



# St. Maximilian Kolbe Church

*Love the Blessed Virgin Mary and her Son Jesus with a pure and sacrificial heart.*

130 ST. MAXIMILIAN LANE • TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY 08757

February 1, 2026



## **Pastor**

Rev. Stephen M. Piga

## **Parochial Vicar**

Fr. Carlos Castilla

## **In Memoriam:**

Rev. Francis E. Santitoro

Founding Pastor - 1985

## **Deacon**

Thomas C. Yondolino

## **Assistant to the Pastor**

Josephine Micciulla

## **Trustees**

Carol Petrocelli

Robert Zaratini

## **Music Director**

Mr. Tarcisio Pono



## **Prayer to**

### **Saint Maximilian Kolbe**

*We rejoice in your elevation to the honors of the altar,*

*dear St. Maximilian Kolbe. We thank you and praise God for your loyalty to Christ, your devotion to Mary Immaculate, your total surrender to the divine will.*

*In the midst of painful trials, you had the courage to say: "For Jesus Christ I am prepared to suffer still more." Generous to the end, you volunteered to lay down your life for a prisoner sentenced to die by starvation.*

*With confidence in your power of intercession, we now present our needs to you.*

*(Here mention your prayer request.) Obtain for us also to abide always in God's friendship, that we may glorify Him with you in heaven for all eternity. Amen.*

## **LITURGICAL SCHEDULE**

### **Weekday Masses**

Tuesday & Saturday~7:00 am  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday  
& Friday~8:30 am

### **Weekend Masses**

Saturday~4:00 pm  
Sunday~7:00, 9:00, 11:00 am & 1:00 pm

### **Confessions**

Wednesdays~1:00-2:00 pm  
Saturdays~3:00-3:45 pm

### **Holy Day Vigil Masses**

4:00 pm

### **Holy Day**

7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 am

### **Baptisms**

First Sunday of the month

### **Weddings**

Contact parish one year in advance.

*Our mission is "To connect people to God and one another and to spread the kingdom of God."*

*Our vision is to see and realize God's reign of righteousness, justice, and peace in the world.*

*Together, we hope to make a lasting difference in our lives, in our community, and in our world.*

**Phone:** 732-914-0300/**Fax:** 732-240-9517/**Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm/**Friday: Closed**

**Web:** [www.stmaximiliankolbechurch.com](http://www.stmaximiliankolbechurch.com)/**E-Mail:** [stmaximiliankolbechurch@gmail.com](mailto:stmaximiliankolbechurch@gmail.com)

## February 1, 2026/The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### MASSES FOR THE WEEK

*"It is a holy and wholesome thing to pray for the living and the dead." (II Mac. 12:46)*

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

- 7:00 am Doris Velez Chrzanowski  
*Req. The Lordo Family*
- 4:00 pm Mary Zaccaria  
*Req. Celeste Jachts*

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026

- 7:00 am Betty Finnegan  
*Req. Peter & Sabina Finnegan*
- 9:00 am Evelyn S. Campanelli  
*Req. Jane F. Aleshunas*
- 11:00 am Robert G. Slater  
*Req. Diane Mackenrodt*
- 1:00 pm Eleanor Walsh  
*Req. Eleanor O'Leary*

#### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

- 8:30 am Multiple Intention Mass

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

- 7:00 am Don Tarantino  
*Req. Wife, Pauline*

#### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026

- 8:30 am Francis Malloy  
*Req. Walter & Bernadette Stupinski*

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026

- 8:30 am Patrick J. Scollon  
*Req. Wife, Annie*

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026

- 8:30 am Sean Thomas O'Brien  
*Req. Mom & Dad*

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026

- 7:00 am Francis J. Dwyer  
*Req. John Karustis*
- 4:00 pm Girt King  
*Req. Niece*

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

- 7:00 am Deceased Members of the Doruth Family  
*Req. Jean Lapinski*
- 9:00 am Thomas Pane  
*Req. Mary Ann Savarese*
- 11:00 am All Living & Deceased Members of the Choir  
*Req. St. Maximilian Kolbe Choir*
- 1:00 pm Deceased Members of the Sodano & Ronski Families  
*Req. Lu Ann & Bill Bedford*



### DAILY READINGS

Sunday, 2/1/26— Zep 2:3, 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a  
Monday, 2/2/26— Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32  
Tuesday, 2/3/26— 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Mk 5:21-43  
Wednesday, 2/4/26— 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Mk 6:1-6  
Thursday, 2/5/26— 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; Mk 6:7-13  
Friday, 2/6/26— Sir 47:2-11; Mk 6:14-29  
Saturday, 2/7/26— 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Mk 6:30-34



Monday, February 2, 2026 at 8:30 am

## Multiple Intention Mass

In Memory of: Rev. Francis E. Santitoro  
The Santitoro Family (Living & Deceased)  
Rev. Frank Porazzo & Porazzo Family  
Michael Riola, **Req.** Christine Riola  
Anthony Briffa, **Req.** Love, Mom & Dad  
Simon Briffa, **Req.** Love, Mom & Dad  
Peter Finnegan, **Req.** Pat Guerin  
Lydia Benares Villanueva, **Req.** Cynthia Tan  
Basilisa Villanueva Atienza,  
**Req.** Cynthia Tan  
Irma Garcia Milla,  
**Req.** Carmen Elena Lemus  
Rosemary Briffa,  
**Req.** Husband, Charlie Briffa  
Kathleen Petrone, **Req.** The Columbiettes  
Tom Morgan - Healing, **Req.** Maria Fanizzi  
Marina Cristobal, **Req.** Cynthia Tan  
Dolly Mabin, **Req.** Sharon Baloga  
Lino Alcasid,  
**Req.** Nestor & Cecilia Vasquez  
Rosalie Calandriello,  
**Req.** Stephen & Charlene Siciliano  
Dorothy Noroski, **Req.** Ronald Battle  
Paul Capobianco, **Req.** The Columbiettes

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*Please join us in praying for the  
intentions mentioned in this bulletin.*  
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### SPECIAL INTENTIONS January 31, 2026 to February 6, 2026

#### BREAD & WINE-CHURCH

John Guerin  
**Req.** Wife, Patricia

#### SANCTUARY CANDLE-CHURCH

Rev. Francis E. Santitoro  
**Req.** Family

#### ALTAR CANDLES-CHURCH

Helen Dudek  
**Req.** Thomas & Barbara Dudek

### ST. BLAISE

"Father of mercy  
and God of all  
consolation,  
graciously look  
upon me and  
impart to me the  
blessing which  
flows from this  
holy Sacrament.

The blessing of the throats in honor of  
St. Blaise will take place  
Tuesday February 3, 2026  
primarily after the 7:00 am mass.



## From the Pastor's Desk



Hello everyone,

As we enter into the short month of February on this the 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time, I am hoping that it is not another snow day like last Sunday when that big storm they named Fern kept us all snowed and iced in for a few days. I am very thankful to God there were no power outages which could have been a big disaster!

If you missed Mass last Sunday, don't worry. Our Bishop David gave a dispensation to everyone. Due to the impassable weather, the Bishop declared it is not a sin if you missed that day.

That ice was the worst I have experienced since I was a child. Back then we didn't care about ice or snow. We loved it! No school, sledding, snowballs, snowmen, snow forts, diving into the snow again and again with our snow pants and boots on, making snow angels, ice skating and falling so many times—with no injuries or fear of injuries—it was a blast!

Now, well most of us know the fear of falling and hurting ourselves. Last Monday in the early a.m. it took me 15 minutes to walk across from the rectory to the Church, it was so so icy. That's when I canceled the 8:30 Mass that day. Later on we realized we had to cancel bingo because our very good Bingo volunteers were still snowed in as were our beloved office workers so there went the cancellation of the office for Tuesday as well.

Despite working all Sunday and Monday, our maintenance guys Uriel and Alex could not get all the ice and so Tuesday's Mass was canceled too. God forbid anyone take a fall on ice.

So here we are in February. Our Gospel this Sunday is a good way to start the month: the famous Beatitudes. I will just mention one here: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. It very much has to do with dealing with the death of our loved ones, but it also has to do with seeing all the sin in the world and mourning that. Being saddened by it and of course not participating in it as best we can, and repenting truly if we do.

There are 9 blessings in the Beatitudes, reminding us once again of how generous and merciful our God is to us! Let us go out into the world and exhibit the same. Be a Blessing!

*Fr. Steve*

## Prayers and Inspirations

### A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

His Word today, by Rev. William J. Reilly  
Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**February 1, 2026**

**“Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth, who have observed his law, seek justice and humility, perhaps you may be sheltered on the day of the Lord’s anger. For I will leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly who shall take refuge in the name of the Lord... Blessed are they...”**

How frequently do we hear the word ‘seek’ in the scriptures. ‘Seek first the kingdom of God’.. ‘seek and you will find’... Our Christian lives are calls, summons to action, not moments to sit back and do nothing. For this reason the beatitudes of Matthew today describe what action is required of us - to be poor in spirit or dependent upon God, humble, pursuing justice and holiness, be merciful, prayerful and peace-makers. Now is the time to get up and get going.

### ANNUAL CATHOLIC Appeal 2026

**NEXT WEEK STARTS THE BISHOPS ANNUAL  
CATHOLIC APPEAL!**

**“This is the hour for love”** Pope Leo XIV’s words remind us that love and the joy that flows from it are not for later. Love is for now.

Through your support of the Annual Catholic Appeal, a **Love that Strengthens**, and a **Joy that Sustains** takes root in parishes across our Diocese the very moment you give.

- Your gift supports individuals and families through parish ministries that walk with them in their journey of faith
- Your gift provides care, dignity, and support to the poor, the elderly, the sick, and our retired priests.
- Your gift helps form future priests, deacons, and leaders who will carry Christ’s joy into our communities.

Every gift serves a meaningful role in bringing this mission to life.  
Thank you for coming together with faith, courage, and generous hearts.

**PLEASE BE GENEROUS!**

### CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS

Considered by the Universal Church to be “mission country” until 1908, it wasn’t until after that date in the 20<sup>th</sup> C. that the United States was able to return the apostolic service shown by foreign Catholic countries, *which for centuries had sent missionaries to our shores*. Convinced that the Church in the United States couldn’t flourish until it became missionary, the founders of the first USA-established Catholic religious missionary society were Frs. Thomas Frederick Price and James Anthony Walsh, who met at the 1910 International Eucharistic Conference in Montreal, and soon thereafter put into motion their shared dream of starting a seminary for missionaries. Joining them in implementing their missionary dream was Mary Josephine “Mollie” Rogers (Mother Mary Joseph), who envisioned a missionary branch for religious women. Thus was the genesis of the founding of the **Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America**, initiating the first communities of men and women in the United States dedicated to overseas mission. Popularly known as “Maryknollers,” so named after “Mary’s Knoll,” the name given to the hill on which the Society’s headquarters were located in Ossining NY, for more than one hundred years, the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, as well as the Maryknoll Sisters, have faithfully been fulfilling their founders’ commitment of bringing the good news to the “poor and marginalized” throughout the world. Later in the 20<sup>th</sup> C., the Maryknoll missionary family grew to currently comprise two additional member-branches: Maryknoll Lay Missioners, and Maryknoll Affiliates. In 1980, lay missionary Jean Donovan was martyred in El Salvador along with Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford. (A third Sister, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel was also martyred with the Maryknoll women.) When you come before the Eucharistic Lord this week, you might thank Him for all the Maryknollers, who in service of the Gospel, generously have gone into foreign mission fields. You might thank Him, too, for the domestic services they perform: reminding us by their presence that each of us is called to spread the Gospel; providing opportunities for us to fulfill our Baptismal missionary responsibilities by offering them prayer and monetary support; sensitizing us to the needs of the poor by sharing stories of their mission experiences; welcoming us to more actively participate in their mission by joining their Lay Missioners or Affiliates; inviting us to come closer to them by visiting their Ossining, NY Mission Center. Although we think of missionaries in the literal sense of those who travel to foreign lands in the service of the Gospel, our own hearts, homes, communities, and country are in continual need of evangelization. So, in going before the Eucharistic Lord this week, you might ask His Holy Spirit to reveal areas of your mind & heart that need to become more Christ-like, and to bring those weaknesses to the Lord in the Sacrament of Reconciliation for help and healing, not only for your own sake, but so that you can be a more effective missionary in the fields in which the Lord has strategically placed you to spread the Good News! Whenever He calls; wherever He sends you, may you generously answer as have done the Maryknollers for more than a century!

**Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?”**

**“Here I am,” I said; “send me!”** Is 6:8

**Be a St. Max Sentinel:**

**Spend some time this week with the Lord,  
Who waits in the Tabernacle for YOU.**



## News and Events



PLEASE JOIN US ON THURSDAYS AT  
9 AM FOR ADORATION OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT  
THURSDAY SERVICE WILL INCLUDE:  
9 AM – 10 AM PRAYER AND  
ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT &  
10 AM-NOON SILENT ADORATION

**WEEKEND LECTORS NEEDED!**  
**NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!**  
**PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING!**  
CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT  
732-914-0300 FOR MORE INFORMATION!

# All are Welcome

Feeling called to deepen your faith?  
This six-week Bible study on **Elijah** invites participants to journey through moments of doubt, trust, and God's sustaining presence. Discover how Elijah's struggles and victories can strengthen your own walk with God in today's world. Come grow in faith and fellowship with us.

**When:** Mondays beginning February 23<sup>rd</sup> to  
March 30

**Time:** 6:30-8PM

**Where:** Sacred Heart  
Church Hall 751 Main  
Ave Bay Head

**Cost:** \$25

To Register please  
contact:

[dawnrusinko@yahoo.com](mailto:dawnrusinko@yahoo.com)



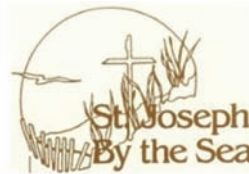
# LENT

The Season of Lent begins with  
**Ash Wednesday on February 18**  
**THE ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE IS:**

8:30 am -ashes distributed after  
12:00 pm -ashes distributed after  
5:00 pm prayer service -ashes distributed  
**NO Confessions on February 18**

**Stations of the Cross**

Every Friday during Lent beginning February 20  
at 12:00 pm in the church.



St. Joseph By the Sea is  
located at 400 Route 35 N  
South Mantoloking, NJ and  
they offer retreats for those  
who are soul searching,  
trying to find peace in their lives , and a God  
who understands them.

**February 18 – ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT –**  
On this day we will acquaint ourselves with the  
two devotions to our Blessed Mother: Our Lady  
undoer of Knots and Our Lady of Silence.  
Included will be a virtual pilgrimage to the  
Basilica of Saint Mary Major. Lunch and  
Eucharistic Liturgy with distribution of ashes  
included. Arrival: 9:00 a.m./Departure: 2:30  
p.m. (Presenter: Janice Santanello, M.Th.,  
CLEM, CSG, CPC) Cost: \$75.

For a full list of retreats go to their website  
[www.sjbsea.org](http://www.sjbsea.org) or call the office at  
732-892-8494



**JOIN US ON TUESDAYS  
FOR OUR WEEKLY BINGO!**

**Doors open at 10:00am & close at 11:55am.**  
**Food and beverages will be sold.**  
**Without you we cannot succeed!**



IN LIEU OF OUR MONTHLY  
MEETING  
PLEASE JOIN THE



### ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18th

10:30 TO 11:30 IN THE CHAPEL FOR A

COMMUNAL LENTEN PRAYER OF THE  
SORROWS OF MARY ROSARY

FOLLOWED BY A REFLECTION ON THE

**TEN COMMANDMENTS**

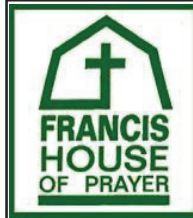
THIS IS A TIME OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL AS WE HONOR  
THE BLESSED MOTHER AND REFLECT ON GOD'S  
COMMANDMENTS

Lent serves as a time to intensify this dedication.  
It is meant to inspire living according to God's law  
consistently, not just during the 40 days of the sea-  
son. Through practices like repentance, receiving  
sacraments, and prayer, the Lenten journey  
prepares individuals to live the commandments as a  
continuous expression of love for God that extends  
beyond Lent.

ALSO, PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS

BEGINNING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH @ 12 noon.



The Francis House of Prayer  
Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center  
and Retreat House in Allentown NJ  
is offering several retreats this  
December. For more info call  
609-877-0509 or go to  
FHOP@verizon.net

#### PERSONAL RETREAT DAY

Wednesday, February 11 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Take a day away from the busyness of your life. Come to  
Francis House for silence, personal prayer and optional spir-  
itual direction. The day begins and ends with a brief prayer  
together. Please bring a bag lunch. Come to as many as you  
can. Donation: \$10; \$40 with spiritual direction.

#### ST. TERESA OF AVILA OVERNIGHT RETREAT

February 12 – 13

Begins 4:30 PM Thursday – Ends 2:00 PM Friday

The life of Teresa of Avila is remarkable and surprisingly  
relevant to our times! We will have an overnight pajama  
party and enjoy watching Teresa on her rocky road to sanc-  
tity. Led by Teresa herself with the help of S. Marcy.  
Donation: \$100, meals included. Commuters are welcome.

#### UNDERSTANDING & BEFRIENDING DIFFERENCES

Monday, February 16 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Why is it so difficult to relate to those who are different  
from us? If you need a little understanding and  
compassion in dealing with challenging personalities, in-  
cluding your own, please come and join our Interns in  
Spiritual Direction to learn the art of accepting and  
appreciating people with personalities contrary to our  
own. Led by S. Marcy. Donation: \$50. Please bring your  
own lunch.

#### ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT

Wednesday, February 18 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

#### LITURGY AT NOON

We love beginning Lent together with this retreat at  
Francis House because it provides a gentle structure for  
the six-week journey ahead. This year I think you will  
enjoy reading *Give Up Worry for Lent* by Gary Zimak ...to  
guide your Lenten journey. Liturgy is included with the  
reception of ashes within it. Donation: \$40, includes lunch  
and book for your Lenten journey. Zoom \$25

#### EVENING ZOOM ONLY

#### POPE LEO'S APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION

#### DILEXIT TE "I HAVE LOVED YOU"

4 Tuesdays: Feb. 24; March 3, 10 & 17 7:00 – 8:00 PM

It is a wonderful ancient tradition to engage in some good  
spiritual reading during Lent. Would you like to get to  
know our new Pope Leo as part of your Lenten journey this  
year? We will read together his first Apostolic Exhortation,  
"I Have Loved You," which is available online.

Donation: \$50

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE COLUMBIETTES

## BAKE SALE

WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 7-8

AFTER ALL MASSES

(WHILE BAKED GOODS REMAIN)

ALL PROCEEDS TO BE DONATED TO  
ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CHURCH &  
COLUMBIETTES CHARITIES





## News and Events

### 2027 MASS REQUEST FORM

**MAY BE SUBMITTED BEGINNING JANUARY 26!**

Date:	Time:	Mass Intention For:
1.		
2.		
3.		
Requested by:		
Phone Number:		

### YOUR DONATION STATEMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON!



Please complete and leave in a basket at mass,  
mail or drop off to the office if you would like us to mail or  
email you your statement.

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

*Tax Statement Request*



Full Name:

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Envelope #

Phone #

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Street Address:

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Email

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## Rock Your Valentine

**Valentine's 50s 60s Sock Hop!**

**February 21<sup>st</sup> 7 pm -10 pm Doors open 6:30**

**St. Maximillian Kolbe Parish Hall**

**The Days of Doo-Wop & Band Stand**

**Be There or be Square! See you later Alligator!**



**Dance Contest and Best 50s and 60s Attire and more!**

**Snack Bar is open to purchase Hot Dogs, Snacks & Hot/Cold Beverage (BYOB!)**

**CORRECTION!!!! PRICE IS \$15**

**Get a group and order a table.**

**For Tickets Contact Bob Zaratin 732-608-0175 or Joe Accardi 973-980-8775**

**Fund Raiser for God's Special People and Special Olympics**

**Hosted by Knights of Columbus & Columbiettes Council #10899**



# Ministry Meetings



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE COUNCIL 10899**

**Who are the Knights of Columbus?**

**Would you like to join us?**

We are Catholic men of faith and men of charitable action. Our strength derives from our shared faith and being the world's largest family - church - and community oriented organization. We offer members, and their families, a wide variety of activities with people who share the same beliefs and values. In Toms River for over 25 years, with over 100 members, we engage in a wide range of activities to engage with all aspects of our domestic church. We meet every second Wednesday of the month at 9:45 am in the Parish Hall. We begin with the recitation of the Rosary and the business portion of the meeting starts at 10:00 am.

**For membership or transfer to their Council contact**

**Joe Accardi @ (973) 980-8775**

## SAINT MAXIMILIAN COLUMBIETTES



We are an organization of Catholic women dedicated to our Patronesses, Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Therese the Little Flower and Saint Joan of Arc. We



are an affiliated Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus Council. We meet the second Thursday of the month at 11:00 am in the Parish Hall. We begin with the recitation of the Rosary. If you are interested in joining the Columbiettes or would like additional info, please contact: Maria Sciancalepore (908) 447-6361

## THE LEGION OF MARY



Do you know anyone who is homebound and misses receiving Communion, or would like a visit while praying the rosary? We also offer to bring the pilgrim statue of the Blessed Mother to grace your home for a week.

The Legion of Mary is an international association of men and women of the Catholic Church. The mission is for active members to serve God under the banner of Mary by practicing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. The spirituality of the Legion of Mary is based on "total dedication" to Christ and the Holy Spirit through devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Our meetings take place on Monday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 am.

*For more information, call: Cheryl Winters (215) 356-2507*

## CURSILLO ULTREYA

The Cursillo Ultreya is a lay movement part of the Diocese of Trenton, that operates under the authority and leadership of the Bishop of Trenton. It proposes no new type of spirituality, but simply a method through which one's spirituality may be developed, lived & shared, encouraging a close relationship with Christ. The Cursillo movement seeks to share the experience & benefits of the movement with a broader audience, fostering a wider community of faith, all are welcome to attend. We schedule meetings every third Thursday of the month at St. John's Parish Center 619 Chestnut Street Lakehurst, NJ. Questions or more info contact David & Alice Riggio @ (732) 323-0216 or Barbara Cipriano @ (732) 323-8878



## ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

**MARIAN THEME FOR FEBRUARY 2026: MARY, WHO GIVES JESUS TO THE WORLD**

**Feb 2nd Candlemas** is significant as the feast day of the Presentation of the Lord, commemorating the presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. Mary's unique role as the one who gave Jesus to the world, emphasized her obedience, faith, and role as a model for believers.

**God wove together every detail, the people, places, and times to usher in His plan for redemption in Christ. But He still needed a willing vessel, a surrendered servant. In essence, God chose Mary because she was of the right lineage, she was from Nazareth, she was engaged to a man whose lineage set up a trip to Bethlehem, she was a virgin, and she was a young woman of good character.** Bible Study Tools

**REPAIR:** A marriage is like a house; it often needs repair. Mary and Joseph went through many tribulations during their marriage, but their love and respect for each other and for the will of God to which Mary's response was, **"I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled"** helped them to persevere throughout their marriage via faithful prayer which strengthened their ability to navigate and overcome challenges in their marriage, thereby continually making it better and stronger through every obstacle they faced in order to obey the plan that was laid out for them. Do we persevere in our obedience to God (abiding in the Ten Commandments)? Do we set time aside for prayer? Do we live, making sure our lives (married or single) are always in repair? We too should be **surrendered servants**, accepting whatever we are faced with and persevering to make our lives better, stronger, and more spiritual; through devotion to Mary we can request her to intercede with her son Jesus so we may gain eternal life, which is his plan for us. **January mtg: But for the grace of God a new officer was installed along with the original 3 AND 20 new members were inducted into the Rosary Altar Society!**

Anna (Pres. [RAS](mailto:akefr26@gmail.com)) 732-581-2247 [akefr26@gmail.com](mailto:akefr26@gmail.com)



## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Gifts of a prayer shawl is a year round activity. The gifting of a prayer shawl is a perfect way to show someone who needs a little bit of comfort that they are not alone. Each prayer shawl is unique and created with prayers offered while it is being made. The PSM also continues to make lapghans for individuals who may be home bound and/or use a wheelchair. (There is no fee for the shawls or lapghans, but donations of full skeins of worsted weight yarn or monetary donations are accepted. They can be dropped off at the monthly PSM meetings.) "Special Order" white Christening blankets are available for a cost of ten dollars (\$10.00) to defray the cost of the yarn. **New members are always welcome to join the group.** Information about the Prayer Shawl Ministry and its offerings can be obtained from:

Lorraine Pietrucha @ 732-569-6997 or Lorraine Shubsda @ 732-281-3445 as well as the officers of the Legion of Mary, The Columbiettes and the Rosary Altar Society.

## SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE MEN'S MINISTRY

**All are welcome to join our new men's group. Our second meeting will be on Monday, February 9th from 1 pm until 2:30 pm in the Saint Maximilian Kolbe Bingo Hall. If you are interested please call the parish office @ 732-914-0300 Monday—Thursday between 9 am and 2 pm or give your name and phone number to Fr. Steve.**



# Silverton Memorial

FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE

Jayne Fuscaldo  
Licensed Funeral Director  
NJ Lic. No. 5448



2482 Church Road | Toms River, NJ  
**SilvertonMemorial.com**  
(732) 255-6363  
Paula DeJohn, Manager  
NJ Lic. No. 3438

## WILENTZ

—ATTORNEYS AT LAW—  
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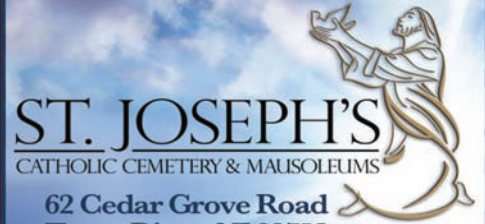
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