

*December 17, 2023  
Third Sunday of Advent*

**JOY**



*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 17, 2023**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

**God's Plan for Giving—Tithing—A Way of Life**  
**Collection for weekend of December 9 & December 10**  
**Income: Plate = \$5,299.00+ AWC= \$68.00 = \$5,367.00**  
**Bills Paid = Total Disbursements = (\$34,195.74)**  
**Total = (\$28,828.74)**



Your Church contributions can be electronically withdrawn from your account and deposited directly to Stella Maris.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.

**Living Stewardship:** “Dear God, source and giver of joy, open my heart to receive your joy. As the Advent season continues, help me to live in a spirit of anticipation and watchfulness for how Christ continues to come into the world, a spirit of joy rooted in the awareness that you are faithful to your children. Amen.”  
**Renewed by God’s Word**



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

Blaise Ambrosini, Nicholas Andreola, Neil Baldwin, Lisa Baranek, Raymond Baxter, Elaine Belfi, Elaine Bianculli, Kim Birch, Kelly Ann Bodine, Shyla Boetter, Emmanuel Borgesi, Anthony Borzillo, Mr. & Mrs. Bracy, Donna Bria, Dominick Bucciarelli, William Carbo, Kelly Carr, Arthur Carrado, Louis Chila, Elaine Cipparone, Thomas Coco, Mina Collazzo, Robert Costello, Donna Cunningham, Joseph Dalessio, Jill Daly, Antonio D’Angelo, Anna DelVecchio & Family, Louis DiBruno, Matthew D’Imperio, Lynn Di Orio, Veronica Dolan, Deborah Dolce, Michelle Dolce, Marie Donato, Lisa Donoflio, Lucy Dougherty, Dolores Edmondson, Trish Ezzie, Virginia Faulkner, Marie Feehan, Russell Fiugalski, Jerry Francesco, George Fragnito, Samantha Fry, Joan Gain, Ellen Gabarino, Evelyn Gardella, Gerta Goreni, Keith Green, 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, Stacey Loke Pelle, Jamie Long, Bob Lutz, Michael Macomber, Marsha Magen, Kathleen Magnotta, Mario Marchetti, Pat Marsico, Carmela Martini, Lilian Mattioli, Maryanne McCaffrey, Karen McConnell, Danielle McDevitt, Rita Mendicino, 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, Rich Rosati, Keith Ross, Maria Russo, Lorraine Saia, Theresa Salvatore, Mina Sammarone, Domenic Santaguida, Rocco Santangelo, Steve Scanlon, Lorraine Schellinger, Patricia Schiela, Anthony Sergontoni, Bill & Theresa Sherwin, Joe Shireta, Katie Signell Ventus, Grover Simpson, Karen Specht, Evelyn Spina, Regina Stanley, Thomas Sweeney Jr., Savannah Taylor, James Trainor Jr., Lori Trischler, Terry Troiano, Steven Tropea, Cindy Tuohey, Stephen Tuohey, Allyson Turner, Paul and Geri Verdi, Alicia Viray, Sarah Wallace, Matt Watson, Deborah Young, the military disabled, the home-bound and their families.



**We pray for our deceased Parishioners, Relatives and Friends:** **EDITH GAMBACORTA**

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 17, 2023**

**Saturday - December 16**

5:00 + Jimmy De Renzi

**Sunday - December 17**

8:00 + Ian George Bryan

10:30 + John and Ida Tordini

**Monday - December 18**

7:30 + Eucharistic Adoration

**Tuesday - December 19**

8:00 + Anna Meloni

**Wednesday - December 20**

8:00 + For the Intentions of the Andrews family

**Thursday - December 21**

8:00 + Joan and John Domenick

**Friday - December 22**

8:00 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris

**Saturday - December 23**

8:00 + Ian George Bryan

5:00 + Michael Bryan

**Sunday - December 24**

8:00 + Domenick Menniti

10:30 + Michelle Venditti

5:00 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris  
(Christmas Vigil Mass)



**Church Sanctuary Lamp**

In Memory of  
Mario S. D’Adamo III  
Requested by  
Donna Glynn

**Altar Bread and Wine**

In Memory of  
Jerry Palestini II  
Requested by  
Mom and Dad



**CatholicPhilly.com**

CatholicPhilly.com is the online successor to the Catholic Standard and Times. Read local and world Catholic news every day. Sign up for their free, weekly email newsletter!

**MISSIONARY DICIPLE SKILL SERIES**  
**HOW TO PRAY WITH SOMEONE**

Every missionary disciple needs to be equipped with skills that will help us more intentionally accompany others into personal friendship with Jesus. One of those skills is the readiness to pray spontaneously with someone for their needs and intention. Instead of saying, “I’ll pray for you,” we want to be ready to say, “Can I pray with you right now for that?” Join us for training that will teach you this skill and give you a greater comfort level with praying with others. Sponsored by: Office for Ministry with Youth and Office for the New Evangelization. Facilitator is Meghan Cokeley and the workshop location is 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia 19103. There is no cost to attend but please register by visiting:

**<https://phillyvomv.org/event/intercessory-prayer-training/>**



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, echoed 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 Wednesday, December 20, 2023, the parish will celebrate our Advent Penance (Reconciliation) Service. 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!

Today, our young parishioners accompanied by adults, will visit our homebound. They brought them a card, gifts, a poinsettia, and their beautiful voices as they caroled. Thanks to Star of the Sea Seniors, PREP/CCD, Stella Maris’ Helping Hands, and you, the parishioners, for your donations of the gifts and poinsettias.

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

Happy Advent!

Fr. Di Orio



## Christmas Schedule -2023



### 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

#### Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

(no confessions on Christmas Eve)

5:00pm-Vigil Mass



#### Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

8:00am and 10:30am Masses

(No evening Mass on Christmas Day)

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

#### Holy Family Sunday, December 31

8:00am and 10:30am Masses

#### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

(New Year’s Day)

Monday, January 1-8:00am Mass

## GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS THAT ARE TOTALLY FREE

The gift of listening, the gift of affection, the gift of a note, the gift of laughter, the gift of a compliment, the gift of a favor, the gift of a prayer, the gift of a cheerful disposition, the gift of a sense of humor, the gift of solitude:

**May God gift you with inner  
peace and a joyous heart!**



## FOOTBALL MANIA WINNING NUMBERS



### WEEK THIRTEEN

#349-3S003-\$25

#447-3S003-\$25

**Winning numbers will be posted weekly!**

### PHILLY ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia Vocation Office invites you to the Sacred Heart Chapel at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, 100 E. Wynnewood Rd., Wynnewood, PA, to spend an hour before the Blessed Sacrament, on **Thursdays between the hours of 9AM to 5PM**, praying that more young people generously respond to the Lord's invitation to serve Him as priests and religious. To sign up to spend time with our Lord, visit: [Heedthecall.org/Phillyadores](https://heedthecall.org/Phillyadores). If you have any questions or would like more information, please email: [Phillyadoration@gmail.com](mailto:Phillyadoration@gmail.com)

### SENSORY FRIENDLY MASSES

Catholics believe that all people are made in the image and likeness of God, and that all the Baptized share in the life and mission of the Church. This includes people with disabilities. A "Sensory Friendly Mass" is one way that a parish can assist in destigmatizing the experience of attending Mass for individuals and families with members with Autism and other disabilities. There are a number of Sensory Friendly Masses that are taking place across the Archdiocese.

To find a Sensory Friendly Mass near you, please visit: <https://opdarchphilly.org/sfm/>

### DO YOU KNOW YOUR TRIBUNAL?

The Tribunal is available to help people who have experienced divorce and who may wish to remarry in the Catholic Church. Whether you are divorced and want to marry in the Catholic Church or are remarried outside the Church, please visit our website:

### WEEKLY WORLD MISSION ROSARY

Every Monday at 8PM you can pray the World Mission Rosary, created by Venerable Fulton Sheen via Zoom. To join in the Monday evening Live Rosary, please visit the Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/494480541>. Join in as we ask for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for our Catholic faith, world peace, personal intentions, and for the Missions worldwide!

Sponsored by the Pontifical Missions Society ([phillymissions.org](http://phillymissions.org)).

### 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.



### STELLA MARIS 2024 LOTTERY CALENDAR

Stella Maris 2024 Lottery Calendars are now available! \$40 will give you 365 chances to win prizes ranging from \$45 to \$300! Winning numbers are determined by the three (3) digit "Pick 3" Evening Drawing of the Pennsylvania Lottery, (all numbers are played straight as they are drawn-there is no "box" option). Calendars are available at the Rectory during regular business hours, (Monday to Friday, 9AM to 4PM), and before and after the Saturday evening Mass and Sunday Morning Masses in the church vestibule.

*These calendars make great Christmas gifts!  
Be sure to get your 2024 Lottery Calendar...*



### SPIRITUAL MOTHERHOOD ADOPT A PHILADELPHIA PRIEST TODAY!

With the Blessed Virgin Mary as our model, we seek to provide each priest with a Spiritual Mother, who will commit to anonymously adopt him and pray for him and his vocation as long as she lives. In the spirit of holy detachment, the spiritual mother knows who her priest son is; however, he will not know her identity until her death. The spiritual mother will have a hidden, spiritual connection with her priestly son, as Mary had with Jesus. The Philadelphia Commitment Form can be found at:

<https://stmariagoretti.net/spiritual-motherhood/>.

Complete the form and submit it for Spiritual Adoption.

If you have any questions, please contact Rosemary Doyle at [rdoylerd@comcast.net](mailto:rdoylerd@comcast.net) or 215-368-5875  
Maria Richardson at [marichar@comcast.net](mailto:marichar@comcast.net) or 215-721-6559.

### BE ENCOURAGED CATHOLIC SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has launched a website with resources to support those who are experiencing mental health struggles and those who love them. The website offers links to find Catholic clinicians, local crisis response phone numbers and ministries that can assist with recovery and healing.

In addition, there are tools to help parishes, schools and institutions cultivate a deeper awareness of and responsiveness to these realities, suffered by so many. Visit the Be Encouraged website at [www.archphila.org/support](http://www.archphila.org/support).

### YOUNG ADULTS CELEBRATE THE SOLEMINTY OF MARY

There will be a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 11:00 pm on Sunday, 12/31/23, at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, followed by Mass at 12:00 Midnight. A New Year's Party will be held in Drexel Hall after Mass. All young adults are welcome to ring in 2024 by celebrating our Blessed Mother's special day.

### RACHEL'S VINEYARD

If you or someone you love has been suffering from the emotional and spiritual pains of abortion-no matter how much time has passed-please know that a Rachel's Vineyard retreat weekend will help your soul transform that pain into hope for the future. Rachel's Vineyard retreats bring healing and God's forgiveness to the trauma and darkness of abortion for those who think they have committed the unforgiveable sin. God's mercy is greater than sin and is waiting for us to reach out for it. Join us for a safe, loving, and confidential weekend to experience the healing power of God's infinite mercy.

**To contact our team to register or for questions:  
Susan-610-716-4795; Georgeann-484-955-4278**

### ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA TELEVISED 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.

**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 Thursdays 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.

Email Maria at [mariamalone@mmredeemer.org](mailto:mariamalone@mmredeemer.org) to attend in person, to get a virtual meeting link and to get any updates on meeting times and locations.



**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 #**

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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 HONOR/MEMORY 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 HONOR/MEMORY OF:**

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

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

