

Church of the Holy Family

Parish Rectory

234 Hermitage Street
Philadelphia, PA 19127

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Parish e-mail:

holyfamily234@verizon.net

Website: www.HolyFamilyPhilly.org

Pastor e-mail: MsgrSweeney@gmail.com

Pastor

Rev. Monsignor Patrick E. Sweeney

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Francis X. McKee

Sunday Visitor

Rev. John P. Collins

Pastoral Service Director

Mr. James Browne

Day Care & Summer Camp

Ages: Infant (6 weeks) through PreK-4

Hours: 6:00am to 6:00pm,
year round care

Director: Cyndi Manley

Day Care: 215-483-7740

Director's Cellphone: 215-298-4971

E-mail: ictrouble63@gmail.com

www.ChildCareAtHolyFamilymanayunk.com



CHURCH SERVICES

Saturday Evening Mass 4:00pm

Sunday Masses: 8:00 and 11:00am

Weekday Mass: 8:00am

Holy Day Vigil Mass: 7:00pm

Holy Day Mass: 8:00am

BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated on the third Sunday of each month after the 11:00am Mass. Please contact the rectory for details about the Pre-Jordan program which is held on the first Sunday of the month at 12:00pm in the rectory.

CONFESSION

Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45pm

After Stations on Wednesday evenings during Lent and any time upon request.

MARRIAGE

Couples must make arrangements with one of the priests at Holy Family at least 6 months prior to the wedding. Call the rectory at 215-482-0450 for an appointment.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND ELDERLY

We visit the homes of those unable to attend Mass due to sickness or age on the first Monday of each month from 11:00am to 12:30pm and every Sunday after the 8:00am Mass.

Welcome

We welcome all who join us for worship and we invite you to become part of our parish family. You may register as a parishioner in the rectory on any Sunday morning after the 8:00am or 11:00am Masses or any time in the rectory.

Holy Hour: second Sunday of each month after the 11:00am Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena: every Friday after 8:00am Mass

Alter Servers: serve at Mass

Cantors: lead singing at Mass

Choir: sings at Mass & Liturgical Services

Extraordinary Ministers: bring Holy Communion to the sick

Guitar Group: sings at the 11:00am Mass once a month

Lectors: read at Mass each Sunday

RCIA: prepares and instructs converts to enter the church and for Catholics not yet Confirmed; Wednesday at 7:00pm

PREP: teaches students' not attending Catholic school; Sundays from 9:30 to 10:45am

Pre-Cana Team: workshop for engaged couples

Ajax Committee: cleans sanctuary and church twice each month

ALPHA: discuss religious matters in a relaxed setting

Finance Committee: meets six times per year to advise the Pastor

Liturgy Committee: plan religious services

Parish Pastoral Council: meets several times per year to confer on Pastoral planning

Women's Club: meets six times per year and sponsors social activities

Seniors: meets twice each month in the convent

* **Please note:** if you are interested in participating any of these activities, please contact the rectory at 215-482-0450

“ I am the voice of one
crying out in the desert,
**'MAKE STRAIGHT THE
WAY OF THE LORD.'** ”

JOHN 1:23



DECEMBER 17, 2017

GAUDETE SUNDAY



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 16th - 4:00pm

Our Parishioners

Sunday, December 17th - 8:00am

Barbara Tooth (5th Anniversary), requested by Barry and Debbie Cupchak

11:00am

Genevieve Zane, requested by the Prestel Family

Monday, December 18th - 8:00am

Rose Patterson, requested by Nora Patterson

Tuesday, December 19th - 8:00am

Edward O'Brien, requested by John and Teresa Spinks

Wednesday, December 20th - 8:00am

Richard Frederick (2nd Anniversary), requested by his family

Thursday, December 21st - 8:00am

Nicholas David Myers, requested by Sylvia Myers

Friday, December 22nd - 8:00am

William O'Hara

Saturday, December 23rd - 4:00pm

McNabb and Capella Families, requested by the Family

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes December 9th/10th (70) for \$1,729.00, Christmas (2) for \$175.00, 2nd Collection for \$164.80, Immaculate Conception (9) for \$90.00, Retirement Fund (58) for \$28.00, and Seminary Appeal for \$40.00.

