

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 23, 2018

7:00AM Mary Price

8:30AM George and Betty McCarron  
and Jean McGinley

10:00AM Nancy Curtis (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)

11:30AM Christopher Cash and Mary Toto

**Monday, December 24, 2018**

8:00AM Frederick Mirarchi

4:00PM Church

4:00PM Gym

7:30PM Christmas Vigil

**Nativity of the Lord, December 25, 2018**

7AM, 8:30AM, 10AM, 11:30AM

**Wednesday, December 26, 2018**

8:00AM Deacon Art McGuire

**Thursday, December 27, 2018**

8:00AM Rosemarie Rago (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)

**Friday, December 28, 2018**

8:00AM Brayden Chandler

**Saturday, December 29, 2018**

8:00AM Robert and Mary Kirkpatrick, Sr.

4:00PM For the People of the Parish

**Sunday, December 30, 2018**

7:00AM Frank Krewson

8:30AM Julio Serviano

10:00AM Richard Skukas

11:30AM Jack Duffy (3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary)



### THE SANCTUARY CANDLE

This candle burns to remind us of the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ. For the Week of **December 23rd**, the candle will burn in memory of **Frank Krewson** as requested by his wife, **Marion**.



### MEMORIAL FOR DECEMBER 2018

BREAD ~ Frank Krewson

WINE ~ Mary P. Price

†REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DIED†

*May they rest in God's peace and May their families be comforted.*



Home Sales: Monday-Thursday; 9AM-5PM

Debbie Peterson at [sfascriptsales@gmail.com](mailto:sfascriptsales@gmail.com) call 484-432-1472

Sunday hours: CCR (building behind Church): 9-11:15AM.

### ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ADORATION & RECTORY HOURS

Due to the holidays, there will be NO ADORATION on Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> or Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Also, the Rectory will only be open on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve until 12Noon. The Rectory will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.



“God’s sign is the baby in need of help and in poverty. Exactly the same sign has been given to us...God’s sign is simplicity...God’s sign is that He makes Himself small for us. This is how He reigns. He does not come with power and outward splendor. He comes as a baby—defenseless and in need of our help. He does not want to overwhelm us with His strength. He takes away our fear of His greatness. He asks for our love: so He makes Himself a child. He wants nothing other from us than our love, through which we spontaneously learn to enter into His feelings, His thoughts, and His will—we learn to live with Him and to practice with Him that humility of renunciation that belongs to the very essence of love. God made Himself small so we could understand Him, welcome Him, and love Him... Christmas has become the feast of gifts in imitation of God who has given Himself to us. Let us allow our heart, our soul, and our mind to be touched by this fact!”

These words of Pope Benedict XVI provide a focus for us in these final days of Advent and as we celebrate Christmas. May we know more fully the love of God and share His love with others.

This year we are happy to give a book to all our parishioners. *The How To Book of the Mass* provides a practical explanation to guide us into full, active, and conscious participation of every celebration of the Eucharist. We are grateful to *Our Sunday Visitor* for selling the books to us at a substantial discount. They will be distributed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Our priests and deacons are grateful for your inspiring example of faith and love for God and each other. Together we journey along the path of Saint Francis of Assisi in humbly following the way of Our Savior. May you know His peace and love at Christmas and always!

In Christ's love,

*Fr. Costa*



### BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 30th

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Sirach reminds us to treat family members with respect. Reflect on your family. Are there relationships in it that need support? What prayer can you offer for this intention?

Colossians 3: 12-21

In order to live as God's Chosen Ones, Paul advises us to have compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, gratitude and love. What else would you add to this list? Why?

Luke 2:41-52

Mary and Joseph were anxious when they could not find Jesus. Can you recall a time when you felt that you had “lost” God in your life? If so, how did you “find” God again?

### HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES:

**DEADLINE for the 1/6/19 Bulletin: due 12/26/18 by 4pm.**

Thank you in advance for your cooperation! Send all bulletin requests to Joan Curtis at [sfabulletin@hotmail.com](mailto:sfabulletin@hotmail.com).

## CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATING

We extend an invitation to all men, women and teens to come and help decorate St. Francis Church for Christmas.

We will gather in Church on Sunday, December 23 at 1:00PM. The entire project will take a couple of hours. Come and help make your Church beautiful and festive for the great feast of Our Lord's birth! *All are welcome! All are needed!*



## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK



Baby Michael Farley	7 y/o Lexi Cable	Baby Caroline Ferry
Shiloh Cronck		14 y/o Evan Farrington
Timothy Duke	Dominic Rosini	Gino Francisco
Meghan Rauchut	Diane Colgan	Marjorie Silli
Isabella Carullo	Emilee Serrano	Carrie Serrano
Mag Post	Robby Wonder	Bill Colgan
Pam Flood	Susan Marcantonio	James Fox
Rich Buckley	Doreen Grafstrom	Monique Carpenter
Peter Minnis	Marie Brown	Andrew Barna
Bridget McHugh	Anne McGlone	Jack Valvardi
Steven Little	John Harlow	Jackie McPeake
Anna Rokos	Richard Gildea	Bill Seavey
Daniel Fahey	John Conforti	Colleen Minnis
Bob Iatesta	Phyllis Dunn	Violet McGeever
Nicole Vela Small	Thomas Nolan	Terri DeSantis
Diana Nardello	Ryan Montgomery	Christopher Biddle
Alan Lauer	Robert Busch	Barry Hill
Kathy Fritz	MaryLou Dellipriscoli	Jim McDonnell
Kenneth M. Siebert	Jeannette Siebert	Shealyn Mencil
Rev. Mark Kunigonis	Cynthia Fries	Rita Murphy
Rita O'Donnell	Judy Devine	Dr. Bill Hushion
Frank Canavan	Doris O'Hara	Joy Van Berg
Cass Johnston Lavan	Beth McCarron	Mary Benedetti
William Teste	John Peters	Jon Grady
Jean Gallagher	Lauren McRae	Stephen Marchini
Kathleen Mullin	Ralph Feindt	Marty Meenan
Stephen Spence	Henry Gray	Laura Howarth
	Edward Dunn	

If you have someone you would like prayed for, OR have removed from prayer list, please email Joan Curtis at [sfabulletin@hotmail.com](mailto:sfabulletin@hotmail.com) or call the Rectory at 610-543-0848. Thank you for your prayers.

## ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

Our conference of The St. Vincent de Paul Society assists the parish in performing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Due to these difficult times, we have been unable to provide needed help to some clients in need. Donations to the St. Francis Conference would be appreciated. 100% of all donations have always been distributed to those in need; there are no middleman costs or overhead. We acknowledge donations over \$50.00 and we are a Section 501 © (3) charity. Vincentians practice the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy in helping those in need. Our assistance is given confidentially. We are always open to new members who have a desire to aid those in need. We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month in Conway Hall at 7:30PM.



## GREENDROP CLOTHING PICKUP

Donate your gently used CLOTHING every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. GreenDrop Clothing pickup will be at the White Elephant from 9AM for an hour (sometimes longer). ONLY CLOTHING WILL BE ACCEPTED. Collections benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

## WHITE ELEPHANT



The shop will be closed for the holidays will re-open on Saturday, January 5. Please do not leave donations outside when the shop is closed.

*SANTA'S HELPERS AT THE WHITE ELEPHANT WISH ALL A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!!*



## PARISH CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB

Coordinated by the Three Parish Adult

Faith Formation Team

The Three Parish Book Club meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7pm (PLEASE NOTE: we will not meet on Wednesday, December 26. Our next meeting will be on January 2, 2019) in the Parish Center of Holy Cross Church. At each meeting, we not only discuss the selected book(s) but also offer suggestions of books we personally enjoyed. You need not have read the month's selection to attend. We would love to have you join us for refreshments and conversation!



**DECEMBER:** The Witness of Early Christian Women by Mike Aquilina.

**JANUARY:** The Twelve by Bernard Ruffin

*For more information, please call Angie Hominy at 610- 328-1054.*

## God Bless All Who Serve Our Country



Davidson Cox ~ Skip Turner ~ Kevin Geiger ~ Jon Hylton  
 Connor Lyons ~ Michael McGarvey ~ Steven Ramoni  
 Mike Froeter ~ Daniel McLee ~ Bill McDermott ~ Dan Marchini  
 James McDonald ~ Timothy McCans ~ Patrick J. Ryan, Jr.  
 Sean Sweeney ~ Michael Jones ~ Peter Quinn ~ Joseph Spence  
 Mitch Devine ~ Rick Kern, Jr. ~ Cale Amador  
 Timothy Drabyak ~ Daniel McGonigal  
 James M. Ketter, Jr ~ Jonathan Butterfield  
 Jimmy Braconnier ~ Colin Butler ~ Liam Golden  
 Jake & John-Michael Bartivic ~ Nicholas & Stephen Peranteau  
 Anthony Del Vecchio ~ Shane Donnelly  
 Jesse and Chase Stewart ~ Shawn McConaghy

*Let us pray for those who SERVE and PROTECT...*

*Dear Lord, bless our soldiers, protectors of our land. Servants called to battle when our country takes a stand. Please give them the strength and courage and hearts that will forgive. With peace and understanding in a world for all to live. Our country's prayers are with them, no matter where they roam. Please listen when they are lonely and return them safely home. Amen.*

SFA CYO is the recipient of the United Way under the Honor Option Plan. Your donation supports our activities for youth of our parish. If you wish to support the CYO, please indicate:

**CYO/ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI/SPRINGFIELD #7046 SFA CYO**

**THREE PARISH EVANGELIZATION  
TEAM**

**St. Francis ~ St. Kevin ~ Holy Cross**

*All Are Welcome*

**ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR WAYS TO BECOME  
CLOSER TO JESUS?**

Listen to the experiences of your fellow parishioners, any time. Right here in our parish we have...

**Eucharistic Adoration every Monday from 1 to 8 pm.**

Marian activities including a Legion of Mary Praesidium and a Flame of Love Cenacle.

**A Weekly Men's Group**

Several weekly Bible Study groups

**A Mom's Faith Sharing Group**

A Family Rosary Group

**Small Church Communities to study the Sunday gospels  
during Lent...**

*And more...*

Coming up there will be the **Bishop Barron** presentation on the **Eucharist** ...and in the Spring...

**Life in the Spirit (part II)**

And, **formed.org**—online resources, **free to all parishioners!**

**JUST LOOK AROUND AND LISTEN & PARTICIPATE**

**PRO-LIFE INFO...**

**SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PRAYER PROGRAM**

***Second Month***

Your spiritually adopted baby is growing very quickly. They are now 1 ¼ inches long and weigh 1/30 of an ounce. But if they were to keep growing all 9 months as fast as they grow during the second month, they would weigh 14 TONS at birth! Luckily, the growth rate slows down dramatically so that they will probably weigh somewhere between 7 and 8 pounds at birth. All internal organs, their heart, stomach, liver and kidneys, are present and beginning to work. Brain waves have been recorded at 40 days. Your baby's finger prints are formed and will never change except for size.

**SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PRAYER**

**Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn child whom I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.**

**"PRO-LIFE" LINES"**

Crisis Pregnancy Resource hotline: 610-626-4006.

Rachel's Vineyard Post-Abortion healing: 877-HOPE-4-ME

[www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org).

A Baby's Breath 24-hour hotline: 484-580-6436,

[www.ababysbreath.org](http://www.ababysbreath.org).

Delaware County Pregnancy Center: [www.dcpchester.org](http://www.dcpchester.org).

Mother's Home: 610-583-HOME, [www.mothershome.org](http://www.mothershome.org).

Pro-Life Union of Delaware County: 610-789-LIFE,

[www.prolifedelco.org](http://www.prolifedelco.org).

**MARCH FOR LIFE**

St. Francis of Assisi Parish will again be sending a bus to the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual "March for Life" in Washington, DC on **Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**. For more information, or to

reserve a seat, please call Anita Galligan at (610)585-0142.

*Pray for an end to abortion---all lives are precious.*



**WEEKLY MEN'S GROUP AT SFA**

Weekly Men's Group meets here at St. Francis every **Saturday, 7-8AM** in "Conway Conference Room" (building behind Church). Experience the power of investing one hour a week with men who share a desire to be better husbands, fathers, grandfathers, leaders, followers, sons and friends. Free material is supplied. For more info, call Rob Longo 610.544.2103.

**FLAME OF LOVE CENACLE at ST. FRANCIS**

The parish Cenacle Group meets each **Monday at 1:30PM in the Church** for Adoration and the Rosary. Join us to pray for priests, the dying, the souls in purgatory and for our parish. All are welcome.

