

December 11, 2016

THIRD SUNDAY

of

Advent



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Jesus said,
"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight,
the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear,
the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."

Matthew 11:4-5

Stella Maris Catholic Church
Founded in the Marian Year 1954
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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 11, 2016
Third Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions For
The Week of December 11, 2016

God's Plan for Giving—Tithing—A Way of Life	
Collection for weekend of December 3 & December 4	
Income: Plate	= \$6,381.00 + AWC = \$126.25 = \$6,507.25
Bills Paid = Total Disbursements	= (\$11,021.41)
Total	= (\$4,514.16)

Living Stewardship-Living God's Word:
As God is sovereignly free in revealing and giving Himself because he is motivated solely by love, so the human person is also free in giving his or her own, even dutiful, assent: God expects a response of love.

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 Your Church contributions can be electronically withdrawn monthly from your account and deposited directly to your parish.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:

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

Sunday—December 11

8:00 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris
 9:30 + Vincent C. Milione
 11:00 + Josephine Bellosi

Monday—December 12

8:00 + Amelia Iaconangelo

Tuesday—December 13

8:00 + Carmen Potito

Wednesday—December 14

8:00 + John, Thomas and Clementina Borda

Thursday—December 15

8:00 + Romolini and Padlo Families (L & D)

Friday—December 16

8:00 + Anne Marie McDonald

Saturday—December 17

8:00 + Jimmy DeRenzi
 5:00 + Saverio Greco

Sunday—December 18

8:00 + Poolos and Montemurro Families (L & D)
 9:30 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris
 11:00 + Frank and Rita Giunta

Church Sanctuary Lamp

In Memory of
 Sister Mary Agnes Kinee, IHM

At the Request of
 Louise Green




Bread & Wine

In Memory of
 Philomena Hinfey

Requested by
 Lorinda Fina

STELLA MARIS ALL CLASS REUNION

We are in the process of forming a  Committee for an "All Class Reunion of **Stella Maris Students**" to plan to reach out to All former Stella Maris students regarding a possible All class reunion in the future. If you would like to be part of this committee, please call the Rectory at 215-465-2336.

Rest in Peace We Pray for our Deceased Parishioners,
 Relatives and Friends:

HELEN FAMIGLIETTI

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.



BIBLE STUDY

Everyone is most welcome to join us for our weekly Bible Study on Saturday mornings, immediately following the 8AM Mass. (Please note: There will be no Bible Study on Sodality meeting Saturdays). Sister Cathy Bones, SSJ, will lead the Bible Study, which will be held in the classroom in the Church Vestibule.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Here we are at the Third Sunday of Advent! It's two weeks till our annual celebration of Christmas.

Today our young parishioners, accompanied by adults, will be visiting our homebound. They will bring them a card, gifts, a poinsettia, and their beautiful voices as they carol. Thanks to Star of the Sea Seniors, Stella Maris' Helping Hands, CCD children, and you, the parishioners, for your donations of the gifts and poinsettias.

John the Baptist continues this week to be an important figure in our Advent journey. From the dark of prison and on the brink of death, John sends his disciples to Jesus because he longs to know if the Messiah has come. The question put forth by the disciples of John the Baptist in our Gospel reading from Saint Matthew is very clear: Are you the long expected one? The response of Jesus is equally clear. The identity of the one promised can be known not only by words but also by deeds. The prophets proclaimed that the Messiah would bring healing for ancient and present wounds and therefore overturn the sad saga of sin. What then do you see? If Jesus told us today to report "what you see and hear," what would we tell him? We may miss seeing and hearing some wonderful things Christ brings because we want our discomfort and frustration to end. Some would report chaos, as well as doom and gloom, especially if they rely on commercial news. John's question must become our own: Is Jesus the One, or are we to look for another? Jesus called us blest who live after John the Baptist and are even greater than he. We are privileged to see that people who lived in darkness now walk in the light of faith. Advent helps us to prepare to meet the Lord at the end of our lives here on earth as well as at the end of all time, when he will appear in glory. Therefore, Advent speaks loudly to us, encouraging us not to be distracted by the passing distractions of this world but to remain focus on eternal joy.

Be assured of my prayers and I ask you to pray for me.

Happy Advent!
Fr. Di Orio



A SEASON OF HOPE

Today we can bask in the imagery that the Mass readings offer us. In particular, Isaiah's vision of a parched land that blooms with abundant flowers holds a message for each of us. Too often we are just like that parched land. We can allow ourselves to become absorbed in the waves of consumerism that grip so many. We look for fulfillment in the things that money can buy. Unfortunately, this leaves us like parched land, thirsting for something that money can't buy. This holy season has much to offer to quench our thirsts. In a word, this season offers hope. We are told that those who are ransomed by God will know joy and gladness. For them, sorrow and mourning will be no more. Let us place our hope in these promises.

BUS TRIP FOR THE MARCH FOR LIFE TO THE NATIONAL BASILICA/SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Last year, here in Philadelphia, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, **with great courage**, bore witness to faith in Jesus Christ, **'the Light to the nations,'** in this often dark world in which we find ourselves.

On Friday, January 27, 2017, Stella Maris Parishioners hope to bear witness to the **sanctity of life, gifted and redeemed** by God, in the annual **March for Life** in Washington, DC. We will join Archbishop Chaput in offering Mass at the **National Basilica/Shrine of The Immaculate Conception** at 10am. The bus will leave from our parking lot at 6:30am (Parking **behind** the Church **ONLY**). It will be an opportunity to gain a plenary indulgence that is offered for anyone who attends the Mass and pilgrimage according to the usual conditions, namely, confession, communion and prayers for the Holy Father's intentions. The indulgence may be gained for yourself or a soul in purgatory.