TOTAL \$ 2,286.80



In your prayers, you are asked to pray for all the sick of the parish especially, Anna Marie Barry, John Cense, Francis Dugan, Daniel Evans, Gayle Flannery, Marleen Flynn, Anne Marie Kearns, Erin McFarlane, Megan McHugh, John Nab, Helen Nagle, Ava Snick, Frances Sprinkle, and Fran Thomas.



Please pray for the happy repose of all the faithful Departed especially, Esther Frederick, Elizabeth Hart.

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Pvt. Shane Canavan, AB Matt Dandre, Nicholas DiCicco, Sr. Master Sergeant Jason Otto, 1st Lt. Kierstin Schwagerl, 1st Lt. Zach Schwatka, Col. Scott Shore, and Pvt. Christopher Starret.



FRIDAY - DECEMBER 22nd

6:30pm - 7:30 pm

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 23rd

3:00pm - 4:00pm



SUNDAY - CHRISTMAS VIGIL

4:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00am

**On Christmas Eve, a choral prelude will be provided before the 4pm Mass in the church. This will begin at 3:30pm. Please join us to hear Christmas favorites and have the opportunity to sing familiar carols.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th- 4:00pm

Nicholas Maziarz – Makayla Serbin

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17th- 8:00am

Charlotte Welsh – Amelia Painter

11:00am

Alora DeLuca – Michael Torna

ORGANIST

Joseph O'Brien



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th- 4:00pm

Adriana Stepien

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th-8:00am

Adriana Stepien

11:00am

Grace Torna



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th- 4:00pm

Marie Jennings – Kathy Duffy

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th-8:00am

Jamie Torna – Jay Feinschil

11:00am

Betty McGahey – Michael Sweeney



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th- 4:00pm

Walt Wood

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th- 8:00am

Mitch Yanak

11:00am

John Delaney



The Women's Club will be selling the Lottery Tickets after all the Masses this weekend. Winners are based on the Pennsylvania evening lottery, straight only. Prizes are \$25.00 weekdays, \$50.00 Saturdays and \$100.00 Sundays. Lottery tickets make great stocking stuffers.

If you would like to help selling tickets, please call Teresa at the rectory at 215-482-0450. Thank you for your continued support of our fund raising efforts.

A logo for 'christmas VOLUNTEERS NEEDED' with a geometric, patterned background.

Volunteers are needed for today, Sunday the 17th after the 11:00am mass to decorate and to help with the construction of the Nativity Scene.

If you are able to help please call Teresa at the rectory at 215-482-0450 and give her your name to volunteer to help with the decorations, etc.

There will be refreshments and fellowship for volunteers.



Our parish will continue its tradition of an Advent Giving Tree. The donated gifts are distributed to our homebound parishioners and local charities. Please take a tag (or more than one) from the tree and return the gift by Sunday, December 17th by 9 am. Volunteers are needed to distribute the gifts at noon on Sunday, December 17th (following Mass) in the Rectory. This work of mercy only takes 15-20 minutes and is a powerful reminder of the joy of giving and the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you in advance for this very tangible way to bring Christ to our parishioners and neighbors in need.

CONGRATULATIONS

The following people were the lucky winners of the Christmas Bazaar Chances:

J. English - \$250.00

Cass Lewis - \$150.00

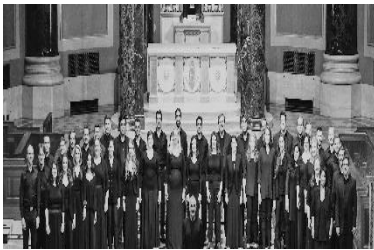
G. Gruver - \$100.00



ARCHDIOCESAN HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Walk where Jesus walked. Pray at the site of Jesus's conception at Nazareth's Basilica of the Annunciation and His birth in Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity. Sail on the Sea of Galilee. Walk the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Share the trip of a lifetime with Christians from the Holy Land and fellow pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia from February 1st to the 11th, 2018. For more information about the itinerary, pricing, and registration, contact Susan at 1-800-842-4842 or susan@select-intl.com or visit www.selectinternationaltours.com.

2017-18 SEASON CONCERTS AT THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA



THE SAME STREAM - FEBRUARY 3rd at 8:00pm



MARCH 18th at 2:30pm



CHANTICLEER – APRIL 28th at 8:00pm



PHILADELPHIA BOYS CHOIR and CHORALE MAY 23rd at 7:30pm.

For tickets: CathedralPhilaConcerts.org

EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM - (EITC)

As part of Pennsylvania 2017-18 state budget lawmakers approved a \$10million increase for the expansion of the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. That is great news; however, Governor Wolf has yet to sign the bill into law. In fact, he has threatened to veto the legislation that would provide for the increase.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference has sent a letter to the governor urging him to sign the education funding bill into law, noting that this bill would allow for more scholarships for students to attend the school that is best for them.

Your hard work in supporting this effort has helped this important legislation reach the governor's desk. You too can send a letter to Governor Wolf urging him to sign the education funding bill into law today!

Please use the following link to send your message:
<http://www.pacatholic.org/resources/voter-voice/?vvsrsrc=%2fCampaigns%2f54365%2fRespond>.

GAUDETE SUNDAY

The third Sunday of Advent, so called from the first word of the Introit at Mass (Gaudete, i.e. Rejoice). The season of Advent originated as a fast of forty days in preparation for Christmas, commencing on the day after the feast of St. Martin (12 November), whence it was often called "St. Martin's Lent"- a name by which it was known as early as the fifth century. The introduction of the Advent fast cannot be placed much earlier, because there is no evidence of Christmas being kept on 25 December before the end of the fourth century and the preparation for the feast could not have been of earlier date than the feast itself. In the ninth century, the duration of Advent was reduced to four weeks, the first allusion to the shortened season being in a letter of St. Nicholas I (858-867) to the Bulgarians, and by the twelfth century the fast had been replaced by simple abstinence. St. Gregory the Great was the first to draw up an Office for the Advent season, and the Gregorian Sacramentary is the earliest to provide Masses for the Sundays of Advent. In both Office and Mass provision is made for five Sundays, but by the tenth century four was the usual number, though some churches of France observed five as late as the thirteenth century. Notwithstanding all these modifications, however, Advent still preserved most of the characteristics of a penitential seasons which made it a kind of counterpart to Lent, the middle (or third) Sunday corresponding with Laetare or Mid-Lent Sunday. On it, as on Laetare Sunday, the organ and flowers, forbidden during the rest of the season, were permitted to be used; rose-coloured vestments were allowed instead of purple (or black, as formerly); the deacon and subdeacon reassumed the dalmatic and tunicle at the chief Mass, and cardinals wore rose-colour instead of purple. All these distinguishing marks have continued in use, and are the present discipline of

the Latin Church. Gaudete Sunday, therefore, makes a breaker like Laetare Sunday, about midway through a season which is otherwise of a penitential character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming. Of the "stations" kept in Rome the four Sundays of Advent, that at the Vatican basilica is assigned to Gaudete, as being the most important and imposing of the four. In both Office and Mass throughout Advent continual reference is made to our Lord's second coming, and this is emphasized on the third Sunday by the additional signs of gladness permitted on that day. Gaudete Sunday is further marked by a new Invitatory, the Church no longer inviting the faithful to adore merely "The Lord who is to come", but calling upon them to worship and hail with joy "The Lord who is now nigh and close at hand". The Nocturn lessons from the Prophecy of Isaias describe the Lord's coming and the blessings that will result from it, and the antiphons at Vespers re-echo the prophetic promises. The joy of expectation is emphasized by the constant Alleluias, which occur in both Office and Mass throughout the entire season. In the Mass, the Introit "Gaudete in Domino semper" strikes the same note, and gives its name to the day. The Epistle again incites us to rejoicing, and bids us prepare to meet the coming Saviour with prayers and supplication and thanksgiving, whilst the Gospel, the words of St. John Baptist, warns us that the Lamb of God is even now in our midst, though we appear to know Him not. The spirit of the Office and Liturgy all through Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the Christmas feast as well as for the second coming of Christ, and the penitential exercises suitable to that spirit are thus on Gaudete Sunday suspended, as were, for a while in order to symbolize that joy and gladness in the Promised Redemption which should never be absent from the heart of the faithful.

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