

## HOW TO MAKE LENT A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

## LENT FOR ME ... IN THE 'GOOD OLD DAYS'

As a child, *Lent* meant many things; it started with having blessed *ashes* imposed on us, debating who got the 'biggest *ash*,' and doing all we could to make sure they lasted as long as possible. There was a cardboard 'mite box' into which I regularly deposited coins; I 'gave up' candy and sweets; and I waited to see all the statues 'covered' before the *5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent*, the start of *Passiontide*, which signaled the end of that *penitential season*. *Meatless Fridays* were no big deal for, in those days, *every Friday, all year round*, was a day of abstinence. Even the weather was as lifeless, bleak and dismal as the *Lenten* season.

Every *Friday evening*, my home *Parish* did *Saint Alphonsus Liguori's 1761* venerable *Stations of the Cross*, with a *Priest* saying at each *Station*: "*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.*" Kneelers then crashed to the floor as all genuflected - which we called '*Catholic Aerobics 101!*' - as we all replied, "*Because, by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.*" Between each *Station* we sang a verse of the mournful '*Stabat Mater*' - '*At the Cross Her Station Keeping.*' As an *Altar Boy* [no *Altar Girls* back then!] I prayed I was *NOT* assigned to the *6:30 am* daily *Mass* - but to the *8:00* or *8:30 am* *Mass*, which got me out of class for a few minutes. However, after that *earliest* 'crack of dawn' *Mass*, *Sister* invited us to the classroom to have breakfast with her ... oops, with *Sister*. It was *BYOC* - bring your own individual box of cereal, which you cut open and poured in milk which *Sister* provided. *Sister* thought the highpoint was when she [again, oops!] - for each *Mass* I attended - *Sister* put a star next to my name on a chart listing all my classmates' names ... some of whom are going to *Purgatory* until the end of time because they had *NO STARS* next to their name! - but the real highpoint was seeing *Sister* actually eat in front of us!

## LENT FOR ME ... THESE DAYS

As a *Priest*, my *Lenten* focal point is mainly liturgical: larger crowds at the now sole daily *Mass*; so many

people getting their *ash* in church on *Ash Wednesday*; the *Rites* of the ancient, now restored, *OCIA: Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* by which adults are *Baptized*, *Confirmed* and admitted to the *Eucharist*. I hear such a slew of *Confessions* here and in other *Parishes* that my head spins! All this leads to *Holy Week* and the spectacular *Solemn Rites* of the *Sacred Triduum*, the *Great Three Days*, which get better and better every year. *Easter joy* then continues with *First Communions* and *Confirmation*!

LENT FOR YOU AND FOR OTHERS:  
TODAY & TOMORROW

What will you do to make *Lent 2026* special? How will your children and grandchildren remember these grace-filled days and share their stories, as I just did, with their posterity? What *Lenten* customs do you practice? Making more time for prayer each day? Attending *holy Mass* each day? Praying the *Stations of the Cross*? Setting up a *Lenten Prayer Table* or *Shrine* at home? Digging deeper to feed the hungry through *Rice Bowl* donations? Showing your commitment to our *Archdiocese* by supporting the *Annual Appeal*? Joining a *Parish Ministry* or *Organization*? Committing to attend *Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper*, pray before the *Blessed Sacrament* in the *Place of Repose*, join in *Good Friday's Celebration of the Lord's Passion*, the *Easter Vigil* and *Morning Prayer* each of the *Great Three Days*?

Our great *Catholic Faith* offers so much for us to draw closer to our *Lord* and to one another. I have certainly given the *Good Sisters, Priests*, and all who raised me in the *Faith* many reasons to turn in their graves; I hope I now do enough, in works of *penance*, *prayer*, *fasting* and *almsgiving*, to give them ample reason to be proud of me! May we use the graces available to us in *Lent* so we can all have an *Easter* of unending joy!

*With God's love and my prayers,*

**Very Reverend Michael J. Kreder,**

**V.F., KCHS -Pastor**

## + MARDI GRAS TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17 +

Join in 'Fat Tuesday' 'pot-luck' fun: 6-7:30 pm; call or email the Parish Office to sign up. And thence to the church for Night Prayer and the stripping of the church for Lent at 7:30 pm and the burning of last year's palms for this year's ashes.



### ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18

Blessed *ashes* mark the start of our Lenten journey of self-denial, penance and prayer. Ashes are a sign of repentance and mortality, so those of any age may receive

ashes. Heed the words used to impose ashes: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." or "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return."

Ashes are distributed DURING  
Holy Mass at  
**8:30 am - 12 noon & 7 pm**  
and at a Liturgy of the Word  
[with no Holy Communion]  
at 4 pm

### EASTER PRECEPT OR EASTER DUTY

All *Catholics* are obligated to receive *Holy Communion* at least once a year, between the *1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent, February 22*, and *The Most Holy Trinity Sunday, May 31*. Those conscious of serious, grave or mortal sin must celebrate the *Sacrament of Penance* [go to *Confession*] before receiving *Holy Communion*.

### FAST & ABSTINENCE GUIDELINES

Those 14 and older are to **ABSTAIN** from meat on *Ash Wednesday* and all *Lenten Fridays*. Those between 18 and 59 should **FAST** by eating only one main meal and two smaller ones on *Ash Wednesday* and *Good Friday*.

Those unable to abstain or fast for a valid reason [*i.e., St. Patrick's Day party or wedding*] may abstain on another day or perform a different penance; Canon law only permits **PASTORS** to dispense one from fasting or abstaining. Ignoring penitential days, without good cause, is a serious sin of omission. Our *Bishops* ask us to abstain from meat EVERY Friday, all year long, for *Pro-Life causes* and for *world peace*.

### Sunday 'Obligation' Masses:

**Saturday at 5 pm**

**Sunday at 8 am - 10 am - 12 noon**

Daily Masses: Monday: 5 pm

**Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 8:30 am**

**Friday Service w/Holy Communion: 12 noon**

**All should come at least once a week, even on a weekday, to receive weekly Holy Communion**

### FOOD COLLECTION - CRS RICE BOWL

To help feed the hungry, locally and abroad, use the *Ash Wednesday 'Fruit of our Fast' envelope*; you may also donate to our *Social Concerns & Charity Fund 2<sup>nd</sup> Collections* on *February 18*, and *Palm Sunday, March 28/29*. Please return *Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl* mite boxes, found in the narthex, by *Holy Thursday*, to the *CRSRB* basket in the narthex.

### 2025 CHRISTMAS COLLECTION STATS

Our *Christmas Collection* set another all-time *Parish* record, not only in donations, but more importantly, in recent attendance. Here are the latest statistics for this year's *Christmas* collection:

Donation	Households	Total
\$50.00 - \$99.00	98	\$5,220.00
\$100.00 - \$499.00	257	\$41,284.11
\$500.00 - \$999.00	26	\$13,100.00
\$1,000 & Up	13	\$29,500.00
Sub Total	394	\$89,104.11
Grand Total	2025:	\$110,526.11
Grand Total	2024:	\$109,004.57

## THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE [RECONCILIATION OR CONFESSION]

We can enjoy the primary sacramental experience of *God's* mercy by confessing our sins. While only all mortal sins must be confessed, this *Rite's* sacramental grace also washes away all lesser, venial sins. And a spiritual 'check-up' helps nip sinful habits in the bud, before they bloom into full-blown sins, and strengthens us against temptation and other distractions. Those guilty of mortal sin may NOT receive *Holy Communion* until they confess it to a *Priest*. *Confession* is also encouraged in *Lent* and *Advent*, before a *Baptism*, *Confirmation* or *Wedding*, or serving as a *Sponsor* or *Godparent*. Throughout *Lent* we will print a variety of *Examinations of Conscience* in the bulletin to assist you in preparing for *Confession*, as we have been doing in *Advent* and *Lent*.

### LENT CONFESSION

SUNDAY - MARCH 22

4:00 - 5:30 pm

**ARRIVAL.** All *Penitents* are asked to go directly to *Pieta Hall* below the church where they will be given a number and directed to a seat; *Eucharistic Adoration* will take place in the church and religious instrumental music will be played in *Pieta Hall*. Each *Priest-Confessor* will be in an office, one per room, to hear *Confessions*. This avoids long standing and provides privacy. A flyer listing the *Priest-Confessors*, an *Examination of Conscience*, and an *Act of Contrition* will be provided upon arrival. Please pray the *Act of Contrition*, which will be provided, privately, after Confession, ideally before the exposed *Blessed Sacrament* in the church.

**'ON-DECK' CIRCLE.** The first *Penitents* will be sent to a *Confession Station*, others will be directed to an empty chair near each *Station*. As each *Penitent* LEAVES a *Station*, the person seated near that area enters to confess their sins. Following numerical order, *Penitents* in the *Parish Hall* will be directed to the next available *Priest*. If you wish to see - or not see

- a particular *Priest*, simply wait in the hall until that particular *Priest* or other *Priest* is available.

**THE RITE ITSELF.** In each room, two chairs will be set up for the *Sacrament*. Privacy is guaranteed by the background music and by having only one *Priest* and *penitent* per area. All are encouraged to pray your penance before the *Blessed Sacrament* or make a visit after receiving *Absolution*. Begin with "*Bless me, Father, for I have sinned...*" or simply say, "*Father, you lead...*" You may remain anonymous, but should tell your state in life [*married, single, ordained, a parent, etc.*], and approximate date of your last *Confession*. List all grave, serious mortal sins by number and kind: abortion, adultery, etc.; a general admission [*I'm impatient, rude, insensitive, etc.*] covers all lesser sins.

Confessions are also heard on  
SATURDAYS at 4:15 pm

except on February 28.

ALL MUST ARRIVE AT THE START TIME  
as Confessions MUST END 15 MINUTES  
BEFORE the Saturday Mass time!

Or contact Fr. Mike to make an appointment.

*NO Confessions will be heard during  
Holy Week, from Palm Sunday [03/29] until  
AFTER Easter, so come to Confession early!*

### BULLETIN WEEKLY CATECHISM LESSON

Do you read each week's bulletin article on the various aspects of our *Catholic Faith* as your '*Lectio Divina*' or weekly 'holy study?' Topics have included the *Saints*, all revised *Mass* orations and *Sacramental Orders*, and other current issues. Check our *Parish* website for past articles! Make reading it your weekly discipline.

### IS GOD REMEMBERED IN YOUR WILL?

While concern for our own and others' needs may keep us from tithing a full 10% now, most should be able to reach this goal in their will. Is *God* and *Saint Mary Parish* remembered ... in your will?

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

### FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 7:30 PM

### GOOD FRIDAY: 7:30 PM

The church is usually open on weekdays from **7:00 am** [use the single door left of the main doors] to **4:00 pm** for private praying of the venerable **Stations of the Cross**. At **7:30 pm** on **Lenten Fridays**, our **Knights of Columbus** will carry the **Cross** and **Candles** as various forms of the **Stations of the Cross** will be led by:

**February 20:** Deacon Ray & our Bible Study Group

**February 27:** Women's Faith Formation Group

**March 6:** EMs: Extraordinary

Ministers of Holy Communion

**March 13:** Readers

**March 20:** Rosary Altar Society

**March 27:** Spiritual Life Committee

On **Good Friday** at **7:30 pm** we will conduct our **28<sup>th</sup> annual 'Walking the Stations'** in which parishioners share their personal reflections on how we, the **Body of Christ**, the **Church**, must die and rise to new life each day. If you would like to offer one of these reflections, contact **Debbie Moran** at the **Parish Office** [201-438-2200 x 1111] ASAP.

## VOCATIONS & LAY CHURCH MINISTRIES: HOW INVOLVED ARE YOU IN OUR PARISH?

Make our **Parish** even greater by joining a ministry, group or organization listed in our bulletin and on our website. Is **God** calling you to be a **LITURGICAL**

Minister: **Altar Server**,

**Lazarus** [funeral]

Minister, **Music**

Minister, **Usher**, **Reader**,

**Extraordinary Minister of**

**Holy Communion?** A **CATECHETICAL**

minister: **Religious Formation Leader** or **Aide**,

**Children's Liturgy of the Word Leader** or **Aide**,

**Sacramental Preparation Instructor?** If so, contact the

**Parish Office** to be directed to the head of that



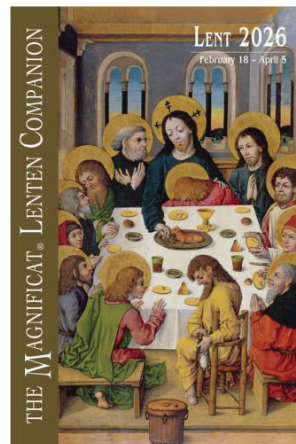
ministry or group. To become a **Priest**, **Deacon**, **Sister**, or **Brother**, speak to a **Priest** or **Deacon**, call **973-497-4365**, or visit the Vocation Office's Archdiocesan website: [rcan.org/vocation](http://rcan.org/vocation). Pray for vocations from our **Parish** and **Archdiocese**. Encourage your children and grandchildren to consider a life of service as a minister in **God's Church**.

## PHOTOGRAPHY MINISTRY NEEDED

All our beautiful liturgical, academic, athletic, and social events need to be recorded - for posterity - and for our bulletins, websites, etc. First, we need a team who, using their own equipment - like your I-Phone - to record our events, which you usually attend - and email them to [parishoffice@stmaryrutherford.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmaryrutherford.org). NOTE: fulfilling the 2 hour '**Protecting God's Children**' program first is mandatory; it is offered at our own **Parish** on **Tuesday, March 24** at **6:00 pm**. Second, we need a team leader who - using the parish calendar, lets the rest of the team know when and where recordable events are occurring, so that every event is 'covered.' Is **God** calling you to be part of - or to lead - this 'new' ministry?

## 2026 MAGNIFICAT LENTEN COMPANION

Once again, **Saint Mary Church** is gifting you with **The Magnificat Lenten Companion** which offers brief, daily reflections. The book will be available in the narthex. To subscribe for an online version, sent to you each day, go to <https://us.magnificat.net/online>.



## HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

Contact the **Parish Office** to have the **Most Holy Eucharist [Holy Communion]** brought to the sick or homebound, or to have a loved one, neighbor or friend visited by a **Parish Minister**.



## PARISH LENTEN FAITH ENRICHMENT

Our *Parish* offers many opportunities for adults to grow in their *Catholic Faith*; here are the main ways:

### GET 'FORMED' FOR LENT!

Now that many have become familiar with many methods to teleconference, telecommute, and take part in distance education and social relations, it's time to try - or return to - the dynamic *Catholic* online platform called *FORMED*. *Saint Mary Church* *GIFTS* every parishioner with 24/7 access to the best *Catholic* content, including bible studies, movies, talks, and books. It is totally *FREE*; here's how to register:

1. Go to [formed.org](http://formed.org) and then select 'SIGN UP'
2. Select 'Sign up as a parishioner'
3. In the 'Find Your Parish' box type: *Church of Saint Mary 91 Home Avenue Rutherford NJ*
4. Then select 'Next'
5. Type in your name *[first last]*
6. Type in your *personal email*
7. Select from numerous options and enjoy

Once you set up your profile, you can access the material at any time. *PROGRAMS* include: Salvation; Forgiveness; Presence; Footprints of God: Jesus. *TALKS* include: Daily Lenten Reflections; My Beloved Son: Meditations for Lent; Walk the Walk: Following Christ as His Disciple; The Case for Jesus; Glimpses Along the Way of the Cross; Jesus the Bridegroom; Holy Week.

### BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER GROUPS WITH DEACON RAY SCHEMBRI

Every Thursday - Men Only  
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

We will NOT meet on Holy Thursday, April 2.  
Come read and discuss the *Gospel of Mark*.

Contact Deacon Raymond Schembri at  
845-667-1555 for further information.

All meetings take place in the *Parish Center*  
*Boardroom* beneath the church.

Come read, pray and discuss  
the *Gospel of Mark*.

## WOMEN'S FAITH FORMATION GROUP

Join our *Women's Faith Formation Group [WFFG]* in community with other women, so we can equip ourselves to face our secular world with the richness of our *Catholic Faith*. Our meetings are designed to help strengthen our minds and hearts through prayer, scripture study and support one another on our personal *Faith* journeys. Contact *Camille Stillson* at [cameytee@verizon.net](mailto:cameytee@verizon.net) for more information or to join us.

### Lenten Wednesdays:

*Taizé Prayer Service: 7 pm - 8 pm in the*  
*Daily Mass Chapel on these Wednesdays:*  
*February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25*

The *WFFG* will have their *Taizé Prayer Service* on *Wednesday's* during *Lent*. *Taizé* is a meditative prayer form that provides elements of *Scripture* readings, prayers of praise and contemporary chants based on *Psalms*. This *Lent*, join us in the *Chapel* for a peaceful hour, and open up your minds and hearts to reflect and express the basic realities of *Faith*. *This is open to ALL parishioners.*

### THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS: OCIA [FORMERLY, RCIA]

We have no *Catechumens* being fully received into the *Church* at this year's *Easter Vigil*. Pray for all adults throughout the world who will be *Baptized*, *Confirmed*, receive *First Eucharist* and be welcomed into the *Catholic Church* this *Easter*. We do have some *Baptized* adult *Candidates* who will complete their initiation into the *Catholic Church* this *Easter*. Those preparing for *Confirmation* and *First Communion* are:

*Angelina Brutosky*, sponsored by *Andrew Santo*  
*Briana Hernandez*, sponsored by *Hilda Concepcion*  
*Jonas Muller*, sponsored by *McKenzie Lancaster*  
*Yohanny Polanco*, sponsored by *Nicola Mitarotonda*.

And through the Reception of *Confirmation*:

*Ariana Acosta*, sponsored by *Marissa Portes*  
and *Justin Jurczak*, sponsored by *Roger Eubanks*.

ADULTS who wish to become *Catholic* or need *First Eucharist* or *Confirmation*, contact the *Parish Office*. Our *Parish Team* will help *Adult Candidates* for *First Eucharist* and/or *Confirmation through this process*. Everyone is obligated to be alert to those who wish to join us and encourage all who need to complete their initiation into the *Church* [receive *First Eucharist* or *Confirmation*] or grow in their knowledge and practice of the *Faith*! Who can you invite to *God's Table*?

## 2026 ARCHDIOCESAN 'ANNUAL APPEAL:' AA

### A Reflection on the Annual Appeal by our Pastor

Having served for 10 years as the *Dean of South Bergen, Deanery #7*, which is comprised of 10 *Parishes* [St. Joseph, East Rutherford; Corpus Christi, Hasbrouck Heights; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lyndhurst; Sacred Heart, Lyndhurst; St. Michael the Archangel, Lyndhurst; Queen of Peace, North Arlington; St. Mary, Rutherford; Immaculate Conception, Secaucus; Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Wallington; Assumption of our Blessed Lady, Wood-Ridge], I am more aware of two things: one, how blessed our *Parish* is in every way; and two, how dire the needs are in other *Parishes* that lack the active participants, generous benefactors and other blessings we enjoy. Through the '*We Are His Witnesses*' endeavor sessions, I am also acutely aware of how, unlike so many other *Parishes* that are unable to make ends meet, we continue to '*Recapture the Dream*' in ways far beyond what even I ever imagined!

On the weekend of *March 7/8*, *Cardinal Tobin* is slated to present the *AA* video at all *Masses*; the video will be available on the *Archdiocesan* website: [rcan.org](http://rcan.org). As a sign of thanks for all that, with *God's* grace, *Saint Mary Church* has accomplished, please allow the *AA* video to spur you to generously support the *AA* and I, and so many others, have personally already done.

Our *Parish* goal for the 2026 *AA* is **\$91,037.56**. If we reach our goal *in paid pledges* before June 30, 2026, we will receive a **2% Assessment** rate reduction. If we reach our goal *in paid pledges* before December 31, 2026, we will also qualify for a rebate of **50%** of all funds received over goal. Past rebates are being used to pay for the replacement of ALL the 14-year-old lights in the church, narthex, chapel and auxiliary rooms. All donations to the *AA* are used solely to support our *Parish* and the Ministries noted in the *AA* video and other materials.

## Annual Appeal 2025 Final Statistics

Goal	\$85,791.06
Pledges	\$154,594.79
Received	\$153,008.09
Average gift	\$450.71
Donors total	343
Rebate	\$33,608.52

Your gift to the *AA* also shows of your support for, and love of, the *Church*, her *Clergy*, *Ministries* and our *Parish*. Please keep *Cardinal Tobin*, all the *Clergy*, *Religious* and *Laity* of the *Archdiocese of Newark* in your prayers. And be assured of *Cardinal Tobin's* and my prayers for you.

*Father Mike*

## SAINT MARY HIGH SCHOOL

For almost 100 years, *SMHS: Saint Mary High School* has educated young men and women in the tenants of the *Catholic Faith*, along with the most contemporary models of education in various fields of Science, Mathematics, English, History, World Languages, and much more! As a smaller, private educational institution, *SMHS* is geared toward a more personalized educational experience for our student body and their families; an experience that is hard to find anywhere else in today's educational climate. The low student/teacher ratio allows for our Honors/AP students to be challenged beyond their normal bounds, yet we can also nurture our College Prep students as they prepare for life beyond *SMHS*. No matter where a student falls on the academic scale, we believe each student deserves an education tailored to his or her needs, wants, and dreams.

If you are interested in *SMHS's* academics, athletics, and co-curricular programs, the *Application Period is now open for the Class of 2030*. We welcome *Transfer Students* from other schools to apply for the upcoming academic school year.

For more information, visit our website, [www.stmaryhs.org](http://www.stmaryhs.org), come for a personal tour or our Open House, or contact *Joella Caswell, Director of Admissions*, at 201-933-5220 x 270 or by email, [admissions@stmaryhs.org](mailto:admissions@stmaryhs.org) **GO GAELS!**

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTERTIME SCHEDULE

***Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion***  
***March 28/29 - regular Mass schedule:***

***Saturday: 5:00 pm***

***Sunday: 8 am - 10 am - 12 noon***



In Procession, with ***blessed palms***, we honor Christ as our King and reflect on His ***Passion***

and ***Death***. All children are invited to our special ***Children's Liturgy of the Word [CLOW]*** at the 5:00 pm, 10:00 am and 12:00 noon Masses; before Mass all children are invited to the center aisle; after the ***Procession*** they go to see a ½ hour age-appropriate video on ***Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection*** and return later than usual, during the ***Lord's Prayer***. Adult help is always needed: contact the ***Parish Office*** to begin the process of being trained to help with our ***CLOW*** ministry.

### ***Monday of Holy Week: March 30***

**Mass at 8:30 am**

***Note: special time for Monday Mass in Holy Week!***

***Chrism Mass - 8:00 pm in Newark's Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart or watch it 'live' online: [www.rcan.org](http://www.rcan.org).***

At the ***Chrism Mass***, ***Priests*** renew their ***Ordination*** promises and our ***Cardinal Archbishop*** blesses and consecrates the ***Holy Oils***: the ***Oil of Catechumens*** used at ***Baptism***, the ***Oil of the Sick*** used in the ***Anointing of the Sick***, and the ***Sacred Chrism***, used at ***Baptism***, ***Confirmation***, ***Holy Orders***, and the blessing of ***new churches & altars***. Pray for our ***Priests***: present, past and future!

### ***Tuesday of Holy Week - March 31***

**Mass at 8:30 am**

### ***Wednesday of Holy Week - April 1***

**Mass at 8:30 am**

### ***Holy Thursday Morning - April 2***

**Morning Prayer at 8:30 am**

***[no morning Mass or any other Mass permitted]***  
coffee, bagels & fellowship afterwards

### ***SACRED TRIDUUM & PASCHAL FAST***

***Lent*** ends as we begin ***Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper***; we then enter the ***shortest*** but most ***central*** liturgical time: the three-day ***Easter Triduum***. To more fully join in ***Christ's Death and Resurrection***, all are strongly encouraged to join in all ***Triduum*** events and the ***Paschal Fast***, which is even more intense than the ***Lenten fast***: all should fast from ***Good Friday*** until the ***Easter Vigil*** "as a way of coming to the joys of the ***Sunday of the Resurrection*** with uplifted and welcoming hearts." [Ceremonial of Bishops #295]

### ***Holy Thursday - April 2***

We solemnly celebrate ***Jesus'*** parting gifts of love: His abiding Presence in the ***Eucharist***; His care and concern for us in the ***Ordained Priesthood***; and our call to continue His work in ***Christian Service***. For as ***Jesus*** said after washing the ***Apostles'*** feet: "If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do." [John 13:14-15]. In the ***Mass of the Lord's Supper***, we serve by washing feet, giving alms through ***Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl' [CRSRB]*** and our ***2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Social Concerns & Charity Fund***, and 'watching one hour' with the ***Lord*** at the ***Place of Repose*** until ***11:00 pm Night Prayer***. Simple adoration resumes with ***Good Friday's 8:30 am Morning Prayer*** until the ***3:00 pm Service***. Sign-up sheets to 'keep watch' for 30 minutes or more will be posted in the narthex before ***Holy Week***.

## HOLY THURSDAY SERVICES

Morning Prayer/Breakfast 8:30 am

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 pm

Night Prayer 11:00 pm

## Good Friday - April 3

We meditate on *Christ's Passion* and *Death* with ancient rituals and in profound silence. The church is open all day for private prayer and for public services: *Morning Prayer*, *Children's Stations of the Cross*, *Main Celebration of the Passion of the Lord* and 28<sup>th</sup> annual '*Walking the Stations*' composed and delivered by parishioners who share how they found hope by embracing their own cross. All should visit the church this solemn day to thank *God* for His redeeming love!

## GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

Morning Prayer 8:30 am

Children's Stations  
of the Cross 12:00 noon

The Passion of the Lord 3:00 pm

Stations of the Cross 7:30 pm

## Holy Saturday - April 4

Ancient tradition prohibits *holy Mass* on this day; we keep watch at the tomb in solemn prayer. Pray for those who will be baptized and welcomed into the *Catholic Church* during this day of prayerful reflection.

## HOLY SATURDAY SERVICES

Morning Prayer 8:30 am

Midday Prayer with  
Easter Food Blessing 12:00 noon

Easter Vigil Mass 7:30 pm

## Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

April 4 - 7:30 pm

*Church* law strictly requires that the *ONLY Masses* permissible on *Holy Saturday* begin AFTER nightfall, in darkness, so there can be no 5:00 pm Vigil Mass on *Holy Saturday*. The *Easter Vigil in the Holy Night Mass*, the climax of the liturgical year, which begins at 7:30 pm, is a four-part ritual with roots in antiquity. The four parts are:

**SERVICE OF LIGHT.** The *Paschal Candle*, symbol of the *Risen Christ*, lit from the blessed fire, is brought into the darkened church. As all light their candle from the *Christ-Light*, the darkness of the tomb erupts into the warm glow of the *Risen Lord's* presence!

**LITURGY OF THE WORD.** We tell our scriptural story of *God's* marvelous, saving deeds throughout history.

**LITURGY OF BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION.** With blessed *Easter Water* we renew our *Baptismal Promises* and welcome our newest members through the *Sacraments of Initiation*, making *God's* saving deeds and the *Risen Lord* truly alive in us, His *Church*!

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST.** In the highpoint of the *Great Three Days* and the entire year, our newest members share *Eucharist* with us for the first time. We renew our pledge to become *Eucharist* by being *Christ's Risen* presence in our world.

**NOTE:** NO 5:00 pm Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday; the ONLY MASS is at 7:30pm!

## EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 5

### Easter Masses

Saturday Easter Vigil: 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday:

8:00 am - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Easter Masses will be livestreamed into the Parish Center's Pieta Hall if needed.*

*Easter* joy continues as our *Parish* celebrates *First Holy Communion* for 48 of our children and the *Confirmation* of 61 of our young people on *June 21, 2026*. Pray for them and their loved ones.

# CHURCH OF SAINT MARY

91 HOME AVENUE ✦ RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY 07070



*Anointing of  
the Sick  
during Holy  
Mass*

*Saturday,  
February 14  
at 2:30 pm*

We are called to form the Christian Community of **Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church**; we are protected by our Blessed Mother in whose patronage our parish has been placed under her title "**Our Lady of the Rosary.**"

**Very Rev. Michael J. Kreder, V.F., KCHS ----- Pastor**

James J. Guida & Raymond L. Schembri ----- Deacons

Frank Viteritti ----- St. Mary High School Principal

Adrian Salazar ----- Parish Catechetical Leader

Local Safe Environment Coordinator

Donna Shoemaker ----- Administrative Assistant

Lisa Considine ----- First Eucharist Coordinator

Larry Boland ----- Confirmation Coordinator

Gerard DeMan ----- Director of Sacred Music

Linda Verdino & Kevin McLean ----- Trustees

David Valente ----- Finance Committee Chairperson

Marisa Ackermann ----- Children's Liturgy of the Word

Stacey Santolli ----- Children's Liturgy of the Word

----- Youth Group

Deborah Moran ----- Administrative Secretary

## < PARISH DIRECTORY >

**Parish Office** ---- 201-438-2200 **Fax** ---- 201-438-1098

**Web** ----- [www.stmaryrutherford.org](http://www.stmaryrutherford.org)

**E-mail** ----- [parishoffice@stmaryrutherford.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmaryrutherford.org)

**Facebook** -- [www.facebook.com/91HomeAvenueRutherford/](https://www.facebook.com/91HomeAvenueRutherford/)

**St. Mary High School** ----- 201-933-5220

**Religious Formation** ----- 201-438-2476

**Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark**

<http://www.ccannj.com/contact-up.php>

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 8, 2026

## < OUR SACRAMENTAL LIFE >

### **EUCCHARIST** (Obligation Masses)

**Saturday** ----- 5:00 pm (Sunday obligation)

**Sunday** ----- 8:00, 10:00, & 12:00 noon

### **Weekday Schedule**

Monday ----- 5:00 pm

Tuesday - Thursday ----- 8:30 am

Friday ----- 12 noon Prayer Service with Eucharist

**Holy Days** ----- As listed in the bulletin

### **RECONCILIATION** (Confession)

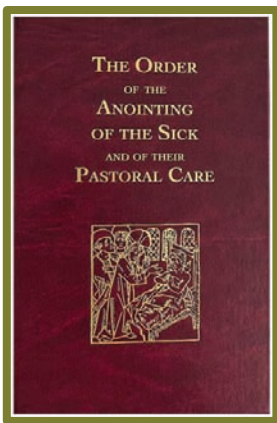
Confessions will be heard at 4:15 pm Saturday evenings.

**Baptism:** Parents are required to attend the parish Baptism Class and provide the godparent's sponsorship letters **BEFORE** the baptism date can be set. Call the Parish Office at 201-438-2200 for class dates and godparent handbook.

**Marriage:** According to the N.J. Common Policy couples must register at least **ONE YEAR** in advance.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Please contact the Parish Office.

**Holy Orders:** Contact the Vocation Office at 973-497-4365.



*From the Pastor  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in  
Ordinary Time - A  
February 8, 2026*

**Revised Order of the  
Anointing of the  
Sick and of their  
Pastoral Care.**

With our annual **Anointing of the Sick Mass** next **Saturday, February 14 at 2:30 pm** and the revised **Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care**, let us review the requirements for those who should request for themselves or others this **Sacrament of Healing**. As the explanatory notes for the revised **Order** state:

*"In the Letter of James it is stated that the Anointing is to be administered to the sick in order to raise them up and save them. Therefore by every effort and diligence this Sacred Anointing is to be conferred on the faithful who because of sickness, mental illness, or age are seriously ill." [#8]* It then states that in determining when to seek **Anointing**, prudence, probability and the advice of doctors are helpful.

*"This Sacrament may be repeated if the sick person recovers after having received the Anointing, or if, as the same sickness continues, there is a more serious relapse." [#9]*

*"Before a surgical procedure [... operation] the Sacred Anointing may be given ... [if] a serious illness is the reason for this procedure." [#10]*

*"The Sacred Anointing may be conferred on people of advanced age whose strength has been much weakened, even if a serious illness is not apparent." [#11]*

*"[It] should also be administered to children [of the age of reason] who may be comforted by the Sacrament." [#12]* The rubrics state that if there is doubt whether they comprehend the **Sacrament**, it should be conferred ... so, I, if not all **Priests**, would even **Anoint Baptized** infants.

After calling for proper catechesis so that all know when to request the **Anointing**, it issues

this warning: *"They should not tolerate the improper practice of delaying the Sacrament. Indeed, all who help the sick should be educated concerning the nature of this Sacrament." [#13]*

*"The Sacrament should be conferred on the sick who, although they have lost consciousness or the use of reason, would as believers have desired the Sacred Anointing when they were in control of their faculties." [#14]*

*"A Priest called to a sick person who has already died should beseech God for them, so that God may absolve them from their sins and mercifully admit them into his Kingdom; but the Priest should not administer the Anointing. However, if there is doubt whether the sick person is truly dead, he should administer this Sacrament." [#15]* However, before he says: *"Through this Holy Anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up."* the **Priest** should say these words, *"With the prayer of our faith let us implore the Lord for our brother/sister N., that in his mercy he may graciously visit and comfort him/her with Holy Anointing."*

*"The Anointing of the Sick may not be conferred on those who obstinately persevere in manifest grave sin." [#15]* One would hope that a person on his or her deathbed would seize the opportunity to repent, **Confess** and be **Anointed!**

The rest of the revised **Order's** rubrics, which are basically the same as the previous **Rite**, stipulate that only a **Priest** or **Bishop** may **Anoint**; the suitable matter is **olive oil**, though if that is difficult to find, the oil of other plants may be used; a **Bishop** blesses the **Holy Oil** at the **Chrism Mass**, but in an emergency, a **Priest** may bless the **olive oil** needed for that situation only. Have you registered yourself or others for our **Anointing of the Sick Mass** on **Saturday, 02/14, at 2:30 pm**?

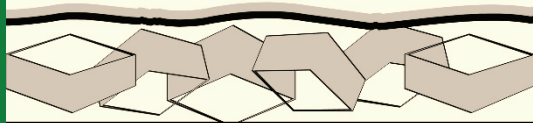
***With God's love and my prayers,***

*Father Mike*

***Very Rev. Michael J. Kreder, VF, KCHS***

## *Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

# You are the salt of the earth



*February 8, 2026*

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026

5:00 pm Joseph A. Gennaro, Jr. & Helen Gennaro

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

8:00 am Joseph Louis Kenna

10:00 am Dennis Forker

12 noon Asumda Sierra

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026

5:00 pm Antonio Pollio

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026

8:30 am Julia Collozza

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

8:30 am Sean Moran – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

8:30 am Jack Coleman – Living intention

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026

12:00 noon Prayer Service with Eucharist

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

5:00 pm John Stever

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026

8:00 am Joseph Kacsanik

10:00 am Kathleen A. McNeill

12 noon Frank D'Auria

### PRAY FOR OUR SICK



Grant our brothers and sisters, **comfort** in their suffering. When they are afraid, give them **courage**. When **afflicted**, give them **patience**. When **dejected**, afford them **hope**. And when **alone**, assure them of the **support** of your holy people.

