



Third SUNDAY of Advent

December 13, 2020

Rejoice always.
Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances
give thanks,
for this is the will
of God for you
in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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Stella Maris Catholic Church
Founded in the Marian Year 1954
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Rev. John R. Di Orio, Pastor
Rev. Msgr. James F. Connolly, Pastor Emeritus

Rectory: 215 465-2336
Convent: 215 462-1111

December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent

God's Plan for Giving-Tithing-A Way of Life			
Collection for weekend of December 5 & December 6			
Income: Plate	= \$5,249.00	+ AWC = \$72.50	= \$5,321.50
Bills Paid= Total Disbursements			= (\$4,685.18)
Total			= \$636.32



Your Church contributions can be electronically withdrawn from your account and deposited directly to Stella Maris. Please visit us at stellamarisphila.com and click on **Parish Giving** (under our Mass Schedule) for information and/or to enroll.

Living Stewardship: *“As we look at the streets and squares of the cities decorated with dazzling lights, that these lights refer us to another light, invisible to the eyes but not to the heart. While we admire them, while we light the candles in churches...and the Christmas tree in our homes, may our souls be open to the true spiritual light brought to all people of good will.”*

Sick Relatives & Friends

Please pray for the sick that they may be comforted:

Jeanette Albanese, Blaise Ambrosini, Dottie Arcuri, Neil Baldwin, Raymond Baxter, Elaine & Enrico Belfi, Kim Birch, Kelly Anne Bodine, Shyla Boetter, Emmanuel Borgesi, Mr. and Mrs. Bracy, Donna Bria, Dominick Bucciarelli, Rose Cappetto, William Carbo, Kelly Carr, Arthur Carrado, Doris Castagno, Louis Chila, Elaine Cipparone, Mina Collazzo, Robert Costello, Donna Cunningham, Jill Daly, Antonio D'Angelo, Bea DeCaro, Ron DeJulius, Anna DelVecchio and Family, Matthew D'Imperio, Dom Dinella, Kathy Dinella, Lynn DiOrio, Veronica Dolan, Marie Donato, Lucy Dougherty, Dolores Edmondson, Trish Ezzie, Virginia Faulkner, Russell Fiugalski, Marlene Flocco, George Fragnito, Samantha Fry, Joan Gain, Evelyn Gardella, Keith Green, Margie Gurbuz, Carol Holman, Kimberly Honeschuck, Dakota Hussein, Lucy Intelisano, Nora James, Frank Kane, Vito LaFranci, Charles LaSpada, Samantha LaSpada, Ashleigh Leone, Jamie Long, Bob Lutz, Kathleen Magnotta, Domenick Maiorano, Mario Marchetti, Pat Marsico, Carmela Martini, Lilian Mattioli, Danielle McDevitt, Rita Mendicino, Louise Mento, Lucy Michielli, Kayla Minore, Florence Mooney, Cecelia Moore, Philomena Nardello, Thomas Nardone, Kathleen Nardy, Renate Nardy, Patrick Oldfield, Matthew Padgeon, Louis Pagano, Rose Pagano, Ronald Palumbo, Jaycee Park, Jason Perri, Madeline Perri, Sophia Philipp, Theresa Quiet, Angela Raffa, Amanda Razzano, Jason Rindone, Michael Rines, Keith Ross, Joann Rua, Maria Russo, Carmen Rutolo, Lorraine Saia, Theresa Salvatore, Mina Sammarone, Domenic Santaguida, Baby Rocco Santangelo, Steven Scanlon, Lorraine Schellinger, Patricia Schiela, Anthony Sergontoni, Grover Simpson, Sharon Simpson, Evelyn Spina, Regina Stanley, Thomas Sweeney Jr., Savannah Taylor, James Trainor Jr., Lori Trischler, Terry Troiano, Cindy Tuohey, Allyson Turner, Alicia Viray, Sarah Wallace, Matt Watson, military disabled, home-bound, and their families.



**We Pray for our Deceased Parishioners,
Relatives and Friends:**

REV. MSGR. JAMES F. CONNELLY
MARTHA BASUALDO JOYCE LaPORTE

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.

Mass Intentions For
The Week of December 13, 2020

Sunday - December 13

8:00 + George Filippello and Family
10:30 + John and Ida Tordini

Monday - December 14

7:30 + Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday - December 15

8:00 + Francesca Altamuro

Wednesday - December 16

8:00 + Vincent C. Milione

Thursday - December 17

8:00 + Anna Melone

Friday - December 18

8:00 + Living & Deceased Members of Stella Maris

Saturday - December 19

8:00 + Living and Deceased Members of the
Poolos and Montemurro Families

5:00 + Jimmy DeRenzi

Sunday - December 20

8:00 + Ian George Bryan
10:30 + Donald Varley

Church Sanctuary Lamp

In Memory of
Marie Russo

Requested by
Millie Santore



Adoration Chapel Lamp

1) For the Intentions of
Rita Calabrese
Requested by
Grace and Charles Bonafino



2) For the Living and Deceased
Parishioners of Stella Maris



Bread & Wine

In Memory of
Agnes Brett

Requested by
Marie and Jim Milano



**YOU CAN WATCH STELLA MARIS
LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS ON-LINE!**

Please Note: You do not need Facebook to view the video of Liturgical Celebrations. Just access the Facebook page on the Parish's Website (www.stellamarisphila.com). Click the link and it will take you to Facebook. When asked to log in, just click "not now" or "x" out of the box. Go to "Videos" and click on the Liturgical Celebration you want to watch.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This Third Sunday of Advent traditionally has been known as “Gaudete” Sunday – that is “Rejoice” Sunday. Today’s readings are insistent about rejoicing in the gift of God’s grace in and around you. And the rose-colored candle in our Advent Wreath, which we light today, reinforces the joy we celebrate as we near the end of Advent and clear the way to Christmas.

Three of the four Scripture passages today clearly call us to rejoice. In our first reading, from the book of Isaiah, Isaiah calls us not only to rejoice, but to “rejoice heartily in the Lord,” because God is the joy of our lives. The responsorial psalm response we sang or said, echoes the words of Mary, “My soul rejoices in my God.” Why? “Because he has done great things for me.” St Paul, in the First Letter to the Thessalonians, begins, “Rejoice always.”

In today’s Gospel, John offers us a model for rejoicing in the acceptance of our own reality and spirituality. In other words, the Baptist models humility for us. When John is asked, “Who are you?”, he answers truthfully, saying, “I am not the Messiah.” And that is exactly what humility is – truthfulness. It’s not about putting ourselves down or belittling ourselves. It’s about knowing ourselves and accepting who we are, acknowledging our God-given gifts and personal holiness. It is in this knowledge and acceptance that we find true joy. That is to say true joy and happiness are found only in God. That’s the Advent message. Advent reminds us that the joyful answer to our problems lies in God. It is in God that we find the resolution of our anxieties and worries. And that is an excellent reason to rejoice in this holy season. Pope Francis has reminded us that a joyful and authentic witness to Christ Jesus is what will lead others to come to know, love and serve Our Lord. True joy and happiness are found only in God. “Rejoice Always”.

This Thursday, December 17, 2020, the parish will celebrate our Advent Penance (Reconciliation) Service along with 4 young parishioners who will be making their First Penance. There will be several visiting priests to help with individual confessions. This will take place in our Church at 7:00 PM. Take this time for you! How about asking someone to come home for Christmas and bring them with you!

We congratulate our young parishioners who will be making their First Penance. Let us keep them in prayer as they prepare for this wonderful sacrament.

Ryan DiDio Liam Esposito
Jackson Huebner Sabrina Romeo

Today would have been the day that our young parishioners, accompanied by adults, would be visiting our homebound. They would have brought them a card, gifts, and their beautiful voices as they caroled. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, this event has been cancelled. However, the homebound will still receive their gifts through their Extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Thanks to CCD/PREP, Stella Maris’ Helping Hands and you the parishioners, for your donations of the gifts.

Be assured of my prayers and I ask that you please remember me in yours.

Happy Advent!
Fr. Di Orio



Christmas Schedule-2020

Advent Penance Service

Thursday, December 17, at 7:00pm.

There will be visiting priests to help with individual confessions.

Confessions before Christmas

Saturday, December 19 - 4:00 to 4:45pm

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

(no confessions on Christmas Eve)

5:00pm-Vigil

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

12:00am (Midnight Mass), 8:00am & 10:30am

(No evening Mass on Christmas Day)

Confessions, Saturday, December 26 - 4:00 to 4:45pm

The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph

Saturday, 12/26/20-5PM Vigil

Sunday, 12/27/20-8:00am & 10:30am

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

(New Year’s Day)

Thursday, December 31-5:00pm Vigil

Friday, January 1-8:00am



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, and place the tag on the outside of the gift.



