

December 18, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY

of
Advent



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Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

Matthew 1:23

Stella Maris Catholic Church
Founded in the Marian Year 1954
2901 S. 10th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148
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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 18, 2016
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions For
The Week of December 18, 2016

God's Plan for Giving—Tithing—A Way of Life	
Collection for weekend of December 10 & December 11	
Income: Plate	=\$6,859.00 + AWC=\$126.25 = \$6,985.25
Bills Paid= Total Disbursements	= (\$22,679.60)
Total	= (\$15,694.35)

Living Stewardship-Living God's Word:
As we look at the streets and squares of the cities decorated with dazzling lights, remember that these lights refer to another light, invisible to the eye but not to the heart. While we admire them, while we light the candles in churches or the illuminations of the crib and the Christmas tree in our homes, may our souls be open to the true spiritual Light brought to all people of good will.

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 Your Church contributions can be electronically withdrawn monthly from your account and deposited directly to your parish.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 Earlari, 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, Regina Stanley, 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 home-bound, and their families.

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

Monday—December 19

8:00 + Mary Keefe

Tuesday—December 20

8:00 + Lucille and Joseph Bryson and Family

Wednesday—December 21

8:00 + Arthur Paynter

Thursday—December 22

8:00 + Catherine Ciociola

Friday—December 23

8:00 + Domenick Menniti

Saturday—December 24 (Vigil of Christmas)

8:00 + Michelle Venditti
 5:00 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris

Sunday—December 25 (Nativity of the Lord)

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

Church Sanctuary Lamp

In Memory of
 Ronald Curro

At the Request of
 His Mother



Adoration Chapel Lamp

1) In Memory of
 Gloria Cosentino
 At the Request of
 Bernice Cosentino

2) For the Living and Deceased
 Parishioners of Stella Maris



Bread & Wine

In Memory of
 Jerry Palestini II

Requested by
 The Nar-Anon Family



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

JOSEPHINE LA SANTA

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,

We are a week away from our annual celebration of Christmas. This, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we focus our attention on the mystery of the Word made flesh, Emmanuel, God is with us. "The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel." We are called to respond in faith to something that surpasses human understanding.

St. Joseph is an exemplar model of faith. He was faced with a serious problem. His betrothed was expecting a baby, and he was not the father. His reaction was to treat Mary with as much respect and kindness as possible. When God explained the situation in a dream, Joseph obeyed. St. Joseph was someone who was open to God's will. St. Joseph was in tune with God and he was a just man. The incarnation is still a mystery to us as it was to St. Joseph. Because God decided to be "with us," the world is changed. There is a new creation. The Son of God made man has touched everything in the universe and transformed it. We accept because we have received the gift of faith. In our acceptance, we imitate the humility of St. Joseph.

Our Advent journey is almost over. Hopefully, our patient waiting opened us to a renewed sense of Christ's presence in our lives. As we celebrate this final Sunday of Advent, let our hearts be filled with joy as we wait for the Lord's coming, Emmanuel, God is with us.

This Wednesday, December 21, 2016, our 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.

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

Happy Advent!

Fr. Di Orio



SUMMONED BY GOD

As Christmas draws near, Advent's scriptures lure us into a world of dreams, signs, wonders, and the miracle of the virgin birth. Too often, we allow the great stories of our faith, the ones that are most familiar, simply to wash over us. Today's Gospel account of the events leading up to the birth of the Lord reads like a present-day soap opera. Yet Joseph's courage, even in the midst of what must have been an incredibly confusing time, provides a model for us. Each week, we are summoned by God to embrace the way of goodness and truth through the proclamation of God's holy word. Like Joseph, we are called to do as the Lord commands us. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, let us have the courage to be open to whatever it is that the Lord will require of us as we celebrate the miracle of Bethlehem.



Christmas Schedule-2016



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



STELLA MARIS RECTORY CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

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

A Blessed Christmas to all!



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 for the March will be in a designated area **behind** the Church.) This 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, after stopping for dinner, we will return to the parish, by 7:30pm.

Reservations will be taken on a **first come basis**, by calling the rectory at 215-465-2336. Cost to subsidize the bus rental, will be \$20 per person.

We hope you can join us!

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.



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



Reunite with old friends and Dine, Dance & Party the night away 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!

ARCHDIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA AND LOURDES

As part of the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions in Fatima, Fr. Dennis Gill will be leading a pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes on June 5-12, 2017. This pilgrimage promises to be a deeply spiritual event in communion with the Mother of the Lord, with prayers for peace and healing for all of us, especially for the clergy and people of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Cost per person is \$3,395 (double occupancy); add \$395 more for a single. For more information on our 100th Anniversary of Fatima celebration, visit:

<http://archphila.org/fatima/>



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.



NEED FINANCIAL HELP TO ATTEND COLLEGE? APPLY FOR A STELLA MARIS SCHOLARSHIP!

Eligibility Requirements:

- 1) Applicants must be parishioners of the Parish Church of Stella Maris, Philadelphia, PA
- 2) Applicants must demonstrate academic achievement
- 3) Applicants must demonstrate traits of high personal character, leadership, and financial need
- 1) Applicants must be an active, participating member of the parish

The number of recipients and scholarship amount will be based upon the market value of the scholarship fund assets each year as determined by Wells Fargo Bank, NA, Trustee. Scholarships may be renewable for up to three years or until a bachelors degree is obtained, whichever is earlier, providing scholarship requirements are met.

Eligible applicants may request an application from the parish office by calling 215-465-2336, Monday thru Friday, from 9am - 4pm, **beginning January 3, 2017.**

DEADLINE FOR ALL MATERIALS IS MARCH 15 2017!



BAPTISM IN CHRIST

We welcome to our Parish the children who were recently baptized:

**Jason Thomas Arena Jr.
Luca Mason Molino
Brendan Cole Musial**

Angel of God, my Guardian Dear, to whom His love commits me here. Ever this day, be at my side to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

God bless our children!

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 PARISH CALENDAR

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 Day

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.

Sunday, 01/22/17-CCD-9:15AM-Church/School

Tuesday, 01/24/17-Star of the Sea Seniors-1:00PM,
Vestibule Mtg. Rm.

Sunday, 01/29/17-CCD-9:15AM, Church/School



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:
