

*Stewardship...giving back to God with a grateful heart*

647 Locust Street  
Collegeville, PA 19426-2541  
Phone: 610-489-1647  
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Website: www.stleanor.com

# ST. ELEANOR CHURCH

*December 11, 2016*



## PARISH STAFF

Msgr. Michael T. McCulken,  
Pastor  
Rev. John A. Franey,  
Pastor Emeritus  
Rev. Christopher C. Moriconi,  
Parochial Vicar  
Msgr. Thomas A. Murray,  
In Residence  
Deacon John A. Hasson  
Deacon Edward T. Hinson

Mrs. Linda Coyne,  
Finance Director  
Mr. Matt Kirsch,  
Director of Parish Services  
Mr. Dan Weckerly,  
Music Director

## OFFICE STAFF

Mrs. Susan Gordon  
Mrs. Jean Phillips  
Mrs. Melissa Sinner  
Mrs. Madelyn O'Hara  
Ms. Casey Semenza



## WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening Vigil: 4:30 PM  
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM,  
12:00 Noon and 7:00 PM

## WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday to Friday: 6:30 AM  
Monday to Saturday: 9:00 AM

## PERPETUAL ADORATION

In Our Lady Chapel (except 9AM  
Saturday through 2 PM Sunday)

## CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday: 8:00 to 8:45 AM  
3:30 to 4:15 PM  
By appointment anytime.

## SACRAMENTS

**BAPTISMS:** Scheduled most Sundays at 1:00 PM. Please make arrangements in advance with one of the priests. First-time parents attend Pre-Jordan, a Baptismal Preparation meeting usually held on the first Sunday of the month at 2PM in Vianney Hall. See page 2 for the next date.

**MARRIAGES:** Arrangements must be made with one of the priests or deacons at least six months before the desired wedding date. Couples attend the Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation Program (also held here at St. Eleanor).

**ANointing OF THE SICK:** For anyone needing the Anointing of the Sick, call the Parish Office or see a priest after Mass.

**HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS:** Communion is brought to the sick in their homes. Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements.

**PARISH REGISTRATION:** New to the parish? Please call for an appointment with one of the priests.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday-Thursday: 8 AM to 7 PM  
Friday: 8 AM to 5 PM  
Saturday: 9 AM to 1 PM

## EDUCATION

**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults):** For adults interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith or adults in need of Confirmation. Meetings are held during the school year. Please call the Parish Office for more information.

**HOLY CROSS REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL:** Serves the families of Saint Eleanor and Sacred Heart Parish, Royersford. Christ-centered teaching and strong academic emphasis for Pre-K through Grade 8. Mrs. Theresa Healy, Principal. 610-489-9434 ext. 2225

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PREP:** After-school religious instruction for children in grades K thru 6. Classes held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Contact Ms. Teri Lahey, Director of Religious Education at 610-489-4677 ext. 2233 *Children's Liturgy of the Word:* Offered to the younger children in the parish during the Liturgy of the Word at the 9AM Mass on Sundays. *G.I.F.T.:* Junior High Program is held on select Sundays. Contact Mr. Matt Kirsch at 610-489-1647 ext. 15.

**PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Composed of elected and appointed members who advise the Pastor concerning the pastoral circumstances and needs of the parish and parishioners.

**FINANCE COUNCIL:** Meets five to six times a year to advise the pastor on financial and administrative matters of the parish.



# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE SUNDAY

DECEMBER 11, 2016

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, December 10**  
William McCandless

4:30

**Sunday, December 11**  
Joyleen Branco  
Deceased Members of the  
McMorrow Family  
Frank Cotteta  
For the People of the Parish  
Special Intention of David  
DeColli and Family

7:30

9:00

10:30

12:00 PM

7:00 PM

**Monday, December 12**  
*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

6:30

9:00

**Tuesday, December 13**  
*Saint Lucy*

6:30

9:00

**Wednesday, December 14**  
*Saint John of the Cross*

6:30

9:00

**Thursday, December 15**  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Boyd  
Jane Alba

6:30

9:00

**Friday, December 16**  
Glenn Dekutoski  
Richard Testa

6:30

9:00

**Saturday, December 17**  
Anne Marie Tate  
Paul Schneider (7<sup>th</sup> Anniv.)

9:00

4:30

## Baptisms

Congratulations and prayers from our Saint Eleanor Family to the parents, godparents, and families of the newly baptized incorporated into the Body of Christ:



~ Aubrey Sunny, daughter of Matthew and Brittany Barber  
~ Evan Thomas, son of Matthew and Brittany Barber  
~ Charlotte Layne, daughter of Ryan and Nichole Parent  
~ Leah Kathleen, daughter of Bryan and Christine Roy

Our next Pre-Jordan Program will be held on Sunday, January 8, at 2 PM in Vianney Hall (lower level of the Parish Center and Offices\*). First-time parents need to attend and may attend this program before the birth of your child. **Baptismal paperwork is due in the Parish Office *two weeks* prior to the Baptism. \* previously known as the rectory**

## Rose for Life

To reserve a Rose for Life, please call Donna Kolb at 610-948-3955.



## Rose of Resurrection in Memory of:

~ Joanne Birchill on the 6th anniversary of her death, given by the Drummy family  
~ John DiBattista on his birthday given by the DiBattista family  
~ Peter Kaeser on the 7th anniversary of his death, given by his father

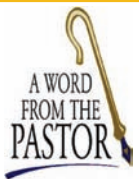


For a Rose of Resurrection to remember those who have passed away, call Paula Pezzano at 610-489-0533. Please request roses at least one month before the rose is to be placed on the altar. **There are no more roses available for 2016.**

## Prayer Wheel for Priests and Deacons

For the month of **December** we will be praying for **Deacon John A. Hasson** and all his intentions. If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Wheel for Priests and Deacons, please call Betty Rowlands at 610-489-3742.





Dear Friends,

On this “*Gaudete Sunday*,” the third Sunday of Advent, our entrance antiphon is taken from Saint Paul’s letter to the Philippians: “*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.*” The most notable aspect visually on this weekend, is the optional use of Rose color vestments. This third Sunday of the Advent season is meant to lead us to contemplate the closeness of the Lord, both by His birth in Bethlehem and in His abiding presence among us in His Church and Sacraments. “*Indeed, the Lord is near;*” let us truly rejoice in His goodness and avail ourselves of His grace.

The words of the prophet Isaiah (first reading) are just as true today as when he pronounced them thousands of years ago, “*Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you.*” There is so much that frightens our hearts today; plenty that can weaken us when we look around this world of ours. Yet, we must realize that it is not this world nor anyone in this world that can strengthen, make strong or save us. There is only one who can and who does this for us. It is Jesus, the Son of God, the Son of Mary, the child of Bethlehem, who died on the Cross at Calvary and who is risen from the dead and intercedes for us before our Father in heaven! That is why we rejoice! For rejoicing in the Lord is our strength and our hope!

To keep you up to date: the marble pedestals for our new statues will be installed beginning Tuesday, December 13. In working with the contractor and marble company, it was discovered that we cannot use some of the floor tile that we have, as it is not thick enough to help support the weight of the statues. It is estimated they weigh 800-1000 pounds. So all new, thicker marble will be used, it will be the same marble used for the Tabernacle pedestal. The total cost for the two pedestals is \$7,300, which is \$3,650 each. We already have gratefully received one donation in the amount of \$500 towards the cost of the pedestal for Saint Joseph. *If anyone is interested in contributing to the cost of these pedestals, please send your donation to the parish office, or drop it in the collection basket and mark it for which pedestal you wish it to be applied to and whether or not it is in memory of someone.* Thank you most kindly!

I’m sure you realize that this year Christmas is on Sunday. In many parishes, two envelopes are provided to the parishioners ~ one for the Holy Day and one for the Sunday. I did not want that to be the case here for our parish and so you have received or will receive only one envelope for Christmas by a special mailing. I trust that each of you will be most generous to our parish family in accord with your means at this special time of year. Our parish needs are many: ministry wise, programmatically, parish services and of course for our large physical plant. Thank you most profoundly for your ongoing and generous financial support throughout all the year. May you continue to have a blessed and holy Advent!

God bless you, God love you, I love you,  
*Monsignor McCulken*



### The 2016 Schedule for our Pilgrim Virgin Statue home visits has some openings.

Consider signing up to host Our Lady’s Statue for a week special to you and tell your friends and family about this devotion. To reserve your week contact Kevin at [610-489-4412](tel:610-489-4412). We will deliver/pick up the Statue for those who can’t manage its size/weight.

Dec. 11: Lisa Fuges

Dec. 18: Erin Eperthener

Dec. 25: Kevin Strnad

### RCIA ~ Sessions on and about the Catholic Faith ~



for all those inquiring or interested in discovering more about our Catholic Faith! These sessions, about an hour and a half long, are information and faith sharing evenings that will continue through the coming months on Thursday evenings. They are hosted by a team of our parishioners and clergy. We are looking forward to an inspiring and awesome journey together investigating the ways of God, the person of Jesus Christ our Savior, and the prayer life of the Church.

There is no commitment required. Any adult, interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, or interested in joining the Catholic Church, or a Catholic wishing to complete the reception of their Sacraments, is invited to join us.

Please join us on any Thursday **in Vianney Hall, the basement of the Parish Center and Offices** (the former Rectory). We look forward to meeting you. Any questions, please call the parish office, 610.489.1647.



FORMED is here! Formed offers free downloadable books, Bible studies, video and movies with a

Catholic focus. Log on at [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) and sign up using your e-mail address and the Parish Code: HJEE3.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Gaudate Sunday) & Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12

#### Movie: Guadalupe – the Miracle and the Message

The most important event in the evangelization of the New World occurred in December, 1531.

Over the course of four days, the Virgin Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, appeared to an indigenous convert named Juan Diego. As a result of this encounter, and the image miraculously imprinted on Juan Diego’s tilma (cloak), nine million Native Americans embraced the Catholic faith. This documentary traces the history of this transformative event from the 16th century to the present. Featuring interviews with leading theologians, historians and experts on the scientific inquiries into the miraculous image, this gripping film explores both the inexplicable mysteries behind the image, and the continued relevance of the Guadalupe apparition to the modern world.





**FOR OUR DECEASED:** Ellis Johnson; Marla Pennypacker, daughter of Larry and Irene; Betty McConney, wife of Michael

**FOR OUR SICK:** Ann Marie Allen, Nathan Allen, Joseph Art, Jr., Elizabeth Ashenfelder, Kathleen Bani, Lisa Caruso, Lori Bani, Christine Barrett, Kaitlyn Barrett, Kathleen Beaudoin, Rachel Beck, Michael Bell, Deacon Manny Beltran, Brooke Bielski, Jackie Bielski, Arthur Buben, Jennifer Buczkowski, Diane Burg, Sandy Burns, Rosemary Carney, Anne Cartenuto, Marc Chevrier, Monica Cipriani, Doris Coffey, Gerald Collins, Kathy Cronin, Sheila Davis, Denise DeCaro, Todd DeMent, Mary Derivan, Vince DiDonato, Pat DiPiano, Christopher Dorman, Betty Dougherty, Linda Dougherty, Claire Esposito, Vito Fabiano, Dorothy Fairbanks, John Fitzgerald, Neil Florio, Sandy Forcine, Stephanie George, Mary Ann Gibbie, Jessica Gladwin, Charlie Gordon, Kristen Gramazio, Shari Richardson Gray, Anthony Greco, Helen Guarnaccia, Joan Hallman, Virginia Heinz, Joseph Heller, Bobby Henzler, Tammy Hockenbrock, Ray Kelley, Joanne Kennedy, Carisa Koziol, Nettie Krall, Eva Kramer, Mike Creeden, Marilyn Kretzu, Al Lamar, Linda LeNoir, Ann Lentz, Nate Lentz, Stephen Lewis, Carol Logue, Steve Love, Joe Lutz, Tom Lytle, Joan Mahoney, Julia Mahoney, Mary Mahoney, Don Mangialardi, Marie and Sarah, Barbara Marosky, Elaine Maxcy, Agnes McCarver, Jaime McNutt, Doreen Keckley Meader, Allison Leo Mitchell, Francesca Moran, Fr. Tom Morris, Charles Mruskovic, Jr., Gene Mullin, Chucky Nelson, Marion Niedzolkowski, Marie Olszewski, Pat O'Rourke, Ed Osisek, Steve Pinto, Ed Pressler, Carol Ann Price, Faith R., Joseph Reeves, Kathleen Riggs, Dick Robbins, Megan Roth, Jack Russo, Linda Sauer, Paul Schneider, Mary Pat Seiss, Dorothy Sloan, Joe Somers, Anne Marie Stoudt, Yoshiko Strohlein, Dennis Sullivan, Howard Taormino, Ron Tautkus, Michael Troemel, Barbara Tulio, Mary Tybeski, Cristina Utti, Dominic Vacanti, Jr., George Vermuth, Billy Watts, Nancy Wenrich, Pat Willits, Albrete Zvarik

**FOR OUR LITTLE ONES:** Elizabeth DePaul, Brandon Gallagher, Baby Corey Gramazio, Maggie Lutz, Baby Nicholas Manzi, Kiera McMahon, Baby Zachary Sinnk, Philomena Stendardo, Isaiah Thoxton, Baby Dell Tolas, Justin Wichner

*When your loved one recovers, please notify the Parish Office so we can offer a prayer of thanks!*



Parishioners,

On behalf of Ann's Heart, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of toiletries and supplies to our Code Blue Overnight Emergency

Warming Center.

Your gift will assist Ann's Heart in our mission to provide a place of welcome and human services for the Phoenixville area community. Items such as those you have donated help us afford our guests a sense of dignity and self-worth when they can shower, wash their clothes, and start a new day with a fresh start. We look forward to reporting to you on our progress.

Again, thank you for your commitment to make a difference in our community. We look forward to future partnerships so that we may help our neighbors in need.

Sincerely,  
Kristen McGee  
Executive Director, Ann's Heart

## CONGRATULATIONS

### LANSDALE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Second Honors

Megan Adams

### POPE JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL

First Honors-Zachary Aukers, Dylan Burke, Richard Casey, Katelyn Dean, Ryan DiLeva, Megan Donny, Kayla Fleischmann, Kristen Mahoney, Jake Maya, Alana Pergine, Brianna Puleo, Lucy Tarpinian, Patrick Weigand, Joana Cainglet, Joseph Catalano, Molly Green, Cameron Keefe, Caitlin Lewis, Ashley Remington, Ryan Thompson, Andrew Tuffillaro, Sophia Bonanno, Nicole Cicippio, Faith Colliluri, Elana Figliuolo, Benjamin Grimm, Vincent Hines, Nora Hinke, Corine Lontoc, Molly Moore, Madeline Mulcahey, Jack Phillips, John Schiele, Sarah Abruzzo, Hannah Aukers, Jessica D'Ambrosio, Lauren Keefe, Owen Ley, Nina Mariano, Julia Patterson, Lauren Saladino-Tang, Kathleen Schiele, Kathryn Teles

Second Honors-Thomas Bonanno, Myah Cordrey, Anna DeBald, Jacob Granieri, Julian Green, Clare Heller, Gaspare Interrante, Andrew John, Liam Lockrey, Jenna Lucki, Ryan Lynn, Paul Malikkal, Nicholas Mead, Shannon Mullen, Sophia Pettrille, James Rauh, Hayley Wusinich, Emily Abruzzo, David Antoniuk, Valerie Beatty, Ryan Casey, Avery Cotter, Kyle Donovan, Cameron Gonteski, Aidan McCarthy, Jacob Snyder, Serena Spotts, Bryan Bendig, Patrick Butler, Shannon Farnsworth, Erin Gibson, Caitlin Gilinger, Madisan Green, Claire Hoban, Brett Leighton, Kevin Lynn, Matthew Marinelli, Kristin Weckerly, Alexander Williams, Emma Brogan, Sophia Buda, Luke Donovan, Mary Dugery, Katherin Fallon, Erin Fox, Lucas Levant, Ashlyn Lewis, Ariana McGrory



### New Members

Nathan and Ellen Bungard  
Albert and Grace Cosenza  
Michael and Carolyn Jeune  
James and Lisa Mann  
Matthew and Lori Serfass  
Ryan and Nichole Parent



Tweeted by Pope Francis on Dec. 4:



Advent is a time to prepare our hearts to receive Christ, our Saviour and hope.



### Pray for Those Serving Our Country

Sgt. Thomas Albany  
1st Lt. Andrew Bone  
Lt. Sean Feeney  
Bryan Luther  
Jeremy Somplasky

Cmdr. Wendy Arnold, MD  
1st Lt. Brian Davis  
CM/Sgt. Charles Gordon  
Andrew Somplasky  
Ryan Somplasky  
Midn. Zachary Sermarini

## COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

### Week Ending November 11, 2016

Regular Collection	\$ 27,014
Other Collections	\$ 1,412
Total	\$ 28,426
Diocesan Collections	\$ -

### Regular Sunday Collections Fiscal Year-to-Date\*\*

July 1, 2016—November 11, 2016	\$ 507,988
July 1, 2015—November 11, 2015	\$ 494,980

### YTD Tithing

2016-17	\$ 14,206
2015-16	\$ 4,481

\*\*Regular Sunday collection figures now include YTD Tithing



The Divine Mercy theme for the month of December is "Mary." On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, in 1937, Mary appeared to St. Faustina, and said to her, "My daughter, at God's command, I am to be in a special and exclusive way your Mother; but I desire that you, too, in a special way, be My child."

If you would like to know more about St. Faustina and the message of Divine Mercy, please join us for the Divine Mercy Chaplet every Thursday at 7:00 P.M. in Our Lady Chapel. For more information, please call Gerry Daly at 610-454-7984.

## Bulletin Deadlines

All information and announcements to be published in the bulletin need to be in the Parish Office by the Thursday that is ten days prior. Flyer inserts need to be in the Parish Office two weeks ahead of the desired bulletin date. Bulletin information and inserts should be e-mailed to [jphillips@steeleanor.com](mailto:jphillips@steeleanor.com).

### **Holiday deadlines:**

**Dec. 25 Bulletin-Deadline is Noon on Dec. 12**  
**Jan. 1 Bulletin-Deadline is Noon on Dec. 16**



**Children's Liturgy of the Word** will not be in session Sunday, December 25th and January 1, 2017.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** will resume its normal schedule during the 9:00 am Mass beginning Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. May God bless you and your family this Christmas season!



### **Sacrament of Confirmation**

Bishop Edward Deliman will celebrate Confirmation at Saint Eleanor Parish on **Saturday, April 1, 2017**. All parents of children in 6<sup>th</sup> or above who attend a **Catholic Private School**, other than Holy Cross Regional Catholic School, and who desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, should immediately contact **Teri Lahey**, at 610-489-9434, ext 2232 or [llahey@steeleanor.com](mailto:llahey@steeleanor.com) to make the proper arrangements. Thank you!

### **P.R.E.P Tuesday Session**

Kindergarten class and their catechists participated in

### **WEAR PJs to P.R.E.P.**

All P.R.E.P. students were invited to come to class in their PJs and bring a snack for the children at St. Mary Franciscan Shelter for Homeless Families!

### **Kids helping Kids!**



### **2017 Sacrament Dates**

#### First Penance

Saturday, February 25, 2017

#### Confirmation

Saturday, April 1, 2017

#### First Holy Communion

Saturday, May 6, 2017



**GIVE YOURSELF AN EARLY  
Christmas Present  
REDISCOVER GOD'S MERCY**

Join Matthew Kelly and six other influential Catholic voices of our time on a life-changing journey through Best Advent Ever™ Rediscover Mercy. Each day you will receive an inspirational email with simple tools that will help you rediscover God's great mercy so you can be an instrument of mercy to others.

This program is simple and free! Let mercy transform your relationships, work, and ability to embrace and experience all of life.

**TO LEARN MORE OR SIGN UP, VISIT  
[BestAdventEver.com](http://BestAdventEver.com)**

The **St. Padre Pio Prayer Group** meeting and Mass for December will be on **December 17**. The prayer meeting and confessions will begin at 9:40 AM. Mass will begin at 10:30 AM and blessing with Padre Pio's relics will take place after Mass. The celebrant is Fr. Hamilton.



### Mass for Healing Tuesday, December 13



We are continuing our monthly **Mass for Healing**. Our next one will be on **Tuesday, December 13 in the chapel** at 7:00 PM. We warmly invite everyone to this Mass, family members, friends and neighbors.



*Funny Name. Easy Fundraising.*

## SCRIP NEWS

### SCRIP SELLERS NEEDED

**Position Description:** The Scrip Team needs volunteers to sell Scrip before and after weekend Masses on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Volunteers work 3 different shifts.

**Time Commitment:** 2 hours once or twice a month

**Talent to Share:** Attention to detail for monies collected and information taken

**Contact Person:** Madelyn O'Hara, 610-489-1647, ext. 25, [mohara@steleanor.com](mailto:mohara@steleanor.com)

## CHRISTMAS

Starting Saturday, November 6, we will have special small denomination gift cards available—perfect for stocking stuffers and holiday gift-giving. The following cards will be available: \$10 Amazon, \$10 AMC, \$5 Barnes & Noble, \$10 Regal Cinema, \$5 Panera, \$5 Starbucks, and \$10 Target. **December 11** is the last day to order special gift cards for Christmas. Please plan ahead and keep this in mind so that you have all the scrip you need on time.

If you should have questions, please contact Madelyn O'Hara at 610-489-1647, ext. 25 or [mohara@steleanor.com](mailto:mohara@steleanor.com).

**St. Eleanor CYO (Catholic Youth Organization)** is open to **ALL** St. Eleanor parishioners. Therefore, if you are a St. Eleanor parishioner, and regardless of the grade school, middle school or high school your son or daughter attends, your child can participate in ANY and ALL CYO sports. CYO sports include; volleyball, field hockey, soccer, football, cross country, basketball, track & field, tennis, golf and lacrosse. For additional information please visit our web site at <http://cyo.steleleanor.com/> or contact Jim DeBald at [jdebald@yahoo.com](mailto:jdebald@yahoo.com).



**SE CYO DANCES:** CYO sponsors monthly dances throughout the school year. **Individual Dance Pass are available for Purchase:** Cost \$7- per dance. Please visit our web-site for more information and to purchase dance passes: <http://cyo.steleleanor.com/>. **We will continue to do a food collection at each dance.** Each child is asked to bring at least one canned good which will be donated to the St. Eleanor Food Bank. Thank you in advance for your help with the worthy cause.

**The Next Dance of the 2016-2017 school year** will be held in Saturday, January 14th. Contact Dan Cordrey with any questions to: [myah22700@comcast.net](mailto:myah22700@comcast.net)

**Has your email address changed?** If so, please visit our web-site and update your profile so we can keep you informed.

<http://cyo.steleleanor.com>.

**United Way** is an important source of funding for our program.

Please consider us when you are completing your donor card. Our number is 08018. Thank you!

Remember to Like Us On Facebook!



*The Giving Tree is in the Narthex. Please return your wrapped gifts with the tag attached this weekend,*

*December 10th or 11th. Thank*

*you in advance for your generosity and dedication to those in need.*



WICS - St. Eleanor's Women In Catholic Service will **not** meet in November. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, **December 20th** at 7:30 in Vianney Hall.



### St Eleanor Playgroup

We invite all parents, grandparents and caregivers to join us with your children to play, pray, have fun and learn about Jesus.

We meet on Wednesday mornings from 9-11 AM in Vianney Hall. Each week we share fun songs and prayers and do a simple craft. Please join us with your infants, toddlers or preschoolers with plenty of time for the children to play and for the adults to chat.

Please contact Laura with any questions at 215.390.0933 or [laurajusko@yahoo.com](mailto:laurajusko@yahoo.com).





Once again I am making a plea for your assistance and help to extend *Christmas greetings* to all our adult

parishioners and visitors, and of course our children as well. Our past experience has confirmed that your presence, smile, warm greetings, your wish for a Merry Christmas means quite a lot and works wonders not only for those you greet but for yourself as well.

In addition to a warm and heartfelt welcome of everyone who comes into Church for Christmas, we will be distributing to all the adults a copy of our Christmas gift-book, *Resisting Happiness* by Matthew Kelly. I hear it is an excellent read. If a couple wishes only one copy that is fine but you should be focused on trying to give a copy to every adult. If someone wishes an extra copy that is fine as well.

We do this primarily before Mass begins. And because we need to have many volunteers for each of the Masses, we ask you to meet up with the others to work out the logistics to ensure every entrance is covered. We will need some limited help at the end of the Masses as well.

For planning purposes, for the 4 pm and 4:15 pm, please arrive one hour early. For the 6:30 pm arrive by 5:45 pm at the latest; for the 8:30 pm arrive by 7:45 pm at the latest. For Christmas morning Masses, please arrive *at least* one half hour early.

I am hoping that you will accept this invitation to be an integral part of our 2016 Christmas celebration at Saint Eleanor Parish. Please respond to this email or call the parish office at 610-489-1647, ext. 10. *Please provide your name, the Mass you will be attending, your e-mail address and phone number.*

Thank you!



The Saint Vincent de Paul Society wishes to thank the following groups for their generous support of our Thanksgiving food drive: our

parishioners and their friends, St. Eleanor Boy Scouts, the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 6, and Kinderworks of Limerick. Our clients and the following organizations were assisted: Open Door Ministry in Royersford, Missionary Sisters of Charity in Norristown, Patrician Society in Norristown and Blessed Sarnelli Community in Philadelphia. Several families were blessed by your kindness and saw Christ at work through all of us.

## Food Pantry

### Saint Eleanor Parish Food Pantry

The Saint Eleanor Conference of the Saint Vincent DePaul Society will open its food pantry to all parishioners and members of our local community in need of food assistance.

The pantry, located at the white Saint Kateri Tekawitha trailer in the school parking lot, will be open from 10am to 12pm on the third Saturday of the month. This program is supported and made possible through the outstanding generosity of our parishioners. Now more than ever food and monetary donations are needed in our efforts to support all those in need.



## CHRISTMAS EVE PARKING INFORMATION

For the **Christmas Eve 4:00 & 4:15 Vigil Masses only**, St. Eleanor Parish is providing free school bus shuttles between the church, school and Ursinus parking lots. Shuttles will begin at 2:30 pm on Saturday and will provide rides back to your cars after Mass.

Shuttles will only be provided for the 4:00 and 4:15 Vigil Masses on Christmas Eve. Please park at Ursinus' Kaleidoscope parking Lot (West Lot). Visit the website for a printable map of the parking.



Holy Cross Regional  
Catholic School Christmas Show  
Monday, December 12 at  
6:30 PM in the church  
All are welcome!

## ST. ELEANOR PARISH PAPER RECYCLING FUNDRAISER

**We earn money when you recycle paper in the  
paper retriever bin!**

We are asking you to help us reach our paper recycling and fund-raising goals. Please bring your newspapers, catalogs, junk mail, magazines, phone books, office paper, cardboard and books to the Paper Retriever Bin located in our rear parking lot near the Religious Education Center.



### Knock Knock!

Parishioner visits by members of our Legion of Mary are ongoing. It is their aim to systematically visit all members of the parish. Please welcome them if they visit your neighborhood!



Congratulations to our Holy Cross School robotics teams. Known as Team "TOBOR," which is robot spelled backward, Holy Cross has two robotics teams of students in grades 4 through 8. They recently competed at the *FIRST®* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO LEAGUE Tune-Up in PA robotics competition held at Lansdale Catholic High School. Team TOBOR Red won the Outstanding Project Award and 4th place in Robot Performance; TOBOR Blue won 5th place in Robot Performance, among 45 public and private schools competing.

### Update

This past Saturday, December 3, Team TOBOR Blue, of Collegeville's Holy Cross Regional School, competed at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy in the *FIRST* LEGO LEAGUE robotics district championship. The team performed well and finished 8th among 19 schools. Congratulations on a successful season, TOBOR Blue!

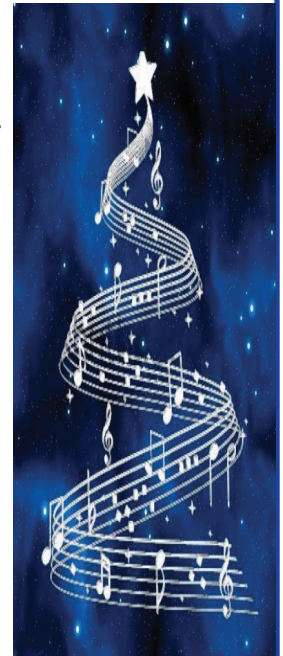


### Gluten Free Hosts

A reminder that gluten free hosts are available for anyone who has celiac disease or gluten tolerance issues. All you need to do is see someone in the sacristy before Mass and they will take care of your request.

## Adult & Children's Choir Christmas Concert

On December 11 at 4 p.m. the adult and children's choirs of St. Eleanor Church will present "Winter's Grace," a musical retelling of the Bethlehem story. This moving piece weaves together the season's most recognizable hymns for Advent and Christmas, supplementing them with prayerful narration. The concert is free to the public and approximately one hour in length.



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## AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

**Catholic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land** from March 21 – 31, 2017, \$3,749.00 /person including air from Philadelphia, Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Daily. Mass daily at the Holy Sites. For a Flyer or more detailed information please call Cathie or Michael Milano at 1-800-773-2660.

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**Maintenance/Custodial Full-Time Position** There is a job opening for full time Night Maintenance/Custodial position available at Pope John Paul II High School in Royersford, PA. The hours for this position are from 2:00pm-10:00PM; five days a week. Please contact Ron Williams at 484-975-6500 ext. 3060 for further information and details.

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**Activities Aide/Musician -Regina Nursing Center** is seeking a full time activities aide that can also sing and play a musical instrument (piano, guitar, etc.). In addition to displaying musical talents, the employee will conduct a variety of activities to stimulate and enhance physical, emotional, and intellectual well being for our residents. We are seeking a high energy, outgoing individual who is gentle, caring, and enjoys working with the elderly. Previous experience with the elderly population a plus. This is a full time Monday-Friday position with a complete benefit package (medical, dental, vacation, sick, etc.) Email [hr@reginanursingcenter.org](mailto:hr@reginanursingcenter.org).

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**College-Age\* Retreat** January 6 – 8, 2017 at Marianist Family Retreat Center, Cape May Point, NJ. 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 to meet new friends. Our time will be filled with prayer experiences, peer group discussions, Eucharist and lots of fun! **Cost:** \$130 per 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.*

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**Country Day School of the Sacred Heart** invites you to their **Lower School Open House** on Monday, December 12 at 4:00 p.m. There will be a special holiday performance of "Elflandia" by the Creative Little Hearts Club. Learn more about a K-4 Sacred Heart Education for your daughter and enjoy some holiday fun! Details and RSVP: [www.cdssh.org](http://www.cdssh.org) CDSSH, 480 S. Bryn Mawr Ave. Bryn Mawr, PA 19010.

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**St. Helena Church** in Blue Bell would like to invited you to our **Christmas Concert** "A Magical Christmas" on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM in St. Helena Church. The concert is free. A free will offering will be graciously accepted. Any question, please feel free to call Theresa Smith at 215-646-7636 or email [theresasmith@verizon.net](mailto:theresasmith@verizon.net).

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9th Annual Archdiocesan Men's Spirituality Conference - March 4 Registration is now open for **MAN UP PHILLY 2017!** On Saturday, March 4, 2017 at St Joseph University Hagan Arena, the men of your parish are invited to join Catholic Men from throughout the Archdiocese for the 9th Annual Archdiocesan Men's Spirituality Conference. Speakers include EWTN's Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio, inspirational speaker, Kevin Reilly, former Philadelphia Eagle whose career was ended by a rare cancer that led to the removal of his left arm, and Damon Owens, director of JoyTOB and international speaker on the Theology of the Body. Acclaimed Irish tenor, Mark Forrest, will provide inspirational accompaniment during a special directed Eucharistic Adoration. Register now and save \$10 (Early Bird Special) at <http://manupphilly.com/>.

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**MOM Heart of the Home Day of Renewal** - March 18. Registration is OPEN for our 23rd Annual MOM-Heart of the Home Day of Renewal. March 18, 2017 • 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Sts. Simon and Jude Meehan Center, West Chester. Calling moms of all ages and types: new moms, seasoned moms, grandmothers, step-mothers. Even if you're not a mom, you are still welcome! Continue your Lenten season by replenishing your spirit. Come listen to two amazing, inspirational morning and afternoon speakers Lisa Mladinich and Eleanor Farzeta. See our registration form for all details at <http://www.mom-heartofthehome.org/events.html> or call 484-798-7368 or 610-384-4933 for more information.

As part of the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions in Fatima, Fr. Dennis Gill will be leading a **pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes** on June 5-12, 2017. This Pilgrimage promises to be a deeply spiritual event in communion with the Mother of the Lord, with prayers for peace and healing for all of us, especially for the clergy and people of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. For more on the 100th Anniversary of Fatima celebration, visit: <http://archphila.org/fatima/>

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**Metanoia** is an active community of Catholic young adults in western Montgomery County, PA. The group supports Catholics in their 20s and 30s who are looking to deepen their faith and meet fellow Catholics in the area. Our ministry includes: Theology on Tap, faith-based meetings, community service, retreats, and outdoor events. We meet on Tuesdays at 7:30pm unless otherwise noted. Contact [metanoiayoungadults@gmail.com](mailto:metanoiayoungadults@gmail.com) for more information, or visit our Facebook Page ([www.facebook.com/users/metanoiayoungadults](http://www.facebook.com/users/metanoiayoungadults)) for more details.

Tuesday, December 20: Theology on Tap at Appalachian Brewing Company, Collegeville, 7:30pm (If you wish to eat dinner beforehand please arrive at 7pm).

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Gaudeamus Music Ministry cordially invites you to our Silver Anniversary **Christmas Concert** Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. Epiphany of Our Lord Church Plymouth Meeting, PA. Free will donation to benefit Amigos de Jesus, a home and bilingual school for orphaned children in Honduras.

✠✠✠

Father Zachary Navit, Chaplain at Saint Mary Center, Lansdale, invites you to join him in celebrating the **100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Fatima** with a **pilgrimage** to shrines of Portugal, Spain, and France from September 11-21, 2017. Daily Mass, round-trip transportation with airport taxes and fuel surcharges, accommodations at four-star hotels, all breakfasts and dinners, private guide, baggage handling, and more included for \$3295. For more information, visit [www.selectinternationaltours.com](http://www.selectinternationaltours.com), or contact Susan at Select International (800-842-4842; [susan@selectintl.com](mailto:susan@selectintl.com)).

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**Free Video Series: The Bible and the Virgin Mary** Join folks from all over the greater Philadelphia area in a 12 week long encounter with the Virgin Mary right from your own home! The St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, founded by Dr. Scott Hahn, is offering limited-time free access to its new video Bible study series, The Bible and the Virgin Mary. You can access this 12-part series online at no cost beginning January 18, 2017. The videos can be used for individual or group study. To take advantage of this great opportunity to grow spiritually, sign up at: <http://www.bibleandthevirginmary.com/philadelphiahttp://>

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All are invited to a special **Mass and Christmas Social** on Sat., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> in **St. Mary's Church in Conshohocken**. This event will benefit St. Mary Polish American Society, The Mass will begin at 11 am, with a delicious meal in the Polish Christmas Eve tradition of Wigilia immediately following Mass. Tickets are \$15 per person, with the meal included. There will also be a 50/50 drawing, and blessed optatek wafers available. We will once again be taking orders for frozen pierogi for \$9 a dozen and babka for \$15 each. For tickets, babka, and pierogi pre-orders, email [stmaryconshy@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryconshy@gmail.com) or call Dorothy Swedkowski at 610-630-0861. Ticket sales, as well as babka and pierogi orders must all be placed by Tuesday Dec. 13.

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**Widow/Widower Social Group** - If you have an interest in joining the Widow/Widower's Social Group at St. Ann Parish in Phoenixville, please contact Helene Kennedy at 610-933-0950 or [hkennedy111@comcast.net](mailto:hkennedy111@comcast.net).

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