



Fourth SUNDAY of Advent

December 20, 2020

The angel Gabriel
said to Mary,
"Do not be afraid,
Mary, for you have
found favor with God.
Behold, you will
conceive in your womb
and bear a son, and you
shall name him Jesus."

Luke 1:30-31

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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
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December 20, 2020
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God's Plan for Giving—Tithing—A Way of Life

Due to an early printing deadline requested by J. S. Paluch, our Bulletin Printer, our Church Bulletin had to go to print before last weekend's collection took place. The collections for the weekend of 12/12/20-12/13/20 will be posted in next week's Bulletin.



Your Church contributions can be electronically withdrawn from your account and deposited directly to Stella Maris.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

“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 given will be returned to us.”

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./Mrs. Bracy, Donna Bria, Dominick Bucciarelli, Rose Cappelto, 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, Domenick 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:

MINNIE SCHALALBEO

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 20, 2020

Sunday - December 20

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

Monday - December 21

7:30 + Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday - December 22

8:00 + Joan and John Domenic

Wednesday - December 23

8:00 + Living & Deceased Members of Stella Maris

Thursday - December 24

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

Friday - December 25 (Nativity of Our Lord)

12:00 + Living & Deceased Members of Stella Maris
8:00 + Living & Deceased Members of Stella Maris
10:30 + Living & Deceased Members of Stella Maris

Saturday - December 26

8:00 + Eucharistic Adoration
5:00 + Marcia Ann DiGiovannantonio

Sunday - December 27 (Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph)

8:00 + Nicholas Bozzi
10:30 + Gerald Palestini II



Church Sanctuary Lamp

In Memory of
Ron Curro

Requested by
His Mother, Minnie Schalalbeo



Adoration Chapel Lamp

1) In Memory of
Artie Palestini
Requested by
The Palestini Family

2) In Memory of
Adam Lalli
Requested by
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Glynn



Bread & Wine

In Memory of
Domenick Menniti
Requested by
His Mom and Dad



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,

We are five days away from our annual celebration of Christmas!

In today's Gospel, when the light of God (Angel Gabriel) erupts into Mary's world, Gabriel tells Mary to not be afraid. Imagine if an angel appeared to you or me and told us not to be afraid. We would be quaking in our shoes, because our life is about to change and would never be the same. I wonder what Mary was feeling when the angel spoke those words. God gives us freedom to say no. The angel did not impose God's word. Gabriel asked for a free response. Because Gabriel knew Mary would be afraid, he tried to calm her. He explains to Mary what is going to happen, who this child to be born will really be, and what is going to happen to Him. None of this is what many would consider the fruits of having found favor with God. In effect, being blessed by God means that Mary will have a child outside of marriage, the child's father would not be the man she is currently engaged to marry, and when this child becomes an adult, He will be executed as a criminal. There will be no acceptability, prosperity, or comfort. However, through the eyes of faith, this picture will look quite different.

All the above is what Mary said yes to. She is an ordinary person in whose life God has made some very extraordinary claims. Mary was willing to obey those claims and therein lies her greatness. She was willing to be the servant of the Lord. In many ways, this annunciation story and its setting, within the context of Advent, is an announcement of hope for all humankind. We believe in a God who was willing to enter human life as we have, to live it, filled with depravity, violence, and corruption. God has not abandoned us "for nothing will be impossible for God."

Because Mary made her act of faith, the Incarnation of the Son of God took place. And because that Word became flesh, and later suffered, died, and rose from the dead, all human experience has been transformed. Even suffering and death have meaning.

If we can imitate Mary's faith, and let God's light erupt in us and believe in her Son, who is true God and true Man, we will be able to find that meaning. Through Mary's willingness to serve God, Jesus Christ entered the world. We, too, are offered the opportunity to serve God and to help the Lord build His kingdom, work that will continue until He returns in glory. Advent reminds us of what can be accomplished through us if we prepare the way of the Lord. We must find our opportunities to serve and seize them and not be surprised by the miracles that follow.

To all of you parishioners, friends, and visitors, please accept on behalf of the members of our parish staff, our Sisters of St. Joseph, and me, our prayerful best wishes for a **Merry Christmas Day** and a joyful and happy Christmas Season. Remember that saying: "Jesus is the Reason for the Season". No matter what our situation is this Christmas, Jesus is with **YOU**. Make a place in your heart for Him.

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

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!
Fr. Di Orio



Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord Christmas Masses



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

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25
12:00am (Midnight Mass), 8:00am and 10:30am
(No evening Mass on Christmas Day)

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

The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph

Saturday, 12/26/20-5PM Vigil Mass
Sunday, 12/27/20-8:00am and 10:30am

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day)

Thursday, December 31-5:00pm Vigil
Friday, January 1-8:00am



MEMORIALS

Below is a list of donations that have been made to honor the memory of loved ones who have passed on, but will never be forgotten.

In Memory of
Domenic Latorre
Frank Palamone
Carmela Salvo
Carmela Salvo
Carmela Salvo
Carmela Salvo
Frank Ward

Donor
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Termini
Richard and Catherine Palamone
Peter and Edna Amenta
Katherine Amenta
Peter and Christen Amenta
Maria and Louis Chila
Kevin and Loretta Ward

CHRISTMAS RECTORY SCHEDULE

Stella Maris Rectory will be closed on Thursday, 12/24/20 and Friday, 12/25/20 in observance of Christmas.

A Blessed Christmas to all!



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.

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

Please patronize those who advertise here in our Church Bulletin. They enable us to publish our bulletin each week and we are grateful for their support. Tell them you are giving them business because you saw the advertisement in the Church Bulletin.

+ 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 21- St. Peter Canisius
December 23 - St. John of Kanty
December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord
December 26 - St. Stephen

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# _____