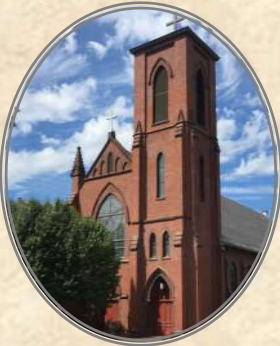


# Mary, Mother of the Church Parish

## ST. MARY

45 Crosswicks Street  
Bordentown, NJ 08505



REV. MARTIN O'REILLY, Pastor  
REV. CESAR R. ANSON, Parochial Vicar  
REV. J.C. GARRETT, Weekend Assistant

### Deacon

Gary T. Richardson

Parish Office: 609-298-0261

Fax: 609-298-7178

Email: [info@mmtcp.org](mailto:info@mmtcp.org)

### Retired Deacons

Lawrence W. Finn Thomas F. Shea

## HOLY ASSUMPTION

1290 Hornberger Avenue  
Roebbling, NJ 08554



Parish Emergency # 609-203-5617 (Please Use for Emergencies Outside of Normal Business Hours)

# 4th Sunday OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21, 2025

### Readings for the Week

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:  
1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/  
Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1  
Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/  
Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/  
Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and  
14/Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday:  
Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5,  
16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts  
13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25  
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2,  
2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)

Thursday:  
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1,  
2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Heb 1:1-  
6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-  
59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab,  
16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps  
97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:  
1a, 2-8

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6,  
12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5  
(see 1)/Col 3:12-21 or 3:  
12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



## PARISH INFORMATION

### MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil: Holy Assumption—**4:00 PM**  
St. Mary—**5:30 PM**  
Sunday: Holy Assumption—**8:00 AM**  
St. Mary—**10:00 AM and 11:30 AM**

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Holy Assumption—Saturday - **3:00-3:45 PM**  
St. Mary—Saturday - **4:30-5:15 PM**  
(Also by Appointment)

### WEEKDAY MASS: MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

Holy Assumption—Roebbling **9:30 AM (Tues., Wed., & Fri.)**  
St. Mary—Bordentown **12:30 PM (Mon.-Fri.)**  
Holy Days: See Mass Schedule in Bulletin for Mass Times

**BAPTISMS:** Contact Debbie Ullmer-Phillips at the Parish Office, Ext. 112. Baptisms are celebrated on the **1st & 3rd Sundays** of the month at **1:00 PM at St. Mary Church** and the **4th Saturday** of the month at **2:00 PM at Holy Assumption**. Please call the Parish Office to register, provide the required documents, and schedule a Baptism Prep Class.

**MARRIAGES:** Contact Debbie Ullmer-Phillips at the Parish Office, Ext. 112. Arrangements are to be made at least 1 year in advance.

### SICK CALLS/COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Arrangements for Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion for those confined to the home are to be made by contacting the Parish Office. Urgent calls any time during the day, contact the Parish Office, after hours, use the emergency line 609-203-5617.

### HOURS FOR PRAYER

- St. Mary Church, Bordentown, is open daily from 7:00 AM to 6:30 PM. (Use Chapel entrance through the side door.)
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel of Saints, Wednesdays from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM. (Use Chapel entrance through the side door.)
- Holy Hour every Wednesday at 7:00 PM, St. Mary (Main Church), Bordentown.

### 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.

**Wish to join us? Please complete the New Parishioner Contact Form found on the parish website: [mmotcp.org](http://mmotcp.org), under the ABOUT US Tab, "How to Join Us"**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am-3:00 pm  
Friday, 9:00 am-12:00 noon



## PARISH MINISTRIES & SUPPORT AGENCIES

### Alcoholics Anonymous

Bob H. – 609-784-3233

### Altar Linen Ministry

Rose Troyanovich (HA) - [charo.troyanovich@att.net](mailto:charo.troyanovich@att.net)  
Helene Shea (SM) - [hdshea@icloud.com](mailto:hdshea@icloud.com)

### Altar Servers

Paula Bisson - [altarservers@mmotcp.org](mailto:altarservers@mmotcp.org)

### Annulment Ministry

Deacon Tom Shea - [annulment@mmotcp.org](mailto:annulment@mmotcp.org)

### Bereavement Ministry

Joseph Whitty - [bereavement@mmotcp.org](mailto:bereavement@mmotcp.org)

### Catholic Charities (Diocese of Trenton)

1-800-360-7711

### Church Ushers

Dominick Cipriano – 609-634-2482 (HA)  
Frank Scharibone – 609-298-1898 (SM)

### Dignity of Life

Heni Scharibone - [dignityoflife@mmotcp.org](mailto:dignityoflife@mmotcp.org)

### Food Pantry

Sue Oros (HA)  
Mike Novalis (SM)  
[foodpantry@mmotcp.org](mailto:foodpantry@mmotcp.org)

### Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers

Sean Alphonse - [salphonse@mmotcp.org](mailto:salphonse@mmotcp.org)

### Music Ministry

Jesús Alfonso Gonzalez & Tina Fernandes, Coordinators  
[musicdept@mmotcp.org](mailto:musicdept@mmotcp.org)

### OCIA

Nick Chilelli - [OCIA@mmotcp.org](mailto:OCIA@mmotcp.org)

### TEEN OCIA

Pat Baylog - [pbaylog@mmotcp.org](mailto:pbaylog@mmotcp.org)

### St. Vincent de Paul Society

Margaret Rizzo – 609-298-1414

### Welcome Ministry

Anne Egan - [welcometoourparish@mmotcp.org](mailto:welcometoourparish@mmotcp.org)

### Youth Ministry

[youthgroup@mmotcp.org](mailto:youthgroup@mmotcp.org)



**St. Mary – Ramp Access  
(Off Crosswicks Street)**

**Holy Assumption  
Elevator Access  
(Main Parking Lot)**



## Office Staff

Fr. Martin O'Reilly, Pastor.....ext. 116  
 .....frmoreilly@mmotcp.org  
 Fr. Cesar Anson, Parochial Vicar.....ext. 110  
 .....revanson@mmotcp.org  
 Margaret Zola, Business Manager & CRE.....ext. 118  
 .....mzola@mmotcp.org  
 Patty Baylog, Parish Pastoral Coordinator.....ext. 115  
 .....pbaylog@mmotcp.org  
 Cathy Alphonse, Accounts Payable/Receivable .....ext. 114  
 .....calphonse@mmotcp.org  
 Sean Alphonse, Administrative Assistant.....ext. 111  
 .....salphonse@mmotcp.org

Julie Ann Evano, Front Desk Secretary.....ext. 110  
 .....info@mmotcp.org  
 Tina Fernandes, Music Coordinator.....ext. 132  
 .....musicdept@mmotcp.org  
 Jesús Alfonso Gonzalez, Music Coordinator.....ext. 132  
 .....musicdept@mmotcp.org  
 Tim Hoyt, Maintenance.....ext. 125  
 Roy Kerstetter, Maintenance.....ext. 125  
 .....rkerstetter@mmotcp.org  
 Carol Schulz, Bulletin Coord. & RE Assistant.....ext. 117  
 .....cschulz@mmotcp.org  
 Debbie Ulmer-Phillips, Parish Secretary.....ext. 112  
 .....dulmer-phillips@mmotcp.org

## ST. MARY



## HOLY ASSUMPTION

**Monday, Dec 22 - 12:30 pm**

Mary Graham rb/Mary Smith  
 Robert Girard rb/Larry & Janet Denney

**Tuesday, Dec 23 - 12:30 pm**

Bill Welsh rb/Carol Leitrim  
 Betty Kinsley rb/Jack Kinsley

**Wednesday**  
**December 24**



**Thursday**  
**December 25**

**PLEASE REFER TO THE 2025 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE  
 ON PAGE 6 IN THIS BULLETIN**

**Friday, Dec 26—12:30 pm**

Deceased Members of the Wolf & Chaty Families rb/  
 The Family

**Saturday, Dec 27**

**5:30 pm Celebrant: Fr. Martin**

In Thanksgiving rb/Edmund Pajarillo  
 Leo Wojciechowski rb/The Matthews Family  
 Barbara Giurdanella & Joe Silvestri rb/Renato Giurdanella  
 & Son

**Sunday, Dec 28**

**10:00 am Celebrant: Fr. Martin**

Ray Tift rb/Michael Tkacs  
 John (Jack) Koenig rb/The Jimenez Family & Evelyn Kostrub

**11:30 am Celebrant: Fr. Martin**

Beth Bell rb/Buzgo Family  
 Jon Kuzminski rb/Mom & Frank

**Tuesday, Dec 23—9:30am**

Bill Welsh rb/Carol

**Wednesday**  
**December 24**



**Thursday**  
**December 25**

**PLEASE REFER TO THE 2025 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE  
 ON PAGE 6 IN THIS BULLETIN**

**Friday, Dec 26**

**NO 9:30 MASS**

**Saturday, Dec 27**

**4:00 pm Celebrant: Fr. Anson**

Jim Pennacchi rb/Fran Spinelli & Family  
 Deacon Ron Machion rb/The Machion Family

**Sunday, Dec 28**

**8:00 am Celebrant: Fr. Anson**

Rose Lakati Castner rb/Sherry Ward

**Offertory Gifts**

If you have booked a Mass for a loved one and would like to bring up the offertory gifts, please inform an usher before mass begins.

**Low Gluten Hosts & Other Special Needs**

Low-gluten hosts are available for those who have difficulties with Celiac Disease and other similar disorders. Please approach the priest or an usher 15 minutes prior to the beginning of Mass to be directed as to how you can receive safely. If you or a family member have a special need when attending Mass, please let us know by calling our Parish Office at 609-298-0261.

**Pope's Prayer Intentions for December 2025 - For Christians Living Amidst War or Conflict**

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.



Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to the Fourth Week of Advent and just 3-4 sleeps away from celebrating the birthday of Jesus and the possible second coming of Christ our saviour. Do you feel as I do, that these four weeks went so fast? We need to STOP and THINK. Think about the birth of Jesus, the impact this birth had on our world. The life he lived, the impact this life had on our world. The words he spoke, the impact these words had on our world. The healing he brought, the impact this healing had on our world. Is there anything we can learn from Jesus? As we approach 2026, is there anything we should change that would make us more Christ like?

Do I appreciate my own birth, the impact my birth has on this world? The life I live, the impact my life has on others. The words I speak, the impact my words have on others. The healing I bring, the impact my healing has on others. Is there anything others could learn from me? The impact Jesus had/has on our world, remember, we can have the same impact by allowing the same Christ Child to be born in us and allowing the Christ Child to work through us. All it takes is a 'YES' from us. My prayer for you is that you will proclaim that 'YES.'

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Christmas – I truly hope and pray that you will be able to gather all your family and loved ones together over the Christmas season to show appreciation to each other, to affirm each other, to love each other and to show forgiveness to each other where forgiveness is needed.

For loved ones far from home I truly pray that they will feel love of family and God in their hearts on Christmas Day and know they are missed and thought of often.

I know for all of us we speak about Christmas in joyful terms but there are many who are grieving. Departed loved ones fill this period with fond memories of joy and laughter that can quickly turn and bring heartache and pain. Please know, I and the whole parish, are thinking of you and praying for you. May the Child Jesus bring you hope, love and comfort.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all who take an active part in the life of Mary, Mother of the Church Parish. It would truly be impossible to do it without you. To the Office Staff, Cleaning Staff, Ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Music Coordinators, Cantors, Sacristans, and Altar Servers—thank you for all you do. I leave the biggest **Thank You** to you the parishioners. Your support for me personally, and to all the clergy, has been nothing short of amazing. May the Christ Child bless you always, and may the love he possesses fill your hearts and keep you close throughout 2026.

To our clergy, thank you for all the support you give to the people of our parish both sacramentally and spiritually, it is appreciated by one and all. Fr. Anson, Fr. JC, and our Deacons; you do such great work and give great support, thank you! A special thank you to all our Religious Education teachers, classroom assistants and hall monitors, your willingness to give of your time speaks volumes about who you are. To all our parish societies and organizations – Thank You!

#### Christmas Carol Service

I truly hope you have marked your calendars for our annual Christmas Carol Service. If you have been blessed to have had the opportunity to attend in previous years you know how wonderful it is, and I have no doubt it will be equally so, if not better, this year. I look forward to meeting you all this evening at 6:00pm St. Mary Church, Bordentown, for this wonderful event.

May the love of the Christ Child fill your hearts, grow in your lives, and guide you in the year ahead.

*Fr. Martin*

### Meetings & Events of the Week

**Dec 22**  
**7:30pm**

KofC—Parish Office, Upstairs

**THE PARISH OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED  
DECEMBER 24, 25, & 26 2025 FOR  
THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**



### **BLESSING OF THE BABY JESUS AT MASS**

The Blessing of the Baby Jesus figure from your home nativity will take place at all the Masses on the weekend of December 20-21.



*Please keep the statue with you in the pew as the blessing will take place during Mass.*





### For the Sick...

Nichole Lynn Cochran, John & Amy Oldham and Baby J.T. Oldham, Robert Sobon, Kelly Sobon, Neil Jantos, John Oros, David Bemiss, Carlos Jayme, Walt Szazvay, Jillian Ruffini, Anne Darrow, Zhi Han Chen, Zhi Ying Jin, Stephen Lueckel, Andrew Lisanti, Susanne Hallas, Walter Schleher, Caitlyn Stankiewicz., Arlene Chaty, Teddi Millerline, Mary Merritt, Ken Cunningham, Michael Fitzgerald, Steve Dey, and all the sick of the parish.

### Please Pray for Our Deceased



*Robert Bowden  
John A. Davidson  
Florence Konrad  
Jaye Marie Serrano*

### Mass Schedule

**Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
January 1, 2026**



**Holy Assumption  
9:30 am - Fr. Anson**

**St. Mary Church  
12:30 pm - Fr. Martin**

### Chapel of Saints

Open Daily 7:00am-7:00pm for Personal Prayer

**HOLY HOUR  
ST. MARY CHURCH**

**WEDNESDAYS—7:00PM UNTIL JANUARY 2026**



**BEGINNING JANUARY 8, 2026  
THURSDAYS FOLLOWING THE 12:30PM MASS**  
ROSARY, NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE  
MIRACULOUS MEDAL, & BENEDICTION

### OFFERING

AN ACT OF WORSHIP

December 7, 2025/Weekly	\$ 25,727
Building Maintenance	2,172
Retirement Fund for Religious	335
Feast of the Immaculate Conception	2,122
Misc. Other Contributions	<u>2,381</u>
	\$ 32,737

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT.**

**PLEASE NOTE: THE DECEMBER 14, 2025  
CONTRIBUTIONS WERE NOT AVAILABLE WHEN THIS  
BULLETIN WAS SUBMITTED FOR PRODUCTION. THEY WILL  
BE PUBLISHED IN AN UPCOMING BULLETIN.**

### Upcoming Donation Designations

- Dec 21 Weekly**  
**St. Vincent DePaul:** Helps the poor and needy in our local communities.
- Dec 25 Christmas**
- Dec 28 Weekly**
- Jan 1 Solemnity of Mary:** The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God is a feast day of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the aspect of her motherhood of Jesus Christ, whom Christians see as the Lord, Son of God.
- Jan 4 Weekly**  
**Building Maintenance:** Keeping our places of worship warm, dry and comfortable.

### CONSIDER ON-LINE GIVING

To Sign Up go to [www.mmotcp.org](http://www.mmotcp.org), scroll down to the On-Line Giving lock, and follow the instructions.

### NEW CONFESSION SCHEDULE BEGINNING JANUARY 2026

The 4:30pm Saturday Confessions at St. Mary Church will be moving to the Holy Hour on Thursday afternoons beginning January 8, 2026.



Confessions will take place from 1:00pm-2:00pm.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will still be weekend Confessions in the parish on Saturdays at Holy Assumption Church from 3:00pm-3:45pm.







**MMOTCP FOOD PANTRY**  
*Christmas Hours*

**Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**CLOSED**

**Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**CLOSED**

**Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**  
 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



**2025 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
 St. Mary Church  
 4:00 pm (Children's Mass) & 8:00 pm  
 Fr. Martin

Holy Assumption Church  
 6:00 pm - Fr. Anson

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
 St. Mary Church  
 8:00 am - Fr. Anson  
 11:00 am - Fr. JC

Holy Assumption Church  
 9:30 am - Fr. Martin

The Intentions for all Masses on  
 Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are the  
 names listed on the Christmas Flower  
 Remembrance Boards.



Mary Mother of the Church Parish  
 Music Ministry  
 presents

**The Wonder & Music  
 of Christmas**

A FESTIVE CONCERT DEDICATED TO THE  
 GREATEST EVENT - THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST.

**DECEMBER 21, 2025 AT 6 PM**

St. Mary Church  
 45 Crosswicks St.  
 Bordentown, NJ

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS  
 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

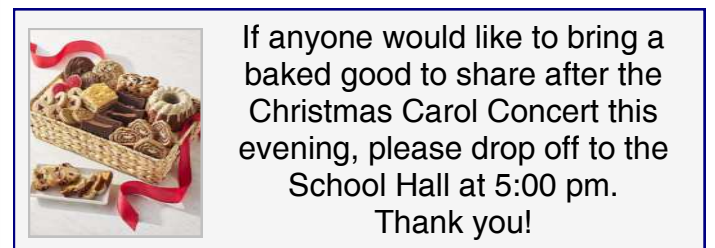
ALL ARE WELCOME



**Special Blessing of Toys**

December 25, 2025  
 Holy Assumption Church  
 9:30 am Mass

*To All Children:  
 Bring your favorite small toy  
 that you receive for Christmas  
 to Mass on Christmas morning  
 for a special blessing.*



If anyone would like to bring a  
 baked good to share after the  
 Christmas Carol Concert this  
 evening, please drop off to the  
 School Hall at 5:00 pm.  
 Thank you!





In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus will be named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." The mystery of the birth of Jesus is supremely a mystery of love. May each Christmas find us more and more like him: more humble, more holy, more happy and more full of God.

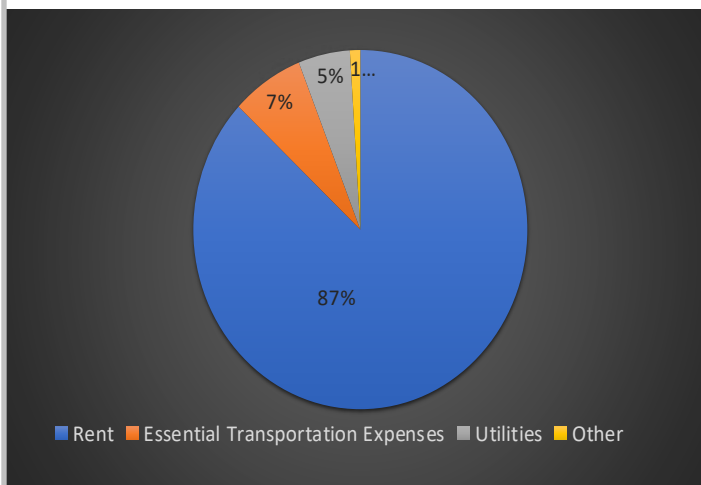
Your gifts to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul helped those who are poor and suffering to find Emmanuel and they also came to know that "God is with us."

In today's bulletin please notice the chart detailing how the monies you have donated were used during our last calendar year. Over \$110,000 was spent to help keep people in their homes, gainfully employed, utilities on, food available or able to have essential transportation. As Pope Leo recently wrote, "we cannot risk abandoning others to the fate of lacking the necessities for a dignified life."

We, the members of SVDP, sincerely thank you for the support you have given us all year long through your very generous donations, your purchase of our fund raisers, your whispered prayers and the trust you place in us to help those in need. Please know that we appreciate you and wish you and your family a blessed Christmas.

If you or anyone you know in our local communities needs assistance, call our Confidential Helpline at 609-298-1414.

St. Vincent DePaul Distribution of Funding by Category



Mr. Gramlich's 2nd Grade Religious Education Class Visits the Parish Nativity Scene



## INTERFAITH Caregivers

### Part-Time Program Coordinator

Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer County—a non-profit organization committed to supporting homebound seniors and adults with disabilities—is seeking a **Program Coordinator** to help strengthen our *Neighbors Helping Neighbors* ministry of care. The Program Coordinator will help connect care receivers with volunteers, coordinate supportive services, and ensure everyone is treated with dignity and compassion.

#### Strong Preference: Bilingual (Spanish/English) Position Details:

- **Part-time** (16–20 hours/week)
- **Location:** Hamilton, NJ
- **Compensation:** \$21.50/hour

If you feel called to help older adults remain independent and connected, we invite you to apply.

Visit: [www.icgmc.org/employment](http://www.icgmc.org/employment) to read the full job description.

Please send a letter of interest and resume to: [execdirector@icgmc.org](mailto:execdirector@icgmc.org).

### Serving at the Altar: An Experience Like No Other!



Servers at the Altar assist our priests and deacon during Mass by bringing the chalice, ciboria, water, and wine to the Altar. They are front and center when the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ!



This ministry is open to parishioners beginning in Fourth Grade to Adult.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Paula Bisson at [altarservers@mmotco.org](mailto:altarservers@mmotco.org)





## .....Religious Education News.....

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**December 21.....**Sunday RE Classes and Mass 8:45-10:45am

**December 24.....**Christmas Eve Mass 4:00pm – 2<sup>nd</sup> RE students act out the Gospel reading

**January 5.....**Monday Monthly RE Classes 6:00-7:30pm

**January 6.....**Tuesday RE Classes 6:00-7:15pm

**January 11.....**Sunday RE Classes and Mass 8:45-10:45am

**January 13.....**Tuesday RE Classes 6:00-7:15pm

**January 25.....**Sunday RE Classes and Mass 8:45-10:45am

**January 27.....**Tuesday RE Classes 6:00-7:15pm

**January 31.....** 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders First Penance Retreat 9:30-11:30am

*Dear Families,*

*As we approach the celebration of Christmas, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your dedication to nurturing the faith of your children. Your commitment to bringing them to Religious Education, praying with them, and helping them encounter the love of Christ truly makes a difference. This holy season reminds us that God chose to enter our world as a Child—small, humble, and full of hope. May the joy of the Christ Child fill your homes with peace, comfort, and renewed faith. Thank you for being such an important part of our parish family. Please know of our prayers for each of you during this blessed season. May your Christmas be filled with God's grace and your New Year be bright with His blessings. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,*

*Margaret and Carol*



### **BABY JESUS MASS – DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> AT 4:00PM St. Mary Church**

Our Parish will once again be performing during the Christmas Eve Gospel with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade RE children. Flyers have been sent home asking for participants. There are no speaking parts and costumes will be provided.

### **EMERGENCY CLOSING**

In the event of inclement weather, a message will be sent by Flocknote and posted on our Parish Facebook page. Emails will be sent but are not guaranteed.

### **FIRST PENANCE RETREAT**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders will have their *First Penance Retreat* on January 31 from 9:30-11:30am in St. Mary School. Reminders will be sent home. First Penance Retreat is for the child and one parent. No siblings please; we do not have the room. The children will receive the *Sacrament of Penance* February 13 or 15 at 6:30pm in St. Mary Church.

### **ACT OF CONTRITION**

*Oh my God, I'm sorry for all my sins,  
for not loving others and not loving you.  
Help me live like Jesus and not sin again.  
Amen.*

**Phone #: 609-291-8281**

**M. Zola x118, Email: [mzola@mmotcp.org](mailto:mzola@mmotcp.org)**

**C. Schulz x117, Email: [cschulz@mmotcp.org](mailto:cschulz@mmotcp.org)**

**Promise to Protect:** To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children, call your local law enforcement agency or Child Abuse Hotline: 1-888-296-2965 or via email at: [abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org)





### Fourth Week of Advent The Precious Memories of Christmas

If I were to ask you to name your favorite Christmas memory, what would it be? Would it be the memory of your mother baking Christmas cookies or your dad making a stand for the tree? Would it be the sound of a favorite carol or the fragrance of evergreens in your home?

Christmas memories! No other season, no other time of the year touches our hearts quite like Christmas. They stir our souls! If you stop to think about it, memory is a wonderful gift God has given us. It's the way we learn and the way we celebrate and is absolutely crucial for our sense of personal identity. The ancient Hebrews and early Christians were aware of the importance of memory, which is why we have seasons and traditions, festivals, symbols, colors, and special days. All of these traditions remind us of who we are and whose we are.

Christmas evokes powerful memories and with good reason. That's precisely what it's supposed to do, what it's designed to do. That's why we have it. Christmas reminds us that God cares for and watches over us. It reminds us about the real priorities of life such as love, joy, peace, justice, goodness, kindness, goodwill, grace, forgiveness, and the importance of family and friends and church. Above all, it reminds us of what God is like and what God wants us to be like. Once each year, Christmas comes around to remind us of the things that truly matter.

Christmas also reminds us that we *need* a Savior. God sent the Son to save us, change us, and show us a better way. No matter what circumstances we find ourselves in, we can count on the good news that we do not have to be afraid. We have a Savior in Jesus. And, every time we reach out to help others in the spirit of Christ, every time we show kindness in the spirit of Christ, we are sharing that Savior. We are living the spirit of Christmas.

#### Focus for the Fourth Week of Advent

We find Bethlehem when we remember that Jesus Christ was born to save us and that he reveals who God is and who we can be. During the week ahead, identify ways to help you remember what God says to you through the birth of Jesus. Take time to listen to music, create art, read the Bible or other devotional material, or simply be quiet so that you can remember who God is and how God reveals God's love and salvation through Jesus.

#### Advent Prayer

*Loving and saving God, help us to remember the reason for Christmas. Help us to remember that we need a savior and that we have a Savior. Help us love so that others will know the Savior too. In Christ we pray. Amen.*

*Excerpt from "Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam" by James W. Moore*

Our parish's very own Cantor and Music Coordinator, Tina Fernandes, has released a sacred music album with voice and piano titled: "Faith with God's Grace". The \$20 CD will be available for purchase in the Parish Office during business hours.



#### Recitation of the Rosary

St. Mary Church: Monday thru Friday, 12:00 pm

#### Holy Assumption Church:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday - 9:00 am  
Saturday 3:00 pm (Except 1st Saturday of the Month)

First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
First Saturday of each month—Holy Assumption—2:30 pm

**BINGO NIGHT**

DOORS OPEN AT 4:00PM  
EARLY BIRD GAME 5:50PM  
REGULAR GAMES START 6:00PM

**Sunday Evenings**

**SAINT PAUL SCHOOL**  
250 JAMES ST, BURLINGTON, NJ 08016  
email spsbingo250@gmail.com to get all updates!

#### SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

WHEN YOU ARE SHOPPING OR LOOKING FOR A BUSINESS, LOOK TO OUR ADVERTISER PAGES AND LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU SAW THEIR AD IN OUR SUNDAY BULLETIN. BE SURE TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR SUPPORT WHETHER YOU ARE A NEW OR LONG-TIME CUSTOMER.

PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF OTHERS AND REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CELL PHONE OFF OR SWITCH TO SILENT MODE BEFORE MASS BEGINS. THANK YOU!



**Offerings at Francis House of Prayer**

Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center and Retreat House  
84 Walnford Road • Allentown, NJ 08501  
609-877-0509 or [FHOP@verizon.net](mailto:FHOP@verizon.net)

**THE END OF THE YEAR RETREAT**

**Wednesday, December 31 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

Since God gives us life and time and is Lord over all, it seems appropriate to end the year in prayer. Francis House offers time, space and quiet for naming the graces of 2025 and expressing gratitude to God. The day will focus on our goals, hopes and desires for 2026. We reverently say farewell to 2025 and cordially welcome 2026 as a gift from God. Please bring your lunch. Donation: Love Offering

**OFF TO A PRAYERFUL START—FOCUSING THE NEW YEAR**

**Monday, January 5 7:00 – 8:00 PM (EVENING ZOOM ONLY)**

Start out 2026 with an evening zoom retreat to set the direction for the year. "Well begun is half done," they say, and establishing a direction is essential for the journey. Where am I going in 2026? What is the desire of my heart, and God's as we begin this year together? Donation: \$15, includes materials.

**GOD CANNOT FILL AN OCCUPIED SPACE! CLEANING UP & CLEANING OUT—Tuesday, Jan. 6 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

Is it time to make a little more room for God in your life? Do you find yourself complaining, "I have too much stuff!" Is decluttering one of your desires for 2026? We are each going to make a plan to clean up and clean out, to simplify and enjoy life more, to have a lighter grasp and a freer heart for the more important things of life. Step by step, with the support of a partner and prayer, we will be clutter-free by Easter! With God's help, we can do it! Donation: \$25, includes lunch. Zoom: \$20.

**INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE**

**Monday, January 12 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

This morning's retreat will help us to grow closer to the infant Jesus by celebrating the mystery of the Incarnation through the divinity and humanity of Christ. Through this time of prayer, we will see in a special way how we are children of God. Donation: \$25, includes materials and lunch.

**ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES****Altar Rosary Society**

Donna Frappolli-609-221-1957

**Holy Name Society**

Paul Ordog - [pordog29@gmail.com](mailto:pordog29@gmail.com)

**Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer County**

609-393-9922

**Knights of Columbus**

Ron Scully - [grandknight@kofc570.org](mailto:grandknight@kofc570.org)  
609-760-6637

**Legion of Mary**

Kathleen Fetch - [lom@mmotcp.org](mailto:lom@mmotcp.org)

**Secular Franciscan Order**

Maria Schultes - [FranciscanorderHA@mmotcp.org](mailto:FranciscanorderHA@mmotcp.org)

**Word of Life Prayer Group**

Ginny Olsen-609-947-3336

May you have a  
blessed Christmas  
season and may the  
gift of faith, the  
blessing of hope and  
the peace of his love  
be yours.

Priests, Deacons, and Staff  
Mary, Mother of the Church Parish





Providing Each Family With  
Personal, Compassionate Care



*Koschek - Mancuso*

FUNERAL HOME

1115 Hornberger Avenue - Roebling, New Jersey 08554

Phone: 609-499-0640 • Fax 609-499-5010

Email K-MFH@outlook.com • Website: [www.KoschekMancusoFuneralHome.com](http://www.KoschekMancusoFuneralHome.com)

Carol Ann Mancuso Manager / Funeral Director / Owner • NJ Lic No. 3727

Edmund Putnick Funeral Director / Owner • NJ Lic No. 3949

Proud Parishioners  
Member - Altar Rosary Society



**BORDENTOWN**  
*Home for Funerals*

609-298-0128

40 Crosswicks Street  
Bordentown, NJ

HERE FOR YOU... *always*



**ROBERT L. PECHT, Manager**  
NJ License #4429

**BordentownHomeForFunerals.com**



"Known For Superior  
Workmanship"  
Lic. #03600A  
[www.allentownautobody.com](http://www.allentownautobody.com)

CRAIG & TERESA LUDWIG, Owners  
Allentown Auto Body, L.L.C.

57 & 59 N. MAIN ST. • P.O. BOX 577 • ALLENTOWN, NJ 08501  
Phone (609) 259-3316 • Fax (609) 259-3376

LAW OFFICE OF  
KATHLEEN KELLY HAMILTON

Wills - Estates - Real Estate  
6 McKnight Ave. Bordentown, NJ  
(609) 424-0173  
FAX (609) 424-0625  
[hamiltoncc@earthlink.net](mailto:hamiltoncc@earthlink.net)



**FREE  
AD  
DESIGN**

with  
purchase  
of this  
space

CALL  
800-477-4574



Pizza Grill &

Italian Restaurant

*Eat-In \* Take-Out  
Delivery \* Catering  
ONLINE ORDERING!*

BYOB

OPEN 7 DAYS!

Gift Cards Available  
Gluten-Free Menu

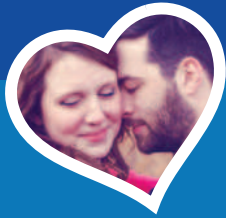
310 Ward Ave • Bordentown  
609-291-1980  
[www.lagalleriafood.com](http://www.lagalleriafood.com)



Ad info. 1-800-477-4574 • Publication Support 1-800-888-4574 • [www.4lpi.com](http://www.4lpi.com)

Mary, Mother of the Church, Bordentown, NJ 03-4119

# catholicmatch® New Jersey



**CatholicMatch.com/NJ**

**OPEN FOR  
LUNCH & DINNER**



**609-499-3366**  
310-312 West Front Street  
Florence  
**www.ROCCOS.us**

**GREEN HOPE PROPERTIES**  
609-955-8820 • 732-462-4554  
908-692-8342  
LANDSCAPING • LAWN CUTS • BRICK PAVERS • ROOFING • SIDING  
WINDOWS • TRASH REMOVAL • BATHROOM & KITCHEN REMODEL  
Contact Ariana or Joe  
greenhopepropertiesllc@gmail.com  
www.greenhopeproperties.com  
LICENSED INSURED • BONDED  
NJ LIC#13VH13545100

**Mary, Mother of the Church, Hazlet**

## ADT-Monitored Home Security

Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide



ADT Authorized Provider

SafeStreets

**833-287-3502**

# SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

## THE STONETERRACE BY JOHN HENRY'S

2275 Kuser Road  
Hamilton, NJ 08690  
**609-581-8855**  
**www.thestoneterrace.com**  
stoneterrace2275@yahoo.com  
Serving Dinner  
Wednesday - Sunday  
Serving Lunch  
Thursday - Friday  
Book your next Event with us -  
Weddings, Retirements, Birthdays,  
Communions, Galas, Conference and  
Corporate Events, Off-Site Catering



**SUPPORT  
OUR  
PARISH**

**WE APPRECIATE OUR  
ADVERTISERS!**

## IF YOU LIVE ALONE

**MDMedAlert!**™

STARTING AT

**\$19<sup>95</sup>**  
/mo.

- ✓ Ambulance ✓ Police/Fire
- ✓ Family/Friends ✓ GPS & Fall Alert

**CALL NOW! 800.809.3570**

md-medalert.com



## SPRING HOME REPAIRS - FREE ESTIMATES

ROOFING • CHIMNEYS • GUTTERS  
MASONRY • SIDEWALKS & STEPS  
**We Find & Fix Leaks!**



## EXPERT CHIMNEY & ROOFING

**\$1100 OFF**

Any New Roof Replacement

**20% OFF**

Any Roof, Chimney, Gutter,  
Masonry Repair & SENIORS

Family Owned/Operated - Lic.#13VH11097900 • Bonded & Insured - 20 Years  
*Serving All of New Jersey*

**732-520-9554 | www.expertchimneyroofing.com**

Established in 1947  
for all your insurance needs



300½ Broad Street  
Florence, NJ 08518  
Fax. 609-499-1998

E-mail: info@mchugh-insurance.com  
www.mchugh-insurance.com

**Tel. 609-499-0533**



**AUTO • HOME  
COMMERCIAL**  
Phone quotes available



**DUMPSTER RENTAL**  
Residential, Commercial  
& Construction

**11, 15, 20, 30 & 40 Yard Dumpsters!**

**609-914-4511**  
**thehtg.com**

- Ability to move C&D, Asbestos, Recyclable Material & Special Waste
- Servicing Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Mercer, Ocean, and parts of Monmouth Counties. Call for Rates outside these counties.
- Large Fleet - whether you require 1 or 50 Dumpsters



**TRUSTED BY FAMILIES  
FOR OVER 80 YEARS**

**HUBER-MOORE**  
FUNERAL HOME

517 Farnsworth Ave., Bordentown, NJ

Carl J. Hasson, Manager

*NJ Lic. No. 4180*

**609-298-0330 • www.huberfuneralhome.com**



Ad info. 1-800-477-4574 • Publication Support 1-800-888-4574 • **www.4lpi.com**

Mary, Mother of the Church, Bordentown, NJ 03-4119