**LEGION OF MARY**

The Legion of Mary presidium, called Our Lady Queen of Peace, meets every **Thursday evening at 7:00PM**, in Conference Room 'A' of the Rectory basement. We welcome those interested in becoming members and auxiliary members. Members do two hours a week of good work for the parish; auxiliary members pray for the universal Church and the intentions of the Blessed Mother. Come and see what you can do for Our Lady.

**BABYSITTING DURING MASS**

Babysitting is available during the 8:30-10:00 Mass. Babysitting is now taking place in the **Pre-school room of St. Francis School**. Please enter by the gate to the little playground. Infants to age 4 years old are welcome. No registration is necessary.

**ST. FRANCIS OVER 50**

**The next meeting is January 10. We will be entertained by Jennifer and Danielle. Tickets for Hoagie Day (Feb. 28) will be on sale.**



**UPCOMING TRIPS:**

**Casino Trips:** (1/21~Resorts) (2/18~Resorts) (3/18~Resorts) Cost: \$23 with a return of \$25 in slot play. Bus leaves at 10AM. Call Bob Hodgson at 610-449-2956.

**The casino trips leave from the Springfield Country Club (400 W. Sproul Rd.) Use the parking lot near the Ice Rink and park in spaces facing Sproul Rd.**

**March 31, 2019:** "Late Nite Catechism" comedy show called Sister Rolls the Dice. The convent needs a new roof so Sister throws a Las Vegas Night. Cost is \$85 (includes bus, show at Church of Visitation, full course luncheon with 4 entrees at Tuscany Restaurant). Bus departs 9AM from **Springfield Library** (70 Powell Road) Boarding at 8:45AM. For more info or reservations, contact Maria Santone at 610-544-7664 or 610-745-0820.

**For Rosaries:** call Claire Doyle at 610-604-0160

**For Membership:** call Betty Pote at 610-544-7570

*The club is non-denominational and all are welcome!*

*The Club wishes everyone*

*Christmas Blessings*



Father Patrick Peyton is known for saying, "The family that prays together stays together." The St. Francis Family Rosary Group meets to bring families together for the purpose of prayer – to pray for families and youth, the parish, our priests, bishops, our Holy Father Pope Francis, the Universal Church and peace in the world as requested by Our Lady of Fatima. If you have any questions, please contact Anita Galligan at [anitagalligan1@verizon.net](mailto:anitagalligan1@verizon.net) or Beth McCarthy at [mccarthy9022@aol.com](mailto:mccarthy9022@aol.com)

*Family Rosary group meets at 7pm in the church. Families and individual parishioners of all ages are all welcome to join us!*

## what's happenin'!

**MAIN LINE SINGLES DINNER CLUB** (AGES 52-66) Catholic men & women are cordially invited to join to share common interests & dine together twice a month. Scheduled event: **Mon., Dec. 31**, Our New Year's Eve Restaurant Event at 9pm, at Stephen's On State Restaurant, located at 105 W. State St., Media. More info call Barb (610) 896-6542.

**COLLEGE AGE\* RETREAT...January 4-6, 2019** at the Marianist Family Retreat Center at Cape May Point, NJ 08212. This retreat is designed to bring young people together of College age (17-22). So whether you are in college or working, come join us to renew your spiritual life, deepen your relationship with God and meet new friends. Cost: \$135/person, double occ. Register at: [www.capemaymarianists.org](http://www.capemaymarianists.org) or call 609-884-3829. *Some financial aid is available. \*Current Year High School Seniors are welcomed.*

**ATTENTION LADIES:** Do you or any ladies you know need hair care at your home? I offer all services. Color, cut, perm or just a weekly blowout. I have been in the business over 25 years. I have all supplies for all your needs. I have been a lifetime Springfield resident. Don't hesitate to reach out! Call Stacey Godsey at 610-246-9441.

**COME AND SEE WEEKENDS** A Come and See Weekend is a perfect opportunity for men who are considering a vocation to come to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary to see what seminary life is like and explore the possibility of their own call to the priesthood. This is an ideal retreat for someone who is actively pursuing a call to the priesthood. It is also a great opportunity for a man who has been evangelized to explore the possibility of a call to the priesthood! The weekend includes reflections on the priesthood, vocation stories from seminarians, Liturgy of the Hours, Mass and Eucharistic Adoration. Come and See Weekends are scheduled for high school men and post-high school men on separate weekends. To learn more, or to register for a particular weekend, visit [www.heedthecall.org/comeandsee.com](http://www.heedthecall.org/comeandsee.com) or contact the Vocation office at 610-667-5778.

**HIGH SCHOOL MEN**      **POST-HIGH SCHOOL MEN**

**Jan. 26-27, 2019**

**Jan. 18-20, 2019**

**Feb. 16-17, 2019**

**Feb. 22-24, 2019**

**Mar. 29-31, 2019**

**HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS** This year for the Called by Name program, parishes across the Archdiocese nominated men to consider the priesthood. We invite you to bring friends and family and join us for a Holy Hour for Vocations to be held at **12:30PM on Sunday, January 6,**

**2019.** The Holy Hour will be at St. Denis Parish, 2401 St. Denis Lane, Havertown, PA 19083. For more information, visit [heedthecall.org/holyhour](http://heedthecall.org/holyhour). Let us unite before the Blessed Sacrament and pray for fortitude, discernment, and attention to God's call for those men in seminary and those discerning a vocation to the priesthood. "The love of God and neighbor, the greatest commandment, is expressed in, and the fruit of, Eucharistic worship." – **Pope St. John Paul II**  
**THE CALIX SOCIETY:** Are you currently in a 12-Step Program? Would you like to be able to freely discuss how your Catholic Faith, Christ and His Sacraments nourish your recovery? If so, The Calix Society is for you! We welcome participants from other 12-Step Programs and those concerned with addiction. We meet on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday** of each month, at 6:15PM in the Adoration Chapel at Nativity B.V.M. Church, located at Monroe and Franklin Streets, Media, PA. We follow our Holy Hour with discussion from 7-8PM in the brick building. For more details, please contact Harry at 610-316-5560. All are welcome!

**REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE!**

The Retrouvaille Marriage Program offers help for struggling marriages. It gives you the chance to rediscover yourself and your spouse. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending a Retrouvaille weekend and the six post sessions that follow it. The next program begins on the weekend of **February 8-10** at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register for our upcoming weekend, visit our website: [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 1-800-470-2230 or 1-215-766-3944. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

**DO YOU KNOW YOUR TRIBUNAL?** The Tribunal is a group of specially qualified Catholics whose responsibility is to come to the help of people who have experienced divorce and who may wish to remarry in the Catholic Church. When a divorce occurs, the Catholic Church always seeks to balance two realities. One is the unbreakableness of the bond of marriage. This is God's law. It cannot be broken by human intervention. On the other hand, the Church is concerned about the spiritual welfare of the people involved. Was this a true marriage? Even though a Catholic marriage was celebrated, was there perhaps some deficiency in the consent of the parties involved? The annulment procedure addresses this problem. If you are divorced and want to marry in the church or remarried outside the Catholic Church, please call the Tribunal Office at 215-587-3750.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE RETREAT**

**December 31 - 6:00pm to January 1 - 11:00am**

Join us as we say farewell to 2018 and welcome 2019 in God's presence. We will begin at 6 pm with a feast, followed by a presentation, quiet time for personal prayer and Adoration. Mass will be celebrated at midnight followed by light refreshments. We will conclude the retreat with Morning Prayer and a New Year's Day brunch. Presenter: Rev. Bernard Farley. Registration and 6:00 PM Dinner. Cost: \$90.00 per person / \$155.00 couple / \$60.00 commuters. Please register online ([www.straphaelcenter.org](http://www.straphaelcenter.org)) or call St. Raphael Center at 610-642-5715.

**WINTER DIRECTED RETREAT EXTENDED**

**January 25 - 4:00pm to February 1 - 11:00am OR  
January 25 - 4:00pm to January 27 - 12:00pm**

Spend a week or a weekend in silence and tranquility to listen more deeply to the quiet voice of God. Our spiritual directors on staff will accompany you throughout this time of retreat in the Ignatian spirit. Come away to be renewed and refreshed in the abundant love of God. Cost: Ranges from \$200-\$605 depending on length of time & choice of room. Registration: On-line at [www.straphaelcenter.org](http://www.straphaelcenter.org) or call St. Raphaela Center at 610-642-5715 by Friday, January 11, 2019

**LILY'S GIFT**... If a prenatal diagnosis is poor... you are not alone. There is help. Lily's Gift is a network of concerned parents and professionals who have experienced or worked closely with issues surrounding poor prenatal diagnosis. Modeled and trained by BE NOT AFRAID, volunteers from Lily's Gift offer a free service of practical guidance and compassionate care focusing on meeting the needs of expectant parents as they seek to honor the life of their baby no matter how frail or how brief. For more info, visit [www.LilysGift.org](http://www.LilysGift.org), or [www.benotafraid.net](http://www.benotafraid.net). For support call Sr. Kathleen Schipani at 215.587.3530; or email [LilysGiftLuke12.27@gmail.com](mailto:LilysGiftLuke12.27@gmail.com).

