



# BLESSED MIRIAM TERESA

## *A Call to Holiness*

### Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich Parish



## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

And the Word became flesh  
and made his dwelling  
among us,  
and we saw his glory,  
the glory as of the Father's  
only Son,  
full of grace and truth.  
- Jn 1:14

Excerpta from the Lectio for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. BLP

#### PARISH OFFICE

326 Avenue C  
Bayonne, NJ 07002  
Mon. - Fri.: 9:30 - 1:00; 2:00 - 6:00  
Sat. - Sun.: Closed  
(201) 437-4090  
(201) 437-0388 (fax)  
secretary@BMTParish.org  
Website: BMTParish.org  
Facebook: BMTParish

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**All Saints Catholic Academy**  
19 West 13th Street  
Bayonne, NJ 07002  
(201) 443-8384  
Mr. John Rios, *Interim Principal*  
jrios@ascabayonne.org

#### EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES

<b>Mon.-Fri.:</b>	6:30am SM	9:00am SA
<b>Sat.:</b>	9:00am SA	4:00pm SA (Anticipated)
<b>Sun.:</b>	7:30am SM	9:00am SA
	10:30am SM	12:00pm SM (Español)
<b>Holy Days:</b>	6:30am SM	9:00am SA 7:00pm SA

#### PARISH STAFF

<b>Rev. Philip Sanders</b>	<i>Pastor</i>
<b>Rev. Johan Betancourt</b>	<i>Parochial Vicar</i>
<b>Rev. Msgr. Joseph Reilly</b>	<i>Weekend Associate</i>
<b>Philomena Coco</b>	<i>Faith Formation</i>
<b>Patrick Costello</b>	<i>Parish Trustee</i>
<b>Vivian Crespo</b>	<i>Office Manager</i>
<b>Janet Cymbor</b>	<i>Parish Trustee</i>
<b>Frank Fano</b>	<i>Music Director</i>
<b>Paige Porter</b>	<i>Cantor</i>
<b>Marge Russo</b>	<i>Choir Director</i>
<b>Hector Soto</b>	<i>Maintenance</i>
<b>Regina Terriogo</b>	<i>Bookkeeper</i>

#### WORSHIP SITES

**St. Mary, Star of the Sea**  
326 Avenue C

**St. Andrew the Apostle**  
2 West 4th Street

#### RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:00 - 4:00, St. Andrew Church  
*or by appointment*

#### BAPTISM

Children of registered parishioners are eligible for the Sacrament of Baptism which is normally celebrated on the 2nd Saturday of the month (alternating between St. Mary and St. Andrew) except during the Lenten season. Contact the parish office via email at [baptism@BMTParish.org](mailto:baptism@BMTParish.org).

#### PASTORAL CARE FOR THE SICK

Any parishioner unable to attend Mass may contact the rectory to make arrangements to receive the Eucharist at home.

#### MARRIAGES

Arrangements should be started at least one year in advance for the necessary preparation. Parish registration of either the bride or groom is required.

#### PARISH REGISTRATION

Registration is required of all who wish to consider themselves to be parishioners at Bl. Miriam Theresa Demjanovich Parish. *Census forms and collection envelopes are available at the office.*

#### DEVOTIONS

**Miraculous Medal Novena:**  
Tuesdays after 9:00 Mass

**Morning Prayer:**  
Weekdays before 9:00 Mass

**Communal Rosary:**  
Weekdays after 9:00 Mass

**1st Saturday Eucharistic Adoration**  
3:00 - 4:00 (St. Andrew)  
Benediction following 4:00 Mass

**Weekly Eucharistic Adoration**  
7:00 - 8:00 pm (St. Mary)

## December 25 - 26, 2021

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## Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich Parish

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### Notes from the Pastor

Merry Christmas! If memory serves me, last year during our reduced-attendance Christmas Masses, I preached about the fact that “We need a little Christmas!” 2020 had been a really tough year. We still need a little Christmas this year because 2021 has presented its own set of issues. One of the beauties of Christmas is that Our Savior’s birth always warms our hearts. Christmas gives us hope that everything is going to be OK. And, it will!

While I am pleased to welcome everyone to our celebrations, especially those who were unable to join us last year, I am particularly happy to welcome those who may not be with us on a regular basis.

This weekend’s bulletin is different than usual. Instead of the usual weekly announcements, we have a series of articles that I hope will be helpful to those who might need the information. If you should have any questions, please don’t hesitate to send me an email or give me a call. God bless and Merry Christmas!

### Catholic Life...

**Question:** I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

**Answer:** If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God’s grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

### Baptism/Confirmation Sponsors

The Church, indeed, every parish, has a singular mission: to make Saints. She fulfills her mission through catechesis and the celebration of the Sacraments. In order to live a sacramental life, one needs to be initiated and that begins with Baptism and is completed with the reception of Holy Communion and Confirmation. Living a Christian life is not something that just happens through catechesis and the reception of the Sacraments. The Church has always recognized the need for new Christians to have someone who can serve as a mentor, someone to show the new Christian how to live the faith in concrete ways, usually by example. For this reason, the Universal Church has some basic requirements for individuals who would like to sponsor someone else’s initiation. The requirements are generally an ex-

pression of the old adage: “You can’t give what you don’t have”.

To begin, sponsors must be at least 16 years old and they cannot be a parent of the person being sponsored. The remaining criteria include: they must have received all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation); they need to be living a life in harmony with Christ’s teaching, including attending Mass on a weekly basis; and, if they are married, they need to be in a sacramental marriage, that is, married in the Church. If the person meets all of the criteria, we gladly issue the certificate. Sometimes, we are unable to issue the certificate until the candidate removes the obstacles that prevent us from issuing it.

Anyone who has not received the Sacrament of Confirmation should do so in anticipation of the possibility of being asked to be a sponsor. Preparing for Confirmation is at least a year-long process with classes usually beginning in the Fall. Look for bulletin announcements in the Summer.

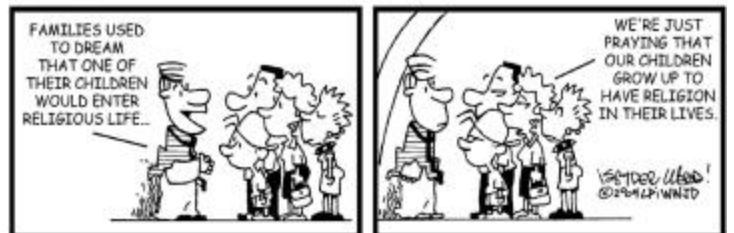
If the proposed sponsor is married, it is necessary for the marriage to be a sacramental marriage. The reason is quite simple: since Marriage is one of the seven Sacraments, the Church has the unique authority to celebrate it for Catholics. Therefore, civil marriages for Catholics are invalid. This has been true since the Council of Trent.

Most Catholics attempt marriage outside the Church for one of two reasons. They are either unaware of the need to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony or they are impeded from celebrating the sacrament because a previous marriage has not been annulled. *These problems can be fixed!* If both parties are free to marry, meaning there are no previous marriages that need to be annulled, the couple simply needs to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage. The celebration can be quite simple: the bride and groom and two witnesses.

If one of the parties is still in a sacramental marriage that needs to be annulled, that person should contact the Archdiocesan Tribunal (see the following article) and take appropriate steps. If an annulment is necessary, it may take a while for the process to take place. Sometimes these obstacles seem insurmountable, but they’re not. They can be resolved, but they can’t be overlooked. The priests are always available to help remove whatever obstacles may present themselves.

Finally, potential sponsors need to be practicing their faith by going to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. It is hard to imagine having a mentor at work who never interacts with the company they work for. The person being mentored will only advance in the company with great difficulty. Parishes usually verify Mass

HOLY FAMILY



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## The Nativity of the Lord/The Feast of the Holy Family

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attendance by one of two ways. First, priests may not know everyone's name, but we do recognize faces. If the person attends Mass regularly, we see them every week during communion. If we don't recognize someone, we check their envelope usage, not for how much they give, but that they are using their envelopes on a regular basis. If an adult child, living at home, is old enough to be a sponsor, they are certainly old enough to be using their own envelopes!

Finally, in order to be recognized as a sponsor, the candidate should obtain a Sponsorship Certificate from the parish where they go to weekly Mass, not where they received their Sacraments of Initiation, unless they are one-and-the same parish.

### Marriage Annulments

The Sacrament of Marriage establishes a permanent bond that can only be broken by death, provided both parties truly want to enter into a marriage. Some marriages flourish while others "fail". Flourishing marriages prove the existence of the grace of marriage. Failed marriages give rise to the question as to whether the marriage failed because one of the parties did not truly want to enter into a marriage, thus preventing the bond from being established, or whether human sinfulness squandered the grace of the sacrament after the bond was legitimately established. This either/or situation requires competent individuals to evaluate the circumstances present on and before the wedding day. This is essentially the annulment procedure and its goal is to determine whether the bond could have been established. If not, it is determined that the marriage never took place because the bond was never established. Please understand, attempting a subsequent marriage, civil or sacramental, without a Decree of Nullity necessarily leads to an objectively grave situation.

It used to be necessary for the parish priest to process the necessary paperwork for an annulment on behalf of a parishioner. The Archdiocese recently changed that requirement in an effort to streamline the process. Anyone who would like to investigate the possibility of getting an annulment should now contact the Archdiocesan Tribunal directly. They will arrange for a brief phone interview during which they will evaluate the situation and advise the party how to proceed. The Tribunal can be reached at (973) 497-4145.

### Marriage Convalidation

It is our hope that civilly married couples will decide to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony and partake of the abundant graces Our Lord provides to married couples. Convalidation ceremonies can be as simple or elaborate as the couple desires. Not long ago, we celebrated the marriage of a couple who had been together for decades. It was a private ceremony and they brought their original witnesses from their civil ceremony. It was great! We've had couples marry at Sunday Mass and we've had others who have had full-blown weddings. Weddings are always joyous regardless of how big or small. Contact one of the priests if you'd like to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony.



*Not finding [Jesus], they returned to Jerusalem to look for Him. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard Him were astounded at His understanding and His answers. - Lk 2:45-47*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

### Parish Christmas Concert/Sing-a-long

Did you know that caroling burns 136 calories per hour, relieves stress and makes your spirits bright? Our small but dedicated band of choristers invites you to join them on Thursday, January 6, at 7:00 pm in St. Mary's Church to celebrate the joyous birth of our Savior. You're also invited to join them in the St. Joseph Room afterwards for the "after party" where you're sure to find some light snacks and great, fun, fellowship!

### Food Pantry

Rose Baccarella, Jackie Brown, Mary Regina Clancy, Mike Conklin, John Hughes, John Lewandowski, Cosimo Natale, Rod O'Handley, Marion C. Pennise, Marge Scott, Kenny Trinidad, Robert Weinel

### Prayer Requests

For those serving in the Military:

Joseph Barbarise, Vincent Barbarise, Brandon Materowski, Joseph Materowski, Brandon Picerno, Shawn Redondo, Jonathan Weeks

For those who are sick and suffering:

Gladys Astudillo, Ramiro Better, Dario Brito, Maureen Bodnar, Irma Brito, Hector Brito, Bernadette Burke, Victoria Cabello, Raymond Calvo, Daniel Cottler, Magaly Diaz, Ricky Earle, Dale Farrell, John Farrell, Irma Fernandez, Maria Fernandez, John Fitzpatrick, Karen Flar, Clare Gannon, Irma Gomez, Marilyn Joyce Hager, Nancy Herrera, Jeanette Jensen, Aaron Jones, Barbara Kelly, Anthony Kotowski, Bob Kudlacik, Fred Marques, Msgr. Larry Miller, Michael Morris, Vito Moscato, Kelly Nguyen, Sandra Ortega, Rita Paragone, Tyhesa Payne, Clara Pucciarelli, Argentina Rodriguez, Barbara Rotunno, Lorraine Seidel, Mitchell Seidel, Theresa Sullivan, Ralph Tedesco, Gregory Trapp, Humberto Valdez, John Wilson, James Wisely, Ezequiel Yost

For the Recently Deceased:

Christina Cilente, Gregory Morkevich

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## Bayonne, NJ

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### New Year's Masses

The Mass schedule for New Year's will be as follows:

#### Friday, December 31, 2021

4:00 pm St. Andrew English

#### Saturday, January 1, 2022

8:30 am St. Mary English  
10:00 am St. Andrew English  
11:30 am St. Mary Spanish

#### Sunday, January 2, 2022

Normal Sunday Mass Schedule

### Parish Office New Year's Schedule

The Parish Office will be closed from Friday, December 31, 2021 through Monday, January 3, 2022 for the New Year's Holiday. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 4, at 9:30 am.

