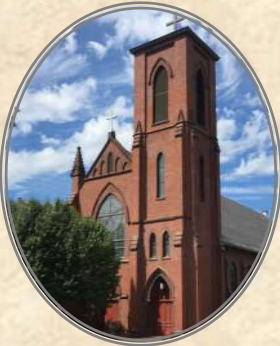


Mary, Mother of the Church Parish

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

Retired Deacons

Lawrence W. Finn Thomas F. Shea

HOLY ASSUMPTION

1290 Hornberger Avenue
Roebling, NJ 08554



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

1st Sunday OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Readings for the Week

Sunday:

Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4,
4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 13:11-
14/Mt 24:37-44

Monday:

Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b,
4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8,
12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday:

Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a,
3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday:

Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and
8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday:

Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4,
13-14/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday:

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/
Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/
Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 11:1-
10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13,
17 (see 7)/Rom 15:4-9/
Mt 3:1-12



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, 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
Helene Shea (SM) - hdshea@icloud.com

Altar Servers

Paula Bisson - altarservers@mmotcp.org

Annulment Ministry

Deacon Tom Shea - annulment@mmotcp.org

Bereavement Ministry

Joseph Whitty - 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

Food Pantry

Sue Oros (HA)
Mike Novalis (SM)
foodpantry@mmotcp.org

Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers

Sean Alphonse - salphonse@mmotcp.org

Music Ministry

Jesús Alfonso Gonzalez & Tina Fernandes, Coordinators
musicdept@mmotcp.org

OCIA

Nick Chilelli - OCIA@mmotcp.org

TEEN OCIA

Pat Baylog - pbaylog@mmotcp.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Margaret Rizzo – 609-298-1414

Welcome Ministry

Anne Egan - welcometoourparish@mmotcp.org

Youth Ministry

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/Receivableext. 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 1—12:30pm

Alice Palmieri rb/Her Family
 Karl Macon rb/Wife, Joan

Tuesday, Dec 2—12:30pm

Barbara Pasquini rb/Marie Thompson
 Sue Zazzo rb/Her Sister

Wednesday, Dec 3—12:30pm

Thomas Moore rb/Dolores Moore
 Nello Trisciani rb/Ferd Loretangeli

Thursday, Dec 4—12:30pm

Patricia Gates rb/Parents
 Dennis Spundarelli rb/Cooney & Steven

Friday, Dec 5—12:30pm

Billy Hill rb/Mom & Dad
 Mary Broccoli rb/Knights of Columbus Council 570

Saturday, Dec 6**5:30 pm Celebrant: Fr. JC**

Santiago Aquino rb/Mary Ann Villegas
 Kathleen Penrose rb/Mary Smith

Sunday, Dec 7**10:00 am Celebrant: Fr. Martin**

Thu Thi Duong rb/The Quynh Pham
 Jorge & Oswaldo Mayorga rb/Lucy Mayorga

11:30 am Celebrant: Fr. Martin

Ivone Fernandes Maia rb/Husband & Family
 Jean Kostak rb/Terry, Roger & Family

Tuesday, Dec 2—9:30am

James Pennacchi rb/Betty Bunnick
 Jack Jobes rb/Harry & Mary Ann Warner

Wednesday, Dec 3—9:30am

Mary Merritt (Mass for the Living) rb/A Friend

Friday, Dec 5—9:30am

Clark T. Carey rb/Carol Carey

Saturday, Dec 6**4:00 pm Celebrant: Fr. Anson**

Joseph Russo rb/Angeline Russo
 James Pennacchi rb/Deborah Ulmer-Phillips

Sunday, Dec 7**8:00 am Celebrant: Fr. Anson**

Deceased Members of the Cipriano Family rb/The Cipriano Family
 James Pennacchi rb/HA Secular Franciscan Order Members

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 November 2025 - For the Prevention of Suicide**

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.



Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to Advent, a time of preparation and reflection. Wonderful! It really depends on who is asking the question. If it's Fr. Martin then the preparation and reflection is all about Jesus, but if it's a work colleague – don't talk to me. I must get a new tree, new decorations, new lights and my brother just got a new baby, so that's another present. My sister moved into a new home, so I must host Christmas dinner this year – I know what I'm preparing for! For some of us the Advent period can develop into a nightmare – don't let it. You decide what you can do and just do it. Learn to say no to the endless demands of others and come and reflect with God. Here are 6 suggestions for Advent, I hope they are helpful:

Read to feed your soul

Be intentional about what you read this Advent, taking a break from novels and biographies to concentrate on books that feed the soul.

- ♦ **"The Meaning Is in the Waiting," "The Advent of Christ: Scripture Reflections to Prepare for Christmas,"** or **"Sacred Reading for Advent and Christmas 2025,"** by the Apostleship of Prayer, the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network.
- ♦ To more spiritual inspiration news feeds online like **Busted Halo's Praying Advent** website, or this [blog post](#) from the Rev. Dr James A. Kowalski

Meditate on being patient

This year focus more on the spiritual meaning of Advent, on the significance of waiting actively in anticipation of Christ's birth. There are many Advent meditation books available, including **"Waiting for Christmas"** by Fr. Richard Rohr or **"Watch for the Light"** by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and others. You could also use a YouTube meditation like the one from Pope Francis. Follow a mini-study course like Stephen Cottrell's **"Do Nothing Christmas Is Coming"** or use **Busted Halo's Advent Surprise Calendar** with daily inspiration and challenges for a more spiritual Advent season.

Pray daily

We all need God's help to slow down and wait with patience. Using the thoughts and ideas based on our prayers, I can ask for God's help to see how he is breaking into my life and pray for others who need his help and healing at this time of year.

Reach out to others

While Advent is a time for inner reflection, focusing solely on ourselves tempts us to neglect our call to be good neighbours. St. James spoke very directly about how our faith must ultimately result in action: "Faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead." Turning our inward Advent reflections into outward actions shows that God is truly working in our lives.

Plan with intention

With a little intention, we can learn to focus on God as we do these necessary tasks by praying for the recipients of each gift we wrap or making a mental list of the things we're grateful for while standing in a long line.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession

Allow yourself to experience the love of God's forgiving grace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession. Christmas confessions at **St. Mary Church, Bordentown, Tuesday, December 16, from 7-8pm. Holy Assumption Church, Roebling, Thursday, December 18, from 7-8pm. Confessions are also heard before the vigil masses every Saturday in both worship sites.**

Go on, have a wonderful Advent, you're worth it!

Fr. Martin

Meetings & Events of the Week

Dec 2

7:30pm Ushers—SM School Hall

Dec 3

7:00pm SVDP– Parish Office, Upstairs

Dec 4

7:00pm Baptism Prep Class—HA, Resurrection Room

December

Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass Schedule

December 8, 2025

Holy Assumption - 9:30 AM

St. Mary - 12:30 PM

St. Mary - 7:00 PM



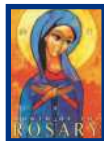


For the Sick...

Nichole Lynn Cochran, , John & Amy Oldham and Baby J.T. Oldham, Robert Sobon, Kelly Sobon, Neil Jantos, John Oros, Rebekah Henderson, 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 S., Arlene Chaty, Teddi Millerline, Mary Merritt, Ken Cunningham, and all the sick of the parish.



A lifetime of service deserves care in return. “Thanks to your generosity, we can provide the very best care to the sisters in our community,” says Sister M. Stephanie Belgeri, 73, a member of the sisters of Saint Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, Illinois. Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide housing, medical assistance, and essential support for thousands of aging religious. Please consider giving next week.



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

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

OFFERING

AN ACT OF WORSHIP

November 16, 2025 -Weekly	\$ 15,445
SVDP	1,755
Misc. Other Contributions	2,492
	\$ 19,692

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT.

Upcoming Donation Designations

- Nov 27 Thanksgiving Donation for the Food Pantry
Nov 30 Weekly
Dec 7 Weekly
- Building Maintenance:** Keeping our places of worship warm, dry and comfortable.
- Retirement Fund for Religious:** This collection helps religious communities care for senior members-today and tomorrow. Proceeds help underwrite the retirement and health-care needs of aging members of these communities throughout the United States.
- Dec 8 **Feast of the Immaculate Conception:** Holy Day honoring the pure and sinless conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary without Original Sin.
- Dec 14 Weekly
Dec 21 Weekly
- St. Vincent DePaul:** Helps the poor and needy in our local communities.

CONSIDER ON-LINE GIVING

To Sign Up go to www.mmotcp.org, scroll down to the On-Line Giving lock, and follow the instructions.

2025 Annual Catholic Appeal Progress

There are only two (2) additional new donors needed to receive the maximum benefit back to the parish. If you haven't pledged \thus far, please consider even a minimal one-time donation (\$25-\$50) to help us reach this new donor goal.

Chapel of Saints

Open Daily 7:00am-7:00pm for Personal Prayer
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Wednesday—1:00pm to 7:00pm



HOLY HOUR

ST. MARY CHURCH—WEDNESDAYS—7:00PM
ROSARY, NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL, BENEDICTION




MMOTGP FOOD PANTRY
CHRISTMAS
FOOD DRIVE

DECEMBER 1ST - 19TH

ITEMS NEEDED
 HAMS & TURKEYS
 WALMART GIFT CARDS

HELP US SPREAD JOY
 THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
 M-W-F 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
 TUESDAY 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
 THURSDAY 9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.



YOU ARE INVITED TO
Christmas
PARTY

DECEMBER

TUESDAY | 9 | AT 6 PM

CASA GANGONE (ROCCO'S)
 RSVP TO JOANNE BOLDIZAR 609.206.1410
 OR JBOLDI9@GMAIL.COM

\$40 PER PERSON (PAYABLE THAT EVENING)

All Mary Mother of the Church Altar & Rosary Society members are invited to join us for a family style dinner & dessert to celebrate the season~



Christmas Flower Donation Deadline

Please note that the deadline for submitting names for the Christmas Flower Memorial Board is **December 7th**.

Sacrament of Reconciliation/ Confession



Special Christmas Schedule

Tuesday, **December 16**, from 7-8pm
 St. Mary Church, Bordentown

Thursday, **December 18**, from 7-8pm
 Holy Assumption Church, Roebling



Advent

TEEN YOUTH GROUP MEETING

OUR PARISH YOUTH GROUP WILL BE GATHERING ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH AT 6:30 IN ST. MARY'S SCHOOL HALL. ALL TEENS (AGES 13 TO 18) ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND COMMUNITY. BRING A FRIEND AND BE PART OF THE FUN!



Scan Me!



PARISH 2025 ADVENT "GIVING TREE"

Our Parish Advent "Giving Tree" will once again be put up to help organizations in need. In addition to the trees with the different tags according to organization, we will again be using **SignUp Genius** for half of the requested items in need. (You will need to add your name under the item to note that item has been chosen.) The link for **SignUp Genius** will be found on our Parish website home page and Facebook as of **November 22, 2025** and will stay up until all items have been selected.

In the event you are unable to access the link to **SignUp Genius** or pick a tag from the trees, but still find it deep in your heart to donate, we ask that you donate what you can to any of the organizations we sponsor.

Return your generous gifts under either "Giving Tree" in Holy Assumption or St. Mary by **December 14th** in time for their holiday deliveries. Your generosity will have a real and lasting impact on so many of God's less fortunate children and families. As always, we would be happy to help you with questions by contacting mzola@mmotcp.org.

Corona Self-Help Centre Inc. **BLUE ANGELS**

Supports recovery options for drug addicts.

1st Way of Burlington County and Good Counsel Homes **PINK ANGELS**

Supports disadvantaged mothers for the needs of their new-born babies.

MMOTCP Food Pantry **BLUE MITTENS**

Provides food for those less fortunate. These items are staples of what they need.

Martin House **GREEN TREES**

Provides gifts for 8 families that we sponsor.

Mount Carmel Guild **YELLOW CROSSES**

Provides "a helping hand" to impoverished individuals by helping stock their shelves.

St. Vincent de Paul **PURPLE MITTENS**

Provides "a helping hand" to those families financially in need within our Parish.

Tabor House **WHITE TREES**

A residential recovery house for men where the dignity to addiction is restored.

[2025 Advent Giving Tree SignUp](#)

Pancake Breakfast *with Santa*

Sunday, December 7, 2025
9 am to 12 pm

ALL YOU CAN EAT!

Pancakes, Bacon, Sausage
includes Coffee, Tea, and Juice

Location:
St. Mary School Hall
45 Crosswicks Street
Bordentown, NJ 08505



Tickets at the Door

\$15 – Adults and Teens
\$8 – Children ages 6-12
Free – Children aged 5 and under

Tickets In Advance

\$12 – Adults and Teens
\$6 – Children ages 6-12
Free – Children aged 5 and under

Call Robert L. Pecht
609-865-0014



Proceeds benefit the charitable programs of the
Knights of Columbus Bordentown Council 570

DOOR PRIZES & RAFFLE

PRESENTED BY THE SHS PTA

Sacred Heart School HOLIDAY BAZAAR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH 9AM - 2PM

Shop for unique items featuring handmade arts and crafts,
apparel for children and adults, jewelry, gifts for pets, home
accessories, specialty foods, skin care, holiday ornaments

250 High Street
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060

OVER 40+ VENDORS



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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1.....Monday Monthly RE Classes 6:00-7:30pm

December 2.....Tuesday RE Classes 6:00pm, Mass for students and their families 6:30pm

December 7.....Sunday RE Classes and Mass 8:45-10:45am

December 9.....Tuesday RE Classes 6:00-7:15pm

December 14.....Sunday RE Classes and Mass 8:45-10:45am

December 16.....Tuesday RE Classes 6:00-7:15pm

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

December 24.....Christmas Eve Mass 4:00pm – RE students act out the Gospel reading

ADVENT

Advent is a time of waiting in the darkness. Try to be patient with the waiting times in your life, as Mary and Joseph waited for the birth of Jesus. As your family prepares for Christmas, keep Jesus in your mind and heart, as they did.

MASS ATTENDANCE

Mass attendance with your children is essential each week and on Holy Days of Obligation. Our Religious Education program is a partnership between the Church and parents to help raise children in the Catholic faith. Bringing your children to Mass regularly allows them to see, hear, and experience the faith they are learning about in the classroom. The Eucharist is the heart of our Catholic life — where we come together as a community to worship, give thanks, and grow closer to Jesus. By attending Mass as a family, you give your children the greatest gift: the experience of God's presence and love.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The Church emphasizes the vital role of parents in their children's religious formation. As the Church teaches: "Parents are the first and most important educators of their children, and they also possess a fundamental competency in this area: they are educators because they are parents." It is the sacred responsibility of parents to introduce their children to Jesus Christ and to help them grow in a deep, personal relationship with Him. In Religious Education, we are dedicated to partnering with parents in this beautiful mission — to nurture faith, build disciples, and guide children ever closer to the heart of Christ. **Reminder:** Faith begins at home — pray together, attend Mass weekly, and keep Christ at the center of your family life.

EMERGENCY CLOSING

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

Phone #: 609-291-8281

M. Zola x118, Email: mzola@mmotcp.org

C. Schulz x117, Email: 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

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Card

We would like to extend our thanks to all the Parishioners who supported our current wreath and grave pillow sale and announce a third edition of our annual "Thinking Of You" **Christmas card!**

Ever stumped at times, trying to find a gift for someone you love or care deeply for at Christmas? Consider giving them a gift of charity... Our Christmas Giving card would not only acknowledge your love for the recipient but also your recognition of their spirit of generosity and love of neighbor.

Cards will be available at all entrances to our churches as well as at the parish office beginning this weekend, the First Sunday of Advent.



(Inside)

May the Prince of Peace and His Holy Mother keep you in their care this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

A Christmas donation has been sent to the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Mary, Mother of the Church Parish, Bordentown, NJ, in recognition of your spirit of generosity, kindness and love of neighbor. The gift will provide food, shelter and support to families in need.

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.



Tina's vocal specialties include sacred music, classical, solo, and choral performance. She especially enjoys singing as a cantor, where she leads congregations in the tristate area and beyond. Her vocal talents began as a child singing in choir with her parents, then she continued her passion for music, to study formally in college. Tina earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education with a major in vocal performance. As a vocal coach, Ms. Fernandes has led choral programs and musical theatre, cultivating a love of music with various students. She performs at cathedrals and churches in music ministry. She tells a story through song with heartfelt sincerity that evokes profound emotion to audiences. This album has been a dream for Tina and she hopes you feel a deeper connection to God when you listen to this sacred music album and songs of hope.



There is an Advent spirit in the heart of every human person. It is one of longing, of yearning for a fulfillment that somehow lies beyond ourselves; for we long for the coming of the Lord. When you make you gift to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, your heart will discover the true meaning of Christmas as you help those who are suffering and poor to long for the coming of the Lord.

