

*December 25, 2022*  
*The Nativity of the Lord*

A detailed illustration of the Nativity scene. The Virgin Mary is kneeling in prayer over the infant Jesus who lies in a manger filled with straw. Joseph stands behind her, and three wise men in ornate, colorful robes are presenting gifts. The scene is set in a dark, rocky cave with palm trees visible in the background under a starry night sky with a bright star. The text 'CHRISTMAS BEGINS WITH Christ' is overlaid on the scene.

# CHRISTMAS

BEGINS WITH

# Christ

©JPPC

*Stella Maris Catholic Church*  
*Founded in the Marian Year 1954*  
*2901 South 10th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148*

*Website: [www.stellamarisphila.com](http://www.stellamarisphila.com)*  
*E-mail: [stellamarisparish@comcast.net](mailto: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 25, 2022**  
**The Nativity of the Lord**

**God's Plan for Giving—Tithing—A Way of Life**

**Collection for weekend of December 10 & December 11**

**Income: Plate = \$5,11600 + AWC= \$72.50 = \$5,188.50**

**Bills Paid = Total Disbursements = (\$35,534.41)**

**Total = (\$30,345.91)**



Your Church contributions can be electronically withdrawn from your account and deposited directly to Stella Maris.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

**Living Stewardship:**

**“In the Child of Bethlehem, the smallness of God-made-man shows us the greatness of man and the beauty of our dignity as children of God and brothers and sisters of Jesus.”**  
-Pope Benedict XVI



**Please pray for the sick that they may be comforted:**

Jeannette Albanese, Blaise Ambrosini, Nicholas Andreola, Dottie Arcuri, Neil Baldwin, Raymond Baxter, Elaine Belfi, Elaine Bianculli, Kim Birch, Kelly Ann Bodine, Shyla Boetter, Emmanuel Borges, Anthony Borzillo, Mr. & Mrs. Bracy, Donna Bria, Dominick Bucciarelli, Rose Cappetto, 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, Dom Dinella, Kathy Dinella, Lynn Di Orio, Veronica Dolan, Marie Donato, Lucy Dougherty, Dolores Edmondson, Trish Ezzie, Virginia Faulkner, Marie Feehan, Russell Fiugalski, George Fragnito, Samantha Fry, Joan Gain, Ellen Gabarino, Evelyn Gardella, Keith Green, Margie Gurbuz, Carol Holman, Kimberly Honeschuck, Bethany Hopkins, Dakota Hussein, Lucy Intelisano, Nora James, Frank Kane, Vito LaFranci, Ashleigh Leone, Stacey Loke Pelle, Jamie Long, Bob Lutz, Kathleen Magnotta, Domenick Maiorano, 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, Renate Nardy, Patrick Oldfield, Matthew Padgeon, Louis Pagano, Jaycee Park, Jason Perri, Madeline Perri, Sophie Philipp, Christopher Pronio, Theresa Quieti, Angela Raffa, Amanda Razzano, Jason Rindone, Michael Rines, Juan Rodriguez, Denise Romolini, Rich Rosati, Keith Ross, Joann Rua, Maria Russo, Carmen Rutolo, 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, Alicia Viray, Sarah Wallace, Matt Watson, the military disabled, the home-bound and their families.



**We pray for our deceased Parishioners, Relatives and Friends:**  
**FRANK COSTANZO**

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 25, 2022**

**Sunday—December 25 (The Nativity of the Lord)**

8:00 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris

10:30 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris

**Monday - December 26**

8:00 + Communion Prayer Service

**Tuesday - December 27**

8:00 + Marcia Ann DiGiovannantonio

**Wednesday— December 28**

8:00 + Judy Jacquindo and Gerry Murphy

**Thursday - December 29**

8:00 + Living and Deceased Members of the DeSimone and Pagnotto Families

**Friday - December 30**

8:00 + Living and Deceased Members of Stella Maris

**Saturday— December 31**

8:00 + Michael Bryan

5:00 + Vincent and Santo Procopio

**Sunday - January 1 (Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God)**

8:00 + Joan Babowitch

10:30 + Gerald Palestini II (Birthday Remembrance)

**Church Sanctuary Lamp**



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

**Adoration Chapel Candles**



1) In Memory of  
Marie and Robert Maffei  
Requested by  
Catherine Olds  
2) In Memory of  
Marie and Robert Maffei  
Requested by  
Catherine Olds



**Altar Bread and Wine**

In Memory of  
Domenick Menniti  
Requested by  
Brother Tony, Sister-in-Law Brittany & Audrina and Domenico



**ADULT CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED!**

The Stella Maris Adult Choir invites **all men and women who enjoy singing to join them.** No prior experience is necessary-all you need is a joy-filled love of singing! **Rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM in the Rectory music room** (please enter through the front door of the Rectory). Help us to enhance our liturgical celebrations with beautiful music and to vocally give praise and thanks to our Lord for all He has done for us.

