



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

March 15, 2026

Laetare Sunday

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

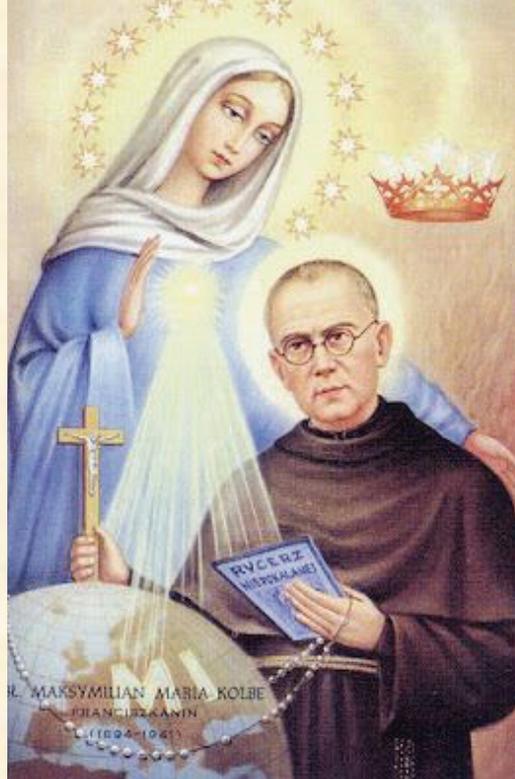
Trustees

Carol Petrocelli

Robert Zaratín

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/**E-Mail:** stmaximiliankolbechurch@gmail.com

March 15, 2026/Fourth Sunday of Lent

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

7:00 am John J. Matlosz - 11th Anniversary
Req. Wife, Carolyn

4:00 pm Victoria Dupray
Req. Dianne Dupray

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026

7:00 am John R. Albanese
Req. Family

9:00 am Carmela Pane
Req. Mary Ann Savarese

11:00 am Daniel Kelly
Req. Elizabeth Kelly

1:00 pm Deceased Members of the
Matassa & Bedford Families
Req. Lu-Ann & Bill Bedford

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026

8:30 am Multiple Intention Mass

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026

7:00 am Cornelius & Bridget Whooley
Req. Morgan & Jeannette Whooley

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

8:30 am Mario A. Marano
Req. Wife, Mary

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

8:30 am Anthony Gulla
Req. Family

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026

8:30 am Maria Claudio
Req. Dolores D'Auria

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

7:00 am Armando Valles
Req. Gina Cuccaro

4:00 pm John Vissac - 5th Anniversary
Req. Linda Reiger

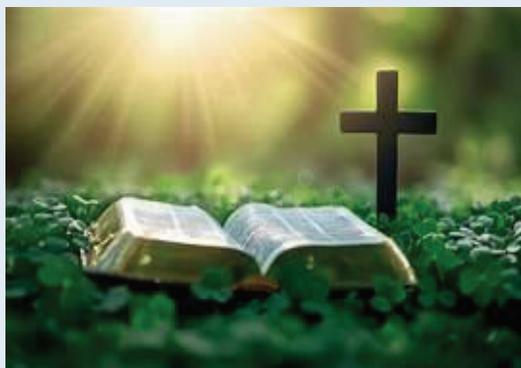
SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

7:00 am Philip Frieri
Req. Wife & Children

9:00 am Matthew Bargone
Req. Love, Mom

11:00 am Pasquale Mastroviti
Req. Wife, Maria

1:00 pm Peggy Cassone
Req. The Cassone Family



DAILY READINGS

Sunday, 3/15/26— 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

Monday, 3/16/26— Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday, 3/17/26— Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday, 3/18/26— Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday, 3/19/26— 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Friday, 3/20/26— Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday, 3/21/26— Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53