You will have the option to go into center city Washington for the March for Life **or** stay at the shrine to visit its' many altars representing the apparitions and devotions to Mary from countries around the world. **During the March in Washington, there will be a Holy Hour for Life in the Basilica.** Those who go to the March will be picked up at **Union Railroad Station at 3pm.** (Those who are not there at that time will have to make their own way back to Philadelphia, at their own expense, by train). Hopefully, we will return to the parish, after stopping for dinner, by 7:30pm.

Reservations will be taken on a **first come basis**, by calling the rectory at 215-465-2336. Parking for the March will be in a designated area behind the Church. Cost to subsidize the bus rental, will be \$20 per person.

We hope you can join us!



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



Reunite with old friends and Dine, Dance & Party the night away us on **Saturday, February 18, 2017** at **Stella Maris Hall, 814 Bigler Street, from 7pm until 12 Midnight** with great music (featuring Jerry Blavat), great food, and great fun.

Ticket cost is \$40 (non-refundable), \$50 at the door, which includes selections at our hot buffet by "Galdo's" Caterers, desserts, beer, soda, coffee, and tea. Chances will be available for a 50/50 drawing and 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!

HELLO DOLLY STARRING BETTE MIDLER

The Seniors are sponsoring a trip to New York to see the Broadway Musical "Hello Dolly" with Bette Midler on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2017. **Due to the popularity of this show, seats are limited!** The cost is \$300 per person, which includes the show, dinner at Carmine's, and round trip motor coach. **A non-refundable deposit of \$150 is now due.** The balance of \$150 is to be paid in two payments of \$75 each: First payment of \$75 is due on or before May 10, 2017 and the second payment of \$75 is due on or before August 1, 2017. For more information or reservations, please call Marge at 215-463-3386 or Helen at 215-468-6618.



Christmas Schedule-2016



Confessions before Christmas

Saturday, December 17 - 4:00 to 4:45pm

Advent Penance Service

Wednesday, December 21, at 7:00pm
There will be visiting priests to help with individual confessions.

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord Christmas Masses

Saturday, Christmas Eve, December 24 - 5:00pm
(no confessions on Christmas Eve)

Sunday, Christmas Day, December 25

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

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - New Year's Day

Confessions, Saturday, December 31 - 4:00 to 4:45pm
5:00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, New Year's Day, January 1
8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am

Mary, Mother of God



STAR OF THE SEA SENIORS CLUB and STELLA MARIS SODALITY SECOND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Everyone is welcome to our celebration which will take place this **Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 1:00PM** at **The Waterfall Room, 2015 S. Water St.** The cost is **\$20.00 for members and \$25.00 for non-members.** We will accept checks or money orders only **no cash.** Please contact Rose Giovanelli (Star of the Sea Seniors Club) at 215-913-4297, or Cathy Everett (Sodality) at 215-465-7451 for your reservations. Checks and money orders are payable to the Star of the Sea Senior Club, and can be mailed or dropped off at Stella Maris Rectory, 2901 South 10th Street. We look forward to seeing you!

FREE VIDEO SERIES:

THE BIBLE AND THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Join folks from all over the greater Philadelphia area in a 12 week long encounter with the Virgin Mary right from your own home! The St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, founded by Dr. Scott Hahn, is offering limited-time free access to its new video Bible study series, *The Bible and the Virgin Mary*. You can access this 12-part series online at no cost beginning January 18, 2017. The videos can be used for individual or group study. To take advantage of this great opportunity to grow spiritually, sign up at:

BibleandtheVirginMary.com/Philadelphia.



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 Mercy 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 Aid, 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 18th.

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

STELLA MARIS PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, 12/12/16-Helping Hands Meeting-7:00PM,
Msgr. JFC Conf. Rm.

Wednesday, 12/14/16-Sodality & Seniors Christmas Party-
1:00PM, The Waterfall Room

Sunday, 12/18/16-CCD-9:15AM, Church/School

Sunday, 12/18/16-Decorating the Church-12Noon, Church

Tuesday, 12/20/16-Star of the Sea Seniors-1:00PM,
Vestibule Mtg. Rm.

Wednesday, 12/21/16-Parish Advent Penance Service,
7:00PM, Church

Sunday, 12/25/16-NO CCD CLASSES-Christmas

Sunday, 01/01/17-NO CCD CLASSES-New Year's Day

Saturday-01/07/17-Sodality Meeting-8:30AM, Church/
Vestibule

Sunday-01/08/17-CCD-9:15AM-Church/School

Tuesday, 01/10/17-Star of the Sea Seniors-1:00PM,
Vestibule Mtg. Rm.

Sunday, 01/15/17-NO CCD CLASSES-MLK DAY WEEKEND

Monday, 01/16/17-Helping Hands Meeting-7:00PM,
Msgr. JFC Conf. Rm.



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, boxed potatoes, canned yams, canned pineapple and canned vegetables. Deadline is Friday, December 16th.



STELLA MARIS RECTORY CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

The Rectory will be closed for Christmas on Monday, December 26.

A Blessed Christmas to all!





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:

**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 their total purchase. In addition, our Team (Stella Maris) will receive a 5% donation from all the purchases made with the coupon during our "Team Weeks". Our Team Weeks continue through 12/29/16. **Coupons are available at the exits of the church.** This is a **Win-Win Situation!** Thank you for your support!

Happy Shopping!



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:
