

ST. ATHANASIUS PARISH

St. Athanasius Church, 2050 E. Walnut Lane Philadelphia PA 19138,
Rectory 215-548-2700, fax-215-5487453 www.stathanasiuschurch.us
 Masses - Saturday 4PM, Sunday 10AM & 6PM, Daily Mass: 8:30 AM Convent Chapels,
 7040 Limekiln Pk., enter at St. Joseph statue.

Holy Days: 7AM (Convent) 10AM & 7PM (Church)

St. Benedict Church, 1940 E. Cheltenham Avenue Philadelphia PA 19138 Mass - Sunday 10AM
 Reverend Joseph F. Okonski, Pastor, Reverend Anayo Nna, C.S.S.R. In Residence
 Reverend Saji G. Mukkoot, In Residence Pastor @St. Jude Syro-Malankara Catholic Church
 Permanent Deacons Mr. James Mahoney, Mr. Fred Poellnitz, Mr. Stephen Hopkins, retired

St. Athanasius Parish Staff:
 Mr. Ted Travis Jr.
rectory@stathanasiuschurch.us

St. Athanasius School: 7105 Limekiln Pike
 25-424-5045
 Ms. Andrea Tomaino, Principal
www.saschool.org

St. Benedict Church Ministries:
 Family Social Services
 Deacon James Mahoney
 Food Cupboard 215-924-4401
 Food Distribution Monday & Friday 10a-12p
 Zip 19126 - 19138 - 19141

Guiding Star Ministry
 215-924-2876

ST. ATHANASIUS MASS SCHEDULE: 12/16 - 12/24

Sat.	4:00pm	Anthony Fanelli (decd.) req. by Jay Piazza
Sun.	10:00am St. A.	Mass of Remembrance for deceased Legion of Mary Members
Sun.	10:00am St. B.	Solomon Fuller (decd.)
Sun.	6:00pm	People of the Parish
Mon.	8:30am	Marie & Charlie Oettle (decd.)
Tue.	8:30am	Improved health for Dunnigan Children req. by Cathy Dunnigan
Wed.	9:00am	Intentions of the St. Athanasius School Community
Thur.	8:30am	Wallace Green (decd.) req. by Mr. & Mrs. Howell
Fri.	8:30am	Phillip Barr (decd.)
Sat.	4:00pm	Delores Collins (decd.) req. by Lillian Eaddy

This Week at St. Athanasius Parish

Tues.	Dec 19	Adoration St. Athanasius	9:00am
		Divine Mercy Chaplet	6:30pm
		Bible Study St. A Rectory	9:45am
		Senior Social St. Athanasius Rectory Basement Mtg. Room	12-3pm
	*****	Advent Penance Service St. Athanasius Church	7:00pm
		Legion of Mary	7:15pm
Wed.	Dec 20	Adoration St. Benedict Divine Mercy Chaplet	12:00pm 6:30pm
Thur.	Dec 21	This Is Our Faith {RICA} St. Athanasius Rectory	7:00pm

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Philippians 4:4-5

St. Athanasius Parish
 Bulletin can be found on the Parish website:
WWW.STATHANASIUSCHURCH.US
 Please subscribe to the site to view live streaming.

St. Athanasius Ministries Schedule Dec 16– Dec 25

Sat.	Dec 16	4:00 pm	Loretta Leader	Lector Comm.
			Deacon Mahoney	Ordinary Minister
Sun.	Dec 17	10:00 am	Youth Sunday	Lector Comm.
			Maurita Brice Dianne Poellnitz	Extra-Ordinary Minister
		6:00pm	Betty Jo Robinson	Lector Comm.
Sat.	Dec 23	4:00pm	Marlene Matthews	Lector Comm.
			Mary Gallagher	Extra Ordinary Minister
Sun	Dec 24	10:00am		Lector Comm.
			Louise Frasier Richard Mshomba	Extra Ordinary Minister
		7:00pm	Beverly Harper	Lector Comm.
			Gene Frasier Dianne Poellnitz	Extra Ordinary Minister
Mon	Dec 25	10:00am	Ann Montchyk	Lector Comm.
			Betty Jo Robinson Matt Robinson	Extra Ordinary Minister

St. Benedict Ministries

Sunday, December 17, 10AM

Commentator Audrey Patrick
1st reading Melvis Dunbar
2nd reading Gwen Watson
Extraordinary Ministers J. Travis / M. Barnes

Sunday, December 24, 10AM

Commentator Linda B. Love
1st reading Asad Grant
2nd reading Darren Williams
Extraordinary Ministers D. Berry / G. Watson

SACRAMENTS at ST. ATHANASIUS CHURCH

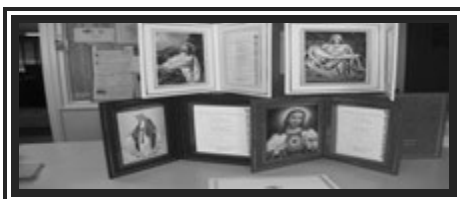
Baptism & Confirmation: Please contact the Rectory.

Confession: Available after Mass

Mass Offerings \$10, contact the Rectory.

\$15 Memorial Leatherette Mass Folder.

Contact the Rectory.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
Responsorial Psalm Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54
Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel John 1:6-8, 1-28

The following members of St. Athanasius Parish will be remembered in prayer by the **Sisters of Saint Joseph**

Sunday Patricia Webster-Jones
 Monday Mary White
 Tuesday Daniel Williams
 Wednesday Darren Williams
 Thursday Delores Williams
 Friday Kadine Williams
 Saturday Lucille Williams

PRAY FOR OUR SICK: At each mass, we pray for **all** our sick, whether their **name** is **on** the sick list or **not**. The **list** of names below is for those **in the hospital** or **seriously ill**. Thanks for **letting us know** whose names can be **removed** from the list.

Bobby Roberts, Deacon Steven Hopkins, Shirley Dawson, Khiliq Jones, Almeida Lindsey, Marie Odom, Louise Sloan, Heather O'Kubo, Marlene Major, Jarrod Stukes, Donald Nash, Donald Sigler, James Marshall, Patricia McDione, Winnie Cannon, MaryEllen Gibson, Gwendolyn Slaughter, Pricilla Werner, Gregory McGhee, Maketa Robinson, Doris Blue, Marge Walker, Joseph Temple, Juanita Hartwell, Allison Rogers, David Bindley-Taylor, John Pompey, Leda Reeves, Edith Roberts, Mrs. Dennis James, James Jones, Justin Graves, Henry Jackson, Gwen Jackson, William Lee & Linda Jean Mc Seed, Owen Human, Christine Human, Edna Poole, Marjorie Pace, Lillian Scott, Lunell Mobley, Jessie Harrell, Joanne McCoy, Katrina Smith, Theotis Holmes, Cheryl Cobette, Anthony Pettis, Rubin Johnson, Clyde Carroll, Arthur Poole, Liz Pileggi, Paxson Nash, Harmon Philips, Louise Hughes, Willie Love, Jean Love, Carol Patton, Jeanette Brown, Danielle Clemens, Lashae Thomas, Gertrude Lawrence, Eleanor Jeffries, Geraldine Mitchell, William Fairfax, June Robinson, Robby Thompson, Edwin Walker, Matthew La Smith, Anthony McClendon, Elsie Gardner, C. MacFarland, Gloria Gaston, Jerome Johnson, Ethel Mabry, Alicia Dolly Johnson, Theotis Warfield, Eddie Allen, Linda Heard, Anna Gibson, Noah Goldman, Perry March, Marilyn Scott, Angela Turner, Jeanette Perkins, Keith Surfin, Shirley Brown, Sylvia Greene, Mattie Spradley, Janet Hardt, Theresa Mitchell, Sandra Parrott, Andrew Doffus, Makayla Kenner, Beatrice Hardison, Helen Staron, James Burley

For those in homes: **M. Tiley, L. Gaskins, Matte Hill, K. McFarland, S. Strybuc, Alverda Vittoriano, Ezell Fraizer.**

PRAYER OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Saint Michael the Archangel,
Defend us in battle,
Be our protection against
The wickedness and snares
of the devil.

May God rebuke him, we
humbly pray; and do Thou,
O Prince of the Heavenly
Host, by the Divine Power
of God,
cast into hell Satan and all
the evil spirits
who roam throughout the
world seeking to ruin of
souls.

(Pope Leo XIII)

Do you know someone who is curious about our Catholic teachings?

Do you know someone who desires to be baptized? Do you know someone who longs to receive the gifts of the spirit? Do you know someone who yearns to eat from the Lord's Table?

Tell Us!!

If you need to be baptized! If you need to be confirmed! If you want to receive the body of Christ! ASK US!!

Bring Your Interested Friend or

Bring Your Own Questions

Place: St. Athanasius Rectory

Thursday 7:00pm

**Or see Fr.Okonski, Fr.Anayo, or
Deacon Mahoney**

Saint Athanasius R.C.I.A. Program

{This is our Faith}



**PRAYER FOR THE CAUSE OF
FATHER AUGUSTUS TOLTON**

O God, we give you thanks for your servant and priest, Father Augustus Tolton, who labored among us in times of contradiction, times that were both beautiful and paradoxical.

His ministry helped lay the foundation for a truly Catholic gathering in faith in our time. We stand in the shadow of his ministry. May his life continue to inspire us and imbue us with that confidence and hope that will forge a new evangelization for the Church we love.

Father in haven, Father Tolton's suffering service sheds light upon our sorrows; we see them through the prism of your Son's passion and death. If it be your will, O God, glorify your servant, Father Tolton, by granting the favor I now ask through his intercession, (*mention your request in silence*), so that all may know the goodness of this priest whose memory looms large in the Church he loved.

Complete what you have begun in us that we might work for the fulfillment of your kingdom. Not to us the glory, but glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. Father, son and Holy Spirit, you are God, living and reigning forever and ever.

Amen.

Advent Penance Service

“Prepare the Way of the Lord.

Make straight your paths.”

Tuesday December 19, 2017 at 7PM

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St. Athanasius Church

Extra Priest Confessors available...

Steps to a Good Confession

- 1. Examine your conscience.**
- 2. Be repentant of your sins.**
- 3. Confess your sins to the priest being sure to Confess all mortal sins.**
- 4. Make an act of contrition, receive absolution from the priest, and resolve to sin no more.**
- 5. Do the penance the priest gives you.**

St. Athanasius School

Christmas Show

Wednesday December 20th 7pm

At : LaSalle High School for Boys

8605 Cheltenham Ave.

Tickets are \$5 for Adults can be purchased at the office or the night of the show.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today's Focus: Rejoice, Children of God

As we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas, and anticipate his return in glory—no matter what our life situation—we are called upon to be prayerful people of joy!

+ Understanding the Word +

On this *Gaudete* (Rejoice) Sunday, these readings invite us to rejoice in the various advents of Christ, first in the flesh, now present in the Spirit, and soon to return at the *parousia*. While the reading from Isaiah is quoted by the Lucan Jesus at the inauguration of his mission, here the prophet announces a word of joy to the recently returned exiles. The vision depicted is that of a Jubilee Year (Leviticus 25:10), when those who have lost their *land* and freedom will receive all back. The joy of this news is likened to a glorious military triumph (Isaiah 61:10a) or a wedding celebration (Isaiah 61:10b). Thus Israel, once forsaken in exile, will be exalted by God in the presence of the nations (Isaiah 61:11).

The reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians describes how the faithful are to live in anticipation of the final advent of Christ, his second coming. They are to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and not hinder the gifts of the Spirit. Paul's directions were meant to keep the community of believers "perfectly holy" and "blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:23). At this point in early Christianity, the *parousia* was thought to be imminent; hence the need to remain pure in spirit, soul, and body, for "the Lord will come like a thief at night." (1 Thessalonians 5:1).

The joyous anticipates is equally evident in the Gospel reading, though not all who hear the Good News rejoice. The Gospel reading tells us that John the Baptist came to give testimony about the light. First, he testifies before the priests and Levites that he is neither the Christ nor Elijah nor Moses (the prophet John 1:20-21). Second, John must testify before the Pharisees and justify why he baptizes if he is not the three authoritative figures (John 1:25). Finally, he testifies that one greater than he is among them, whom they do not recognize Jesus, "the one who is coming" (John 1:27), will later have to explain his authority to these same religious representatives (John 7:32; 11:47), culminating in his self-identifying statement, "I am" (John 8:58).

+ Reflecting on the Word +

How do you answer the questions put to John in today's Gospel? I recently changed ministry, becoming associate pastor of a parish in Maryland and, concurrently, a campus priest and associate director of campus ministry for a university in Ohio. What am I? Well, whether in Maryland or Ohio, what I am is a child of God and a Christian, called to witness Christ in my words, deeds, and attitudes.

Our first reading begins with the words Jesus used to identify himself at the beginning of his public ministry: "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me." Jesus Christ was anointed to bring glad tidings to the poor, heal the broken, proclaim liberty and release to those bound in any way, and to rejoice in the Lord. We have also been anointed with the Spirit. We are to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in our lives. Or, to paraphrase Blessed Louis Brisson, OSFS, The founder of my religious community: Reprint the Gospel, day by day, with your flesh and blood. What are we? We are living Gospels who heal and offer liberty to people held captive in any way, by announcing God's favor so all people can sing with Mary: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior." (Luke 1:46)

When we live Paul's admonitions to pray without ceasing, always give thanks, retain what is good, and refrain from evil, we make straight the way of the Lord and show others how to do so. What are? Children of God, Christ-bearers who have reason to "Rejoice!"

+ Living and Praying with the Word +

God of peace, deepen our holiness so that our entire being reprint the gospel and proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus. Make us witnesses to the Christ so that others see him, hear his voice, and meet him this Advent, at Christmas and every day, by meeting us.

LIVING *the* WORD

Scripture Reflections and Commentaries for Sundays and Holy Days



Archbishop's Christmas Party

Thursday December 21, 2017

Catholic Social Services

What happens when we die? What is the difference between the particular judgment and the final judgment?

As Catholics, we believe that when a person dies, the soul separates from the body. He then stands before God in judgment. Remember that the soul is really “who” we are: while the body lies in death, our soul— who we are— lives on and returns to the Lord for judgment. The *Catechism* clearly teaches, “Each man receives his eternal retribution in his immortal soul at the very moment of his death, in a particular judgment that refers his life to Christ: either entrance into the blessedness of Heaven— through purification or immediately, – or immediate and everlasting damnation” (#1022).

Let’s dissect this teaching: When we die, our soul stands in judgment immediately. We will have to account for our lives, for the good that we have done and for the sins we have committed. We call this the particular judgment because it is *particular* to each person. If we are free of all sin and the hurt caused by sin, we immediately will be welcomed into Heaven, where we will enjoy the beatific vision, seeing God face to face. If we have died with venial sins or the hurt caused by sin, our Lord in His love and mercy will first purge and heal the soul in the place called Purgatory; after this purification and healing, our soul will then be welcomed into Heaven. However, if we have died rejecting God, with mortal sins and with no remorse for those mortal sins, then we will have damned ourselves to Hell; the firm rejection of God that we made in this life, will continue on in the next. This teaching is substantiated by our Lord’s declaration to the repentant thief, St. Dismas: “This day you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43). (Note that this teaching on the particular judgment was defined at the Second General Council of Lyons in 1274.)

At the end of time, our Lord will come again to judge the living and the dead. Our Lord taught in the Gospel of St. John: “The Father has given over to Him [Jesus] power to pass judgment because He is the Son of Man; no need for you to be surprised at this, for an hour is coming in which all those in their tombs shall hear his voice and come forth. Those who have done right shall rise to life; the evildoers shall rise to be damned” (John 5:27-29). Here again the *Catechism* teaches, “In the presence of Christ, who is Truth itself, the truth of each man’s relationship with God will be laid bare. The Last Judgment will reveal even to its furthest consequences the good each person has done or failed to do during his earthly life” (#1039). Here is a judgment not only of the individual standing alone, but also as a member of society and before the whole community of mankind. Those who have already died and have been judged will remain in Heaven or Hell; those who have not died will now be judged and enter Heaven or Hell. Since after the final judgment, only Heaven and Hell will exist, St. Augustine and others speculated that all purification of the soul— for those already in Purgatory and now those faithful awaiting judgment at this final judgment— will be completed.

Here then is a succinct presentation of the Church’s teaching concerning the judgment of our soul. Whether we consider the particular judgment or the final judgment, we must be ready to face judgment. Archbishop Fulton

Sheen stated, “For when the curtain goes down on the last day, and we respond to the curtain call of judgment, we will not be asked what part we played, but how well we played the part that was assigned to us” (*Moods and Truths*, 75).

**St. Athanasius Parish Congratulates
Our School Community Honor Students**

Kindergarten(Honors-not Applicable) Perfect Attendance

Rhiyan Foxworth Taylor Jackson Ricky Miller
Jerolynn Outtara Troy Lashley Urielle Sahou
Eva Williams

Grade 1: 2nd Honors:

Sopretty Haynes Mahlaya Johnson
Rian Montague Addisyn Smith

Honorable Mention:

Naysa Carter Tru Greene Abigail Grey
Edwich Josaphat Ava Manker Camille Riley
Khi Simon Angel Williams Amilyah Young
Karly Young

Grade 2: 1st Honors:

Lauren Carrington Elly Chen Desean Davis
Cassidi Ford Aniya Georges Makayla Holmes
Darwin Liu Ryan Sutherland Guinevere Phillip
Zinay’e Williams

2nd Honors:

Devin Glass Chase Jackson Reina Jerrell
Rielle Mededa Kayey Patillo Gerard Paul
Robert Stewart Jamaya Thorton Morgan Worrell

3rd Honors:

Landon McCleary

Grade 3: 1st Honors:

Ronald Graham Chase Simon Marshall Stokes

2nd Honors:

Amiyah Bascus Ashlee Boykin Aaron Manker
Camryn Stovall

Honorable Mention

Khai Avery Nylaah Booker Naiyila Ferguson
Jaden Johnson Timiya Kennedy

Grade 4: 2nd Honors

Samirah Ruff Yannick Outtara Ryan Mededa
Christopher Barr

Honorable Mention

Jerome Tananibe

Grade 6: 1st Honors

Christopher Outtara

2nd Honors

Zahkiyyah Frazier Madison Simpson

Honorable Mention

Milan Storall

Grade 7: 2nd Honors

Juanita Scott Markell Blake

Grade 8: 2nd Honors

Deja Glass Felicitas Tananibe

Honorable Mention

Kaiya Earls Sarah Francis-Udisi Malachi Plumer

ST. ATHANASIUS PARISH		
St. Athanasius	December 10, 2017	
Saturday - Sunday envelopes	72	\$ 2238
Additional Offerings		\$ 295
Total**		\$ 2533
St. Benedict		December 10, 2017
Sunday envelopes	46 count 58	\$ 1231
Additional Offerings		\$ 155
Total**		\$ 1386

**Thank You for your Kindness
and Generosity to the Parish
May God Bless You**



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