### Faith Giving

As always, thank you for your continued generous support of the Parish!

**December 12: Sunday Collection \$6170**

The Collection for December 19th will be reported on January 2.

### Mark Your Calendar

Thurs., Jan. 6 Christmas Concert, 7:00 pm, St. Mary

Sat. Feb. 12 ASCA Gala, Chandelier Restaurant

## 2022 Calendar Club

Now available, 2022 Calendar Club Tickets! Each of the 300 tickets is \$120. One ticket will be drawn each month and the winner will be awarded \$1000. Each ticket is eligible to win every month. The drawings will take place at noon on the 15th of each month in the Parish Office. Return your order form/ payment to the Parish Office directly or in the Sunday Collection. Proceeds benefit the Grounds and Maintenance Fund. The first drawing will be January 15, 2022. Raffle tickets make great Christmas Gifts! In a local parish, one ticket was legitimately pulled four times this year! Maybe 2022 will be the year for someone at BMT to win really big!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$120 each.



<b>Sat., Dec. 25</b>	<b><i>The Nativity of the Lord</i></b>
8:30 am (St. Mary)	James and Mary Rowan
10:00 am (St. Andrew)	Luke Wade, Jr.
11:30 am (St. Mary)	Rafael y Pilar Lamela y familia
<b>Sun., Dec. 26</b>	<b><i>Feast of the Holy Family</i></b>
7:30 am (St. Mary)	Clare and Marybeth Powanda
9:00 am (St. Andrew)	<i>Pro Populo</i>
10:30 am (St. Mary)	Maureen O'Halloran
12:00 pm (St. Mary)	Catalina Figueroa
<b>Mon., Dec. 27</b>	<b><i>St. John</i></b>
9:00 am (St. Andrew)	Barbara LaMonica
<b>Tue., Dec. 28</b>	<b><i>The Holy Innocents</i></b>
6:30 am (St. Mary)	Eileen Kline
9:00 am (St. Andrew)	Jay Hughes and Barbara Snyder
<b>Wed., Dec. 29</b>	<b><i>St. Thomas Becket</i></b>
6:30 am (St. Mary)	Eileen Kline
9:00 am (St. Andrew)	Patrick Clancy
<b>Thu., Dec. 30</b>	<b><i>Weekday of Christmas</i></b>
6:30 am (St. Mary)	John Zelinski and Family
9:00 am (St. Andrew)	Mary Donohue
<b>Fri., Dec. 31</b>	<b><i>St. Sylvester I</i></b>
6:30 am (St. Mary)	Kathryn C. Byrne
9:00 am (St. Andrew)	Martha Kessler
4:00 pm (St. Andrew)	<i>Pro Populo</i>
<b>Sat., Jan. 1</b>	<b><i>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</i></b>
8:30 am (St. Mary)	Clement Anthony Bozewski
10:00 am (St. Andrew)	Luke Wade, Jr.
11:30 am (St. Mary)	In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Guadalupe
<b>Sun., Jan. 2</b>	<b><i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i></b>
7:30 am (St. Mary)	Nancy Daddi-Bello
9:00 am (St. Andrew)	William Velazquez
10:30 am (St. Mary)	<i>Pro Populo</i>
12:00 pm (St. Mary)	Jose Carlos Betancourt

### Memorials

#### St. Andrew

Sanctuary Lamp	Anthony Coco
Wine and Hosts	John and Kathleen Barry
Blessed Mother Lamp	Priests of BMT Parish
St. Joseph Lamp	Priests of BMT Parish

#### St. Mary

Sanctuary Lamp	Anthony Coco
Wine and Hosts	Marilyn and Daniel Duffy

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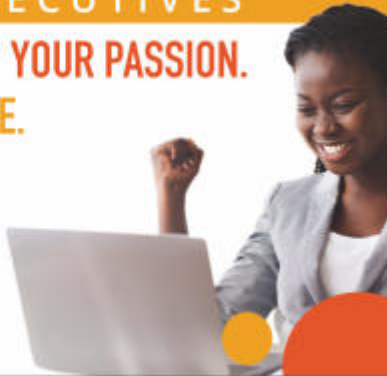
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