Washington Avenue, Dumont, NJ 07628 Parish Office: 201-384-0557

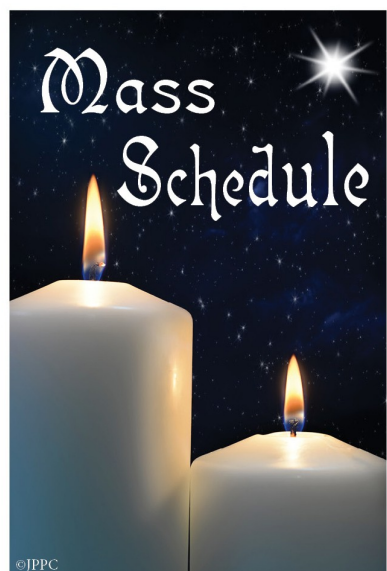
December 15, 2024 - Third Sunday of Advent



I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.

Luke 3:16

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CHRISTMAS MASSES

Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Mass, 6:30 PM Mass, 12:00 AM Midnight Mass

Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day

7:45 AM Mass, 10:00 AM Mass, 12:00 Noon

MASSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

5:30 PM Vigil Mass

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

9:00 AM Mass, 11:00AM Mass

Weekly MASS Intentions

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Saturday	Dec. 14 - Vigil
5:30PM	Lawrence Miloscia, Sr.
Sunday	Dec. 15 - Third Sunday of Advent
7:45AM	Peggy Keating
10:00AM	Deceased Members of the Markert Family
12 Noon	Parishioners of St. Mary's
Monday	Dec. 16 - Advent Weekday
7:00AM	Francis Martin
8:45AM	William J. Treacy
Tuesday	Dec. 17 - Late Advent Weekday
7:00AM	Francis Martin
8:45AM	Concepcion Santos
Wednesday	Dec. 18 - Late Advent Weekday
7:00AM	Francis Martin
8:45AM	Neda Rosini
Thursday	Dec. 19 - Late Advent Weekday
7:00AM	Dolores O'Dowd
8:45AM	Giovanni (John) Piccinich
Friday	Dec. 20 - Late Advent Weekday
7:00AM	Trish McHale
8:45AM	Loise and Peter Gatto and Family
Saturday	Dec. 21 - Late Advent Weekday
8:30AM	Ann Baranek
5:30PM	Parishioners of St. Mary's
Sunday	Dec. 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
7:45AM	Rosemary Scalia
10:00AM	Sr. Joan Cremin
12 Noon	Michael McCabe



The **Bread and Wine** offered at this week's Masses are given in memory of Claire and Larry Miloscia, Sr. requested by the Miloscia family.

The **Sanctuary Lamp** will burn in praise of God and in memory of Kathleen Callahan Lisa requested by the Buchheister family.

Recently Deceased

We ask your prayers for our recently deceased Juliana Aviles, Dave Sinsone, Steve Riccardi and Roger Carney.

This Week



Sunday – Dec. 15
8:30AM PACT Saints
9:00AM OCIA Rectory
10:00AM Choir UC
1:00PM Simbang Gabi Practice SH
7:00PM Youth Group Meeting YRm or SFC
Second Collection: Retirement Collection for the Religious
Monday – Dec. 16
After 8:45AM Mass Rosary UC
7:00PM RCIA Rectory
7:00PM Confirmation Prep #2
8:00PM Basketball
Tuesday – Dec. 17
After 8:45AM Mass Rosary UC
5:00PM Irish Step Dancing SH/LS
6:30PM Church Decorating UC
Wednesday - Dec. 18
After 8:45AM Mass Rosary & OLPH Novena UC
4:00PM Simbang Gabi Practice SH
6:30PM Church Decorating
Thursday – Dec. 19
After 8:45AM Mass Rosary UC
5:30PM Irish Step Dancing LS
8:00PM Basketball (Tuy) SH
Friday – Dec. 20
After 8:45AM Mass Rosary UC
1:00PM Simbang Gabi Set-up
7:00PM Simbang Gabi UC
Saturday – Dec. 21
10:00AM Food Pick-up
Sunday – Dec. 22
10:00AM Choir UC

Church Decorating Many hands make light work!!!

Please join us on Tuesday, December 17 and Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30pm to decorate the church. On Tuesday, we will do the "heavy" stuff, trees and wreaths. On Thursday will be finishing touches.





This weekend, parishes across the Archdiocese of Newark will participate in the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. This collection gives us an opportunity to honor and support the aging members of religious communities who have dedicated their lives to ministry and service.

The challenges facing religious communities are significant. Escalating healthcare costs and the absence of traditional retirement plans have left many with insufficient resources to care for their aging members. According to the National Religious Retirement Office, there are more than 20,000 religious in the United States over the age of 70.

Since its inception in 1988, the Retirement Fund for Religious collection has raised over \$1 billion, with the majority these funds distributed directly to religious communities to assist with care expenses. Last year, the appeal generated \$29.3 million in donations, benefiting 286 religious communities. These funds not only provide immediate financial relief but also support educational initiatives to help communities build long-term financial stability.

These aging members of religious communities had a dramatic impact on the lives of so many of us. I'm not sure I would be priest today if I had not learned from the example of so many religious sisters who had been part of my education. In retirement, I know that these members of religious communities continue to serve the church through their constant prayers for all of us. In gratitude we all need to financially support these religious men and women as we need to pray for them and as we pray for an increase in vocations to religious life.

Simbang Gabi

Throughout the world, each culture has its own way of preparing to celebrate the great feast of Christmas. In the Philippines, the traditional way of preparing for Christmas is called Simbang Gabi. It is a Novena of masses at dawn beginning on December 16th and ending with midnight mass on Christmas Eve. The tradition was introduced by Spanish friars to allow the farmers to attend mass before going to work in the fields early in the morning. After mass and before work began, worshippers would share traditional Filipino foods of the holiday season.

While there are still Filipino communities that still observe Simbang Gabi with early morning masses, here at St. Mary's we have found a less taxing way to prepare for Christmas. On Friday evening, December 20th we will have our traditional Simbang Gabi celebration. It will start with mass in Church at 7:00 pm followed by the sharing of traditional Filipino foods of the holiday season in Szelest Hall. Our gathering in Szelest Hall will also give the children of our parish the opportunity to show all of us the true meaning of the Christmas with their traditional Christmas Pageant.

This Christmas Pageant calls us to remember a simple story of faith, hope and love; the faith of a virgin who trusted the word of an angel, the hope of parents who brought forth a child into

Fr. Carey

Deanery Advent Penance Service

This year, our Deanery **Penance Service** for the season of Advent is on:

Monday, Dec. 16, 7:00PM

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Tenafly

This service affords our parishioners to be reconciled with the Lord and each other through this sacrament of healing.

Vigil Against Gun Violence

As we have each year since the first anniversary of the 2012 killing of 20 six and seven-year-old children and 6 staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, after the 10:00 am Mass on December 15 we will hold a 15-minute vigil on the front steps of the church.

Plan on joining your fellow parishioners to raise awareness of and pray for an end to gun violence.



PACT/Religious Education Program

PACT/Religious Education Program:



Parents of families who have not received these e-mails should notify us that you are not receiving e-mails. Call (201) 384-0557 Extension 20 or e-mail religious@stmarysdumont.org

Confirmation Candidate Preparation

Confirmation Preparation is separate from regular PACT/Religious Education or Catholic School religion class. The next candidate preparation for those who enrolled in Confirmation Preparation will be Monday, 12/18.



Confirmation Candidate Service

Confirmation candidates may find opportunities for service in the parish including: setting up/cleaning up the church for Christmas, helping with Simbang Gabi on Friday 12/20, helping with the food pantry, and more. Check the bulletin and the weekly e-mail to contact those running special events. Service may also be available in schools and activities in town. Remember the words of St. James: *Faith without works is dead.*

St. Nicholas Project for Oasis Shelter: Due tomorrow!

Please cut out and attach a St. Nicholas tag to an unwrapped gift or gift card and bring gift items for Oasis shelter in Paterson to the **Religious Education Office or the Parish Office/Rectory by Monday, December 16th.**



God's Plan for Giving

"The measure of your free-will offering shall be in proportion to the blessing the Lord, your God, has bestowed on you."

(Deuteronomy 16:10)

	2024	2023
Collections: Dec. 7 - 8	\$6,640.00	\$7,296.00
Weekly On-Line Giving	<u>1,849.00</u>	<u>1,682.00</u>
Total	<u>\$8,489.00</u>	<u>\$8,978.00</u>

Treasure from our children: \$4.00

Below are some of the good deeds that the children of St. Mary's did as a way of showing their love of God and of our parish. We hope that they will always know how important what they do for God and for us truly is. Even though they are still young, they can give us a wonderful example to follow.

"I talked with parents about lesson."

"I helped someone." "I said my prayers."

"I cleaned."



Electronic/Online Giving is a convenient no hassle method, of making your Sunday offertory to the church. For more information or to sign up you can visit stmarysdumont.churchgiving.com from WeShare company. You can also contact the parish office for more details .

We greatly appreciate your continued support to St. Mary's.

Stewardship Reflection

3rd Sunday of Advent

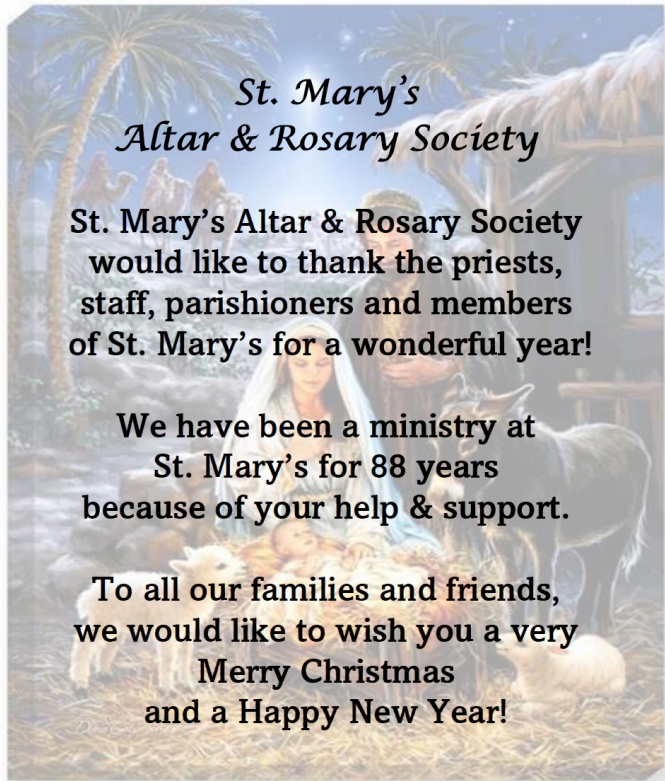
"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." (PHILIPPIANS 4:6)

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God – He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God's image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous with all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.

Christmas Flowers



PLEASE don't forget to use your envelope marked for **FLOWERS** - it takes a **LOT** of flowers to make our church extra-special for Christmas.



*St. Mary's
Altar & Rosary Society*

**St. Mary's Altar & Rosary Society
would like to thank the priests,
staff, parishioners and members
of St. Mary's for a wonderful year!**

**We have been a ministry at
St. Mary's for 88 years
because of your help & support.**

**To all our families and friends,
we would like to wish you a very
Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!**

Food Pantry News

The St. Mary's Food Pantry would like to thank the following groups and individuals for their support during 2024. We could not have helped the many families and seniors without their efforts. So in no particular order, our angels are:

*Father Carey, Father David, Deacon John
Dory Weiss-Parish Secretary
John Weiss - Business Administrator*

*Kathy Sylvester-Pastoral Associate for Liturgy/RCIA
Abner Buensalida, Rich Romaine & Dom Torio - Maintenance
Beth Meloscia and the Youth & Young Adult Ministry
The Parishioners of St. Mary's and residents of Dumont
Shop Rite of New Milford & Inserra Supermarkets*

*The Boy & Girl Scouts of Dumont
Our Confirmation Candidates*

*The Philippine Nurses Assn. of New Jersey
Bergen Office of Food Security*

*Janine Aiello, Erin Alloca, Nick Alloca, Phil Alloca,
Mary Auriti, Ben Basil, June DiGirolamo, Karen Ebenhack,
Jai Rafael Gallardo, Jamie Garguilo, Melissa Gracey, Nath Gurjar,
Sonali Gurjar, Joey Hakim, Ann Hamilla, Andrew Hershkowitz,
Jake Lee, Alex Mendler, Margaret Molder, Cathy Pacana & family,
Ryan Rivas, Laura Sobek, Ryan Soto, Grace Tagliareni,
Nick Tabano, Jake Vietri & Nick Zeha*

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All!
Anna, Denise & Lynne*

Serving in the Military

We ask God to keep in his care all those who are serving overseas in our armed forces. They are listed below and we ask your prayers for them.

John Murray...Anthony Dunkin...Lorenzo Cortezano
Joseph Ament...Brandon Barhydt

Pray for Our Sick

John Ramzi...Rose O'Shea...Arvin Erd...John M.
Kathleen Oates...Ann Marie Maurice...Myra D'Silva
Brian O'Dowd...Perfecto de Vera...Patricia O'Neill
Michael Hayes...Ted Widman...Arsenia Carrasco
Michele Patetta...John Romaine...Anne Picciano
Robert Baccollo...Jonel Tinio...Gary Barba
Carmelo Abbruzzesi..Baby Colton Lewis...Anya
Perla Biron...Skylar Frye...Scott Tkacz...Sean Hayes
N. Diamond...Perla Biron...Ryan Heckman...Kevin
Patricia Adone...George Taylor...Tom Aquino
Josefina Caoli...Jeanne Kwederis...Miss Giusi S.
Mariantonia D...Fran D...Lourdes Santamaria
Daniel Robbins...Theresa Hong...Lorraine Rolanti
Carole Chittenden...Alisen Herman...Fidel Ronque
Jing Santamaria...Nicole Sorce...Audrey Maguire
Baby Jason Aldo...Jeannine...Billy Schweizer
Baby Valentina Victoria Duffy...Wilbert Buco
Dorothy Faulkner...Anthony Montagnino
Carlos San Juan...Helen de la Pena...John Eckel, Sr.
Mila Paras...Sam & Joan Amorosso...Ron Dunkin
Marianito Briones...Dafina Stewart...Dolores Awid
Sally Ariola...Karen Dean

Sick and Homebound Visit

If you or know someone who can't come to the church and wanted to receive communion, do confession, or wanted to talk to a priest, please call the parish office at 201-384-0557. Fr. Carey will be glad to visit you.

Patient Privacy Reminder

A reminder to all parishioners, due to Patient Privacy regulations, hospitals cannot notify us when our parishioners are in the hospital. Please let us know or have someone call us so that one of the priests can visit you. Thank you for your understanding.

IT'S MEGA-RAFFLE TIME

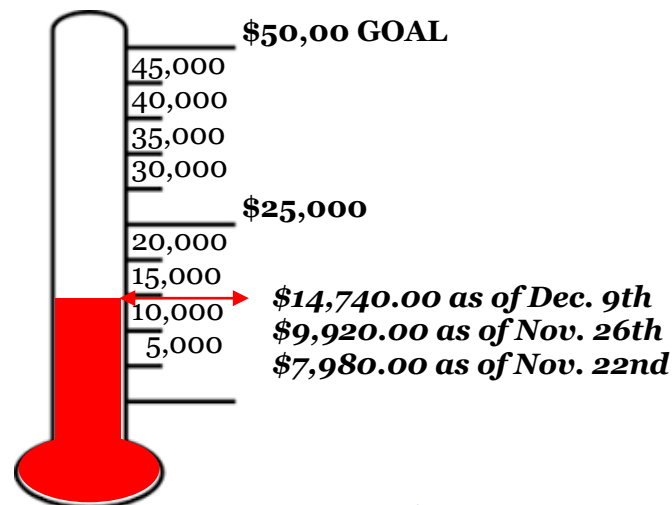
Once again, St. Mary's is hosting a big 50/50 Mega Raffle. When we did this for the past four years, the pot exceeded \$45,000. It would be great if, this year, we could reach \$50,000. I'm sure everyone would like to win a share of such a large pot.

By now, most parishioners have received raffle tickets in the mail and some already purchased the tickets.

Tickets are \$20.00 each. There will be three (3) prizes – 1st Prize will be 25% of the proceeds, 2nd Prize will be 15% of the proceeds and 3rd Prize will be 10% of the proceeds.

We ask that you purchase what you can afford. If possible, sell others to friends and neighbors. We know many people give lottery tickets at Christmas. Consider giving a raffle ticket instead. We all need to be a little creative as we strive to make this special raffle a great success. We are most grateful for whatever each family might be able to do. If you need more raffle tickets, they are available at the Rectory.

Please return the raffle tickets and the money to the rectory or put in the collection basket in church. The winning tickets will be pulled on January 5th, 2025, the Feast of the Epiphany.



Three Weeks Left



2025 Offerings Available

Bread and Wine:

Mar. 30; Apr. 6 & 13;

Sanctuary Lamp:

Mar. 16 & 30; Apr. 27; Aug. 31; Oct. 19.

Parish Office Schedule

During the days of the Christmas season, the parish office **will be closed** as follows:

- Tuesday, Dec. 24
- Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024
- Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024 and
- Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025



PASTORAL STAFF

- Rev. Stephen A. Carey, *Pastor*
- Rev. David W. Milliken, *In-Residence*
- Deacon John L. Sylvester, *Permanent Deacon*
- Mr. Luis Chavez, *Director of Music Ministry*
- Mrs. Kathleen Sylvester, *Pastoral Associate for Liturgy/RCIA*
- Dr. William J. Mascitello, *Pastoral Associate for Catechetics*
- Mr. John Weiss, *Business Administrator*
- Beth Miloscia, *Youth and Young Adult Ministries*
- Dory Weiss, *Parish Secretary*
- Sheila Romaine, *Religious Ed. Secretary & Safe Environment Coordinator*

TRUSTEES

- Mrs. Janet Kaine, *Parish Trustee*

CONTACT US

- Parish e-mail: info@stmarysdumont.org
- Parish Website: www.stmarysdumont.org
- Religious Education Office: 201-384-0557, Ext. 20
email: religioused@stmarysdumont.org
- Director of Music: email: music@stmarysdumont.org
- Altar & Rosary: email: rosaryaltarsociety@stmarysdumont.org
- Food Pantry: email: foodpantry@stmarysdumont.org

Online giving: WeShare
stmarysdumont.churchgiving.com.



Come & Celebrate!

Simbang Gabi
2024

Holy Mass at St. Mary's Church, Dumont

December 20, 2024 Friday, 7 PM.

Followed by Christmas and Nativity Pageant at Szelest Hall.

"Encounter to Share the Light of Jesus"

280 Washington Ave., Dumont, NJ, 201-384-0557

SPONSORED BY THE PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN LAY APOSTOLATE OF DUMONT (PALAD)