

DECEMBER 14, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT



*Stella Maris Catholic Church*  
*Founded in the Marian Year 1954*  
2901 South 10th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148  
Website: [www.stellamarisphila.com](http://www.stellamarisphila.com)  
E-mail: [stellamarisparish@comcast.net](mailto:stellamarisparish@comcast.net)  
Follow us on Facebook; Stella Maris

*Rev. John R. Di Orio*  
*Pastor*  
Rectory Phone: 215-465-2336  
Convent Phone: 215-462-1111

*December 14, 2025*  
*Third Sunday of Advent*



Your Church contributions can be electronically withdrawn from your account and deposited directly to Stella Maris. Please go to [stellamarisphila.com](http://stellamarisphila.com) and click on **Parish Giving** (under our Mass Schedule) for Information and/or to enroll.

Thank you.

**God's Plan for Giving—Tithing—A Way of Life**  
**Collection for weekend of December 6 & December 7**  
**Income: Plate = \$7,066.00 + AWC = 85.00 = \$7,151.00**  
**Bills Paid = Total Disbursements = (\$31,865.39)**  
**Total = (\$24,714.39)**

***Living Stewardship:*** “ Joy is the true gift of Christmas, not expensive presents that demand time and money. We can transmit this joy simply: with a smile, with a kind gesture, with some small help, with forgiveness. Let us give this joy and the joy will be returned to us.”

— Pope Benedict XVI



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

Blaise Ambrosini, Nicholas Andreola, Neil Baldwin, Lisa Baranek, Raymond Baxter, Elaine Bianculli, Kim Birch, Kelly Ann Bodine, Emmanuel Borgesi, Anthony Borzillo, Mr. & Mrs. Bracy, Donna Bria, Dominick Bucciarelli, Loretta Bologna, Al Caruso, Clem Ciaramella, William Carbo, Kelly Carr, Louis Chila, Elaine Cipparone, Emilio Colella, Thomas Coco, Mary Conte, Mina Collazzo, Robert Costello, Donna Cunningham, Joseph Dalessio, Jill Daly, Antonio D'Angelo, Anna DelVecchio and Family, Daniel DiCarlo, Louis DiBruno, Matthew D'Imperio, Lynn Di Orio, Veronica Dolan, Michelle Dolce, Marie Donato, Lisa Donoflio, Lucy Dougherty, Vera Dolan, Dolore Edmondson, Trish Ezzie, Vera Freni, Virginia Faulkner, Marie Feehan, Russell Dalonzo SR., Russell Fiugalski, Jerry Francesco, George Fragnito, Samantha Fry, Joan Gain, Ellen Gabarino, Evelyn Gardella, Anthony Gentile, Gerta Goreni, Margie Gurbuz, Charles Harron, Carol Holman, Kimberly Honeschuck, Bethany Hopkins, Dakota Hussein, Lucy Intelisano, Nora James, Frank Kane, Vito LaFranci, Charles LaSpada, Jean LaSpada, Ashleigh Leone, Robert and Marie Liccio, Rita Lange, Stacey Loke Pelle, Jamie Long, Bob Lutz, George McGehrin, Michael Macomber, Marsha Magen, Kathleen Magnotta, Mario Marchetti, Pat Marsico, Carmela Martini, Lilian Mattioli, Maryanne McCaffrey, Karen McConnell, Danielle McDevitt, Rita Mendicino, Harooz Morrall, Michelle Miller-Killian, Kayla Minore, Florence Mooney, Cecelia Moore, Philomena Nardello, Thomas Nardone, Patrick Oldfield, Matthew Padgeon, Louis Pagano, Jason Perri, Madeline Perri, Joe Petruzzi, Sophie Philipp, Johanna Pizzo, Christopher Pronio, Theresa Quieti, Angela Raffa, Jason Rindone, Michael Rines, Juan Rodriguez, Denise Romolini, Heather Russino, Patricia Resniak, Rich Rosati, Keith Ross, Lorraine Saia, Theresa Salvatore, Mina Sammarone, Rocco Santangelo, Steve Scanlon, Lorraine Schellinger, Patricia Schiela, Anthony Sergontoni, Bill & Theresa Sherwin, Erica Siderio, Joe Shireta, Katie Signell Ventus, Grover Simpson, Karen Specht, Evelyn Spina, Regina Stanley, Thomas Sweeney Jr., Savannah Taylor, James Trainor Jr., Lori Trischler, Steven Tropea, Cindy Tuohey, Stephen Tuohey, Allyson Turner, Paul and Geri Verdi, Alicia Viray, Sarah Wallace, Matt Watson, Carolyn Young, Deborah Young, the military disabled, the home-bound and their families.



***We pray for our deceased Parishioners, Relatives and friends:***

**Nicholas LaPergola**

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 14, 2025*

**Saturday - December 13**

5:00 + Margaret Valentino

**Sunday - December 14**

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

10:30 + John and Ida Tordini

**Monday - December 15**

7:30 + Eucharistic Adoration

**Tuesday - December 16**

8:00 + Carmen Potito

**Wednesday - December 17**

8:00 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris

**Thursday - December 18**

8:00 + Carmina Borda

**Friday - December 19**

8:00 + Annemarie McDonald

**Saturday - December 20**

8:00 + Joan and John Domenick

5:00 + Jim DeRenzi

**Sunday - December 21 (Fourth Sunday of Advent)**

8:00 + Giovanni Martino

10:30 + Leo Rago

**Church Sanctuary Lamp**



In Memory of  
Sister Lawrence Elizabeth, SSJ

Requested by  
Holiday Campanella

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

There is an 8 week Bereavement Support Group which runs several times each year at TJUH Methodist Hospital. Each week participants will have the opportunity to support one another and learn about different topics within the grieving process. For more information, please call the Department of Pastoral Care at 215-952-9547.

**ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA TELEVISION MASS**

Every Sunday, at 5:30AM on Channel 6-WPVI TV, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia celebrates Sunday Mass, which is broadcast through the courtesy of Channel 6-WPVI.



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, has been traditionally known as “Gaudete” Sunday. We rejoice as we prepare the way of the Lord. Great in our midst is the Holy One of Israel, a mighty Savior. The rose-colored candle in our advent wreath, which we light today, reinforces the joy we celebrate today as we near the end of Advent and clear the way to Christmas.

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 asks an urgent question: “Are you the one... or should we look for another?” Jesus honors the question by providing an answer, “tell John what you hear and see.” Jesus’ answer is specific and concrete; “The blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.” Jesus is reminding us that His ministry is about service, healing, and justice. It is through our actions that the people, especially the poor and marginalized, are reminded of God’s love.

Advent is always about “already” and “not yet.” We know that Jesus has been born into our world already, “Great in our midst is the Holy One of Israel, a mighty Savior,” but we sense deep in our being that the reign of God is not yet shining with the glory and splendor that we long for in our lives. We are called to see, hear, and to leap with joy at the coming of the Messiah. We are also called to proclaim good news to the poor and raise to new life those dead to the reality of what love can do for all of us when it is shared with others, as God shares life and love with us. Therefore, John’s question must become our own: Is Jesus the One for us, or are we really looking for another?

This Wednesday, December 17, 2025, the parish will celebrate our Advent Penance (Reconciliation) Service. There will be a number of 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!

Today our young parishioners, accompanied by adults, will be visiting our homebound. They will bring them a card, gifts, and their beautiful voices as they carol. 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 you to please remember me in your prayers.

God bless,  
Happy Advent!  
Fr. Di Orio



## Stella Maris Events

**2026**

### Saturday, February 28th—Bingo Night

Join us for a fun night of Cash Bingo! More information to follow.

### Saturday, April 25th—P & S - Spaghetti Dinner

Join us for our Annual Night of Delicious P & S Spaghetti and Meatballs, Esposito’s Porchetta, Great Music and Fabulous Prizes!

### Spring 2026—\$50 Grand Raffle

\$50 Raffle tickets will be sold beginning in May 2026 for a drawing of 6 prizes which will be held after each Mass the weekend of Nov.22/23. More information to follow.

## FOOTBALL MANIA WINNING NUMBERS

### WEEK THIRTEEN

# 2887 - \$25  
# 2927 - \$25

Winning numbers will be posted weekly !



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHURCH CLEANING

We are looking for volunteers to form a group to clean our Church on Mondays.

If you are able to help, please contact the Rectory at 215-465-2336.

“Many hands make light work”

**WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR OUR PARISH FOOD PROGRAMS!**

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. **Please do not put individual leftover items in the freezer. We ask that you please only put complete balanced meals in the freezer (each filled tray should contain a protein, a starch and a vegetable).**

**We are very grateful to those who bring pantry items on a regular basis.  
May God bless you for helping those in need!**

**Christmas Schedule-2025**

**Advent Penance Service**

Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00pm.  
There will be visiting priests to help with individual confessions.

**Confessions before Christmas**

Saturday, December 13- 4:00 to 4:45pm  
Saturday, December 20- 4:00 to 4:45pm

**Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**

**Christmas Masses**

**Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24**  
(no confessions on Christmas Eve)  
5:00pm-Vigil Mass

**Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25**

8:00am and 10:30am Masses

(No evening Mass on Christmas Day)

Confessions, Saturday, December 27, 4:00 to 4:45pm

**Holy Family Sunday, December 28**

8:00am and 10:30am Masses

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

(New Year's Day)

Wednesday, December 31- 5:00pm -Vigil Mass  
Thursday, January 1- 8:00am and 10:30 am Masses  
(No evening Mass on New Year's Day)

**HOPE FOR HURTING MARRIAGES**

The Retrouvaille Marriage Program is designed to help married couples with both large and small struggles in their marriages.

**Please visit our website for more information:  
MarriageHelpDelVal.org**

Please feel free to call us any time with any questions that you may have and do not hesitate to share our number with couples who have questions themselves. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

**Phone: 215-766-3944**

**Email: [retrodelvalley@gmail.com](mailto:retrodelvalley@gmail.com)**

**STELLA MARIS CHRISTMAS OUTREACH**

Today, 12/14/25, is the third Sunday of Advent. As we prepare for the Birth of the Christ Child, you can share the spirit of Christmas with those in need by participating in our Parish Outreach Programs listed below.

**Christmas Giving Tree**-Families in our area will be helped with gifts for children. Take a tag from the Christmas Tree in the back of church, buy and wrap the gift, and place the tag on the outside of the gift. Place your gift in the designated container in back of church.

**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, Walgreens and Staples would be greatly appreciated. Please place these in the designated box in the back of church.

**Catholic Social Services**-This collection is for children's **new** toys and games, (**non-violent, PLEASE!**) Please place toys in the designated containers in the church vestibule.

**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. Please place these items in the designated containers in the church vestibule.

**Christmas 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.

**The deadline for all outreach is this Sunday, December 14h.**

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

Turn \$5 into  
**\$10,000!**

Annual  
**Chance  
Drive**

*Drawing December 11, 2025*

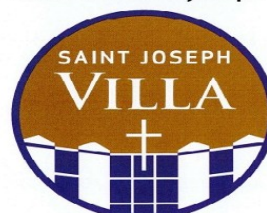


Sisters of  
Saint Joseph™  
CHESTNUT HILL • PHILADELPHIA

**5 Prizes**  
**\$500 each**

**Tickets**  
**\$5.00 each or**  
**5 for \$20.00**

Proceeds Benefit  
Saint Joseph Villa  
and the Retired  
Sisters of Saint Joseph



A Healing Presence

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Information  
visit us at:  
[www.ssjphila.org](http://www.ssjphila.org)



For more information  
call us or email us at:  
1.800.482.6510  
[Development@ssjphila.org](mailto:Development@ssjphila.org)

**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](http://archphila.org/hope) for details and postings.

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**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](mailto:IDDhelp@chs-adphila.org).

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

For information on the cost of, or questions about Senior Living and Care in Philadelphia, along with Financial Assistance Programs, please feel free to visit the following website: [www.payingforseniorcare.com](http://www.payingforseniorcare.com). This website will help you find eligibility and benefit information for over 300 programs regarding care for elderly loved ones.

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**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 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.LilysGift.org](http://www.LilysGift.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.

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**ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUP MEETING**

This group is open to anyone interested in learning more about the process of adopting children, in the process of adopting a child, or already a parent through adoption. Meet and talk to caring, supportive families that share their experience with the adoption process and parenting. **This group meets on the second Thursday of each month from 7:00PM to 8:30PM.**

Meetings are in person or virtual. In person location is Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Church, 1325 Upper State Road, North Wales, PA 19454.



**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 MEMORY OF or FOR THE INTENTIONS OF:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**REQUESTED BY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PHONE #**

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**ALTAR BREAD AND WINE**

Altar Bread and Wine is available to 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 MEMORY OF or FOR THE INTENTIONS OF:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**REQUESTED BY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PHONE #**

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**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,



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 MEMORY OF or FOR THE INTENTIONS OF:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**REQUESTED BY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PHONE #**