**CAMILLA HALL**...known by many as the "Powerhouse of Prayer", is a convent home for the sick and aging Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary located in Immaculata, PA. The Camilla sisters are ready, willing and able to respond to your requests for prayers and special intentions. Consider putting the **Powerhouse of Prayer** to work for you. Call 610-386-2000 to leave a message or email [prayforme@camillahall.org](mailto:prayforme@camillahall.org).

**ST. FRANCIS PLAYERS PRESENT  
"GUYS AND DOLLS!"**



The St Francis Players are pleased to announce that our 2019 and 60th Annual SFP Production will be "Guys and Dolls". Performing this timeless classic is the perfect way to celebrate 60 years of entertaining Saint Francis of Assisi, Springfield, and the community at large. We hope you will join us on stage or come out and see the production. We will have six (6) performances held on 4/26, 4/27, 4/28 and 5/1, 5/2, and 5/3.

**Signups and auditions for this year's show will be held on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM in Leonard Hall.** Call backs will be the following evening on Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM. Auditions are necessary only for leading roles. It is strongly preferred that anyone interested in a leading role come prepared to sing a song from the show for their tryout. Anyone interested in chorus or production staff roles need only sign up. Children are not required to audition and need only sign up. We look forward to seeing you there!!! For more information regarding auditions and other special events regarding the Saint Francis Players, please visit our website at [www.stfrancisplayers.org](http://www.stfrancisplayers.org)

*Is the Lord calling you to ministry, but you don't drive or get out at night to participate?*

Join our Prayer Network and become a Prayer Warrior. A PRAYER NETWORK is the work of a silent, unobtrusive group of people who offer to "stand in the breach" and intercede for the serious needs of fellow parishioners, their families and friends. Since *prayer is its only purpose*, a parish prayer network can become a spiritual community builder unlike any other Church group. There is NO ORGANIZATION to it. It requires NO MEETINGS, NO OFFICERS, and NO ACTIVITIES. The "prayers" who volunteer can choose whatever kind of prayer they are led to use, for as long as they feel the Lord desires them to do so. A telephone call comes, needs are expressed and a prayer (usually a Hail Mary and Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust in You) are prayed with the caller. The recipient calls the next person on the line and repeats the process. A prayer or two may be said during the day for those intentions. Your prayer may be an ejaculation (My Jesus, Mercy), a rosary or whatever prayer you are most comfortable with. We would hope that the family would pray together for the intentions, thus exposing the children to praying for the needs of others. This is one small way we can "love one another" as Jesus has commanded us. No one should ever have to feel alone in their suffering or time of crisis. For more information or to volunteer, please call 610-328-0741 or 610-543-0728.

**ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK**

We salute the advertisers in our bulletin. This week we thank **CATHOLICMATCH PENNSYLVANIA**  
[CatholicMatch.com/datePA](http://CatholicMatch.com/datePA)

*Please consider using our advertisers' services and tell them you saw their ad in our bulletin.*

**ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA--TELEVISION MASS**

Sunday mornings at 5:30AM: WPVI—Channel 6

The Archdiocese thanks Channel 6 for its generosity in broadcasting the Television Mass.

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER**



Gracious Lord, be the God of our Christmas celebration. We rejoice with the shepherds over the good news of Jesus' birth. We join in the praises of the angelic choir, saying:

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

Almighty God, You have favored us with the greatest gift ever given—Your only begotten Son, light of true light, God of True God.

May we never take this Your gift for granted; may our songs of praise never fade, and may we treasure it in our hearts always and forever.

Bless all of us here gathered in worship as well as our loved ones at home. May peace and joy ring in our hearts and reverberate through our communities tonight in the name of Jesus the newborn King. Amen.

