Dear Parishioners:

Everyone knows that COVID 19 has changed our lives. One of the ways we have felt its’ effects is in the Church. Attendance is understandably down and we have missed many of the regular experiences from First Communions to the Carnival.

I’d like to issue a challenge to me and you. **I suggest that we stop thinking of our Faith as locked down and instead as opened up!** What does that mean?

**I’m not suggesting that we ignore guidelines or violate rules.** That understood, we need to realize that my Faith should be as strong as ever. Remember the early Christians? They faced the fiercest lock-downs – persecution and threat of death. Their Faith grew stronger, not less. We can do the same!

How? While we currently may not be able to physically attend Mass, I can and should attend Mass each week – on television or live-streaming. There is absolutely nothing preventing me from doing so. **I can and should attend Mass each week, and be even more focused and prayerful! Try it.**

Nothing can prevent me from praying! I can pray at home, every day. I can read about my Catholic faith and grow. I can read the Bible. In fact, if I’m spending more time at home, this may be a great time to expand my prayer life, my study life, my reading. **We don’t have to become monks, but we can use our time to grow in the Faith.**

**Nothing can stop my generosity.** In fact, so many parishioners have continued to support the parish, and other charities, through the mail or on-line. They have disproven the adage, “out of sight, out of mind.” They have remained steadfast. You can give, within your means, even if you can’t physically attend Mass.

You can share the Faith. Certainly, with all that is happening, people are questioning and looking for answers. We have the answer! **This is a perfect time to witness to our Faith in a beautiful and loving way, because people are perhaps more open than they have ever been.**

So, as we approach Easter, let us no longer think of ourselves as locked-down or limited. Let us see ourselves as stronger than ever, more committed than ever, more faithful than ever. Let us see ourselves for what we are, resurrected and alive in Jesus!

**HAPPY EASTER!**

In Christ,

Msgr. Ken, Fr. Nestor, Fr. Walter, Fr. Cohan, Deacon Frank Campione, Deacon Joe Fiorillo, Deacon Phil Fiore, Deacon Ron Haunss, Deacon Pat Martin, Deacon Jim Petrauskas, Deacon Joe Vivona, Deacon Steve Wagner, all their families and parish staff.
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

PASSION/PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28
Regular Mass schedule for both churches.
Palm available after all Masses.

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK, MARCH 29
Chrism Mass at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Freehold, 7:30 pm

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK, MARCH 30
7:00 pm, Seven Last Words – Presentation by Deacons in St. Mary’s, Barnegat

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK, MARCH 31
Confessions from 6:30 – 7:30 pm in St. Mary of the Pines

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 1
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 2
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 & St. Mary of the pines.

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 3
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 4
St. Mary’s Church, Barnegat: 8:00, 10:00 and 12 Noon
St. Mary of the Pines: 7:30, 9:00, 10:15 and 11:30 AM
There is no 5:00 pm Mass on Easter Sunday
CONFESSION SCHEDULE

*Confessions on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 7:30pm in St. Mary of the Pines during Lent from February 24 until March 31 of Holy Week.

*Saturday, March 27: continuous confessions available from after 8:00 am Mass 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, after the 7:30 pm 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

**Mark your calendars for these upcoming**

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

ALL SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION

Stations of the Cross: Every Friday in Lent, after the 8:00am and 9:00am Masses, 7:30pm in St. Mary’s Church.

MARCH 9TH ~ CONFIRMATION

SENIOR SPIRITUALITY DAY
MARCH 10, 2021
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY HOLY HOUR
Sunday, April 11TH at 3:00 pm
in St. Mary’s Church, Barnegat

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.
Monday, April 26, 1:15 pm in St. Mary of the Pines Church
with students of St. Mary Academy

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: May 1st & 8th

MAY CROWNINGS
May 2 at the 9:00 am Mass in St. Mary of the Pines
May 9 at the 12 noon Mass in St. Mary’s Church

BLESSING OF THE WAVES: June 19th - Annual Mass at 10:00am
on the beach at Maris Stella Retreat Center in Harvey Cedars.
Youth Ministry summer kick-off event.
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUMMER PROGRAM:
July 13-22. Tentative (subject to cancellation)
9:00am until 12noon in the Parish Center

LIGHT OF THE WORLD RETREAT
July 31ST & August 1ST 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.

AUGUST 9-13
9:00am – 12noon in the Parish Center.

September 19
St. Mary Academy 20th Anniversary of School Building
11:30 Mass with Bishop

YOUTH MINISTRY BONFIRE – October 9th at the parish center, the annual gathering of Youth Ministries from our neighboring parishes with the lighting of the Bonfire, food, and special activities.
BLESSING OF ANIMALS - October 3rd 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 3rd at Southern Regional H.S. on Rt. 9
Registration begins at 10:30 am.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES ARE TO OPEN TENTATIVELY ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

ST. MARY ACADEMY
We are currently enrolling for the 2021-2022 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!
ST. MARY’S
“NIGHTS OF SUMMER” CARNIVAL
July 6TH – 11TH
6:00 – 10:30 PM EACH NIGHT

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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!!

| Rides: Pay-One-Price wristbands available each night! |
| Check local papers or website for coupon discounts for |
| Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday |

Free entertainment every night in the Parish Center

Super Cash Raffle - Gift Basket Raffle - Dunk Tank

*****
Great food at low prices!
Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

PEACEFUL DOVE GIFT SHOP

Saturday & Sunday
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Gifts for all occasions!
Come on in and browse and see our beautiful items!

**Remember all proceeds benefit the needs of the poor.**

609-660-2400