

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

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ST. ELEANOR CHURCH

February 5, 2017



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



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. 31. *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.



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FEBRUARY 5, 2017

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 4

4:30 Vincenzo Vetro

Sunday, February 5

7:30 Dorothy & Charles Rath
9:00 Mary Anne Petitto
10:30 Mary Ann Ponzely
12:00 PM For the People of the Parish

Monday, February 6

St. Paul Miki & Companions

6:30 Russell Fitzgerald
9:00 Richard Coletta

Tuesday, February 7

6:30 Mary Grace Dippolito
9:00 Walter Tomashefski

Wednesday, February 8

St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Josephine Bakhita

6:30 Constanza & Mary Della
Pietro
9:00 Velia Fanaro

Thursday, February 9

6:30 Anne Yanek
9:00 Renato Garofalo

Friday, February 10

St. Scholastica

6:30 Michael Gelenbiuk
9:00 Dorothy Fossil

Saturday, February 11

Our Lady of Lourdes, BVM

9:00 Catherine Alt
4:30 Anthony R. Capaldi

**There will be NO 7PM Mass on
Sunday, February 5, 2017.**

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:

~ Jude Thomas, son of Matthew and Lori Serfass
~ Mason Christopher, son of Christopher and Shannon Zizgama



Our next Pre-Jordan Program will be held on Sunday, February 5, 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:



~ Edward Miller on 3rd anniversary of his death, given by wife Edith
~ Mark Wallace, on the anniversary of his death given by mother Theresa

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.

Prayer Wheel for Priests and Deacons

For the month of February we will be praying for our pastor, **Monsignor Michael McCulken** 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,

If you have been following our *Counting our Blessings* box in the bulletin, you will have noticed that the year-to-date totals for this fiscal year have shown rather consistently an increase over the year-to-date totals from the previous fiscal year. Last weekend's box, however, showed a slight decrease in these comparisons. This is not a surprise as this fiscal year, in December, there was one less Sunday collection than in the previous fiscal year.

You'll remember that Christmas was a Sunday and we did not include a Sunday envelope in the envelope packet. We just sent the special Christmas envelope. Although, some of our folks did put a Sunday envelope into the basket on Christmas day, thus the Sunday figure reported in the box. I am very happy to share that our Christmas collection 2016 is \$15,871 more than in 2015. *I am deeply and profoundly grateful for the generous, consistent and sacrificial contributions of all of you!*

I was having a conversation with some of our people recently and the conversation went to talking about the various means of contributing to the Sunday collection, which is the *primary means* of support for our parish ministries, programs and physical plant. The use of the traditional Sunday envelope allows the parish to provide you with an end of year tax statement for your tax records. Loose checks are also recorded and allows the parish to provide the same. Those who donate cash outside of their envelopes, directly into the collection basket, would not receive a tax statement since there is no way to record this.

A more and more popular way to make donations to the Sunday collections and even to other special collections is through our *Electronic Giving Program*. By going to our website, you can set up an automatic giving program that meets your needs. You can adjust or change this at any time online. Using this method allows you freedom from Sunday envelopes and checkbooks, as you are preparing to come to Church each week. It is very easy to use. If you have any questions, just call our Parish Office and the staff will be happy to help.

The printing and mailing of the Sunday envelopes is a rather large recurring expense. If you choose the *Electronic Giving Program*, or you place loose checks or loose cash into the Sunday basket, and would prefer *not* to receive the envelopes, please let the parish office know this. We can stop the envelopes coming but will keep you on the mailing list for anything else that the parish may send out.

Again, my deep thanks for your continuing and generous support of our parish!

God bless you, God 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.

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.

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.

Get ready for Valentine's Day

Understanding the true meaning of marriage is one thing, living it out is another. *Beloved: Living Marriage* examines the day-to-day challenges of being united as husband and wife, while maintaining individuality. BELOVED shows how to put faith at the center of your marriage. Learning to effectively communicate, turn conflict into understanding, avoid the pitfalls that wreck relationships, and understand sex in the context of authentic love are among the topics presented for helping relationships to thrive. Good for those already married and for those wanting to be married some day!



FOR OUR DECEASED: Msgr. Richard Skelly, brother of Bill Skelly; Jennifer Buczkowski, daughter-in-law of Tom and Darlene Gaspar; Anthony Greco, husband of

Sandy

FOR OUR SICK: Catherine Alexander, 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, Mary Bruno, Arthur Buben, Diane Burg, Sandy Burns, Marcia Capaldi, Rosemary Carney, Anne Cartenuto, Marc Chevrier, Anthony Cicippio, Monica Cipriani, Doris Coffey, Gerald Collins, Mike Creeden, 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, Elizabeth Groff, Helen Guarnaccia, Joan Hallman, Virginia Heinz, Joseph Heller, Bobby Henzler, Tammy Hockenbrock, Ray Kelley, Joanne Kennedy, Carisa Koziol, Nettie Krall, Eva Kramer, Marilyn Kretzu, Al Lamar, Linda LeNoir, Ann Lentz, Nate Lentz, Stephen Lewis, Carol Logue, Steve Love, Marion Lukens, 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, Kathleen Kane Monzi, 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, 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 Tolos, 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 February is "LOVE." In November, 1936, St. Faustina visited heaven in spirit and saw its inconceivable beauties and the happiness that awaits us after death. Afterward she wrote: "And God has given me to understand that there is but one thing that is of infinite value in His eyes, and that is love of God; love, love and once again love; and nothing can compare with a single act of pure love of God." (778)

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.



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 610-489-4677, ext. 31 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 NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION FOR PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

Registration is being held on February 10, 2017 at Holy Cross Regional Catholic School from 8:30 to 10:30 AM. Holy Cross Regional Catholic School is the perfect place for your child to grow in academics, faith, hope and love. We offer full day Pre-K and Kindergarten and also have after care available. Come join us.

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

Week Ending January 6, 2017

Regular Collection	\$ 23,157
Christmas	\$ 6,677
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 4,133
Other Collections	\$ 363
Total	\$ 34,330
Diocesan Collections	\$ 27

Regular Sunday Collections Fiscal Year-to-Date**

July 1, 2016—January 6, 2017	\$ 722,132
July 1, 2015—January 6, 2016	\$ 730,130

YTD Tithing

2016-17	\$ 20,969
2015-16	\$ 5,798

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



Pray for Those Serving Our Country

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

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

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 fundraising 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.



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.

Blessing of Throats

Since the Feast of Saint Blaise, February 3, falls during the week, throats will be blessed at the Masses on February 4 and 5.



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@stleanor.com.

WICS - Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 28th at 7:00PM in Vianney Hall. We will be having our tea party so remember to bring a tea cup! We always welcome new members.



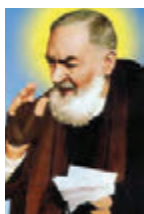
***Mother and Daughter Tea** - Together with the Home and School Association of Holy Cross School, the St. Eleanor WICS will be hosting the annual tea in the school cafeteria on Sunday, Feb. 12th at 10 AM. The cost is \$10 each for mothers and young ladies 11+, \$5 for girls ages 3-10 (age 2 and under is free). Please send a check payable to **Holy Cross Home and School** through the Parish Office (ATTN: Home and School - A.Schiele - Tea) or through school mail (Alice Ann Schiele, c/o Anna Jane Schiele 2-203).*

In the exercise of prudence during this cold and flu season, the distribution of the Precious Blood at Mass has been suspended. Thank you for your understanding.



January 8 was National Choir Appreciation Day, a day set aside to honor the talent, sacrifice and dedication of choral singers all across the country. Although the celebration focuses on choirs that perform repertoire of all kinds, it provides an opportunity to highlight music ministry at St. Eleanor Parish. Our parish choir has a decades-long record of service in singing praise to God. But there is always room for more participants. Now that 2017 is here, please consider adding your voice to its ranks. Men and women are welcome, and the ability to read music is not a requirement. Teens and young adults are especially encouraged (PJP and Spring-Ford students who are members of school chorus, why not strengthen your voices by joining us?). Rehearsals are each Thursday evening in church, beginning with prayer promptly at 7:15. Contact Music Director Dan Weckerly (610.574.1605) for more information.

The **St. Padre Pio Prayer Group** meeting and Mass for February will be on **February 18**. 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, February 21



We are continuing our monthly **Mass for Healing**. Our next one will be on **Tuesday, February 21** at 7:00 PM. We warmly invite everyone to this Mass, family members, friends and neighbors.



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

Looking Ahead Important Dates

Saint Eleanor
Easter Egg Hunt—
Saturday, April 15 at 11 AM
Ages 6 and under



Sunday, April 16-Easter Sunday-
No 7PM Mass

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.



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, February 11th.** Contact Dan Cordrey with any questions: <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!



St. Eleanor Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration- in Our Lady Chapel

"The best, the surest and the most effective way of establishing PEACE on the face of the earth is through the great power of Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament."- Pope John Paul II

The Adoration Ministry is in need of new adorers! Below is a list of the hours that have most need for new adorers:

Mondays 12 AM
Tuesdays 12 AM
Wednesdays 7 AM
Thursdays 11 AM
Thursdays 4 PM
Thursdays 9 PM
Fridays 12 AM
Fridays 8 AM
Fridays 2 PM

Please contact Erin Finkelmeier:
efinkelmeier@gmail.com for more information or to commit to an hour.

In Gratitude for God's Generosity: Tithing the Tithe Committee News

God reminds us throughout the Bible that everything belongs to Him. Tithing is thus, first and foremost, an act of worshipful recognition of God as our source of existence, blessing and providence. Scripture further shows that while we must properly provide for our families and be wise stewards of our resources, we are also to be giving and caring people. Tithing teaches us how to keep God first in our lives and how to live generous lives. Through the *Tithing the Tithe* initiative, the parishioners of St. Eleanor have committed to donate 3% of the ordinary Sunday collections to individuals in need and organizations involved with Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. The initial *Tithing the Tithe* donations for the 2017 Fiscal Year have been made to 13 organizations that provide assistance to those in need within our local and greater Philadelphia community. Two of these organizations are profiled below, and we will be providing information on the other 11 organizations in upcoming bulletins. Contact information is provided for each of the organizations profiled should individual parishioners wish to learn more, volunteer their time, or provide additional financial support.

Saint John's Hospice ~ a donation of \$500.00 was made to Saint John's Hospice, a Catholic Social Services shelter for adult men, by the *Tithing the Tithe* Committee on behalf of our Parish family. Saint John's Hospice was established in 1963 and provides crucial, life-sustaining services with dignity, respect and compassion to homeless men without discrimination in Philadelphia. Through the Saint John's Hospice and Good Shepherd program, shelter is provided to over 250 men each year via its 40-bed residence for men in transition from homelessness to independent living, 12-bed residence for medically fragile homeless men, and coffee house providing a safe resting and sleeping environment for 27 chronically homeless men who typically avoid shelter living residences. The staff and volunteers at Saint John's Hospice also serve more than 3,000 meals each week to homeless and needy men. Additionally, case management services, on-site nursing services, daily showers and clothing, and mailroom services are offered for homeless men and men in need.

Mercy Hospice ~ a donation of \$500.00 was made to Mercy Hospice, a Catholic Social Services shelter for adult women and children in their care, by the *Tithing the Tithe* Committee on behalf of our Parish family. Mercy Hospice, established in 1976 under the guidance of the Sisters of Mercy, offers a range of residential and day services to assist homeless women in Philadelphia, many of whom are in recovery, with the mission of alleviating the poverty and family instability caused by serious addictions, associated trauma and mental health issues. The Hospice operates a 48-bed residence on the 300 block of South 13th Street for single women and mothers with young children in recovery, where residents receive shelter, hot meals, case management services, life-skills training, parenting support, and access to off-site treatment programs. Mercy Hospice also provides day services to an average 50 to 70 additional women each weekday, where individuals can receive a hot meal, shower, clean clothes, case management services, and use of a telephone.

If you are interested in learning more about Saint John's Hospice or Mercy Hospice or in volunteering, please visit <http://saintjohnshospice.org> or <http://www.mercyhospicephilly.org>. Should you wish to provide additional financial support, donations can be made directly through these websites or can be mailed to Saint John's Hospice, 1221 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107 or Mercy Hospice, 334 South 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-5916.



St. Eleanor students in G.I.F.T programs and those preparing for Confirmation are collecting new infant and maternity items to help women in crisis pregnancies and their babies. Suggested donations are printed on paper hearts that can be taken from the display at church entrances. Your donations go to these pro-life agencies in our community that offer loving guidance and help to these needy mothers and babies: *Mom's House, *A Baby's Breath and *Birthright. The Hearts for Life drive continues through St. Valentine's Day.



Defunding Planned Parenthood

As the 115th Congress takes office, Pro-Life leaders are calling for an end to taxpayer funding of Planned Parenthood. Did you know:

- There are 9,000+ health centers where low-income women can get health care apart from Planned Parenthood (PP has 700 clinics nationwide).
- Planned Parenthood performs 175 abortions for every adoption referral.
- Planned Parenthood affiliates agreed to a \$4 million settlement for Medicaid fraud.

Join a National Rally to De-fund Planned Parenthood, taking place at PP centers all over the United States on February 11.

National Defund PP Rally in Norristown on Saturday, February 11, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Planned Parenthood, 1221 Powell St., Norristown



2017 CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia's single most important annual fundraising initiative and we're counting on your support. This year, the Catholic Charities Appeal will be a channel of hope for tens of thousands of people through countless organizations and ministries in the Archdiocese, and a positive source for good in all facets of the Church in Philadelphia. We ask you to look deep in your heart and be as generous as you can to help us reach our \$12.5 million goal. So many people are counting on us. So we're counting on you to give hope this year to those who need it the most.

WAYS TO GIVE

The Catholic Charities Appeal is recognized as a non-profit institution. As such, all gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. It has its own Employer Identification Number (EIN) and receives a separate financial audit. Besides gifts of cash, donors to the 2017 Catholic Charities Appeal may contribute in many other ways, each offering tax advantages according to their circumstances:

PLEDGE GIFT – A gift to the Catholic Charities Appeal may be paid over a period of months. If possible, please include your first month's payment when you mail your gift card envelope. You will then receive a monthly statement.

GIFTS OF CASH – Checks should be made payable to the "Catholic Charities Appeal." Please complete and mail the enclosed gift card in the envelope provided. Please do not send cash through the mail.

MATCHING GIFTS – Would you like to double or even triple the impact of your gift? Over 20,000 companies have matching gift programs, and many include current employees and retirees. The wide array of Catholic Charities Appeal beneficiaries allows your donation to be eligible for the majority of matching gift programs. We are happy to help guide you through the steps to secure a corporate match for your donation. Please e-mail matching@catholicfoundationphila.org to let us know your employer. We can provide you with additional information to complete the process.

ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER (EFT) – This can be arranged through your bank or online through our website www.catholiccharitiesappeal.org.

GIFTS OF SECURITY – A gift of appreciated securities is one way to make a significant contribution at a reduced cost to you. Federal tax laws allow a charitable deduction for the full market value of securities on the date of your gift.



Perkiomen Valley Council 3633 Knights of Columbus serving the parishes of Saint Eleanor and Saint Mary. Meets 2nd Sunday of each month. Call GK Joseph Stephey (610) 489-1341 or visit www.kofc3633.org to contact us.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

Grief to Grace -Healing the Wounds of Abuse - is an integrated psychological and spiritual program for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual, or spiritual abuse. It is appropriate for anyone who has endured sexual abuse, rape, incest, or other forms of traumatic violation in childhood or adolescence. The program will be held March 5th through March 10th of 2017 at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Aston, PA. The program offers a very unique process for helping victims of abuse to grieve the past and discover spiritual healing and transformation. Dr. Theresa Burke who is the founder of Rachel's Vineyard - retreats for healing after abortion, composed the program and will serve as the facilitator for this retreat. Grief to Grace provides professional therapeutic staff, all treatment is based on a firm Christian Foundation as well as sound medical and psychological principles and a perceptive understanding of trauma. Visit www.griefftograce.org for more information. To request an application contact info@griefftograce.org or call 610-203-2002. Reserve your spot now as space is limited.



All are invited to Ostadki: A **Polish Mardi Gras** Celebration to support St. Mary Polish American Society at the TK Club at 500 East Hector Street in Conshohocken on Sunday February 26th from Noon to 6 pm. This event will feature Polka music from the Naturalistix Polka Band, Polish food, a full cash bar, a 50/50 drawing, a basket raffle, and baked goods for sale. Tickets are \$10 advance sales, \$15 day of event. Tickets include the price of admission, with food not included. Advance tickets are on sale until Tuesday February 14th. We are also taking advance orders for pączki (Polish doughnuts) and frozen pierogi. For tickets, pączki, and pierogi pre-orders, please email stmaryconshy@gmail.com or call Dorothy Swedkowski at 610-630-0861.



Looking for a special Valentine surprise? Give your spouse the gift of quality time on a **Marriage Encounter Weekend**. The world we live in seems to get busier each year, so taking the time to focus on your marriage and to increase the understanding and love is so important. The next Weekends in this area are February 10-12 at Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown and March 31-April 2 at the Sheraton Great Valley. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: www.wwme-philly.org. You can also contact Al & Mary Liz Heumann at Applications@wwme-philly.org or call 610-449-1859.



St. Teresa of Calcutta Day of Reflection Monsignor Michael Mannion, who enjoyed a twenty nine-year friendship with Mother Teresa, is coming to Malvern Retreat House to direct a day retreat on Wednesday, February 15. He will be sharing his personal experiences with this newly proclaimed saint, as well as the spiritual insights that he gained from her. Please visit malvernretreat.com or call 610-644-0400 for more information.



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.



Mothers' Home in Darby is our region's only residential program for homeless, pregnant women. Mothers' Home is hosting its Annual **Bowl-A-Thon** at Sproul Lanes, Springfield on Sat., Feb. 18, 2017. Two time slots are available: 3 to 5 PM and 6 to 8 PM. Each lane costs \$150, and includes a private lane for 6 bowlers for two hours, shoe rental, two pizzas and soda. Outstanding raffle prizes will be available, too. Register at www.mothershome.myevent.com. Sponsorships are on various levels: Kingpin sponsor is \$2,000 and includes four lanes and top billing on all event materials. High Roller is \$750 and includes three lanes. Lucky Strike is \$500 and includes two lanes. Pin Pals is \$300 and includes one lane.

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.



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'Ambrósio, 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/>.



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.



Save the Date! Saturday, March 25, 2017, 1:30pm Event: **Archdiocesan Cultural Heritage Mass** Join us as we celebrate the Lord and the many cultures that make up His Church! Location: Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia More information coming soon!



Valentine Evening of Reflection for Couples: On Sunday, February 12, 2017, from 5 pm to 9 pm, at Malvern Retreat House. Dinner, inspirational talks, Mass and renewal of wedding vows for married couples. Retreat director is Rev. Msgr. Ralph Chieffo, with Bonnie & Jim Clark. To register call: 610-644-0400, or visit www.malvernretreat.com/register.



Mount Saint Joseph Academy a Catholic college preparatory school for girls, invites all interested 7th grade girls to register for The **Pre-HSPT** to be given on Saturday, March 25, 2017 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The Pre-HSPT is a 7th grade edition of the actual Scholarship/Entrance Exam given to eighth grade applicants. Registration is available *online only*. Register at: www.msjacad.org/practicetest. You will receive registration confirmation via email.



Travel with Fr. Paul Brandt, Pastor of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish on our **Ireland and Scotland trip**. Visit Galway, Knock, Cliffs of Moher, Killarney, Dublin, Edinburgh Castle, St. Andrew's Cathedral. Trip Dates: July 7 – 19, 2017. Cost: \$4600.00 Airfare and all Included. To register, contact (855) 842-8001 or (508) 340-9370. You can also register online at www.proximotravel.com.



Lenten reflection by Susan Brinkmann, OCDS, staff journalist for Women of Grace and a frequent guest on EWTN. Learn how evil operates in our lives and how to defend yourself against its power. Friday, March 10, 7-9 p.m. at St. Agnes Church, 445 N. Main Street, Sellersville, PA. Refreshments and resources available. Reservations required. Cost is \$20 per person. Couples \$35. Students \$10. Clergy and religious free. Children under 12 must be accompanied by adult. Visit the Events page at www.womenofgrace.com or call 800-558-5452 to register.



St. Paul's Charismatic prayer group will be having a **Mass** on February 15, 2017 at 11am in **St. Paul's Convent chapel** located at 353 East Johnson Highway, East Norriton, PA. The celebrant will be Father Edward Hamilton.

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, February 21: Theology on Tap @ Appalachian Brewing Co., Collegeville; Doors at 7:00pm, Talk Starts at 7:30pm; Speaker – Fr. Tom Whittingham. Contact metanoiayoungadults@gmail.com for more information, or visit our Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/users/metanoiayoungadults) for more details.



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 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.



The **Annual Archdiocesan Mass Honoring the Gifts of Persons with Disabilities, The Deaf Community, Family, Friends and Caregivers** is Saturday, April 1, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul at 18th and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia. Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., will be the principal celebrant and homilist. There will be a light reception immediately following the Mass. All are Welcome. To RSVP go to <http://www.opdarchphilly.org>, or call the Office for Persons with Disabilities at 215-587-3530.



Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Help-Line: Do you need help accessing services and supports for someone with an intellectual disability or Autism? A collaboration of Catholic Social Services-Developmental Programs, The Office for Persons with Disabilities and the Schools of Special Education of the Archdiocese is offering this convenient help-line to assist families connect to disabilities services provided by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. To reach the Help-Line call: 484-472-5041 or email: mailto:IDDhelp@chs-adphila.org.



The **Immaculata Symphony** will hold its annual Youth Concert, *Heroes and Villains*, on Sunday, February 12, at 3:00 p.m. in Alumnae Hall on the campus of Immaculata University. Cost for the concert is \$10 for all adults and free for children under the age of 12. Seating is available on a first come, first served basis. More information and tickets are available by calling 610-647-4400, ext. 3473. Tickets are also available by mail to Immaculata Symphony, 1145 King Road, Immaculata, PA, 19345-0703, with checks made payable to Immaculata Symphony.



Women of Grace® is hosting a training session for women interested in facilitating an exciting new program entitled **Young Women of Grace: Embrace Your Femininity** for Catholic girls ages 12-17. The course is designed to counter the toxic messages aimed at today's young women and help girls discover the unique genius of their femininity. Course has an imprimatur from Archbishop Charles Chaput and is suitable for private use, in schools and parishes, home-school co-ops and after-school club settings. Study co-author Susan Brinkmann, OCDS, will lead the training session at St. Agnes Church, 445 N. Main Street, Sellersville, PA on Saturday, March 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Mass at 9:00 a.m.) Continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Pre-registration fee \$25 per person; clergy and religious free. For a preview of the Young Women of Grace program, visit www.young.womenofgrace.com. To register for the training session, click on the Events page at www.womenofgrace.com or call 800-558-5452

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