



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

May 3, 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/**E-Mail:** stmaximiliankolbechurch@gmail.com

May 3, 2026/Fifth Sunday of Easter

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

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

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026

- 7:00 am Irma Garcia Milla
Req. Carmen Elena Lemus
- 4:00 pm Rev. Eugene J. Hazewski
10th Anniversary
Req. Eileen Van Houten

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026

- 7:00 am Rosemarie Briffa
Req. Husband, Charlie Briffa
- 9:00 am Virginia Battle
Req. Husband, Ron
- 11:00 am All Rosarians Living & Deceased
*Req. The St. Maximilian Kolbe
Rosary Altar Society*
- 1:00 pm George R. Hudak
Req. Anna Hudak

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026

- 8:30 am Multiple Intention Mass

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026

- 7:00 am Rose & Sam D'Alessio
Req. Children

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026

- 8:30 am Virginia Battle
Req. Husband, Ron

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

- 8:30 am John Da Silva
Req. Love, Mom

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026

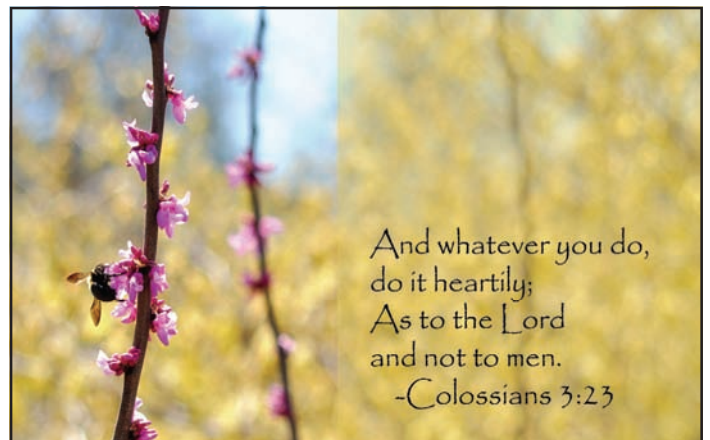
- 8:30 am Myron Kucharski
Req. Joan & Family

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

- 7:00 am John J. Matlosz
Req. Wife, Carolyn
- 4:00 pm All Mothers
Living & Deceased

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026

- 7:00 am All Mothers
Living & Deceased
- 9:00 am All Mothers
Living & Deceased
- 11:00 am All Mothers
Living & Deceased
- 1:00 pm All Mothers
Living & Deceased



DAILY READINGS

- Sunday, 5/03/26— Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12
- Monday, 5/04/26— Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26
- Tuesday, 5/05/26— Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31a
- Wednesday, 5/06/26— Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8
- Thursday, 5/07/26— Acts 15:7-21; Jn 15:9-11
- Friday, 5/08/26— Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17
- Saturday, 5/09/26— Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21

Monday, May 4, 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
Matthew C. Traynor, **Req. Helen A. Traynor**

Irma Garcia Milla,
Req. Carmen Elena Lemus

Rosemary Briffa,
Req. Husband, Charlie Briffa

Anthony Briffa, **Req. Love, Mom & Dad**

Laura Adinolfi, **Req. Linda Kuchenbrod**

Eileen Bellofatto,
Req. Dave & Barbara Wantuch

Dorothy Caputo, **Req. Fran Hurley**

Christine Turchio,
Req. Mom, Clara Richards

Abandoned Souls in Purgatory,
Req. Anonymous

Frances & Joseph Picone,
Req. Rose Iacobino

The Peltier Family, **Req. Brian Peltier**

Michele Polis, **Req. Rose Magda**

Joseph Erbic,
Req. Nick & Rosemarie Bussanich

Susan McConway, **Req. Family**

Anne Sandbrook, **Req. Mary Cimmello**

Sylvia & James Lede – Healing,
Req. The Legion of Mary

David Briffa – Living, **Req Wife, Toni**

Mary Wiercinski,
Req. Nicholas & Wendy Zimbardi

Pat Vallorano – Healing,
Req. Matthew & Kathleen McLaughlin

Ethel “Peggy” Schel,
Req. Andrea Nacco & The PGIM Crew

Tom Morgan – Healing,
Req. Maria Fanizzi

Sheila McNally, **Req. Barbara Natale**

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**Please join us in praying for the
intentions mentioned in this bulletin.**
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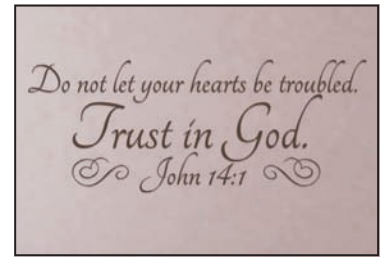
SPECIAL INTENTIONS
May 2, 2026 to May 8, 2026