All are welcome-the more, the merrier!



Dear Parishioners, Friends, and Visitors,

Merry Christmas! On behalf of all the members of our parish staff and our Sisters of St. Joseph, I extend our prayerful best wishes that you will be blessed with a merry and holy Christmas. I thank you for making the Gift of Jesus the heart of your Christmas celebration, by coming to Mass and being a part of the faith community in which we worship and give praise and thanks to God for giving us Jesus, His Son.

Christmas is about Christ; it's Christ's Mass! Unfortunately, many baptized as Christians do not celebrate Christmas because they are alienated by its materialism and superficiality. Let us reflect on our own reasons for celebrating the season. Is Christ truly central? Therefore,

**This Christmas...**

**Let's Give a Little Jesus**, a thoughtful word or deed, An act of generosity for someone who's in need.

**Let's Give a Little Jesus** to everyone we meet- The sales clerk or the server, the person on the street.

**Let's Give a Little Jesus**, that's what really counts-Not what's spent or brought, for whom, in what amounts.

**Let's Give a Little Jesus** to everyone large or small...For Jesus, the Messiah, is the Greatest Gift of All!

As we journey through this Christmas Season, let's give a little Jesus.

I recognize and thank all who have helped in any way with all the preparations for Christmas:

To Stella Maris Helping Hands for coordinating our Christmas Outreach, thank you for your compassionate, energetic, confidential, Christ-like ministry that you extend to those in need. Because of you, thousands of dollars, hundreds of gifts, and pounds of food were extended to those in need, both in our parish community and to others we helped. Thank you.

To Mr. Cormac Brady, the Choir, and Cantors, thank you for the music and song that enables us to lift our hearts in song to praise God for the gift of His Son Jesus. All your talents and time in music are appreciated.

To all those who minister in Church: the ushers, the altar servers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, and lectors, I am grateful for all you do to help us celebrate this wonderful season.

To all who helped decorate our Sacred Space, our Church, thank you. The religious meaning of Christmas decorations helps us all to remember God's love and Jesus whom we celebrate at this time of year. Sadly, so many describe this time of year as the holiday season, but for us it is Christmas!

To all who have kept Christ in Christmas, thank you!

I recognize and thank all who have so generously contributed for the decorations and flowers in the Church. Our Church has been decorated, not merely to have it look nice, but to express our faith, gratitude, and to inspire all who worship here.

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

God bless,  
Merry Christmas!  
Fr. Di Orio



**Christmas Schedule -2022**

**Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**  
**Christmas Masses**

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

**Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25**  
8:00am Mass and 10:30am Mass  
(No evening Mass on Christmas Day)

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

**New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31**  
(Confessions available 4:00pm to 4:45pm)  
5:00pm-Vigil Mass

**Sunday, January 1**  
8:00am Mass and 10:30am Mass

**CHRISTMAS RECTORY SCHEDULE**

Stella Maris Rectory will be closed this Monday, 12/26/22 in observance of Christmas.  
**A Blessed Christmas to all!**

**MARCH FOR LIFE**

The March for Life in Washington, DC, is being held on January 20, 2023, and is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country. Every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge on the National Mall and march on Capital Hill. It's the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. But this is not just a protest...TOGETHER WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE LIFE. We celebrate each and every life, from the moment of conception. We envision a world where every life is celebrated, valued, and protected.

For more information, visit <https://marchforlife.org/>

To inquire about buses leaving from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, contact:  
**the Office for Life and Family at 215-587-0500.**



### **EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL**

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have called for a three-year grassroots revival of devotion and belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. They believe that God wants to see a movement of Catholics across the USA, healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist. Visit: [phillyeucharisticrevival.org](http://phillyeucharisticrevival.org).

