



Hark!

*...the herald
angels sing,
glory to the
new born*

King!



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

DECEMBER 25, 2016

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 24

4:00 Christmas Mass
4:15 Christmas Mass (in school)
6:30 Christmas Mass
8:30 Christmas Mass

Sunday, December 25

7:30 Christmas Mass
9:00 Christmas Mass
10:30 Christmas Mass
12:00 Christmas Mass

(No 7:00 PM Mass)

Monday, December 26

Saint Stephen

No 6:30 Mass

9:00 John Kurtz Sr.

Tuesday, December 27

Saint John the Apostle and Evangelist

6:30 For the People of the Parish
9:00 Dennis Dugan

Wednesday, December 28

The Holy Innocents

6:30 Angeline Lundgren
9:00 Martha Rubert

Thursday, December 29

Saint Thomas Becket

6:30 Marie and Albert Leonetti
9:00 Jack Kurtz

Friday, December 30

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

6:30 Erminia Romano
9:00 Deceased Members of Smyth Family

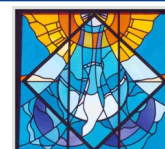
Saturday, December 31

Saint Sylvester I

9:00 Robbin Thompson
4:30 Anne Marie Tate
11:00 Holy Hour at Midnight with Benediction

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:



~ *Colette Anne, daughter of Joseph and Lauren Lulis*

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:

~ *In memory of Paul Henderson on the anniversary of his death, given by daughter Lori Sauermelch*

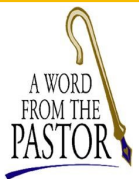
For a Rose of Resurrection to remember those who have passed away, call Paula Pezzano at 610-489-0533. Please request roses at least one month before the rose is to be placed on the altar. **There are no more roses available for 2016.**



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,

It's Christmas 2016!! *"I proclaim to you good news of great joy: today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord."*

These words from the angels of God say it all. This is good news ~ this is great joy. Jesus Christ is savior, He is the Lord. Let us worship the Lord, the Babe of Bethlehem, who constantly intercedes for us before our heavenly Father.

On behalf of Father Moriconi, Monsignor Murray, Deacons Hasson and Hinson and our parish staff, I extend to each of you and to all your loved ones our wishes for a very Blessed Christmas!

On this blessed day, I thank you, each of you, for who you are, for your goodness and kindness, for your example of faith and your dedicated care of our parish, one another and our brothers and sisters in need. Examples of your passionate discipleship abound all year long. On this Christmas Day, it's important to express gratitude and thankful joy.

While this past year has seen many works, projects, ongoing repairs and upkeep in our parish, we do not want to overlook our commitment to our *Tithing the Tithe* efforts. You will find in this bulletin more information on these efforts and all of those who received a portion of our ordinary Sunday collection as a charitable contribution from our parish family in the past fiscal year.

In our first year, we set aside 1% but in this current fiscal year we are setting aside 3% from our ordinary Sunday collections to give to charity, to those involved with the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. We have a wonderful committee who reviews the income and distribution of our *Tithing the Tithe* efforts. We will continue to publish in our bulletin information and updates so you can see all the good that our parish family is accomplishing through the Sunday collections.

Please be sure to take home your Christmas gift from the parish, a good Catholic book by Matthew Kelly, *Resisting Happiness*. It's a good read and practical. This gift book has been made available through the generosity of Mr. Richard Holcombe, Holcombe Funeral Home. We are grateful for his support.

May God's every blessing continue to pour out upon you and your loved ones and upon our parish family of Saint Eleanor! Alone we will not make it, but together we can do all things through Christ our Savior. May the gifts of faith, hope and love flourish ever more abundantly among us and through us into our fragile world.

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



The 2017 Schedule for our Pilgrim Virgin Statue home visits has lots of 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.
December 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 and sign up using your e-mail address and the Parish Code: HJEEM3.

Christmas: Nativity of Our Lord Movie: The Story of the Nativity

Take time today to savor the miracle of this day. Grab a cup of hot chocolate and watch this engaging exploration of the true story of Mary and Joseph, Jesus's miraculous conception, the birth of John the Baptist, the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, the Star of Bethlehem, and the birth of Jesus. This is an invaluable tool for believer and unbeliever alike to learn more about Jesus of Nazareth and about the truth of Christmas.

Children's Content Now Available

Your children will love the new content we have for them on FORMED — programs, ebooks, movies, and talks that will entertain, engage, and inspire them with the beauty and wonder of their faith.



FOR OUR DECEASED:

FOR OUR SICK:

Ann Marie Allen, Nathan Allen, Joseph Art, Jr., Elizabeth Ashenfelter, Kathleen Bani, Lisa Caruso, Lori Bani, Christine Barrett, Kaitlyn Barrett, Kathleen Beaudoin, Rachel Beck, Michael Bell, Deacon Manny Beltran, Brooke Bielski, Jackie Bielski, Mary Bruno, 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, Mary Filippini, 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, Allan Kramer, 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, Ralph 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 Standardo, 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!



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.



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 8th. 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 6th 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 **lahey@steleanor.com** to make the proper arrangements. Thank you!



2017 Sacrament Dates

First Penance
Saturday, February 25, 2017

Confirmation
Saturday, April 1, 2017

First Holy Communion
Saturday, May 6, 2017



Holy Cross Regional Catholic School has an immediate opening for a Cafeteria Assistant. If interested please email



Theresa Healy (principal) at **thealy@hcrs.school**.



FOUND!

A rosary was found in a pew on the Blessed Mother side of the church following the parish confessions on Wednesday evening, December 14. Please call or stop by the Parish Office if you lost a rosary.



Pray for Those Serving Our Country

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

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

Tithing the Tithe Efforts

Here we share again information about the mission of our Tithing the Tithe efforts.

MISSION

God is generous beyond all imagining. Everything we have comes from Him. Made in God's image and likeness and being disciples of the Lord, we are filled with gratitude for all of God's blessings to us. This gratitude leads us to seek to image God to those around us as part and parcel of who we are meant to be. Trusting God and surrendering to His grace allows us to become all that God has created us to be ~ generous lovers, reflecting His generous love to all we meet.

Our *Tithing the Tithe* efforts place us in the heart of the Gospel, in the heart of Christian living. To quote Matthew Kelly, "God is by His very nature generous. God wants to convince us of His generosity, and in turn wants us to live generous lives."

By sharing a portion ("tithe") of our regular Sunday collection with those who are in need, with those who fulfill the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, we are placing our trust in God and hope to grow more passionately as disciples of Jesus, thereby actively and concretely making present the generous love of God in this world.

By this parish commitment and witness, we hope to model for all our brothers and sisters in our parish family, and beyond, what it means to be disciples who gratefully and generously share the blessings we have received from God's hands. This commitment of tithing our finances is just one part of our spirituality, but an integral part, as we strive to grow in discipleship, generosity and love. May God bless us all.

Here we wish to recap the various donations made on behalf of our parish family for fiscal year 2015-16. During that fiscal year we set aside 1% of our ordinary Sunday collection to give as a tithe. (This current fiscal year, we are setting aside 3%.) In fiscal year 2015-16, donations were made to: Little Sisters of the Poor, Philadelphia (\$4,500); A Baby's Breath, Collegeville (\$4,500); Father Chuck's Challenge (\$834.40); Valley Forge Chapter of Knights of Columbus, for Pro-Life Causes (\$800); Mom's House, Phoenixville (\$800); Birthright (\$800); Brandon Chiazza, for missionary outreach (\$150); Good Friday Holy Land Appeal (\$500, added to that collection); Providence Home Orphanage, India (\$250); FOCUS ~ Fellowship of Catholic University Students in support of the missionary work of Juliana Coppa, Team Director at the University of California, Los Angeles (\$750); Saint John's Hospice (\$500); Restoration of the Outdoor Stations ~ Eagle Scout Project by Brian Connor (\$750).

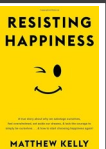
Our God is never outdone in generosity, truly! May God bless all of you not only for all you are, do and give to Saint Eleanor but for your abundant generosity to our brothers and sisters in need!



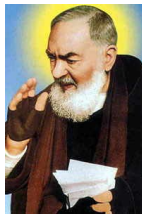
Our religious calendars for 2017 are available at all the doors of the Church. We are grateful for the kind generosity of Moore, Snear and Ruggiero Funeral Home for sponsoring this calendar and making it available to our parishioners.

***Resisting Happiness* by Matthew Kelly**

This gift book has been made available to our parishioners through the generosity of Mr. Richard Holcombe, Holcombe Funeral Home. We are grateful for his support.



The **St. Padre Pio Prayer Group** meeting and Mass for January will be on **January 21**. 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. Moriconi.



Mass for Healing Tuesday, January 17

We are continuing our monthly **Mass for Healing**. Our next one will be on **Tuesday, January 17** 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@stleanor.com

CHRISTMAS

There will be **NO SCRIP** sales Friday, December 23 through Monday, December 26 and December 31 through January 2. In addition, scrip will be sold at the parish office from 1-7 PM only on Tuesday, December 27 through Thursday, December 29.

If you should have questions, please contact Madelyn O'Hara at 610-489-1647, ext. 25 or mohara@stleanor.com.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all and thank you for supporting the Scrip program!

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.stleanor.com/> or contact Jim DeBald at jdebald@yahoo.com.



CYO Spring Sports (JV & Varsity Baseball, JV & Varsity Softball, Girls JV & Varsity Lacrosse, Boys Varsity Lacrosse, Track, Pee Wee Track, JV & Varsity Tennis, Varsity Golf, HS Coed Volleyball). **Registration** will begin Sunday, January 8th and ends on Sunday, January 22th. • Spring registration is open to registered St. Eleanor's Parishioners only that are currently in 1st through 8th grade boys and girls. 1st thru 3rd graders are only eligible for Pee Wee Track and 4th thru 8th graders only for Varsity Track. Other sports vary on which we offer for boys and girls. • Registration and payment are only available through the CYO web-site: <http://cyo.stleanor.com/>. • Please update your family information, including e-mail address. This is how CYO Registrar, AD, &/or your child's coach will contact you for meetings, practice schedule, etc. • If you are interested in a position as a head coach for one of the teams, contact Vince DeFlavia, Athletic Director, vinman6399@comcast.net, ASAP.

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://cyo1.stleanor.com/registration/cyo.stleanor.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 by email to 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.stleanor.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!



St Eleanor Playgroup

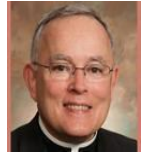
We invite all parents, grandparents and caregivers to join us with your children to play, pray, have fun and learn about Jesus.

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.



Recently, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* invited Archbishop Chaput to take part in a series it is publishing this month to mark the 225th anniversary of the Bill of Rights. This series will explore each of those original amendments and the threats they face today. The Archbishop's piece on the First Amendment, which guarantees our religious freedom, is the first installment and was published online on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8.



Chaput: Religious freedom, first among our liberties, is under threat

Religious freedom is a fundamental natural right and first among our liberties. This is borne out by the priority protection it specifically enjoys in the Constitution's First Amendment.

Consider four brief points.

First, *religious faith and practice are cornerstones of the American experience*. Many of America's first settlers were fleeing religious persecution. Nearly all of the American founders saw religious faith as vital to the life of a free people. They believed that liberty and happiness grow organically out of virtue. And for the founders, virtue needed grounding in religious faith.

At the heart of American public life is an essentially religious vision of man and government. This model has given us a free society marked by a wide variety of cultural and religious expressions. But our system's success does not result from clever legal mechanics. Our system works precisely because of the moral assumptions that undergird it. And those assumptions have religious roots.

When the founders talked about religion, they meant more than a vague "spirituality." The distinguished legal scholar Harold Berman showed that the founders - though they had differing views about religion among themselves - understood religion positively as "both belief in God and belief in an after-life of reward for virtue, and punishment for sin." In other words, religion mattered. It made people live differently and live better. People's faith was assumed to have broad implications, including the political kind.

That leads to my second point: *Freedom of religion is more than freedom of worship*. The right to worship is a necessary but not a sufficient part of religious liberty. For most believers, and certainly for Christians, faith requires community. It begins in worship, but it also demands preaching, teaching, and service. Real faith always bears fruit in public witness and action. Otherwise it's just empty words.

The founders saw the public value of religious faith because they inherited its legacy and experienced its formative influence themselves. They created a nation designed to depend on the moral convictions of religious believers, and to welcome their active role in public life.

Here's my third point: *Threats against religious freedom in our country are not imaginary or overstated. They're happening right now*. One example is the Obama administration's Health and Human Services mandate, commonly called the contraceptive mandate, which violates the religious identity of many religiously inspired public ministries. Government now increasingly interferes with the conscience rights of medical providers, private employers, and individual citizens; and attacks the policies, hiring practices, and tax statuses of religious charities and ministries.

Much of this hostility links to Catholic and other religious teaching on the dignity of life and human sexuality. Catholic moral convictions about abortion, contraception, and the purpose of sexuality are clearly unpopular in some quarters. Yet Catholic ideas about the nature of personhood, marriage, and sexuality are rooted not just in revelation, but also in reason and natural law. Human beings have an inherent nature that is not just the product of accident or culture, but universal and rooted in permanent truths knowable to reason.

This understanding of the human person anchors the entire American experiment. If human nature is little more than modeling clay, and no permanent human nature exists by the hand of "nature's God," then natural, unalienable rights obviously can't exist. And no human "rights" can finally claim priority over the interests of the state.

The problem is that critics of religious faith tend to reduce all of these moral convictions to an expression of subjective beliefs. And if they're purely subjective beliefs, then - so the critics will argue - they can't be rationally defended. And because they're rationally indefensible, they should be treated as a form of prejudice. In effect, 2,000 years of moral experience, moral reasoning, and religious conviction suddenly become a species of bias.

There's more, though. When religious belief is redefined downward to a kind of private bias, then the religious identity of institutional ministries has no public value, other than the utility of getting credulous people to do good things. And exempting Catholic social ministries, for example, from actions that directly contradict their religious identity, becomes a concession to private "prejudice." And concessions to private prejudice feed bigotry and hurt the public - or so the reasoning goes.

This is how deeply held, deeply rooted moral teaching and religious belief end up being branded as hate speech.

So here's a fourth and final point: From the beginning, religious believers - alone and in communities - have enriched American history simply by trying to live their faith in the world. *We need to realize that America's founding documents assume an implicitly religious anthropology*. The trouble is that this ennobling idea of human nature, nature's God, and natural rights, is one that many of our leaders no longer share.

We ignore that fact at our own very serious peril.

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.



COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

Week Ending November 25, 2016

Regular Collection	\$ 27,205
Other Collections	\$ 202
Total	\$ 27,407
Diocesan Collections	\$ 9,867

Regular Sunday Collections Fiscal Year-to-Date**

July 1, 2016—November 25, 2016	\$ 567,094
July 1, 2015—November 25, 2015	\$ 552,098

YTD Tithing

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

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

*Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
January 1, 2017*



*New Year's Eve Schedule
Vigil Mass December 31 4:30 PM
Holy Hour 11:00 PM
Benediction 12:00 Midnight*

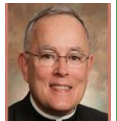
*New Year's Day Schedule
Masses 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM
and 12:00 Noon and 4:30 PM
No 7 PM Mass*

Perpetual Adoration Holiday Schedule

The Blessed Sacrament was reposed at 5:00 PM on Dec. 23rd until after the 9 AM Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 27th and will again be reposed at 9 AM on Dec. 31st until after the 9 AM Mass on Tuesday, January 3rd.



Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Archbishop



December 5, 2016

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to draw your attention to an excellent article by Philadelphia Inquirer business reporter Harold Brubaker last week. Brubaker documents the release of an important University of Pennsylvania study:

<http://www.philly.com/philly/business/The-economic-heft-of-churches.html>

As the story indicates, Catholic education and social ministries contribute at least \$4.2 billion worth of positive economic impact to the Greater Philadelphia region every year. That's a conservative estimate, and it does not capture the enormously positive *human* impact of those same ministries. As Penn's Professor Ram Cnaan noted on November 30, critics sometimes complain that the government subsidizes the Church in her social ministries; but *it's arguable the Church that subsidizes the government* through her high quality, efficient and low cost services, which public agencies could not easily replicate. Professor Cnaan is the director of Penn's Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society (PRUCS), which produced the study.

The full PRRUCS study on the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's economic "halo effects," led by Mr. Joseph Tierney of Penn's Fox Leadership program, can be found on-line. I strongly urge you to read it:

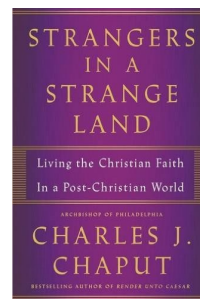
<http://catholicphilly.com/media-files/2016/11/Nov-30-v8.1-FINAL-11-28-16.pdf>

May God Bless you during these days of Advent.

Sincerely yours in Jesus Christ,
+ *Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.*
Archbishop of Philadelphia

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is proud to announce that Archbishop Chaput's latest book, *Strangers in a Strange Land: Living the Catholic Faith in a Post-Christian World*, will be released by Henry Holt and Co. on February 17, 2017.

Throughout his text the Archbishop offers guidance on how Christians, and particularly Catholics, can live their life vigorously within the challenging context of today's public square. You can learn more about the book, see endorsements, and pre-order your copy here <http://us.macmillan.com/static/holt/strangersinastrangeland/>.



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.

†††

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 or call 609-884-3829. Some financial aid is available. *Current Year High School Seniors are welcomed.

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9th Annual Archdiocesan Men's Spirituality Conference 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 MANUP PHILLY 2017. 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. Even if you're not a mom, you are still welcome! Come listen to two amazing, inspirational morning and afternoon speakers Lisa Mladinich and Eleanor Farzetta. 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.

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Part-time Youth Minister at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Limerick Part-time Youth Minister to serve the 9-12 grade Youth Group and facilitate an 8th grade program. Both programs are in place and thriving. The Youth Group meets every other Sunday evening as part of 6:00 PM Mass with meeting to follow. 8th grade program is every other Monday evening. Steubenville Retreat is part of the Youth Group experience. Anyone interested in the position, please contact the Pastor: Fr. Paul Brandt at frbrandt@stteresacalcutta.com.

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. Tuesday, January 17 we will meet for Theology on Tap @ Appalachian Brewing Co., Collegeville. Doors open at 7:00pm; Talk Starts at 7:30pm; Speakers – Sandy and Denise MacMurtrie. Contact metanoiayoungadults@gmail.com for more information, or visit our Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/users/metanoiayoungadults) for more details.

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Father Zachary Navit, Chaplain at Saint Mary Center, Lansdale, invites you to join him in celebrating the **100th 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, or contact Susan at Select International (800-842-4842; susan@select-intl.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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Widow/Widower Social Group - If you have an interest in joining the Widow/Widower's Social Group at St. Ann Parish in Phoenixville, contact Helene Kennedy at 610-933-0950 or hkennedy111@comcast.net.

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Food Service Worker/Cashier needed for ARAMARK at Pope John Paul II High School. Part Time, some night and weekend work also available. Food Service Experience preferred. Please call [610-254-8008](tel:610-254-8008) or email picozzi-kathleen@aramark.com for more info. EOE

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Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? **Retrouvaille** can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. The next program begins on the weekend of February 10 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. Additional weekends will be held in April and August. For more information, or to register for one of our weekends, visit our web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.