BREAD & WINE-CHURCH
Rev. Francis E. Santitoro Req. Family
SANCTUARY CANDLE-CHURCH
Rev. Vincent J. Coppola Req. Family
ALTAR CANDLES-CHURCH
Rev. Francis E. Santitoro Req. Family

Trust in God
Don't let your hearts be troubled.
JOHN 14:1



From the Pastor's Desk



Hello everyone,

You may or may not have heard about this, but there will be a 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in our country starting on Pentecost, May 24th, which is also Memorial Day weekend, and ending on July 5th, Fourth of July weekend. It is our Catholic way of celebrating the 250th anniversary of our beloved country.

The Eucharistic Pilgrimage will start at St. Augustine in Florida and end in Philadelphia where of course the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were signed. It will travel through most of the nation's 13 original colonies including the Diocese of Paterson, N.J.

The theme of the Pilgrimage is the phrase "one nation under God". In fact, the National Eucharistic Congress (NEC) is calling it the "One Nation under God Pilgrimage" and state that "the pilgrimage is a united prayer of petition to God on behalf of our country and for peace in the world. It is not about political statements but about spiritual renewal."

As we know, one nation under God is in our Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. It has been controversial in the past. Our Knights of Columbus had first lobbied for this phrase to be placed in our Pledge and it has been modified several times, including in 1954 when "under God" was added following advocacy efforts by the Knights and various religious leaders. It served to distinguish the U.S. from the former U.S.S.R. which was officially atheist during the height of the cold war. In 2002 the phrase was declared unconstitutional, but then a decision by the Supreme Court revoked that in 2004.

The NEC also said that "to live under God is to live in His truth, to recognize that the dignity of every human life comes from Him, to live our call to true human fraternity, and to remember that unity begins in humility and service of neighbor." The Eucharist "forms us in these truths, inviting us to self—emptying service, calling us to communion, and teaching us self—gift."

And so, as we near our 250th anniversary, it is not just a remembrance but a **revival**, a call for all of us to bring our hearts and minds under God. As Jesus says in our Gospel this weekend, "Do not let your hearts be troubled—have faith in me, for I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." If we can do that, surrender ourselves completely to Christ, to our God who created all things, what a great witness in our country we would be, for we would truly be, "under God". And our country, on its 250th anniversary, can then once again be rightly honored as the spiritual leader of our planet, the position we showed we are meant to shoulder from the beginning of our existence by those 2 great documents.

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
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026

“Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to ministry of the word. The proposal was acceptable to the whole community... They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands upon them.”

The Acts of the Apostles, the story of the life of the primitive church, discloses an important step in the growth and structure of the church. Here we discover the choice of the first deacons, part of the sacrament of Holy Orders. As we reflect on the inspiration of the Spirit and the response of the community, may we look to the needs of the church today.

How aware we are of the need of disciples to serve the church today and for tomorrow. It is a concern for all Catholics. May I take a moment and ask myself, when did I encourage a person to follow the Lord as a priest, deacon or the religious life of a brother or sister? Rather than lament the lack of vocations, may I pray for and encourage others to listen to the call of the Lord. May we pray that those who the Lord is calling today, and He is, may hear and respond.

I will
come
again
and take you to myself



CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS

Since 1966, every year, the United States Postal Service has honored Our Blessed Mother with their annual seasonal printing and sale of special Christmas stamps which feature an image of her and her Infant Son.

When you spend time in the Lord's Presence this week, as an apostolic work of mercy, you might ask the Lord if He would have you consider purchasing and *using all year long* such Marian “Christmas” stamps. If so, then you might use the stamps on *all* the snail-mail you send—not just personal mail to fellow Catholics... as a reminder to everyone who sees that stamp of Our Blessed Mother's eternal yes to bringing her Divine Son, Our Savior, into this world, as well as her tender maternal intercessory influence and presence in our history within her role as Patroness of the USA. Only in Paradise will we know the full impact of her role in our Nation's story.

In addition, relying on the Lord's promise, quoted below, you might ask the Holy Spirit, Spouse of Our Blessed Mother, to enable you to respond in the way He would lead you should anyone mock your use of the stamp outside the Christmas season—or in any other way criticize your devotion to Our Blessed Mother.

“... do not worry about how or what your defense will be or about what you are to say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that moment what you should say.” Lk 12:11-12

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



Saint Maximilian Kolbe Church Celebrates 250 years of

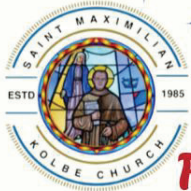
America



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL BASH

JULY 5, 2026 | 2:00-5:00 PM

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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CHURCH



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

JOIN US ON TUESDAYS FOR OUR WEEKLY BINGO!



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

PLEASE JOIN THE ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY SUNDAY, MAY 3rd 10:30 recitation of the Rosary then 11:00 MASS and PROCESSION AND CROWNING OF THE BLESSED MOTHER by 6 year old XAVIER GAINES

WHAT DOES VATICAN II REALLY SAY?



The ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY welcomes everyone to hear Diocesan Vocation Director

Director of Deacon Formation FR. CHRISTOPHER COLAVITO'S insightful explanation Wednesday, May 20th in the chapel




11:00 recitation of the Rosary followed by Father Colavito concluding with refreshments in the hall

ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY MOTHER'S DAY CARNATION SALE AFTER ALL MASSES Saturday May 9 & Sunday May 10




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Serving Those in Need The Annual Catholic Appeal funds ministries that provide counseling, bereavement support, prison outreach, and essential social services to individuals and families in crisis. By giving, you share love that strengthens and joy that sustains — bringing comfort, hope, and healing to our most vulnerable neighbors. Make a gift today at giveaca.org



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SUNDAY SOCIAL

IN THE CHAPEL NARTHEX

SUNDAY, MAY 17

FOLLOWED BY THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
AFTER THE 9:00 AM AND 11:00 AM MASSES

PLEASE JOIN US!

ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN ASSISTING WITH SUNDAY SOCIALS ARE WELCOME!

PLEASE CONTACT: WENDY 732-232-2489



St. Maximilian Kolbe Church

41st Anniversary Dinner Dance

Tickets: \$35 Per Person

Let's come together & celebrate!

Tickets ON SALE NOW now after weekend masses and in the parish office!

Dinner provided by Mangia Restaurant: Meatballs * Chicken * Pasta Veggies * Salad * Rolls * Dessert * Coffee * Tea * Beverages * BYOB

50/50 Raffle & Door Prizes

Music: DJ Anthony Di Dio *August 16 2pm-6pm*

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



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



ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

**Mary, the loving Mother of the Church:
a model of selfless love**

LOVE

"Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is

loved, each of us is necessary." Pope Benedict XVI.

Without love, what would life be? Would we even be here? Would we have friends? Would we have nature: flowers, trees, mountains, or even water? Would we have homes and the comfort of loved ones?

Without love, life would be empty; we wouldn't be able to share the wonders of the world, and more importantly, mirror God's love for and forgiveness of others through faith, hope, and charity.

Love is in our soul and comes from the God-given miracle of birth and leads us to an eternal life of love!

- **"From Mary we learn to love Christ her Son and the Son of God!"** St. John Paul II.



- **"Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love."** 1 John 4:8.

Anna (Pres. RAS) 732-581-2247 akefr26@gmail.com

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

Fellowship Group

All are welcome to join us each week for spiritual growth as we read and reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings. This group can provide encouragement, insight, and fellowship.

The group will meet in the parish hall on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 pm—8:00 pm beginning May 5th.



Let's embark on this journey together and open the door to meaningful connections and enriching discussions centered around faith! Bibles are welcome but not needed!

For more info call:

Linda Capobianco 732-278-7283

Men's Ministry

Connection, Accountability, Encouragement & Prayer

SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE MEN'S MINISTRY

All are welcome to join Father Steve and Frank Preta the Men's Ministry Manager for our continuing men's ministry group which will meet the second Monday of every month. Our next meeting will be on **Monday, May 11th** from 1:00 pm until 2:30 pm in the Saint Maximilian Kolbe Bingo Hall. If you are interested in attending please call Frank @ 973-713-1128 or email at fpretai008@gmail.com.

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