

*December 24, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*May it be
done to me
according to
YOUR WORD*



*Stella Maris Catholic Church
Founded in the Marian Year 1954
2901 S. 10th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148
Website: www.stellamarisphila.com
E-mail: stellamarisparish@comcast.net*

*Rev. John R. Di Orio, Pastor
Rev. Msgr. James F. Connelly, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. James T. McCabe, Parochial Vicar
Rector: 215 465-2336
Convent: 215 462-1111*

December 24, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions For
The Week of December 24, 2017

Sunday—December 24

8:00 + Anna Martinelli
 9:30 + Dominick Menniti
 11:00 + Michelle Venditti
 5:00 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris
 (This does not fulfill your Sunday obligation.)

Monday—December 25 (Nativity of Our Lord)

12:00 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris
 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

Tuesday—December 26

8:00 + Marcia Ann DiGiovannantonio

Wednesday—December 27

8:00 + Frank and Anna Palesano

Thursday—December 28

8:00 + Madeline and Marcello Tenaglia

Friday—December 29

8:00 + Vincent Tonelli

Saturday—December 30

8:00 + Anne Marie McDonald
 5:00 + Frank and Rita Giunta

Sunday—December 31 (Holy Family)

8:00 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris
 9:30 + Leo Rago
 11:00 + Vincent Procopio

Church Sanctuary Lamp

In Memory of
 Catherine Ciociola
 At the Request of
 Her daughter, Barbara



Adoration Chapel Lamp

1) In Memory of
 Margaret Valentino
 Requested by
 Her Grandchildren
 2) In Memory of
 John Juliano and Jerry Palestini II
 Requested by
 The Palestini Family



Bread & Wine

In Memory of
 The Brigandi and Bonafino Families (L & D)
 Requested by
 Grace and Charles



STELLA MARIS RECTORY CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

In observance of Christmas, the Rectory will
 be closed this Monday, 12/25/17 and Tuesday,
 12/26/17.

A Blessed Christmas to all!



God's Plan for Giving—Tithing—A Way of Life	
Collection for weekend of December 16 & December 17	
Income: Plate	= \$6,309.00 + AWC = \$105.00 = \$6,414.00
Bills Paid= Total Disbursements	= (\$29,988.48)
Total	= (\$23,574.48)

Living Stewardship-Living God's Word: "O come, O come, Emmanuel. Make Your dwelling place in us this day. Let the world recognize that we are a people chosen to be a sign of Your loving, merciful, justice-seeking, reconciling presence in the world. Thank You for the many ways You continue to do the impossible in us and through us. AMEN."

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:

Jeanette Albanese, Rosario Allia, Ed Alioto, Blaise Ambrosini, Dottie Arcuri, Neil Baldwin, Martha Basualdo, Raymond Baxter, Ralph Berarducci, Kelly Anne Bodine, Shyla Boetter, Emmanuel Borgesi, M/M Bracy, Donna Bria, Dominick Bucciarelli, Rose Cappetto, William Carbo, Grace Carchidi, Vincent Carchidi, Arthur Carrado, Doris Castagno, Elaine Cipparone, Sister Jeanne Crane SSJ, Sarah Croce, Donna Cunningham, Jill Daly, Antonio D'Angelo, Joanne DePena, Baby Matthew D'Imperio, Michael DeSumma, Charles DiMartini Jr., Lynn DiOrio, Teri DiOrio, Veronica Dolan, Marie Donato, Frederick Earlari, Trish Ezzie, Virginia Faulkner, Samuel Fiore, Clara Fioravanti, Russell Fiugalski, Marlene Flocco, Joan Gain, Evelyn Gardella, Keith Green, Maribel Guerrero, Margie Gurbuz, Carol Holman, Kimberly Honeschuck, Howard Horner III, Alice Idell, Lucy Intelisano, Ann Ippolito, Anthony Ippolito, Thomas P. Jones, Frank Kane, Vito LaFranci, Ronald Lalli, Samantha LaSpada, Petronella MacCarter, Kathleen Magnotta, Domenick Maiorano, Mario Marchetti, Marie Marino, Carmela Martini, Joe Martino, Tina Martino, Lilian Mattioli, Danielle McDevitt, Ernest Megali, Rita Mendicino, Louise Mento, Lucy Michielli, Kayla Minore, Florence Mooney, Cecelia Moore, Josephine Dolores Napoli, Philomena Nardello, Thomas Nardone, Baby Theodore Norkus, Patrick Oldfield, Lenny Olivieri, Marie Ordine, Louis Pagano, Rose Pagano, Fred Papaleo, Jaycee Park, Jason Perri, Madeline Perri, Angela Raffa, M/M Robert Reed, Jason Rindone, Keith Ross, Maria Russo, Theresa Salvatore, Mina Sammarone, Domenic Santaguida, Steven Scanlon, Lorraine Schellinger, Patricia Schiela, Anthony Sergontoni, Grover Simpson, Evelyn Spina, Ralph Spina, Regina Stanley, Thomas Sweeney Jr., Savannah Taylor, James Trainor Jr., Alessandra Trimarco, Lori Trischler, Terry Troiano, Caila Tuohey, Allyson Turner, Robin Twaddell, Christine Upchurch, Christopher Vacante, Michael Valardi, Anthony Vanore, Joseph Vitello, Kylie Waldron, Veronica Walls, Ed Williams, the military disabled, the homebound, and their families.



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

JACQUELINE BREED

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.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We are one day away from our annual celebration of Christmas.

The Gospel reading from St. Luke gives us an opportunity to reflect on the precious gift of faith in the Incarnation of the Son of God. Mary is told that she has found favor with God. This gives the angel Gabriel an opportunity to explain 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 of 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 are able to imitate Mary's faith, 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 Fr. McCabe, the members of our parish staff, our Sisters of St. Joseph, and myself, 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



GOD'S PROMISE

The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God's promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God's name, poetically turns around David's plan to build a house for God, and announces God's plan to build a "house," that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and over all. When God gives a gift, it's amazing what we are given—so different from what we ever could have imagined.



Christmas Schedule-2017



Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord Christmas Masses

Sunday, Christmas Eve, December 24

(no confessions on Christmas Eve)

4:30pm-Children's Choir-Carol Singing

5:00pm-Mass

(This Mass does not fulfill your Sunday obligation.)

11:30pm-Adult Choir-Carol Singing

Monday, Christmas Day, December 25

12:00am (Midnight Mass), 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am

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

Holy Family Sunday-December 31

Saturday, 12/30/17-(Vigil Mass), 5pm

Sunday, 12/31/17, 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am

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

Monday, New Year's Day, January 1

8:00am



PARISH FROZEN FOOD PROGRAM

Our Parish Frozen Food Program is in great need of dinners: pasta, chicken, beef, ham, pork and fish. We kindly ask that the meals you prepare contain meat or fish, a starch (pasta/potatoes/rice) and a vegetable. Those who receive these meals are elderly and it is healthy for them to get a balanced, nutritious meal.

Thank you for helping those in need!

STELLA MARIS MINISTRY

As Christians, we are called to share our time, talents, and treasures. Our Parish is asking you to share some of your time and talents by volunteering to be a part of one of our ministries (Lectors, Singers/Cantors, Ushers, etc.). If you are interested, please call the Rectory at 215-465-2336 during regular business hours.





**STAR OF THE SEA SENIORS
TRIP TO LANCASTER**

Star of the Sea Seniors are sponsoring a trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA, to see the brand new show, "JESUS", on **Tuesday, 03/13/18**. Cost is \$130 per person and includes: Theater matinee show, buffet lunch at Millers Restaurant, Rockvale Outlets, round-trip motorcoach transportation, all taxes and gratuities. **Deposit of \$65 is now due; balance of \$65 is due no later than 01/09/18**. We are currently **sold out**, but have a **waiting list**. For reservations, please call Marge Varley at 215-463-3386 or Helen Wagenborg at 215-468-6618.

TRIP TO DELAWARE PARK

Star of the Sea Seniors are running a trip to Delaware Park on Tuesday, 02/13/18. The cost is \$35 with a bonus of \$30 free play. Full payment is due when you make your reservation, but no later than 01/15/18. The bus will leave Stella Maris parking lot PROMPTLY at 10:15AM. You may park your cars behind the Church ONLY. Lunch is on your own. The bus will depart for home at 5:00PM. For reservations, please call Marge Varley at 215-463-3386 or Helen Wagenborg at 215-468-6618.



