

Roses for Mary

April 2024



Palm Cross Sale
by Christine Chadwick



Even though Palm Sunday came early this year on March 24, 2024, that didn't stop the ladies of St. Joseph's Rosary Altar Society from holding their annual Palm Cross Sale after the Masses March 16th, 17th, 23rd, and 24th!



For over 25 years, we have been selling beautiful handmade Palm Crosses to our parish. Each cross is accented with a flower and colorful bows.

The customers appreciate the sale of Palm Cross at the parish, which brings peace and comfort. Accordingly, Palm is the symbol of peace and victory! We extend that peace in service by being imitators of Jesus through Mary.

The gospel of Matthew says..".the crowds who strewed Palm branches before him crying out and saying: 'Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed in he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest.'" Mat 21:8-9

We had a good time coming together for a good cause. Another successful year. Thanks for all who support this event.

Special thanks goes out to Chairpersons, Christine Shenouda and Bernadette Manno for all their time and hard work they did one fantastic job. Kudos for pulling off another successful year of the selling of the Palm Crosses at St. Joseph's Church!



Rosarians pictured above: Christine Shenouda, Bernadette Manno, Olivia Carlisle and Eleanor Phelps





Parish Mission



The St. Joseph Parish Mission was led by Father Kevin MacDonald, a Redemptorist priest from St. Alphonso Retreat House in Long Branch. Many attended Father Kevin's talks and not all were from St. Joseph. Father Kevin was very welcoming to all!



Father Kevin made Jesus in the Eucharist more personal. Eucharist is a kiss and embrace from Jesus.

Here are thoughts from some sister Rosarian on their mission experience:

This was my first mission. I totally enjoyed the approach taken, the silent time for reflection. Fr. Kevin's kind nature and storytelling brought me into my own thoughts, cares and concerns. My Eucharistic devotion was definitely raised to a new level. ~Celeste Michielli

The Parish Mission last week was a beautiful reflection on the Eucharist. I know it was a lot of work for the parish clergy and staff, right on the heels of the Sacred Triduum. And for me, I did grumble a bit that I was going to be at church every night that week. But, every night I stepped into the church, I was quieted and comforted as I was reminded, again and again, that Jesus IS present, His real presence, and He waits lovingly for us to share in the Peace of his Presence. I will be praying for Father Kevin and all the Redemptorists that they continue to

touch hearts and souls with their mission work. ~Mary Gethard

I thought Father Kevin was very relatable. He got to the point, was humorous and his short stories made it interesting and easy to stay focused. He is an excellent speaker and will be a tough act to follow for the next parish missionary. ~Christine Shenouda

To me it was very peaceful, touched my heart. Father Kevin's homilies on "Guilt" and "The Mass" were especially memorable. Bring him back. ~Catherine Lauten

Father Kevin Macdonald was absolutely amazing as he spoke to us from the heart of Jesus. ❤️ I will treasure his words about the eucharist when he said every time you receive Jesus, you're receiving a kiss and hug from him. How powerful is that? The 3-day mission definitely brought me more closer to Jesus than I was before. His divine presence is truly always with us. ~Theresa Pulvano

The Parish Mission was so uplifting. Fr. Kevin truly led me into a spiritual Holy Week. One of the many things I am taking away from this mission is his reference that the Eucharist is a kiss from God and his explanation of the mass in one of his morning homilies. If you missed it, I posted it on my Facebook page. Thank you, Fr. Kevin MacDonald, for your inspirational words and your closing blessing. ~Joann D'Anton





Comfortable Cup of Tea



It's time for our annual Comfortable Cup of Tea. So, what is the Comfortable Cup of Tea?

Sister Rosemary Hudak, RSM introduced this idea to the women of St. Joseph's Parish. The title comes from a tradition of the Sisters of Mercy, being handed down through the years. The Foundress of the order Mother Catherine McAuley was near death and, typical of her caring nature, she was concerned for her Sisters who had labored so long in tending to her. She suggested that soon as she passed away, the sisters should sit down and have a "comfortable cup of tea." The legacy focuses on hospitality and nourishment for both the body and spirit. In every convent of Sisters of Mercy there is that sense of hospitality in the presence of a teapot prominently displayed.

Sister Rosemary as Pastoral Ministry Director, arranged the first "Tea" open to all women of the parish. The format includes a guest speaker who will talk on topics relevant to women's spiritual lives. Each woman is encouraged to bring her own teacup, perhaps one that has special meaning, and she may want to share the story of the teacup.



After a brief period of gathering, the speaker is introduced. Following the talk the women are invited to form small circles to dialogue about the subject of the talk, coming back into the larger group a blessing is offered.

During circle time the hostesses prepare the tea and cookies to be served. It is best to keep the refreshments simple, usually homemade treats that do not require forks. Although not required, most hostesses present a small token favor for the guests to take home.

The Rosary Altar Society has taken this project on to take place one a year. This year the Comfortable Cup of Tea will take place on Wednesday, April 17th at 7 pm.



Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage



Join the area wide Rosary Altar Societies for a Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience hosted by St. Joseph on Saturday, June 1st at 9:30 am. Volunteers from the North American Lourdes will present a 2-hour Virtual Pilgrimage Experience to Lourdes, France.



During the tour, you will be immersed in the Message of Lourdes given by Our Lady to St. Bernadette and have the opportunity to touch the Grotto Rock and the healing grace of Lourdes Water. As part of this spiritual experience to draw nearer to God with Our Lady and St. Bernadette, you will receive a Eucharistic blessing, pray a candlelight Rosary, and receive a bottle of Lourdes Water. A Plenary Indulgence will be granted by Papal Decree.

There is no admission fee, however a free-will offering will be taken. For more information, call the Parish Office at 732-349-0018 x 2223.



Day of Recollection



Need a spiritual boost or a day of women fellowship? Consider joining the Rosarians at the Rae Zrinsky Day of Recollection at St. Joseph by the Sea in Mantoloking on Thursday, May 16th from 9:30 to 2:30.

The day includes a continental breakfast, lunch, a morning talk, a chance for confession, Rosary recitation, and Mass. The speaker will be Father Dean Gaudio.

St. Joseph by the Sea is peaceful and with beach access, you can experience God in the near the ocean.



The cost for the day is \$50 for Rosarians and \$60 for Non-Rosarians. Checks should be made to St. Joseph Rosary Altar Society and should be mailed to:

Mary Gethard
330 Marc Drive
Toms River, NJ 08753

Have questions, contact Mary at 732-664-7062. Payment/headcount needed by May 10th.



In Remembrance...
Millie Voll



Special Thanks to...



Christine Chadwick, Christine Shenouda, Bernadette Manno, Celeste Michielli, Mary Gethard, Catherine, Theresa Pulvano, and Joann D'Anton.



Social Concerns Ministry Fundraiser



Do you want to have an evening of fellowship, fun, live music by the "Where's Judy Band" all while helping our brothers and sisters in need through the St. Joseph Social Concerns Ministry? Come join the fun on Saturday, April 13th from 7 – 10 pm at the Donovan Cafeteria.

Tickets are \$15 and are being sold after the Mass on April 6th and 7th. You can also contact Ann 732-473-9727 or Debbie at 732-773-4507 for tickets.

Bring your own beverages and snacks. Coffee, tea, and dessert will be provided.

100% of the proceeds will be used by the St. Joseph Church Social Concerns Ministry.



Save the Date:



04/07 9 am	Rosarian Mass
04/07 10 am	Rosarian Monthly Meeting
04/13 7 pm	Social Concerns Ministry Fundraiser
04/17 7 pm	Comfortable Cup of Tea Donovan Catholic Cafeteria
05/05 9 am	Rosarian Mass
05/05 10 am	Rosarian Monthly Meeting
05/13 9 am	Our Lady of Fatima Rosary after 9 am Mass
05/16 9:30 am	Rae Zrinsky Day of Recollection St. Joseph by the Sea
06/01 9:30am	Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage