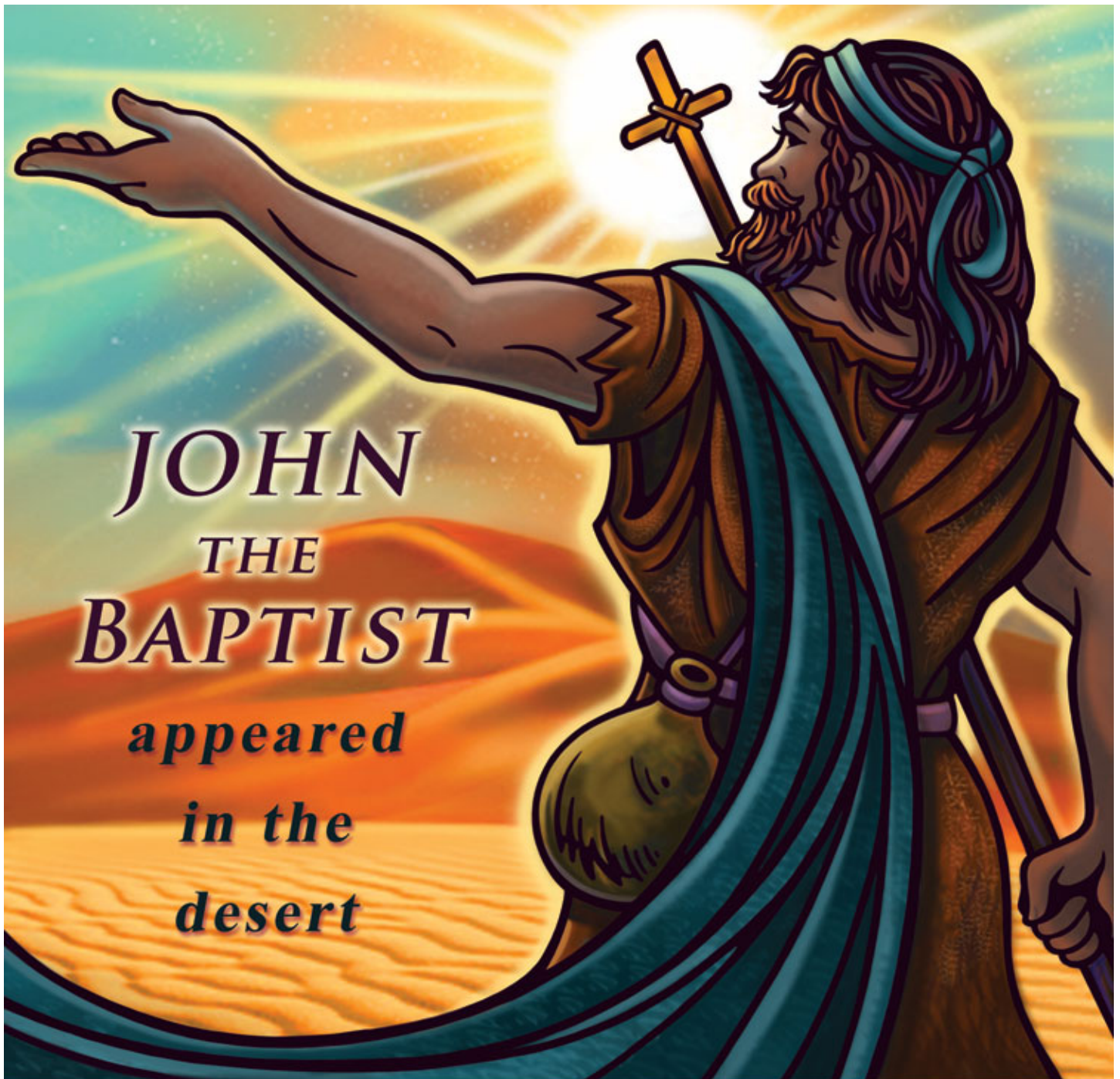


December 10, 2017
Second Sunday of Advent



JOHN
THE
BAPTIST
appeared
in the
desert

Stella Maris Catholic Church
Founded in the Marian Year 1954
2901 S. 10th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148
Website: www.stellamarisphila.com
E-mail: stellamarisparish@comcast.net

Rev. John R. Di Orio, Pastor
Rev. James F. Connelly, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. James T. McCabe, Parochial Vicar
Rectory: 215 465-2336
Convent: 215 462-1111

December 10, 2017
Second Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions For
The Week of December 10, 2017

Sunday—December 10

8:00 + Domenic Latorre
 9:30 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris
 11:00 + Saverio Greco

Monday—December 11

8:00 + Frank and Anna Palesano

Tuesday—December 12

8:00 + Amelia Iaconangelo

Wednesday—December 13

8:00 + Vincent C. Milione

Thursday—December 14

8:00 + Jose Genato

Friday—December 15

8:00 + Flordeliza Genato

Saturday—December 16

8:00 + Dennis Romolini Jr.
 5:00 + Jimmy DeRenzi

Sunday—December 17

8:00 + Deceased Friends
 9:30 + Carmen Potito
 11:00 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris

Church Sanctuary Lamp

In Memory of
 Cass and George McClain

At the Request of
 Kathy McClain



STELLA MARIS CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Christmas Giving Tree—Families in our area will be helped with gifts for children. Take a tag from the Christmas Tree in the vestibule, buy and wrap the gift, place the tag on the outside of the gift.



St. Francis Inn—This collection is for children's new toys and games (non-violent, PLEASE!) for St. Francis Inn (located in Kensington).

St. John's Hospice—Once again we will be helping the homeless men who receive services at St. John's Hospice and are in need of hats, gloves, scarves, socks, and underwear.

Dawn's Place—This is a residential program located here in Philadelphia, for women who have been trafficked. The Sisters of Saint Joseph and their staff work with the women to help them regain their self-respect and once again become contributing members of society. How to help? Gift certificates to Target, CVS, Rite Aide, Walgreens and Staples would be greatly appreciated.

Please place all outreach gifts in the marked containers in the church vestibule. The deadline for all outreach is next Sunday, December 17th.

Your support of these projects is greatly appreciated by these men, women and children. Thank you for your generosity.

God's Plan for Giving—Tithing—A Way of Life	
Collection for weekend of December 2 & December 3	
Income: Plate	=\$6,069.00 + AWC=\$105.00 = \$6,174.00
Bills Paid= Total Disbursements	= (\$9,363.74)
Total	= (\$3,189.74)

Living Stewardship-Living God's Word:

"Unlike those who were baptized by John, we were baptized 'with the Holy Spirit' (Mark 1:8) If that is so, then what sort of persons ought we to be? Like Isaiah, John, and Peter, we ought to be both heralding and 'hastening the coming of the day of God' (2Peter 3:12)."

Automated Withdrawal Contributions (AWC):

Your Church contributions can be electronically withdrawn monthly from your account and deposited directly to your parish. Your offering can be in any amount. Please call the Rectory for more information. Thank you!

Sick Relatives & Friends

Please pray for all the sick that they may be comforted:

Jeanette Albanese, Rosario Allia, Ed Alioto, Blaise Ambrosini, Dottie Arcuri, Neil Baldwin, Martha Basualdo, Raymond Baxter, Ralph Berarducci, Kelly Anne Bodine, Shyla Boetter, Emmanuel Borgesi, M/M Bracy, Donna Bria, Dominick Bucciarelli, Rose Cappetto, William Carbo, Grace Carchidi, Vincent Carchidi, Arthur Carrado, Doris Castagno, Elaine Cipparone, Sister Jeanne Crane SSJ, Sarah Croce, Donna Cunningham, Jill Daly, Antonio D'Angelo, Joanne DePena, Baby Matthew D'Imperio, Michael DeSumma, Charles DiMartini Jr., Lynn DiOrio, Teri DiOrio, Veronica Dolan, Marie Donato, Frederick Earlori, Trish Ezzie, Virginia Faulkner, Samuel Fiore, Clara Fioravanti, Russell Fiugalski, Marlene Flocco, Joan Gain, Evelyn Gardella, Keith Green, Maribel Guerrero, Margie Gurbuz, Carol Holman, Kimberly Honeschuck, Howard Horner III, Alice Idell, Lucy Intelisano, Ann Ippolito, Anthony Ippolito, Thomas P. Jones, Frank Kane, Vito LaFranci, Ronald Lalli, Samantha LaSpada, Petronella MacCarter, Kathleen Magnotta, Domenick Maiorano, Mario Marchetti, Marie Marino, Carmela Martini, Joe Martino, Tina Martino, Lilian Mattioli, Danielle McDevitt, Ernest Megali, Rita Mendicino, Louise Mento, Lucy Michielli, Kayla Minore, Florence Mooney, Cecelia Moore, Josephine Dolores Napoli, Philomena Nardello, Thomas Nardone, Baby Theodore Norkus, Patrick Oldfield, Lenny Olivieri, Marie Ordine, Louis Pagano, Rose Pagano, Fred Papaleo, Jaycee Park, Jason Perri, Madeline Perri, Angela Raffa, M/M Robert Reed, Jason Rindone, Keith Ross, Maria Russo, Theresa Salvatore, Mina Sammarone, Domenic Santaguida, Steven Scanlon, Lorraine Schellinger, Patricia Schiela, Anthony Sergontoni, Grover Simpson, Evelyn Spina, Ralph Spina, Regina Stanley, Thomas Sweeney Jr., Savannah Taylor, James Trainor Jr., Alessandra Trimarco, Lori Trischler, Terry Troiano, Caila Tuohey, Allyson Turner, Robin Twaddell, Christine Upchurch, Christopher Vacante, Michael Valardi, Anthony Vanore, Joseph Vitello, Kylie Waldron, Veronica Walls, Ed Williams, the military disabled, the homebound, and their families.



We Pray for our Deceased Parishioners,

Relatives and Friends:

JOSEPHINE PALELLA
DANIEL SANTOSUSSO

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
 and let Perpetual Light shine upon them.

May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed,
 through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As the secular world prepares for the upcoming holiday season, (as they call it), with all its overspending and overeating, John the Baptist reminds us that we should prepare for the coming of the Messiah with sober reflection and quiet hope. In the Gospel, we hear John the Baptist proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. In this way, he prepared for the coming Messiah, the one who is mightier. John confesses that he is not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of Jesus' sandals. Jesus will baptize not merely with water, but with the Holy Spirit.

For us today, we are like the Israelites who waited for the Messiah, and we are like the early Christians who awaited the Lord's coming in glory. While we wait, we are comforted by Isaiah's word, for like a shepherd, Jesus has fed us and continues to feed us with His word in Scripture, with His Body and Blood, with the gifts of the Spirit and with the love we have for one another as God's children.

While we wait, we are called to ready ourselves, to make every effort to be without spot or blemish and at peace in God's sight.

Advent is a time to turn away from absorption in ourselves, in our worries and in the secular world. It is a time to rejoice that God wants to find new ways of coming into our lives – like a shepherd caring for his sheep. Therefore, we should spend our Advent trying to remove all the obstacles that stand between us and the Lord's return.

In last week's bulletin I mentioned there were seven second graders who were making their First Penance on Tuesday, December 5th. Unfortunately, only six names were mentioned. I apologize to Mia Moresi and her family for this mishap; and again, I congratulate Mia on receiving her First Penance.

Be assured of my prayers and I ask you to remember me in your prayers.

Happy Advent!
Father Di Orio



STELLA MARIS RECTORY CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

In observance of Christmas, the Rectory will be closed on Monday, 12/25/17 and Tuesday, 12/26/17.

A Blessed Christmas to all!



NEWS OF COMFORT

In a time of preparation, much of it having to do with material things, it is good to hear the words of Isaiah, "Comfort, give comfort to my people, / says your God" (Isaiah 40:1). In a time of such stress and rush, when our usual burdens are augmented by piles of Christmas preparations, we can choose to slow down, take some time to heal, and appreciate the enormous gift we are about to receive. Christ, the Son of God, has become one of us, and knows our human limitations. Yet God, even now, is freeing us from the burdens that our inattentiveness to our God and to our deepest inner longings have heaped upon us. The Lord comes, not as a king with mighty armies, but as a shepherd leading the flocks with care and tenderness. Isaiah prophesies good news: our oppression is over, our sins forgiven. The savior we have awaited is coming, not the first time, but in the end times, as our salvation.



Christmas Schedule-2017



Confessions before Christmas

Saturday, December 16 - 4:00 to 4:45pm

Saturday, December 23 - 4:00 to 4:45pm

Advent Penance Service

Wednesday, December 20, at 7:00pm

There will be visiting priests to help with individual confessions.

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord Christmas Masses

Sunday, Christmas Eve, December 24

(no confessions on Christmas Eve)

4:30pm-Children's Choir-Carol Singing
5:00pm-Mass

(This Mass does not fulfill your Sunday obligation.)

11:30pm-Adult Choir-Carol Singing

Monday, Christmas Day, December 25

12:00am (Midnight Mass), 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am

Confessions, Saturday, December 30 - 4:00 to 4:45pm

Holy Family Sunday-December 31

Saturday, 12/30/17-(Vigil Mass), 5pm

Sunday, 12/31/17, 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
(New Year's Day)**

Monday, New Year's Day, January 1
8:00am



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DECORATING CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS



Getting our church ready for Christmas is a big endeavor and we are in need of volunteers to help us make our church beautiful for the birth of Baby Jesus. No experience is necessary-just a willingness to help out! **All volunteers** are kindly asked to meet in church next **Sunday, 12/17/17, at 12NOON**. Please know we truly appreciate your time and effort as we prepare our church for the Christmas Season.



**STAR OF THE SEA SENIORS
TRIP TO LANCASTER**

Star of the Sea Seniors are sponsoring a trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA, to see the brand new show, "JESUS", on **Tuesday, 03/13/18**. Cost is \$130 per person and includes: Theater matinee show, buffet lunch at Millers Restaurant, Rockvale Outlets, round-trip motorcoach transportation, all taxes and gratuities. **Deposit of \$65 is now due; balance of \$65 is due no later than 01/09/18.** For reservations, please call Marge Varley at 215-463-3386 or Helen Wagenborg at 215-468-6618.



**COME JOIN THE FUN WITH US
AT OUR OLDIES' NIGHT
WITH JERRY BLAVAT**



Reunite with old friends and Dine, Dance & Party the night away with us on **Saturday, February 17, 2017 at Stella Maris Hall, 814 Bigler Street, from 7pm until 11pm** with great music (featuring Jerry Blavat), great food, and great fun.

Ticket cost is \$45 (non-refundable), \$55 at the door, which includes selections at our hot buffet by "Galdo's" Caterers, desserts, beer, soda, coffee, and tea. Door prize, 50/50 chances and chances on a basket of cheer. For tickets, please call Carol at 215-463-3410. Make all checks payable to:

Stella Maris Parish

Hope to see you on the dance floor!



OUR LADY OF HOPE SCHOOL NEWS

There are two scholarship opportunities that have opened for the 2018-2019 School Year:

- 1) **Children's Scholarship of Philadelphia** is now accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year. Applications are available through their website: www.csphiladelphia.org. **Final deadline is March 1, 2018.**
- 2) **FACTS Financial Aid Application** replaces the SmartAid Financial Application. Financial Aid through FACTS requires an **application fee of \$30. Priority is given to applications completed by December 31, 2017.** Financial aid **deadline is March 15, 2018.**

Tours of the School are available by calling **215-467-5385** to make an appointment to learn more about school programs. For more information, you can also email Ms. Cody, the Principal, at: pcody@ourladyofhopephilly.com.

STELLA MARIS PARISH CALENDAR



- Wednesday, 12/13/17-Sodality & Seniors Christmas Party-1:00PM, Waterfall Room
- Sunday, 12/17/17-CCD-9:15AM, Church/School
- Sunday, 12/17/17-Decorating the Church-12Noon, Church
- Monday, 12/18/17-Helping Hands Meeting-7:00PM, Msgr. JFC Conf. Rm.
- Tuesday, 12/19/17-Star of the Sea Seniors-1:00PM, Vestibule Mtg. Rm.
- Wednesday, 12/20/17-Parish Advent Service-7:00PM, Church
- Saturday, 12/23/17-HH Christmas Outreach-8:30AM, Vestibule
- Sunday, 12/24/17-NO CCD CLASSES-Christmas Eve
- Sunday, 12/24/17-Sunday Masses-8AM, 9:30AM and 11AM
- Sunday, 12/24/17-Christmas Eve Mass-5PM
- Sunday, 12/25/17-Christmas Masses-12Midnight, 8AM, 9:30AM and 11AM
- Sunday, 12/31/17-NO CCD CLASSES-New Year's Eve



**STELLA MARIS HELPING HANDS
FOOD DRIVE**



Helping Hands is collecting food to help area families in need to have a nice Christmas dinner. Items needed are: hams, canned pineapple, boxed potatoes, canned yams, and candy. Please bring your food donations to the Outreach Room in the church vestibule. **Deadline is next Sunday, 12/17/17.**

PARISH FROZEN FOOD PROGRAM



Our Parish Frozen Food Program is in need of dinners: pasta, chicken, beef, ham, pork and fish. We kindly ask that meals prepared contain meat or fish, a starch (pasta/potatoes/rice) and a vegetable. Those who receive these meals are elderly and it is healthy for them to get a balanced, nutritious meal.



FLAME OF LOVE ADVENT RETREAT

Flame of Love is having an Advent Retreat from 12/15/17 to 12/17/17 (5PM on Friday -12Noon on Sunday) at Malvern Retreat House. Cost is \$265 per person, including meals and a single room in the Main Retreat House. This retreat is being directed by Fr. James Blount, SOLT. Fr. Blount is a priest of the Society of Our Lady of the trinity, a Georgia Mission. Fr. Jim is a bold charismatic preacher empowered by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He speaks of living a life in relationship with each of the Persons of the Holy Trinity. His teachings depict his deep love for the Eucharist and his devotion to Jesus and Mary.

To register, please visit: malvernretreat.com/register or for more information call **610-644-0400**.

**SHOPPING FOR CHRISTMAS?
SHOP AND SAVE AT MODELL'S
FOR "STELLA MARIS TEAMWEEKS"**



Would you like to receive a DISCOUNT at Modell's? Well, Modell's Sporting Goods offers Team Weeks throughout the year to organizations whereby a coupon is offered to all who desire to receive 15% off of their total purchase.

In addition, our Team (Stella Maris) will receive a 5% donation from all purchases made with the coupon during your "Team Weeks." Our Team Weeks have begun and continue to December 21, 2017. **Coupons are available at the exits of the Church.** This is a **Win-Win Situation!** Thank you for your support! Happy Shopping!



PROPERTY TAX REBATE

To help with the rising cost of living, you are reminded that **Pennsylvania Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program** applications are now available. There are new guidelines which will permit individuals that **qualify to receive a rebate between \$250 and \$650 from property taxes or rent paid last year.** Funding for this rebate program is made possible by the Pennsylvania State Lottery Fund and is a rebate that does not have to be repaid. **This application must be filed by December 31, 2017.** To qualify, you must be 65 years of age or older, a widow or widower 50 years of age or older, or a disabled person 18 years or older. Homeowners that have annual incomes of \$36,000 or less and renters with annual incomes of \$15,700 or less could qualify. **Only half of your annual Social Security or SSI income is counted toward the income guideline.** For more information or an application, call **United Social Services, Monday through Friday, from 10AM-4PM at 215-923-1900.**



CHURCH SANCTUARY CANDLE

Our Church Sanctuary Candle is available to be offered, for the living or deceased, and will remain lit for seven days. If you would like to reserve a candle, please complete the information below and return the form to Stella Maris Rectory with a \$20 donation. All names and information will be posted in our Church Bulletin accordingly.

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF:

REQUESTED BY:

SAINT CHARLES BORROMEIO SEMINARY APPEAL

We hope you will give prayerful consideration in contributing to the 2017-2018 Seminary Appeal. There are many ways in which you may contribute:

- Pledge Gift
- Electronic Fund Transfer
- One Time Gift
- Gifts of Securities
- Credit Card Gifts
- Planned Gifts
- Matching Gifts
- Tribute Gifts

All gifts to the 2017-2018 Annual Seminary Appeal are tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor on the tax treatment of all gifts, as they may vary from individual to individual. You may make a contribution in cash, online, or by direct mail, which you should have received from the Seminary. Gifts can be sent directly to: Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary
100 E. Wynnewood Road
Wynnewood, PA 19096

Thank you for your generosity and support!



ALTAR BREAD AND WINE

Altar Bread and Wine may be offered for an entire week, for the living or deceased. If you are interested, please complete the information below and return the form to Stella Maris Rectory with a \$25 donation. All names and information will be posted in our Church Bulletin accordingly.

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF:

REQUESTED BY:

ADORATION CHAPEL CANDLES

Two Adoration Chapel candles are available to be offered (\$20 each), for the living or deceased, and will remain lit for seven days. If you would like to reserve a candle, complete the information below and return the form to Stella Maris Rectory with a \$20 donation. All names will be posted in our Church Bulletin accordingly. Thank you!



IN HONOR/MEMORY OF:

REQUESTED BY:
