

DECEMBER 21, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT



Stella Maris Catholic Church
Founded in the Marian Year 1954
2901 South 10th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148
Website: www.stellamarisphila.com
E-mail: 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 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Your Church contributions can be electronically withdrawn from your account and deposited directly to Stella Maris.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

Thank you.

Living Stewardship: “ We consider Christmas as the encounter, the great encounter, the historical encounter, the decisive encounter, between God and mankind. He who has faith knows this truly; let him rejoice.”

— Pope Paul VI

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:

HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY

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 21, 2025

Saturday - December 20

5:00 + Jim DeRenzi

Sunday - December 21(Fourth Sunday of Advent)

8:00 + Giovanni Martino

10:30 + Leo Rago

Monday - December 22

8:00 + Communion Prayer Service

Tuesday - December 23

8:00 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris

Wednesday - December 24

8:00 + Michelle Venditti

5:00 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris

Thursday - December 25 (Nativity of the Lord)

8:00 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris

10:30 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris

Friday - December 26

7:30 + Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday - December 27

8:00 + George Coluzzi

5:00 + Salvatore Sergi

Sunday - December 28

8:00 + Ian George Bryan

10:30 + Marcia Ann DiGiovannantonio



Church Sanctuary Lamp

In Memory of
Giovanni Martino

Requested by
His wife and Grandchildren



Altar Bread and Wine

In Memory of
Frank and Rita Giunta

Requested by
Agnes Alisio



Adoration Chapel Candles

1) Divine Will and Divine Mercy

Requested by
Michael and Maria Bryson

2) In Memory of
Sr. Lawrence Elizabeth, SSJ

Requested by
Maria and Anthony Rubbo and Family





Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This Fourth Sunday of Advent reminds us that “The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” 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.

In our Gospel from St. Matthew, it took a “yes” from St. Joseph, who received a message in a dream, to take Mary who was with child, into his home as his wife. 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. So, as we near the end of our Advent journey, let our “yes” make us bearers of Emmanuel, God is with us, to those who need healing, understanding, compassion and care.

To all of you parishioners, friends, and visitors, please accept on behalf of Deacon Jude, the members of our parish staff, our Sisters of St. Joseph, and me, our prayerful best wishes for a **Merry Christmas Day** and 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 please remember me in your prayers.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

Fr. Di Orio



CHURCH BINGO NIGHT!

Join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, and prizes!

Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026
Time: Doors open at 6 PM and Bingo starts at 7 PM
Location: Stella Maris Church
 2901 S. 10th St. Phila., PA 19148

What to Expect:

- Multiple bingo rounds
- Cash prizes
- Refreshments and snacks available for purchase
- A BYOB event

Admission:

- **\$30 per person**, includes 10 bingo games
- Additional cards available for purchase on site
- Special games
- This is an adult event. Participants must be 18 to play.

All proceeds support Stella Maris Church

Come enjoy a fun night for a great cause!
 Everyone is welcome — bring your friends and family!

For more information, contact:
Stella Maris Rectory 215-465-2336

Tickets will be sold after Mass or by calling the Rectory in advance.



FOOTBALL MANIA WINNING NUMBERS

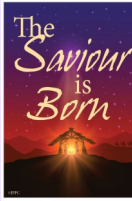



WEEK FOURTEEN

2905 - \$25
 # 2922 - \$50

Winning numbers will be posted weekly !

CHRISTMAS RECTORY SCHEDULE



Stella Maris Rectory will be closed on Wednesday, 12/24/25, Thursday, 12/25/25 and Friday, 12/26/25 in observance of Christmas.

A Blessed Christmas to all!

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!



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.

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!




Giving Hope TO ALL

CATHOLICCHARITIESAPPEAL.ORG

The Catholic Charities Appeal (CCA) of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is more than a campaign. It is a powerful expression of what is possible when people of faith respond to Christ's call to love one another as He loves us.

For more than 65 years, CCA has remained a beacon of hope throughout our five-county region and sustained vital charitable ministries and programs that serve one in five people across our region. When you support CCA, you embrace your role as a Missionary Disciple and help us in Giving Hope to All.

- EVANGELIZATION
- SOCIAL SERVICES
- SPECIAL EDUCATION
- RETIRED AND INFIRMED PRIESTS
- MISSION PARISHES

SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE 

Christmas Schedule -2025

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

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 different topics within the grieving process. For information, please call the Department of Pastoral Care at **215-952-9547**.

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 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**

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. This website will help you find eligibility and benefit information for over 300 programs regarding care for elderly loved ones.

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 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.

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 #



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 #

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 #
