

**Mass Intentions**  
**Week of February 11, 2018**  
 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

***Masses for the Week***

Monday 7 PM	<b>February 12, 2018</b> Mass Association
Tuesday 8 AM	<b>February 13, 2018</b> Kathleen Guiamano
Wednesday 8 AM 6 PM	<b>February 14, 2018</b> Laura Horas Paul Chrzaszcz
Thursday 8 AM	<b>February 15, 2018</b> Intentions of Charlie Zammit
Friday 8 AM 7 PM	<b>February 16, 2018</b> Communion Service Stations of the Cross
Saturday 4 PM	<b>February 17, 2018</b> Patrick Cleary
Sunday 8 AM 10 AM 12 PM	<b>February 18, 2018</b> <i>First Sunday of Lent</i> The Kusic Family Our Parishioners Paul Chrzaszcz

**Weekly Collection / Food Certificates**

**Last Weekend's Regular Collection: \$10,293**

Food certificates purchased last week: **\$950**  
 St. Mary's profit for 2017 / 2018 to date: **\$1,353**

We wish to thank everyone who supports our Parish! Special thanks to those who remember us even when they are away. We could not possibly meet our financial obligations and make necessary repairs without your regular and generous participation in the temporal side of our community life. If you do not receive weekly offering envelopes, please contact the Parish Office.

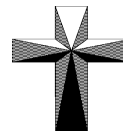
**Helping Hands**



All are cordially invited to join us in St. Pat's Hall on Saturdays, February 10 and 24, from 5:30 – 8 p.m., to help those in need by cutting coupons for the men and women overseas, decorating

occasion cards and crocheting/knitting/looming scarves, baby blankets and lap blankets. Some of whom we serve are the patients/residents of JFK Hospital and the Veterans' Home in Edison, the Venetian Care Center, the homeless and Pro-Life organizations. For more information, please call Natalie at 732-425-8727.

**Mass Association**  
**February 12, 2018**



**New Enrollment**

Deborah Sargeant  
 Raymond Sutter  
 Christine Jungblut  
 Schuyler Haywood  
 Carmen Yolanda Martinez  
 Lester Francis

*For the Intentions of Don Newton*

**Special Mention**

Kathleen Guiamano  
 Maria Perreta  
 Thomas A. Farbaniec  
 John Gruba  
 Francis J. Malik

**Sanctuary Lamp**

The Sanctuary Lamp is Lit This Week in Loving Memory of

**Margaret Youkoski**

On Her One-Year Anniversary in Heaven  
 From: Her Granddaughter and Her Husband,  
 Susan and Joe Chesakis

**Wine and Hosts**

The Wine and Hosts Used at all Masses This Weekend  
 Have Been Donated in Loving Memory of

**Margaret Youkoski**

On Her One-Year Anniversary in Heaven  
 From: Her Daughter and Son-in-Law,  
 Margaret and Jerry McKitish

**Marian Lamp**

The Marian Lamp is Lit This Week in Loving Memory of

**Margaret Youkoski**

On Her One-Year Anniversary in Heaven  
 From: Her Granddaughter and Her Husband,  
 Kristen and Joey Yankoski  
 And Her Great-Granddaughter, Adeline



***This Wednesday, February 14,  
 is Ash Wednesday.  
 Masses will be celebrated at  
 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.***

### Lenten Obligations

So that the Church of Metuchen may be spiritually one in a common observance of Lent, the following days of fast and abstinence are to be observed by all Catholics of the Diocese who enjoy the blessings of good health:

1. The days of fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.
3. From the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday until the celebration of the Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday, the Easter fast should be observed so that, with uplifted and welcoming hearts, we may be ready to celebrate the joys of the Resurrection. This ancient tradition, intimately connected with the *Rites of Holy Week* and the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, is encouraged, especially in those places baptizing catechumens at the Easter Vigil.

The obligation to fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59. To fast in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal during the day so as to experience hunger.

The obligation of abstinence affects all Catholics who have reached the age of 14. Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat.

The obligation of fast and abstinence, as a whole, is a serious obligation. While failure to observe any penitential day in itself may not be considered serious, the failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of them without good cause, would be considered a grave matter. Those unable to abstain for a valid reason on any given Friday of Lent are asked to perform some other penitential act, or to abstain on another day.

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament



St. Mary's will be having Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the church from 3 – 7 p.m. each Monday during Lent, beginning on Monday, February 26, and ending on Monday, March 26. Please come and spend a little time in "thanksgiving" for all that the Lord has given us. If you are available for one hour, please consider signing up to be with

Our Lord during this time. It is truly an honor to be part of this special ministry. Please contact Rita at 732-588-5272 to sign-up or if you have questions.

### Thank You!

We would like to extend a big **thank you** to the St. Mary Senior Citizens who purchased \$1,700 in food certificates at their last meeting, giving St. Mary's a profit of \$85!



### St. Mary Church's Lenten Schedule

Mondays 3 – 7 p.m.	(February 26 – March 26) Eucharistic Adoration
Fridays 7 p.m.	(February 16 – March 23) Stations of the Cross
Saturday, March 24 11 a.m.	Parish Penance Service
Thursday, March 29 9 a.m. 7 p.m. 10 p.m.	Holy Thursday Morning Prayer Mass of the Lord's Supper Choral Night Prayer
Friday, March 30 9 a.m. 3 p.m.	Good Friday Morning Prayer Good Friday Service
Saturday, March 31 1 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Holy Saturday Blessing of Food Easter Vigil Mass
Sunday, April 1 8 a.m. 10 a.m. 12 p.m.	Easter Sunday Easter Mass Easter Mass Easter Mass



### Viking Danube River Cruise

*Eight Days, Beginning July 14, 2019*



Join us for an 8-day cruise (no hotel hopping) to Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary! Our previous trips have been very successful with making new friends, enjoying

lots of laughter, plenty of partying and whatever else comes along with an awesome group of people.

### 2017 Contribution Statement Requests

If you would like to receive a statement of your church contribution totals for the year 2017, please provide a **stamped**, self-addressed envelope (with your collection envelope number indicated) to the Parish Office. You may submit your request via the collection basket.

**2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal**  
*Lighting a Fire in the Heart of Our World*

Two weeks ago, Bishop Checchio mailed you a letter announcing the 2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal. The campaign will again be conducted during Lent and our parish can earn a rebate of 50% of the amount collected over goal.

Through your support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal, you help those in our diocese whose needs are the greatest – the poor, the homeless and those struggling with illness or grief. Among other needed pastoral ministries, your gift also supports our priority ministries of Evangelization and Communication and enhances the work of forming our youth. The many pastoral, educational and charitable ministries of the Diocese of Metuchen would not be possible without a generous contribution from every household. Please be as generous as your means allow.

Twenty-four percent – \$1.7 million dollars – of the funds raised by the 2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal is earmarked for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. Through more than 100 programs, Catholic Charities serves those most in need of our assistance. If you have yet to make your pledge to this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal, you will have the opportunity to do so the weekend of February 24/25, which has been designated as **Bishop's Annual Appeal In-Pew Weekend**. Help us reach our target of 100% participation. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated.

**Pro-Life Lenten Baby Shower**

The Parish Pro-Life baby shower begins next week. Gifts will go directly to the Action Pregnancy Center in New Brunswick. Please see today's bulletin insert for details.



**Papal Reflections**



Looking for love? How's your love life? With Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday on the same day, does Pope Francis have the answers for you!

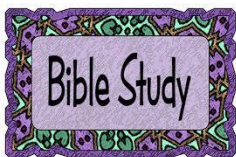
“God gives us in Christ the guarantee of an indestructible love...and it is possible for each one of us, if we allow ourselves to be suffused with God's love, which is given to us for the first time in baptism by means of the Holy Spirit. Let us allow ourselves to be invaded by God's love! This is the great time of mercy! Do not forget it: this is the great time of mercy!”

~ Pope Francis

Infused with God's love, reach out to others to come home to God, to come home to Mass and Adoration and other Lenten practices at St. Mary's. Come home to Love!

**Scripture Study**

*Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible*



An easy beginning point to see the story of salvation history from Creation to Christ. Come take this helicopter ride over the Bible starting this Thursday, February 15, at 2 p.m., in the Religious

Education Office in the school. No workbooks, no fee. Just fun and fellowship. Contact Doris at 732-727-6434 for more information.

**Open Mic Night**

*Friday, February 23*



The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 is hosting an Open Mic Night on Friday, February 23, at 8 p.m., at the Council Home (308 Fourth Street) in South Amboy. Bring your talent and your fan club! Groups and soloists are invited. Instruments and refreshments will be available. For more information, please call 732-721-2025.

**Music at Saint Mary's**

*Carolyn Enger, Pianist – February 18, at 4 p.m.*

Making her debut performance at St. Mary's, pianist, Carolyn Enger, has gained critical acclaim for her lyrical and dynamic playing, her deeply felt interpretations of works from Beethoven and Schubert to contemporary music, and her warm personal approach. Ms. Enger has a special gift for creating original and intriguing programs that range from European masterworks to fresh discoveries. A meet-the-artist reception will follow the concert.



**Free Viewing of Lenten Movie, "Risen"**

*Sunday, February 25, at 3 p.m.*

The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 is hosting a free viewing of the Biblical movie, "Risen", the story of the Resurrection as seen through the eyes of a non-believer Roman Tribune. Doors open at 3 p.m., and the movie starts at 3:30 p.m. A children's movie will be shown at the same time upstairs at the Hall. A pasta dinner will be served after the movie. The cost for the dinner is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children ages 4 – 12 and free for children under 4 years of age. Proceeds will be donated to the Sacred Heart Seniors Memorial Hall chairlift fund. For more information, please call 732-721-2025.





## Pro – Life Lenten Baby Shower

During the season of Lent, a time of renewal and spiritual growth, many look for opportunities to aid those in distress. Once again this Lent, Saint Mary’s Parish will sponsor a baby shower to benefit the Action Pregnancy Center, located in New Brunswick. This center was recommended to us through the Diocesan Pro-Life Commission. This center provides confidential counseling and assistance to those facing, for whatever reason, a problem pregnancy. We would like to assist them in providing baby clothes and supplies to those in need of their services.

Items requested vary from last year, so please take note: **No used clothes and no stuffed animals / toys. Please do not gift wrap items and do not use gift bags. Please bring your gifts in the bag from the store.**

Needed items include: Disposable diapers, bibs, shirts, onesies, receiving blankets, blanket sleepers, crib sheets and blankets, lap pads, towel sets, sweater sets, wipes, powder, lotion and any baby clothes **up to size 4T**.

On the first and second weekends of Lent, a basket of eggs (sign of new life) will be placed at the church entrance. On each egg will be written a specific item requested. Please purchase that item and return the egg with your gift. A bassinet will be provided at the church entrance on the third and fourth weekends of Lent for your donations.

Monetary donations (checks only) will also be accepted. Please make checks out to “Action Pregnancy Center” and **not** to Saint Mary’s Church. Please enclose checks in an envelope and place in the bassinet. Occasionally, specific items are needed for a particular baby. Monetary donations will help in such cases.

The Action Pregnancy Center can be reached at 732-828-1166 if you have any questions or needs.