Catholic Social Services-This collection is for children’s new toys and games (non-violent, PLEASE!). Toys will be distributed through Catholic Social Services.

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 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 Saturday, December 19th.



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, 2020.** 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 \$35,000 or less and renters with annual incomes of \$15,000 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, between 11AM and 4PM at 215-923-1900** and a staff member will assist you.

VOCATION PRAYER PARTNERS

Each day, numerous men and women in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia pray a rosary for the specific intention of an increase in vocations to the diocesan priesthood for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Prayer is the foundation of all that we do, and these faith-filled and supportive individuals are spiritual prayer-warriors, praying specifically for the men to whom God is calling to follow Him as His priests, and that they listen and heed His voice. On the **first Saturday of each month**, this group gathers online to pray as a community and in support of each other. If you wish to join this dynamic and growing community of Prayer Partners, please contact: Sue Matour at **610-667-5778** or smatour@archphila.org.



LIVE ROSARY TO END CORONAVIRUS WITH THE FAITHFUL OF THE ARCHDIOCESE

Join us online, by phone, or in spirit as we pray the Rosary. We will ask the miraculous intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary to put an end to the Coronavirus and to bring restoration to those most severely impacted by the pandemic. **The schedule is as follows: Monday through Thursday Nights, 8:00-8:30 PM (Eastern), until further notice.** Click the link 5-10 minutes early to allow your device to download necessary software. On your computer, go to www.archphila.org; click on "Offices," a list of offices will appear, click on "New Evangelization." Click "Events" tab and find "Nightly at 8PM ET, The Rosary...Coronavirus" and click on "full details." The next screen will show a choice for "Rosary in English" and you can click on the words "Click here to join the Rosary by video." You may want to dial in by phone at **646-558-8656** and enter the Webinar ID: **494 480 541**. Hosted by: Meghan Cokeley, Office of New Evangelization, Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

ST. RAYMOND NONNATUS FOUNDATION

The St. Raymond Nonnatus Foundation for Freedom, Family, and Faith is offering two podcasts : 1) Podcast for "Catholics Affected by Divorce and Separation"-the first Tuesday of each month, 8PM to 9PM; 2) Podcast for "Families in Crisis"-the last Thursday of each month, 8PM to 9PM. Both podcasts are available on YouTube, Facebook, Podbean app, and Tune In app. Subscribe to the "Philly Nonnatus" YouTube channel, and on Podbean and Tune In subscribe to "Patchwork Heart Ministry". More information can be found at www.Nonnatus.org or text or call **215-870-9913**. These programs are sponsored by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Office for Life and Family.

They can be reached at **215-587-0500** or by email at www.phillycatholiclife.org or sbozza@archphila.org.

PERMANENT DIACONATE INFORMATION NIGHT WEBINAR

We invite Catholic men (and their wives, if married), between the ages of 29 and 55 who would like more information about serving as a permanent deacon to attend an information night. Join us for our live webinar this Thursday from a panel of permanent deacons on discerning a vocation to the Permanent Diaconate and the School for Diaconal Formation program. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.scs.edu/diaconal-formation>.

+ Please check with organizations, schools, parishes, etc. who have postings in our bulletin to see if their events and/or functions have been cancelled or postponed. Thank you. Be safe. God bless!

SECULAR CARMELITE MEETINGS

Interested in becoming a Secular Carmelite? Secular Carmelites live in allegiance to Jesus, seeking to imitate the Virgin Mary's contemplation of the Word of God and detachment. We strive to follow the teachings and example of St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross and other Carmelite saints. The Discalced Carmelite Secular Order invites those faithful, who desire to deepen their spiritual life through prayer, to inquire by attending a meeting. Meetings are held on the **third Sundays of every month at 11:30AM** at the Carmelite Monastery, **1400 Old York Road**, Philadelphia, PA 19126. For more information, call Maribel at **215-431-2817**.

ONLINE VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Although we cannot go to France during this pandemic, we are blessed to bring Lourdes virtually to you with an exceptional blessing from Pope Francis, who has proclaimed a Plenary Indulgence for Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience, to be broadcast or live-streamed directly to you! For details, visit:

<https://lourdesvolunteers.org/online-lourdes-virtual-pilgrimage-experience-2/>

ATTENTION GRADUATES OF 1964 ST. MARIA GORETTI AND BISHOP JOHN NEUMANN HIGH SCHOOLS

The graduates of St. Maria Goretti and Bishop Neumann High Schools, Class of 1964, are planning a 75TH Birthday Party (for all graduates turning 75!) for Saturday, October 9, 2021, from 1PM to 5PM at Galdo's, 20th St. & Moyamensing Avenue. Spouses are welcome. Anyone interested in receiving more information as it becomes available can email Florence Pellicciotti Newman at: jnewma8216@comcast.net.

ATTENTION: EPIPHANY CLASS OF 1960

Graduates of Epiphany of Our Lord School Class of 1960- we need your help! Are you interested in reuniting with your friends from 8th grade? No date, time, or place is scheduled yet, so please contact us so we can begin to make plans!

Please call: Loretta Joy Portaro (DeSalis) at 215-271-5192 (home) or 267-971-0378 (cell); or you may also call Maryann Cancila (Gahagan) at 215-389-0306 (home) or 215-460-3199 (cell). Please pass this on to any graduate you know who might be interested! Thank you for your help!

GET TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

As we continue in the "open phase", why not take some time to research our Saints? You will find that we have lots of things in common with some of the Saints. This is a great activity for children and their parents, guardians, and/or grandparents to do together. You can start with your favorite Saint, the Saint for whom you are named, the Saint of the day, or the Saint of the month. The Saints we celebrate this week are as follows:

December 14 - St. John of the Cross
December 15 - St. Mary DiRosa
December 16 - St. Adelaide
December 17 - St. Lazarus of Bethany
December 18 - St. Rufus

Which Saint is celebrated on your birthday?

Enjoy your Saints Adventure!

STELLA MARIS PARISH CALENDAR

For the safety of everyone, all those in leadership positions of Stella Maris organizations are asked to call the Rectory before resuming your regular meetings in order to receive instructions for keeping within the safety guidelines set by the Archdiocese. Stay safe and stay well! God bless!



**SPIRITUAL SUPPORT FOR ADDICTION:
HOPE IN CHRIST**

You are not alone! The Church desires to be close to her children who are struggling with addiction and to bring them the healing power of Jesus Christ's love. Many parishes around the Archdiocese are extending God's merciful and loving hand to those struggling with an addiction as well as their families and loved ones. The Hope in Christ: Spiritual Support for Addiction webpage provides a central location for Catholic resources, ongoing support, testimonies, and events that are happening throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to spiritually support you in your journey towards recovery. You may visit archphila.org/hope for details and postings.

**INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES AND
AUTISM HELP-LINE**

This convenient help-line assists families with connecting to disabilities services provided by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

To reach the Help-Line, please call **484-472-5041** or email IDDhelp@chs-adphila.org.



**ASSISTED LIVING AND / OR LONG TERM
CARE FOR SENIORS**

Information on the cost of Senior Living and Care in Philadelphia, along with Finance Assistance Programs, can be found at www.pavingforseniorcare.com. This website will help you find eligibility and benefit information for over 300 programs regarding care for elderly loved ones.

IN-HOME SUPPORT SYSTEM

Are you homebound? Would you benefit from ongoing services such as meals, transportation or a senior companion, and short-term services (housekeeping and personal care)? The In-Home Support Program may be able to help you. If you are at least 60 years of age, need assistance or supervision when leaving the home and are basically homebound, please call **215-732-1140** to learn more about this program.

This information has been provided by Catholic Health Care Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

LILY'S GIFT MINISTRY

Lily's Gift Ministry is a network of concerned parents and professionals who have experienced, or worked closely with, issues surrounding poor prenatal diagnosis. To expectant parents, we offer unique insight and sensitivity regarding such difficult issues as:

- +Maintaining hope when a prognosis is poor
- +Sorting through medical decision making
- +Grieving the loss of the anticipated baby
- +Stillbirth and neonatal critical care

For more information, visit www.Lily'sGift.org or call Sister Kathleen Schipani at **215-587-3530**. This information has been provided by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Office for Life and Family.



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. Please include your phone number on the form. All names and donors will be posted in our Church Bulletin accordingly.

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF:

REQUESTED BY:

phone# _____



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. Please include your phone number on the form. All names and donors will be posted in our Church Bulletin accordingly.

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF:

REQUESTED BY:

Phone# _____



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. Please include your phone number on the form. All names and donors will be posted in our Church Bulletin accordingly.

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF:

REQUESTED BY:

Phone# _____