If you are searching for a meaningful gift this Christmas season for someone special to you, our SVDP Society is once again offering beautiful, spiritual Christmas cards for your gift giving. A donation made in a person's name to SVDP is a gift that reaches many...special prayers for the one receiving the card and help/support for those in need in our parish.

REMINDER: Wreath/Grave Pillow pick up for those who placed orders is this WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3 at St Mary School or Holy Assumption Divine Mercy Room from 5:30-6:30. Thank you to all who supported this fund raiser.

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

Advent
A Season of Hope & Expectation

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.

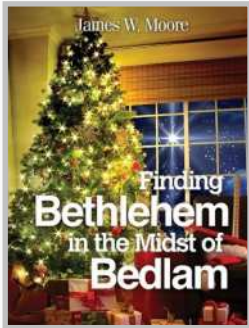
DECEMBER 21, 2025 AT 6 PM

St. Mary Church
45 Crosswicks St.
Bordentown, NJ

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

ALL ARE WELCOME





Let's just admit it: Christmas for many people means uproar, busyness, and wild confusion. It is absolute bedlam! Frayed nerves, emotional tensions, physical exhaustion, unpaid bills, long lines, traffic jams, difficult decisions, and hectic schedules all combine to make the Christmas season a time of busy confusion

for many people. How many times in the next few weeks will we hear people say, "If we can just get through Christmas...?"

On the day before Christmas, one family was at wits' end. The father and mother were frazzled from too much work and too many bills. They were on the verge of nervous breakdowns. Their young daughter felt like she was in the way. They had fussed her and at each other all day long. We can almost understand why, with the frustrations of the day weighing down upon her, the little girl got her words mixed up in her bedtime prayer and said, "Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our Christmases, as we forgive those who Christmas against us."

Christmas or confusion, Bethlehem, or bedlam: Which will you choose this year? The truth is we don't have to choose, because Christmas always happens right in the midst of our confusion. God breaks into our confusion and becomes known through Jesus Christ. Christmas and confusion: weren't they intimately related at the first Christmas when Jesus was born? Sometimes in our Christmas routines it is easy to forget that.

Focus for the First Week of Advent

Finding Bethlehem means discovering the good news that in the birth of Jesus Christ, God meets us where we are, even in the midst of bedlam. Each day this week, identify one way you experience the love and support of God as you look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Offer a daily prayer of gratitude for God's presence in all areas of life.

Advent Prayer

God, you offer yourself to us in all of life, even in the bedlam, confusion, and chaos that often surrounds us. Thank you. Help us to find Bethlehem, to see Jesus, and to trust that you are with us. In Christ, we pray. Amen

ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Altar Rosary Society

Donna Frappolli—609-221-1957

Holy Name Society

Paul Ordog - pordog29@gmail.com

Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer County

609-393-9922

Knights of Columbus

Ron Scully - grandknight@kofc570.org

609-760-6637

Legion of Mary

Kathleen Fetch - lom@mmotcp.org

Secular Franciscan Order

Maria Schultes - FranciscanorderHA@mmotcp.org

Word of Life Prayer Group

Ginny Olsen—609-947-3336



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

ADVENT: LEARNING TO WALK IN THE LIGHT

Wednesday, December 3 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Advent's beginning calls us to be attentive, to wait and watch, to learn to walk with God and with each other in the light. Our time will be filled with scripture and song, silence and shared faith as well as some of the stories of our lives. Together, we will prepare to encounter the Christ at Christmas. Donation: \$35, includes lunch. Zoom: \$20

CHILDLIKE FAITH—BIG THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES

Monday, December 8 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Childlike faith is asking God to help us in living in true humility, wonder, trust and hope. This retreat focuses on our Blessed Mother and how these 4 values draw us all deeper into receiving love and giving love in relationship with God. Retreat will conclude with Liturgy. Donation: \$25, includes lunch. Zoom: \$20

PERSONAL RETREAT DAY

Wednesday, December 10 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Take a day away from the busyness of your life to rest a while in the Lord and experience God's presence. Please bring your lunch. Donation: \$10; \$40 with spiritual direction.



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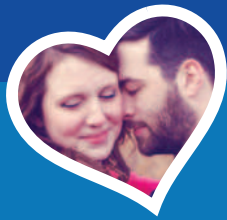
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