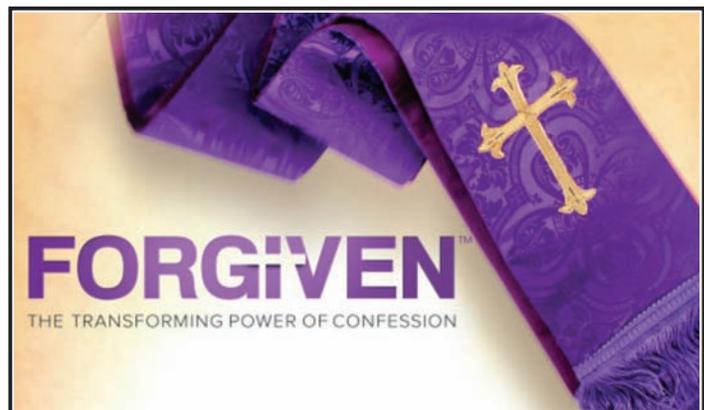
Monday, March 16, 2026 at 8:30 am

Multiple Intention Mass

In Memory of: Rev. Francis E. Santitoro
 The Santitoro Family (Living & Deceased)
 Rev. Frank Porazzo & Porazzo Family
 Christopher W. Campbell,
Req. Love, Mom & Dad
 Lucille Rohde, *Req. Her Daughters*
 Rosemary Briffa,
Req. Husband, Charlie Briffa
 Anthony Briffa, *Req. Love, Mom & Dad*
 Tom Morgan – Healing, *Req. Maria Fanizzi*
 Dolly Mabin, *Req. Colleen Mabin*
 Manuel Ping Ping Villanueva
 & Lydia Benares Villanueva,
Req. Cynthia Tan
 Paul Capobianco – Rest-in-Peace,
Req. Paddy & Agnes Kelly
 Joe Kane – Heavenly Birthday,
Req. Paddy & Agnes Kelly
 Kathryn Skrocki,
Req. Nicholas & Wendy Zimbardi
 Bianca Brzezinski, *Req. Mom & Dad*
 Kathryn Skrocki, *Req. Pat Guerin*
 David Frederick, *Req. Morgan & Jeannette*
 Frederick Gallo, *Req. Virginia Mercun*
 Clinton T. Hoffman, *Req. The Olsen Family*
 Cassidy Dody, *Req. Phyllis & Augie Fusco*
 Florence Wepner,
Req. Stanley & Phyllis Markevich
 Souls of Deceased-Joseph & Madeline Lourdesamy,
Req. The Burke Family
 Souls of Deceased Burke Family
 (Dorothy & Robert),
Req. The Burke Family
 Richard DiMauro, *Req. Linda A. DeAngelo*

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*Please join us in praying for the
 intentions mentioned in this bulletin.*
 ++++

SPECIAL INTENTIONS March 14, 2026 to March 20, 2026
BREAD & WINE-CHURCH Rev. Francis E. Santitoro <i>Req. Family</i>
SANCTUARY CANDLE-CHURCH Rev. Vincent J. Coppola <i>Req. Family</i>
ALTAR CANDLES-CHURCH Rev. Francis E. Santitoro <i>Req. Family</i>



As we prepare for the resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter we want to be ready to accept His love and be able to do whatever he asks of us. The Church encourages the parish community to come together as we ready ourselves for the opportunity for private confession and absolution.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Church
Lenten Penance Service:
Wednesday, March 18 @ 12:30 pm.



From the Pastor's Desk



Hello everyone,

On this fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday, our Church tells us to rejoice because we are more than halfway through the penitential season and soon will be celebrating our greatest feast and season, Easter. It is the homestretch of maintaining our personal Lenten sacrifices in the face of increasing temptations to stop. Don't give in! Let's continue to show our Lord God by our Lenten actions that we are truly sorry for our past sins and that we faithfully want to love Him, our Risen Lord, and our neighbor more and more.

Our Gospel this weekend is about the man born blind. It is a good reminder to remember that we all have some blind spots in our quest to do good and avoid evil, which is another reason why we need to demonstrate our repentance this Lent.

Maybe the biggest blind spot some people have is refusing to believe in God. For us who believe (God understands when some doubt creeps in during very difficult times), it is so hard to understand why others do not. We must not avoid them, but like Jesus do our best to spend time with them and plant the seeds of belief into their hearts.

Recently I watched on TCM the film/documentary made in 1989 called, "For All Mankind". Perhaps some of you watched it too. It is about the landing on the moon with lots of footage combined with astronaut commentary. It was about Apollo 11 which landed in July of 1969 and another Apollo which subsequently landed another year. The title is an apt one.

For the footage—and the commentary about the footage by the astronauts—is filled with wonder and awe especially when it shows our planet Earth sitting (flying around the sun at 67,000 miles an hour!!!) in space all by itself, nothing holding it up, extremely beautiful and wondrous and awe-inspiring. How great is our Creator! How wonderful He is to us all!!

How incredible is the human body! How unique and fantastic is our planet Earth! How awesome and ordered is the Universe! How can anyone not believe in a Creator?

We must always keep in mind though, once again, of how blind we probably are; namely, to so much good we could have been involved in but failed to recognize, and how much bad we may have done over and over again in our ignorance and blindness. We repent for all of that and more in this Lenten season. Have mercy on me, O God, a sinner. And thank you, Lord God, for your forgiveness! Help me not to wallow in my guilt but to be fully alive in You!!

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 of Lent

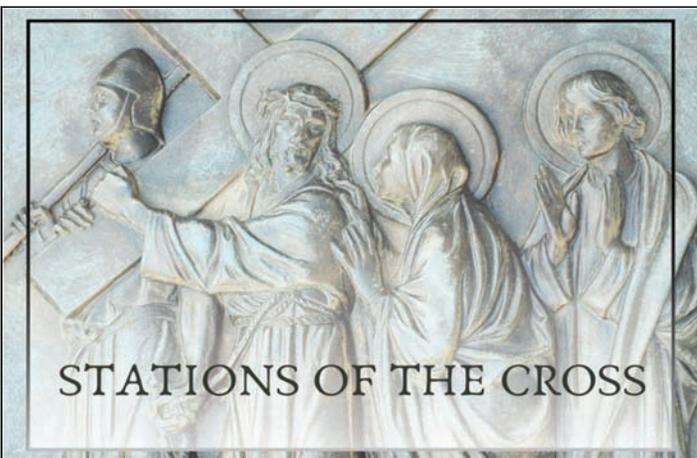
March 15, 2026

“But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart...’ Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in his hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on, the spirit of the Lord rushed upon David.”

How refreshing as we read of God selecting David to lead the people of Israel. He would be their king, composed many of the psalms, it was from his clan that Joseph was to be the foster father of our Savior.

During our Lenten journey, let's become more aware of the scripture words, that God does not judge us from appearances, our practice of prayer, sacrifice and good works. How essential they are, but we were told the Lord is looking into our hearts. It is not appearances but the motive of our actions that makes the difference.

‘Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me a sinner.’



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Every Friday during Lent,
February 20 through March 27
at 12:00 pm in the church.

CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS

In 1882, against the backdrop of anti-Catholic sentiments, as well as industrialization and poor workplace safety provisions, Fr. Michael McGivney (now Blessed McGivney), then the twenty-nine year old assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, CT, conceived the idea of forming a Catholic men's fraternal group that would strengthen his male parishioners' Faith, as well as provide financial support in times of need, especially for members' widows and children. Dying at thirty-eight years of age in 1890, just a short eight years after founding the Knights of Columbus (KofC), Blessed McGivney's recognition of the spiritual and temporal benefit of providing Catholic men with membership in such a fraternal organization as the one he founded surely was inspired! Still in existence today, one hundred forty-four years after its start in St. Mary's Parish in CT, currently there are multitudes of KofC parish councils not only in all fifty states and in the District of Columbia, but also overseas, throughout the Universal Church, as well, earning the Knights the distinction of being—*by far*—the largest lay Catholic organization of its kind in the world!

This week, when you spent time in the Eucharistic Presence of the Lord, if you are a member of the Knights, or a relative or friend of one, you might pray for Blessed McGivney's canonization, as you thank the Lord for all the spiritual and material benefits you have received from the Knights—either directly or indirectly. If you are a Catholic man who is not yet a Knight, you might listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit regarding whether He is calling you to join. If you are the spouse of a male parishioner who is not yet a Knight, you, too, might listen for the Holy Spirit's voice to sense if He is calling you to encourage your husband or other male family members to join the Knights; likewise, you might ask the Lord if He would encourage you to join the women's affiliated organization called the Columbiettes. Contact information about the St. Max parish Knights and Columbiettes can be found in the parish bulletin. If you sense that the Lord is offering you a chance to grow in your Faith and to put that Faith into action through any number of charitable works which the Knights and the Columbiettes undertake—or if you are looking for an outlet to wisely and enjoyably spend your free recreational time in wonderful comradery, please reach out to the contacts listed in the bulletin!

For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead. Jas 2:26

**Be a St. Max Sentinel:
Spend some time this week with the Lord, Who
waits in the Tabernacle for YOU.**

All are welcome to
**SAINT MAXIMILIAN
KOLBE CHURCH**

SENIOR

*Lunch &
Learn*

FREE

April 29th

Starting at 9:00 am

Activities Include:

Meet & Greet

Ministry Information

Paradigms of Fall Prevention

Mausoleum Information

M&T Identity Theft & Scams

Funeral Homes Information

**Please call the office
to RSVP**

Banquet/Bingo Hall
130 Saint Maximilian Lane
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732-914-0300



News and Events



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LENTEN MEAL FRIDAYS
February 20th—March 27th

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus
12:30pm to 2:30pm
Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish Hall
Tickets are \$12 & sold after each Sunday Mass & AT THE DOOR. Limited number of meals are available!

Meals include salad, bread, dessert & soft drinks.
All meals served will be meatless!
ALL ARE WELCOME!



Kidney Donation
A Gift of Life and Hope

A parishioner at Our Mother of Perpetual Help parish in Ephrata, PA is asking for prayers and the help of a truly generous individual. Jody is in need of a living donor kidney transplant. Due to a genetic condition, both her kidneys are failing. If you would like to learn more about the disease or the donation process, please contact her at:

kidneyforjody@gmail.com



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!

CHOCOLATE BUNNY DRIVE



MARCH 13TH-MARCH 27TH

JOIN US IN MAKING THE HOLIDAY EXTRA SWEET BY PROVIDING A CHOCOLATE BUNNY WITH EVERY MEAL WE DELIVER!

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9 AM FOR ADORATION OF THE
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THURSDAY SERVICE WILL INCLUDE:
9 AM – 10 AM PRAYER AND
ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT &
10 AM-NOON SILENT ADORATION

HELP NEEDED
We are in need of
Lectors & Ushers.

WEEKEND LECTORS NEEDED!
No Experience Necessary!
PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING!
CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT
732-914-0300 FOR MORE INFORMATION

**USHERS NEEDED FOR
THE 1PM MASS**
PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING!
CALL JOE ACCARDI
732-980-8775 FOR MORE INFORMATION



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2026 Annual Catholic Appeal

Vocational Support

The 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal helps form future priests and deacons — the spiritual leaders who will proclaim the Gospel, celebrate the sacraments, and walk with us in the joys and challenges of life.

Your generosity supports vocation promotion, seminary education, and ongoing formation for those discerning God's call. These programs help young men and women listen to the Lord with open hearts and respond with courage and joy.

Together, we share a love that strengthens the Church today and a joy that sustains the Church of tomorrow.

Make your gift online at giveaca.org.



Please join the
ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY



'Were You There'
Stations of the Cross

for a somber voice and piano rendition of
"WERE YOU THERE"

describing the
FOURTEEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Wednesday, March 18th
PROMPTLY @ 11:00 in the chapel

followed by the
SEVEN SORROWS ROSARY
concluding with
St Patrick & St Joseph desserts
in the parish hall

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

Many of the Irish blessings of Spring (light, nature) are attributed to St Patrick (March 17th)

WHO?

Did you ever wonder why roses are red, sunflowers yellow, sky blue, dirt brown and why a rainbow is colorful? Animals, flowers, trees, mountains and everything on the planet are like an artist's canvas. The masterpiece is all the different people on earth. What would we pay, give or do for such beauty and possible riches? Would we show our appreciation by caring for each and every detail in the canvas of life? WHO created all this beauty: GOD, the Master Painter, WHO proven his presence is around us at all times. As we age, we regard that 'each dawn is an act of love' (God's doing). Therefore, we should take care of God's canvas of life: be loving, thankful and live our lives as good Catholics; adhering to the commandments and receiving the Eucharist!



St Joseph was a protector, just as we should be towards everyone and everything. (March 19th)
Anna (Pres. RAS) 732-581-2247 akefr26@gmail.com

Men's Ministry

Connection, Accountability, Encouragement & Prayer

SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE MEN'S MINISTRY

All are welcome to join Father Steve and Moderator Frank for our ongoing new men's group. Our next meeting will be on **Monday, April 13th** 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.

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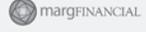
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