*“Prayer for the Revival”*

**My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You! I beg pardon for those who do not believe, nor adore, nor hope, nor love You. (three times)**

**Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly. I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences by which He is offended. And, through the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of sinners. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.**

### **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](http://Heedthecall.org/Phillyadores). If you have any questions or would like more information, please email:

[Phillyadoration@gmail.com](mailto:Phillyadoration@gmail.com)

### **SEMINARIAN SPOTLIGHT**

As we pray for vocations to the priesthood, a good way to get to know our seminarians studying for ordination in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is by listening to their vocation stories by visiting: [Heedthecall.org/poster](http://Heedthecall.org/poster).

### **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](mailto:smatour@archphila.org).

### **COME AND SEE WEEKENDS**

Come and see weekends offer men (high school and above) who are discerning a call to the priesthood a chance to get away, meet other men on a similar journey, and find a place of quiet to listen to God speak. Held throughout the year, these weekends include Mass, praying the Liturgy of the Hours with the seminarians, Holy Hours, talks on discernment and vocations, and time for recreation with the seminarians. There is no cost to attend these weekends, which include a single room and all meals. For more information and to register for a particular weekend, please visit [Heedthecall.org/ComeandSee](http://Heedthecall.org/ComeandSee).

Upcoming Come and See Weekends:

#### **High School Men**

January 28-29, 2023  
February 25-26, 2023

#### **Post-High School Men**

February 10-12, 2023  
March 10-12, 2023

### **IS THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (R.C.I.A.) FOR YOU?**

Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church? Are you curious about the Catholic faith, but not sure you want to make a commitment? Are you married to a Catholic spouse, raising the children Catholic, and interested in knowing more to be able to share with them? Are you a Catholic who desires to complete the initiation process by receiving Eucharist and/or Confirmation? If you answered yes to any of these questions, the R.C.I.A. may be for you.

**The R.C.I.A. is designed to assist youth and adults who:**

- \*Have never been baptized and wish to be baptized in the Catholic Church
- \*Have been baptized in another Christian Tradition (Lutheran, Episcopalian, etc.) and wish to become Catholic
- \*Were baptized Catholic but have not yet received First Communion and/or Confirmation

There's no time like the present to begin your inquiry in the faith. If you are interested in learning more about R.C.I.A., please contact Mrs. Marie Milano at 215-465-2336, ext. 5.

### **WEEKLY ARCHDIOCESAN WORLD MISSION ROSARY**

Every Monday at 8PM you can pray the rosary via Zoom or phone on the Archdiocesan LIVE World Mission Rosary. To join in this live rosary, visit [phillymissions.org](http://phillymissions.org) for the Zoom link, or type in <https://zoom.us/j/494480541#success>.

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 world-wide!



### **GET TO KNOW OUR SAINTS**

During this beautiful Christmas Season, 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 for your birthday. The saints we celebrate this week are as follows:

- Dec. 26 - St. Stephen
- Dec. 27 - St. John
- Dec. 28 -The Holy Innocents
- Dec. 29 - St. Tomas Becket
- Dec. 30 - Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- Dec. 31 - St. Sylvester

**Enjoy your Saints Adventure!**

### **SAFE SLEEP PHILLY CRIB PROGRAM\***

Do you need a safe place for your baby to sleep? If you live in Philadelphia and are currently pregnant or have a baby under one year of age, we can provide a crib/Pack 'n Play. Visit us at Whitman Plaza Resource Hub, (in the plaza between GNC & Rainbow), Monday through Friday, 10AM to 5PM. For questions, you can contact **Michelle Crooks** at 215-585-5080 or email Michelle at [michelle.crooks@phila.gov](mailto:michelle.crooks@phila.gov).

\*Sponsored by the Department of Public Health for the City of Philadelphia and Philadelphia Healthy Start\*

**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](http://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](mailto: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.pavingforseniorcare.com](http://www.pavingforseniorcare.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](http://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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE**

The Center provides an authentically Catholic approach to women's reproductive healthcare and follows Catholic medical ethics. The providers treat women in various age groups-from teen to seniors-and offer gynecologic care, yearly women's check-ups and natural family planning instruction in the Creighton Model Fertility Care System. Services are available in English and Spanish. The Gianna Center of Philadelphia is located in East Norriton (very close to the Plymouth Meeting Mall). For more information, call the center at 844-204-0005 or visit [phgiannacenter.org](http://phgiannacenter.org).

**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 #**