

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Stella Maris Catholic Church
Founded in the Marian Year 1954
2901 South 10th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148
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Rev. John R. Di Orio
Pastor
Rectory Phone: 215-465-2336
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God's Plan for Giving—Tithing—A Way of Life

Due to an early printing deadline requested by our Bulletin Company, our Church Bulletin had to go to print before last weekend's collection took place. The collection figures 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Your Church contributions can be electronically withdrawn from your account and deposited directly to Stella Maris.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 go to stellamarisphila.com and click on **Parish Giving** (under our Mass Schedule) for information and/or to enroll. Thank you.

Living Stewardship: "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, through us. 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: ANTHONY OTTOBRE

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 24, 2023

Saturday - December 23

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)

Monday - December 25 (Nativity of the Lord)

8:00 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris

10:30 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris

Tuesday - December 26

8:00 + Communion Prayer Service

Wednesday - December 27

8:00 + Leo Rago

Thursday - December 28

8:00 + Marcia Ann DiGiovannantonio

Friday - December 29

8:00 + Deceased Sisters of St. Joseph

Saturday - December 30

8:00 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris

5:00 + Joseph Italiano

Sunday - December 31

8:00 + Annmarie McDonald

10:30 + Vincent and Santo Procopio



Church Sanctuary Lamp

In Memory of
Domenick Menniti
Requested by
Brothers Frank, Vince, Tony, and Cosmo

Altar Bread and Wine

In Memory of
Domenick Menniti
Requested by
Mom and Dad



CHRISTMAS RECTORY SCHEDULE

Stella Maris Rectory will be closed on Monday, 12/25/23 and Tuesday, 12/26/23 in observance of Christmas.

A Blessed Christmas to all!

**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://phillvomv.org/event/intercessory-prayer-training/>



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.

After 20 years of faithful service to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and 8 years as Secretary of Stella Maris, Carmel Brabazon is retiring, effective Friday, December 29, 2023. It is with heavy hearts that we see her leave. But it is with great joy that we wish her much relaxation and happiness as she begins a new chapter in her life. May God bless her in her retirement. It's just farewell, not goodbye. We welcome Mrs. Sabina Rizwan, our new secretary, to our parish staff family.

To all of you parishioners, friends, and visitors, please accept on behalf of all members of our parish staff, our Sisters of St. Joseph, and myself, 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", that 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



Christmas Schedule -2023



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

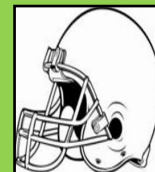
PARISH FROZEN FOOD PROGRAM

Our Parish Frozen Food Program is in great need of frozen 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.

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).



FOOTBALL MANIA WINNING NUMBERS



WEEK FOURTEEN

#93-3S003-\$25

#331-3S003-\$25

#513-3S003-\$25

#674-3S003-\$50

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

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).

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 or 215-368-5875
Maria Richardson at 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.

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 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 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 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 #



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 #



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 #
