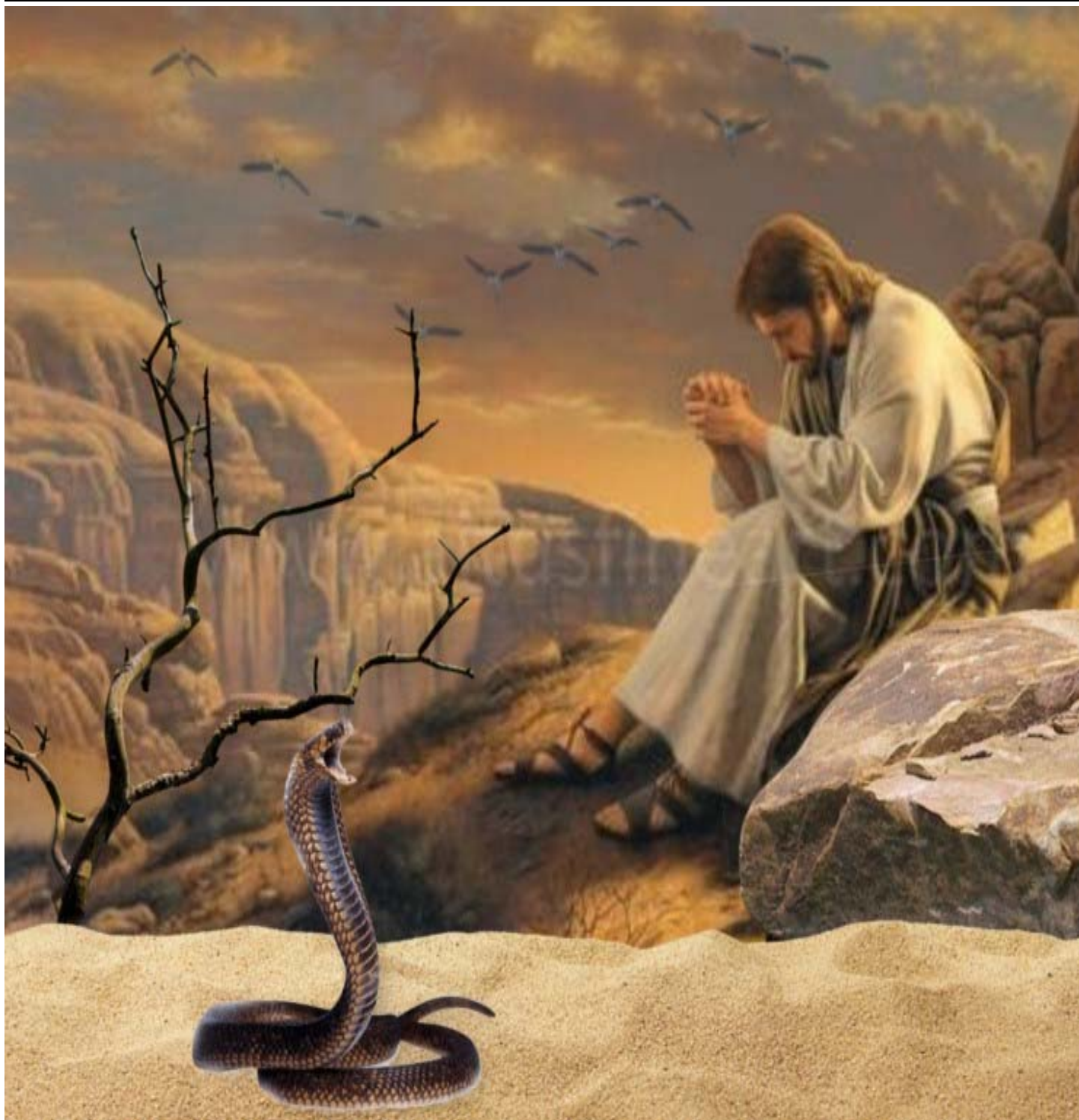


*Stella Maris Catholic Church*  
*Founded in the Marian Year 1954*  
*2901 S. 10th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148*

*Website: [www.stellamarisphila.com](http://www.stellamarisphila.com)*  
*E-mail: [stellamarisparish@comcast.net](mailto:stellamarisparish@comcast.net)*  
*Follow us on Facebook: Stella Maris*



*First Sunday of Lent*  
*February 21, 2021*





Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We have begun our Lenten journey. Let us all pray for one another and make our intention the words we heard on Ash Wednesday: "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

Now that we are at the beginning of our Lenten Season, I believe that all the Christmas donations have been made by now. Our Christmas collection total is \$23,750.00. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for your generosity and support of the parish in our recent Christmas collection.

As we do every First Sunday of Lent, today we ponder a Gospel account of the days Christ spent in the desert following His baptism. During this time of solitude, fasting, and intense prayer, Jesus was tempted by the devil.

If we want to do Lent properly, we need to go to the desert with Jesus. We go there to let ourselves be formed or reformed by God. We separate ourselves from our consumer culture so that Jesus can shape us into a people who are different, a purposely different community. This Lent is a time for us to reexamine and call into question the very values and attitudes on which we base our everyday lives and behavior. What does all this mean to you and to me this Lent?

One simple thing to keep doing in the Lenten weeks ahead is to ask ourselves a question before making decisions, before acting: Is this action or decision one that will please God and not simply me?

Another provocative question is to ask: To what have I become enslaved? To be free from our slavery to sin, we must not simply do what everyone else is doing. We must spend some time alone with God, asking for changed hearts and a changed focus.

Ask God to teach us to live life to the full and yet live a life based on God's love.

A final Lenten question: Is helping others the first priority in my life? Do I feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, etc.?

Let this Lent be an opportunity for us to change. Let us vow to do good whether that involves our time, our money, or the way we relate to our brothers and sisters.

During the 40 days of Lent, we, like Jesus in today's Gospel, will be "put to the test" by many temptations. The main temptation may be to make no real change or commitments.

Temptation is not an enticement to sin. It is a test, a test to see who is stronger, us or Satan. By fasting, intensified prayer, and almsgiving, we can overcome our temptation and defeat Satan, because of Christ who led the way in the desert. When we do this, then we, like the Psalmist, could say: "Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant".

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

Happy Lent!  
Fr. Di Orio



**OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP**

February 21, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The **Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa** was founded on the basic principles of Saint John Paul II's call to action in *Ecclesia in Africa* and the adoption of the statement *A Call to Solidarity with Africa* from the Bishops of the United States.

Africa faces the economic and social hurdles of enormous debt, epidemics, severe poverty, and political unrest. In spite of these challenges, Catholicism is flourishing amid these harsh circumstances.

Your support of the **Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa** assists in the delivery of basic pastoral care which includes religious education, seminary formation and youth ministry. It also supports important projects such as pastoral care for the sick.

The collection for the **Church in Africa** will be conducted in your parish on the weekend of February 27-28/2021. On behalf of our brothers and sisters in Africa, I am grateful for your continued generosity.

Gratefully and with best wishes in Jesus Christ,  
+Most Reverend Nelson J. Perez, D.D.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia



**NEWS FROM THE VOCATION OFFICE**

**Weekly Discernment Groups** are designed for Catholic men who are discerning a call to the priesthood. Separate discernment groups are held for high school men, college-aged men, and post-college men.

**High School Men:** Thursdays: 6:30PM to 8:00PM  
from February 18 to March 25

**College-Aged Men:** Thursdays: 8:30PM to 10:00PM  
from February 18 to March 25

**Post-College Men:** Sundays : 6:30PM to 8:00PM  
from February 21 to March 28

For more information and to register, contact Father DeLacy, Vocation Director of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, at: [fr.sdelacy@archphila.org](mailto:fr.sdelacy@archphila.org) or call the Vocation Office at **610-667-5778**.



**NEED FINANCIAL HELP TO ATTEND COLLEGE?  
APPLY FOR A STELLA MARIS SCHOLARSHIP**

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- 1) Applicants must be high school seniors or graduates who are registered parishioners of Stella Maris Parish in Philadelphia, PA.
- 2) Applicants must be active, participating members of Stella Maris Parish, recommended by the Pastor.
- 3) Applicants must demonstrate academic achievement and financial need. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale is desired.
- 4) Applicants must plan to attend or be enrolled full-time at an accredited college/university located in the USA.
- 5) This scholarship is for one year only; current recipients may reapply to be considered for additional funding along with the new applicants. Scholarship recipients must be enrolled full-time.

**Please call Stella Maris Parish Rectory at 215-465-2336, Monday through Friday, from 9AM to 4PM, up to and including Friday, February 26, 2021 to determine eligibility.**

**Applications will be accepted online only.**

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ALL MATERIALS IS  
5:00PM EST ON MARCH 2, 2021!**

## 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).



## 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](http://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.



## MAN-UP PHILLY

The 13th Annual Archdiocesan Catholic Men's Spirituality Conference, **MAN UP PHILLY 2021**, is being held virtually on **Saturday, 03/06/2021**. The Conference will be live-streamed via Zoom to all registrants. Join us for a day focused on ways to live your faith everyday. This year's line-up of speakers is tremendous and will be an inspiration to all participants. The speakers include: **Fr. Mike Schmitz**, whose *Bible in a Year* is #1 in the nation. He appeals to all Catholics, but has a special gift in reaching young adults; **Bishop Joseph Coffey**, originally a priest in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, now Auxiliary Bishop of Military Services and is in active service with the U.S. Navy; **Col. Tom Manion**, who served in the Marine Corps for over 30 years. Colonel Manion founded the *Travis Manion Foundation* (TMF) named in honor of his son, 1st Lt. Travis Manion USMC, who made the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan in April 2007. TMF supports military families, and helps to create the next generation of leaders; **Deacon Steve Javie**, former NBA ref, will provide our reconciliation talk. Irish tenor **Mark Forrest** will again provide inspirational accompaniment during a special Eucharistic Adoration. The Conference will conclude with Saturday Mass (not a Sunday Vigil Mass), celebrated by **Archbishop Nelson J. Perez**. Please join your brothers in Christ for this unique experience. Registration is \$10 for this virtual event which you can view on your computer or mobile phone. For more information or to register, visit <https://manupphilly.com/registration/>.

+ 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**.



## "YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH"

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 12/08/20, the Holy Father proclaimed the "Year of St. Joseph", which extends to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on 12/08/2021. Pope Francis shares his beautiful reflections on St. Joseph in the new Apostolic Letter named, *With a Father's Heart*". He shares his intent with the proclamation: **The aim of this Apostolic letter is to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession, and to imitate his virtues and his zeal.**

### Ways to Gain a Plenary Indulgence in the Year of St. Joseph

\*Meditate at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer, or take part in a spiritual retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph. \*Follow St. Joseph's example by performing a spiritual or corporal work of mercy. \*Recite the Rosary with your family members and also among engaged couples. \*Entrust your daily activities to the protection of St. Joseph and invoke his intercession for those seeking work so they can find dignifying work to support themselves and their families. \*Recite the Litany to St. Joseph or any prayer to St. Joseph proper to liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church and for the relief of all Christians suffering persecution. \*Recite any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph. \*This indulgence is also extended to the sick, the elderly, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes.

## 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:

February 22- The Chair of Saint Peter

February 23- St. Polycarp

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 forth by the Archdiocese. Of Philadelphia. 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](http://archphila.org/hope) for details and postings.



**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:**

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**REQUESTED BY:**

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**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:**

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**REQUESTED BY:**

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**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:**

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**REQUESTED BY:**

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**Phone#** \_\_\_\_\_



**FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The cost of home heating has a major impact on monthly budgets. To assist people with these rising costs, the **Pennsylvania Home Heating Fuel Assistance Rebate Program (LIHEAP)** is now in progress. This **Fuel Assistance Program** is available to people of all ages within the income guidelines. For example, **individuals** with a monthly income less than **\$1,595**, or a **two-person household** with a **monthly income under \$2,155** qualify for the grant. Call **United Social Services at 215-923-1900**, Monday through Friday between 10AM and 4PM. A staff worker will explain the eligibility requirements, answer your questions and assist you in completing an application. **The filing deadline is Friday, 04/09/21. This grant is provided to all who qualify and does not have to be repaid.** All inquiries are **confidential**.



**IN-HOME SUPPORT SYSTEM**

Are you homebound? Would you benefit from on-going 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](http://www.Lily'sGift.org) or call Sister Kathleen Schipani (215-587-3530). This information has been provided by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Office for Life and Family.