

**THE VOICE OF
ST. MARY'S
PARISH
SPRING -SUMMER 2026**

Dear Parishioners:

I'm sure that you have heard the phrase, "We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!" That quote comes from St. John Paul II, but he said it in November, not Springtime, of 1986, during his Angelus message in Australia. That reminds us that the spirit of that saying should be a part of our lives, certainly all year long, but, especially at Easter.

Here is the full context of that quote: "We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery—the mystery of his Death and Resurrection. 'We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!' We are not looking for a shallow joy but rather a joy that comes from faith, that grows through unselfish love, that respects the 'fundamental duty of love of neighbor, without which it would be unbecoming to speak of Joy.'"

In this reflection, the Pope is borrowing from St. Augustine (remember Pope Leo is an Augustinian!). The challenge that phrase issues is to ask yourself if that is true for YOU. Do you consider yourself an Easter person? Even if you don't literally sing, does the way you live your life reflect the joyful spirit of singing *Alleluia*?

As you journey through Lent and celebrate the Holy Triduum, culminating in Easter, participate in these liturgies in such a way it shapes who you become. The deep meaning of the Pope's reflection tells us that we rejoice, not because there are no problems, or the world is perfect. It tells us that because of Jesus and His resurrection, we rejoice *despite* the fact that there are problems and the world is not perfect.

Wouldn't it be great if every parishioner lived out that phrase, and people noticed? What a difference it would make. Indeed, let us be an Easter People and let Alleluia be our song!

God bless,

Msgr. Ken, Fr. Nestor, Fr. Walter, Fr. Cohan, Fr. Weezorak, Deacon Frank Campione, Deacon Joe Fiorillo, Deacon Phil Fiore, Deacon Ron Haunss, Deacon Richard Huegi, Deacon Pat Martin, Deacon Jim Petruskas, Deacon Rob Vidal, Deacon Joe Vivona, Deacon Steve Wagner, all their families and parish staff.





HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

PASSION/PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29

REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE FOR BOTH CHURCHES.
PALM AVAILABLE AFTER ALL MASSES.

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK, MARCH 30

CHRISM MASS AT ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE CHURCH IN FREEHOLD, 7:30 PM

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK, MARCH 31

7:00PM, SEVEN LAST WORDS – PRESENTATION BY DEACONS IN ST. MARY’S, BARNEGAT

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK, APRIL 1

CONFESSIONS FROM 6:00 – 7:00PM IN ST. MARY BARNEGAT

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2

NO 8:00 AM OR 9:00 AM MASS

4:00 PM, EVENING MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER IN ST. MARY OF THE PINES

7:30 PM, EVENING MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER IN ST. MARY’S CHURCH, BARNEGAT - FOLLOWED BY ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IN BOTH CHURCHES UNTIL MIDNIGHT. PERPETUAL ADORATION CEASES UNTIL AFTER THE EASTER VIGIL SO THE ADORATION CHAPEL WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL THEN.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3

NO 8:00 AM OR 9:00 AM MASS

3:00 PM, CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S PASSION IN BOTH CHURCHES.

7:30 PM, TRADITIONAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN
ST. MARY’S CHURCH, BARNEGAT

8:00PM LIVE STATIONS AT ST. MARY OF THE PINES.

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4

NO 8:00 AM OR 9:00 AM MASS

12 NOON: BLESSING OF FOOD OUTSIDE IN FRONT OF ST. MARY’S CHURCH, BARNEGAT

EASTER VIGIL – BLESSING OF FIRE, PASCHAL CANDLE, SPECIAL READINGS, CELEBRATION OF SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

8:00 PM IN BOTH CHURCHES

THERE IS NO 4:00 PM OR 5:30 PM MASS ON HOLY SATURDAY. THE FIRST MASS FOR EASTER, THE EASTER VIGIL, MUST BE AFTER DARK.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5

ST. MARY’S CHURCH, BARNEGAT: 8:00, 10:00 AND 12 NOON

ST. MARY OF THE PINES: 7:30, 9:00, 10:15, 11:30 AM AND 2:00 PM

THERE IS NO 5:00PM MASS ON EASTER SUNDAY

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

*Confessions on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00pm in St. Mary Barnegat during Lent from February 25 until April 1 of Holy Week.

*Saturday, March 28: continuous confessions available from 8:30 am until 4 pm in St. Mary's Church, Barnegat

*Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of Holy Week after the 8:00 am and 9:00 am Masses

*Good Friday, 8:00 pm after the Stations of the Cross in St. Mary's Church, Barnegat

*Holy Saturday, from 11:00 am to 12 Noon, from 3:00 to 4:00 pm in St. Mary's Church, Barnegat

Stations of the Cross: Every Friday in Lent, after the 8:00am and 9:00am Masses, 7:30pm in St. Mary's Church. February 20-April 3.



****Mark your calendars for these upcoming****

****SPECIAL EVENTS****

ALL SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION

FISH FRY

Every Friday during Lent, February 20-March 27
4:30-7:30pm in the Parish Center
sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

February 20th *** February 27th *** March 6th ***
March 13th *** March 20th *** March 27th





LENTEN RETREAT
MARCH 8 SEVEN SORROWS
ST. MARY OF THE PINES 6:45PM

*Lenten Day of Prayer
Nailing of the Cross
March 9 in St. Mary of the Pines 7:00pm*



SENIOR SPIRITUALITY DAY
MARCH 11, APRIL 8, MAY 13 & JUNE 10
@ 1:00PM IN ST. MARY BARNEGAT

*Family Promise Pocketbook Bingo
MARCH 21 in the Parish Center*



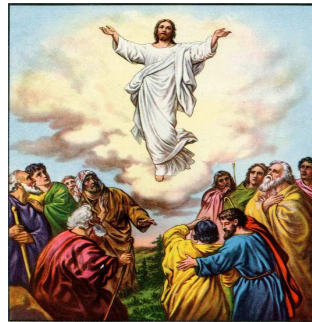


EASTER EGG HUNT & BREAKFAST
March 29
IN THE PARISH CENTER

MIRACLE MONDAY
MARCH 30, APRIL 27,
MAY 25, JUNE 29, JULY 27
4-7pm
ST. MARY, BARNEGAT



EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 5



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY HOLY HOUR
Sunday, April 12TH at 3:00 pm
in St. Mary of the Pines

PRE CANA
APRIL 25, IN PARISH CENTER



GIVE TO GROW:

St. Mary Academy Annual Gift Auction

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

St. Mary of the Pines Parish Center, Manahawkin

The Annual Gift Auction is one of our school's largest fundraisers. Last year we had over 300 people in attendance and made \$28,000! Our goal is to exceed last year's total to raise money for capital improvements and academic enrichment for the school.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: May 2ND & 9TH

MAY CROWNING

MAY 3 AT THE 9:00 AM MASS IN ST. MARY OF THE PINES



ANNUAL "BLUE MASS"

To honor and pray for all those in law enforcement and fire and emergency services. We will remember all those who have died.

TUESDAY, MAY 11 1:15 pm in St. Mary of the Pines Church
with students of St. Mary Academy



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUMMER PROGRAM:

JUNE 22-26

9:00am until 1:00 pm in the Parish Center

LIGHT OF THE WORLD RETREAT

July 11 & 12 in the Parish Center

The Light of the World Ministry in St. Mary's Parish (as well as parishes throughout the country and the world) helps parishioners form a deeper, more personal relationship with Christ.



CARNIVAL
JULY 21-26



AUGUST 10-14

9:00am – 12noon in the Parish Center.

**SEPTEMBER 25
INTERFAITH POCKETBOOK BINGO
IN THE PARISH CENTER**



*October 15-17
ART SHOW
THE PARISH CENTER
10AM-4PM*

BLESSING OF ANIMALS - October 4th after the 11:30am Mass at the Parish Center. We will gather around the Bell Tower and the blessings will continue until 1:00pm.



MOTORCYCLE RUN

The Annual Bike Run to raise money and toys for Christmas will take place on Sunday, October 4th at Southern Regional H.S. on Rt. 9
Registration begins at 10:30 am.

ST. MARY ACADEMY

We are currently enrolling for the 2026-2027 school year.
Consider the benefits of a Catholic education.

- +Smaller class sizes!
- +One building from Pre-K to 8th Grade, which creates a welcoming atmosphere of family and community!
- +Traditional values and teaching our beautiful Catholic Faith!
- +Great academics, a caring and dedicated staff and the support of our parish family!
- +A great place for a child to learn and grow!
- +Tuition assistance is available!
- +Schedule a visit today and see for yourself what we have to offer – you will be amazed! 609-597-3800



COMING SOON

PEACEFUL DOVE GIFT SHOP

****REMEMBER ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE
PATH MINISTRY FOR THE HOMELESS.**





ST. MARY'S
"NIGHTS OF SUMMER" CARNIVAL
July 21st - 26th
6:00 - 10:30 PM EACH NIGHT

At the Parish Center
behind St. Mary of the Pines
at the corner of McKinley Ave. and Bishop Ln.



There is **no admission** charge for the carnival.
Parking is FREE! Ample parking around the Parish Center,
Church and St. Mary Academy!!

Free entertainment every night in the Parish Center

Super Cash Raffle - Gift Basket Raffle - Dunk Tank

Great food at low prices!