Salvatore Anselmi, Frank Cornacchiulo,  
Jean Marie VanDyk, Weston Greenwood,  
Leslie Maculso, James Murray, Santo Perez,  
Manuel Reiriz, Allison Russell,  
Gina Sbrocco, Frank Seibert, Heather Shaw,  
and Jeannie Steinel.

### Next Sunday's Scripture Readings:

## *Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*



Sirach 15:15-20 (76A)

Psalms 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Matthew 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

### SANCTUARY OFFERINGS

The **SANCTUARY LAMP** which burns near the Tabernacle in Church, the reminder of the Lord's Presence in the Most Holy Eucharist AND

The **ALTAR WINE** which will become the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ at the Masses celebrated in Church during the week AND

The **ALTAR FLOWERS** which will adorn the Sanctuary and Worship Space in Church during the week will be offered for **KATLYN VANDYK** and **DONALD GOMBER** as they are joined in Holy Matrimony to become husband and wife. May God always bless them with love, understanding, patience, and forgiveness every day of their new life together.

Requested by their parents, Danny and Peggy VanDyk and Don and Kathy Gomber.

The **ALTAR BREADS** which will become the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ at the Masses celebrated in Church during the week will be offered in memory of **NICHOLAS DEGENNARO**.

Requested by Gina and Michele DeGennaro.

Please keep Katlyn, Donald, Nicholas and their families in your prayers.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK DURING HOLY MASS

*"When the afflicted man called out, the Lord heard, and from all his distress he saved him."*

The SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK is administered to Catholics whose, physical, spiritual, or emotional health is seriously impaired by sickness or advanced age. Join us at Saint Mary Church for the Anointing of the Sick during Holy Mass on:

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup> AT 2:30 PM**

To register, please call the parish office at (201)-438-2200 – ext. 1111 to leave a message or email [parishoffice@stmaryrutherford.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmaryrutherford.org). All are invited to this Mass even if you are NOT going to be anointed. This Mass fulfills your Sunday obligation.

**THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:**  
**Are you thinking about becoming a member of the**  
**Catholic Faith Family?**

**Have you experienced Jesus calling you into a closer**  
**relationship with Him?**

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is intended for:

- + Unbaptized adults
- + Adults who have been baptized into a non-Catholic denomination
- + Adults who have been baptized Catholic but never received First Eucharist or Confirmation

**NOW IS THE TIME TO FIND OUT MORE!**

Come to an Inquiry Session – on Sundays from 11 to 12:15 pm in Madonna Hall. A commitment is not required to attend these sessions. Contact Adrian at [religiousformation@stmaryrutherford.org](mailto:religiousformation@stmaryrutherford.org)

**LAST SESSION**

**2025/2026 SUMMER RELIGIOUS FORMATION**

**February 21, 2026 - 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

**RELIGIOUS FORMATION**

Registration for **RF 2026-27** has begun. Families SHOULD register for either Summer OR Fall-Spring RF in the parish office. Please note that the **early registration fee** goes on **UNTIL** June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dates are: **June 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, July 1, 2, 3.**

For those registering for the Summer program, please make sure you are:

1. registered at the parish
2. are submitting weekly envelopes
3. and that your child is participating in this year's (2025-26) RF program (Summer or Fall-Spring).

All 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup> grade registrants must submit a \$50 dollar sacramental fee for First Communion or Confirmation. Incoming 1<sup>st</sup> graders must submit a copy of their baptismal certificate upon registration. Registration forms can be submitted at the parish office with the attention of the religious formation office. Forms will be on our parish website – [stmaryrutherford.org](http://stmaryrutherford.org) and under religious formation OR can be picked up in the office. Any questions can be directed to [religiousformation@stmaryrutherford.org](mailto:religiousformation@stmaryrutherford.org)

**ANNUAL<sup>2026</sup> APPEAL**

Please respond to the most recent Annual Appeal mailing and join us in supporting the vital ministries that can only be done together. We are grateful to share that a number of our parishioners have already pledged—thank you to all who have given so generously! Your support of the 2026 Annual Appeal helps sustain the mission of Christ in our Archdiocese.

Our goal of **\$91,037.56** can only be reached through your generosity and sacrifice. If you have not yet made your gift, we invite you to prayerfully consider doing so today. To make an online gift, please visit [rcan.org/sharing](http://rcan.org/sharing). You can also join us at Mass for In-Pew Weekend, **March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**.

Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and your faithful support of our Catholic mission. May God bless you abundantly!

**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY**



Continue to pray for all the brave men and women defending our country. Keep them safe from all attacks and warn them of danger. Give them wisdom and strength in battle, and help them to stay focused, sharp, and alert. Strengthen our troops spiritually, physically, mentally, and emotionally and bring them safely home to their Families.

Brendan Scott Ahearn, Corporal, USMC  
Nicole Conti, SPC Nazar Fedorko,  
Paul Fedorisin, SSGT, Kyle McAuley,  
Kevin Mustac, Drew Napoli,  
Brendan J. Nestor, US Navy  
CPT Patrick O'Grady, US Army, Michael Rogers,  
2LT Jake Shoemaker, Sgt. Angelo Mangione USMC,  
Ch (Cpt) Fr. Peter Koziolkiewicz

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS**

The Office for Family Life Ministry will honor couples celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> or 60<sup>th</sup>+ wedding anniversary with a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Tobin on **Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 3 PM at the Cathedral Basilica. Registratin is online ONLY and the deadline is April 14. For questions, email Joanne DePasquale-Parent at [joanne.depasquale-parent@rcan.org](mailto:joanne.depasquale-parent@rcan.org).

## WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

We **congratulate** all our **couples** who are **celebrating** a **milestone** year, and in fact anyone who has accepted the challenge of **loving commitment** to another person in the **Sacrament of Marriage**. Today, we honor:

**Gary Prisco & Ann Marie Grutta**

10 years - July 3, 2016

**Mark & Andrea Tavani**

20 years - March 18, 2006

**Corey and Donna Gallo**

35 years - April 20, 1991

**Raul and Joy Wong**

35 years - June 23, 1991

**Sam and Lisa Isola**

40 years - March 23, 1986

**Robert and Debra Alberstadt**

50 years - December 18, 1976

**Rich and Geri Caswell**

50 years - March 27, 1976

**Libby and Pat DeMarco**

50 years - September 11, 1976

**Joseph and Lorraine Russo**

51 years - April 5, 1975

**Ann and Joseph Malinowski**

54 years - November 13, 1971

**Rodrigo and Carmen G. Diaz**

55 years - July 19, 1970

**Domenico and Maria LaForgia**

55 years - July 24, 1971

**John and Mary Roskowski**

59 years - May 30, 1967

We salute the beauty of our faithfulness, sacrifice,  
and joy in daily married life.

## LOVE and CONGRATULATIONS on your First Anniversary in 2026!

**Jill Lauren (Chiorazzo) and Richard Louis Russo**

January 11, 2025

**Ann Marie (Grutta) and Gary Michael Prisco**

July 3, 2025

**Colleen (Moretti) and Robert Golebieski**

July 3, 2025

**Deborah (Carolyn) and Theodore Christopher Drzala**

September 2, 2025

May they always know  
God's love and forgiveness,  
the constant support of family and friends,  
the rich blessing of children,  
a warm love reaching out to others and  
good health until a ripe old age.

God Bless you!

## Come CELEBRATE 'MARDI GRAS'

with the parish families of

**SAINT MARY on**

**Tuesday evening – FEBRUARY 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM**

**in the Parish Center**

This evening begins with a

**'POT LUCK SUPPER'**

**Please bring an entree or dessert for eight!**

**PLEASE complete the cut-off below.**

**This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate with  
family and friends and to prepare your minds and  
hearts for the Season of Lent!**

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

How many will attend: \_\_\_\_\_

We will bring an appetizer or entree for 8: \_\_\_\_\_

We will bring dessert: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to the Parish Office by February 8, 2026**



## NO GREATER LOVE

**No Greater Love** is a musical play that depicts the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ using drama, music and liturgical dance. The play was written by Janeen Stevens. In a review in *The Ecumenist*, Fr. John Kelly calls *No Greater Love*, "a powerful and moving rendition of the Passion that qualifies as a hymn of reconciliation."

**The Xavier Company** is an ecumenical group of performing artists in residence at the Church of St. Francis Xavier in NYC since 1982. The company members are all professionally trained actors, singers and dancers with impressive performance credits. These performing artists are deeply committed to spreading the gospel through the arts and they donate their time and talent to make the Xavier Company a thriving Christian Theater Company.

**Come to Saint Mary Church  
on Saturday, February 28 for a  
2 PM performance**

**A freewill offering will be received.**

## BRING OLD PALM

## FOR THE BURNING OF PALM ON

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

NIGHT PRAYER – 7:30 PM

### SOCIAL CONCERNS

#### CHARITY SECOND COLLECTION

A **SECOND COLLECTION** will be taken **THIS** weekend – may our donations to our **Social Concerns** and **Charity Fund** plant the seeds of hope for those in need. Food may also be donated and placed by the elevator of the entrance door.

### BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Has the loss of a loved one left you depressed, fearful, anxious, or lonely? Perhaps you can find help through sharing your feelings in the Bereavement Support Group at the Church of Saint Mary.

THURSDAY EVENINGS:

February 19, 26,

March 5, 12, 19 and 26

7:30pm – 9pm PARISH CENTER

Reservations are required and can be made by contacting the parish office at (201) 438-2200 – EXT. 1111 or email [franmccarthy0130@hotmail.com](mailto:franmccarthy0130@hotmail.com).

### REPORT OF CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

If you plan to itemize or otherwise need a report of your contribution, please complete the form below and place it in the collection basket!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Env. #: \_\_\_\_\_

### PRAYER AND STUDY GROUP

With Deacon Raymond Schembri – Parish Center

Join our “OPEN TO ALL”

Wednesday 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

and our MEN’S ONLY

Thursday – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

### Memorializing the Sanctuary Lamp, Altar Breads, Altar Wine and Sanctuary Flowers

To memorialize the Sanctuary Lamp that burns continually before the Blessed Sacrament, the Altar Breads, which becomes the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ at our Masses, the Altar Wine, which becomes the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ at our Masses or our Sanctuary Flowers which will adorn our Sanctuary Space in Church, complete this form and return it to the parish office via the collection basket or regular mail. Circle which you wish memorialized, the intention name and purpose, the preferred date, your name and phone number. Please print clearly and attach the requested donation. The intention and requestor’s name are printed in the bulletin the week of that intention.

Church Sanctuary Lamp  
\$25.00

Altar Breads - Altar Wine - Sanctuary Flowers:  
\$50.00 each

Intention name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date for intention: \_\_\_\_\_

You will be called if the date requested is not available  
Intention:

Birth - Baptism - Graduation - Wedding Anniversary -  
Military Service - Special Intention - Living Intention -  
Deceased Intention

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Requestor’s name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Memorial Candles at the Statue of Saint Jude, Sacred Heart and Holy Family

To light a red/blue/green four-day candle, place \$2.00 in the hopper to the left of the shrine; as the donation passes through the hopper, the system is activated - so one red/blue/green candle can be pushed to light; it remains lit for four days. These are our newer candles. The special white candles, which are lit for one year, will include the name[s] of the intention and requestor. These annual candle intentions may be for any person[s] living or deceased. Consider making an annual intention for the newborn, the newlywed, the sick, those serving in the military, or the deceased. The donation for an Annual Memorial Candle is \$250. Contact the Parish Office for more information or to memorialize an annual white candle.

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Francisco J. Rodriguez, Funeral Director - NJ Lic. No. 4662

Anthony Macagna, Jr., Manager - NJ Lic. No. 3242

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