OUR LADY OF HOPE SCHOOL NEWS

There are two scholarship opportunities that have opened for the 2018-2019 School Year:

- 1) **Children's Scholarship of Philadelphia** is now accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year. Applications are available through their website: www.csphiladelphia.org. **Final deadline is March 1, 2018.**
- 2) **FACTS Financial Aid Application** replaces the SmartAid Financial Application. Financial Aid through FACTS requires an **application fee of \$30**. **Priority is given to applications completed by December 31, 2017.** Financial aid **deadline is March 15, 2018.**

Tours of the School are available by calling **215-467-5385** to make an appointment to learn more about school programs. For more information, you can also email Ms. Cody, the Principal, at: pcody@ourladyofhopephilly.com.

STELLA MARIS PARISH CALENDAR



- Sunday, 12/24/17-NO CCD CLASSES-Christmas Eve
- Sunday, 12/24/17-Sunday Masses-8AM, 9:30AM and 11AM
- Sunday, 12/24/17-Christmas Eve Mass-5PM
- Sunday, 12/25/17-Christmas Day Masses-12Midnight, 8AM, 9:30AM and 11AM
- Sunday, 12/31/17-NO CCD CLASSES-New Year's Eve
- Saturday, 01/06/18-Sodality Meeting-8:30AM, Church/Vestibule
- Sunday, 01/07/18-CCD-9:15AM. Church/School
- Tuesday, 01/09/18-Star of the Sea Seniors-1:00PM, Vestibule Mtg. Rm.
- Thursday, 01/11/18-Fundraising Committee-6:30PM, Msgr. JFC Conf. Rm.
- Sunday, 01/14/18-NO CCD CLASSES-MLK Day Wknd.
- Monday, 01/15/18-Helping Hands Meeting-7:00PM, Msgr. JFC Conf. Rm.

**2017 CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL
YEAR-END GIVING**

Make these last few days of December count! Donate to the 2017 Catholic Charities Appeal! There are so many incredible programs and people that benefit that from the 2017 Catholic Charities Appeal. When you support CCA, you are: helping children with special needs attend one of the four Catholic Schools of Special Education; providing hot meals for families in need; supporting services for veterans and their families; providing safe havens for women and their children. Charitable donations are a great way to reduce your tax burden for the year, all while doing something for the benefit of others.

Visit: www.catholiccharitiesappeal.org

Thank you for supporting the 2017 Catholic Charities Appeal!



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, 2017**. 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 \$36,000 or less and renters with annual incomes of \$15,700 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, from 10AM-4PM at 215-923-1900**.

ARCHDIOCESAN ADULT CHOIR



This group of Archdiocesan Liturgical Musicians comes together each year to sing for all Major Archdiocesan Masses including Chrism Mass, Priesthood and Diaconate Ordinations, and our Annual Christmas Concert. If interested in scheduling an audition time, please contact cangelini@archphila.org after January 1, 2018.



ARCHDIOCESAN GIRL AND BOY CHOIR

Auditions will be held for the Archdiocesan Girl and Boy Choir on Saturday, January 13, 2018, from 9:00AM to 4:00PM.

ALL AUDITIONS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

To schedule your appointment, please contact: archdiocesangirlandboychoir@gmail.com



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



Reunite with old friends and Dine, Dance & Party the night away with us on **Saturday, February 17, 2017 at Stella Maris Hall, 814 Bigler Street, from 7pm until 11pm** with great music (featuring Jerry Blavat), great food, and great fun.

Ticket cost is \$45 (non-refundable), \$55 at the door, which includes selections at our hot buffet by "Galdo's" Caterers, desserts, beer, soda, coffee, and tea. Door prize, 50/50 chances and chances on 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!





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:

SAINT CHARLES BORROMEEO SEMINARY APPEAL

We hope you will give prayerful consideration in contributing to the 2017-2018 Seminary Appeal. There are many ways in which you may contribute:

- Pledge Gift
- Electronic Fund Transfer
- One Time Gift
- Gifts of Securities
- Credit Card Gifts
- Planned Gifts
- Matching Gifts
- Tribute Gifts

All gifts to the 2017-2018 Annual Seminary Appeal are tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor on the tax treatment of all gifts, as they may vary from individual to individual. You may make a contribution in cash, online, or by direct mail, which you should have received from the Seminary. Gifts can be sent directly to: Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary
100 E. Wynnewood Road
Wynnewood, PA 19096

Thank you for your generosity and support!



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:
