

Mission Statement: We are a Catholic community drawing people to follow Jesus and His message of love.



St. Columbkill Parish

200 Indian Spring Rd, Boyertown, PA 19512
Phone: 610-367-2371 · Fax: 610-369-0242

Web: www.stcolumbkill.org

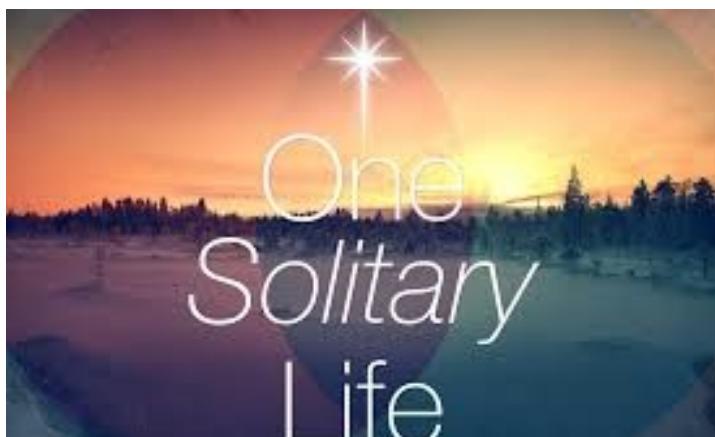
Diocese Victim Assistant Coordinator,
Wendy Krisak—(800)791-9209

www.allentowndiocese.org

Dec 25, 2016



“...She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger...”



Luke
2:
1-14

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IS HEARD EVERY SATURDAY FROM 4 P.M. TO 4:45 P.M. BEFORE THE SATURDAY EVENING VIGIL MASS

Merry Christmas!!

Merry Christmas to our entire Parish Family. May the Christ Child bless all of you and bring His Peace!

From Fr. Marty and the entire staff of St. Columbkill Parish



Now is the time to schedule your vacation day from work if necessary, so you can join us for this incredible pep rally for LIFE! The day begins in our church with Mass for the Unborn at 6:30am before

boarding the bus to Washington, DC. The program on the National Mall begins at 12 noon and the March immediately follows.

Cost is \$50 per person which includes morning refreshments, bus transportation and buffet dinner on the return trip. To reserve a seat, please contact Lisa in the parish office at 610-367-2371 or Candee Holzman at :610-369-9887 or candeeh@stcolumbkill.org.

Reservation is confirmed ONLY when your payment is received.

Upcoming Holy Days:

January 1
Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

New Years' fall on a Sunday so the obligation is taken care of with Sunday Mass attendance

PRAVFUL INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY: DECEMBER 26
9:00 am— NO MASS

TUESDAY: DECEMBER 27
9:00am— George J. Ondo by Dan Holzman Family

WEDNESDAY: DECEMBER 28
9:00am—For the Intentions of Esther & Carl Witzel on
their 3rd Wedding Anniversary by Lisa

THURSDAY: DECEMBER 29
9:00am— Zigmont & Edith Fisherowski by son, David

FRIDAY: DECEMBER 30
9:00am—Lowell Howald by Family

SATURDAY: DECEMBER 31
5:00pm— Lowell Howald by his Family

SUNDAY: January 1
7:30AM—Those Enrolled in the Iona Memorial Fund

9:00am—Deceased Members of the Curley and Speck
Family by the Family

11:00am—Living and Deceased of St. Columbkille

Please pray for Recently Deceased who are
relatives of our Parishioners.

Keith Crawley father of Alicia Kirby
Edward Drost brother of Joan Prussack

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

Mon: December 26 Father John Little
Tue: December 27 Father David Loeper
Wed: December 28 Msgr. Richard Loeper
Thu: December 29 Father James Lofton
Fri: December 30 Father Kevin Lonergan
Sat: December 31 Father Lucien Longtin
Sun: January 01 His Holiness Pope Francis

Please Pray

For the following Intentions...

For Our Family Members in the Military

*SPC Jeremy Larson
Jonathan Taylor
Staff Sgt. Robert Preston
USN Petty Officer Joseph Scarberry, Jr.
Lance Corporal David Vogler
Sergeant Brian Weber
Sergeant Jason Emerich
Sergeant David O'Brien
LCDR Brian Blair
Sergeant Steve Lafond
USN Petty Officer Jennifer McBride
Lt. Steve Rohe
Sergeant Jesse Miele
USN Petty Officer Stephanie McBride
SPC Kyle Laskoskie
1st Lieutenant Eric Antonucci
Lt. Andrew Moyer, USN
Airman Josh Bartman
Airman Morghan Poitras
Corporal Joshua Taylor
Matthew R. Goldschmidt, USN
Senior Airman Corey Kelch
2nd Lieutenant Zachary Bregovi
Lance Corporal Andrew J. Carpenter
Prayer:
“*

*Lord, hold our troops in Your loving hands.
Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and
their families for the selfless acts that they perform
for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of
Jesus, our Lord & Savior. Amen.*

Sanctuary Candle

In Loving Memory of Dominick and
Caroline Di Guglielmo
by daughter and son-in-law

Bread and Wine

For Dominick and Caroline Di Guglielmo with
prayerful thoughts and remembrances -
forever in our hearts by daughter and son-in-law

The Truth of the Virgin Birth

In the December-January 2000 issue of Jerry Falwell's *National Liberty Journal*, which covers politics and social issues from an Evangelical viewpoint, a page-one article by Edward Hindson asks, "Does the Virgin Birth Really Matter?" Hindson, dean of the Institute of Biblical Studies at Falwell's Liberty University, says it does—and uses arguments that sound suspiciously Catholic.

Noting that the Virgin Birth has been called into question by modern scholars as well as the media (he cites Peter Jennings' recent television special, *In Search of the Real Jesus*), Hindson calls the doctrine "foundational to the New Testament theology of the person of Jesus Christ." He quotes Protestant author A. N. Lane that "the paucity of references in the New Testament is something given as an argument against the historicity of the doctrine." Yet, notes Hindson (echoing Lane), "in Scripture there is no evidence anywhere that biblical writers ever felt the need to question or defend the doctrine on the Virgin Birth.

"That Matthew, a Jewish believer, and Luke, a gentile convert, both refer to the Virgin Birth emphasizes its wide acceptance throughout the early church. [Hindson, an Evangelical, may be forgiven for not capitalizing *church* here.] Aside from the unsubstantiated theories of a few modern scholars, there is no evidence that this doctrine was ever in question, except among heretical fringe elements . . . who denied the whole idea of the Incarnation. There was remarkably unanimous acceptance of the validity of the Virgin Birth." Hindson then cites some familiar figures: Ignatius of Antioch, Irenaeus, Tatian, Clement of Alexandria, and Tertullian—Church Fathers one and all.

Which goes to show two things: many Christians share the Catholic belief in the doctrine of the Virgin Birth and that, when dealing with many non-Catholic Christians, appealing to the Fathers is a good apologetic strategy.

Answer provide by: Catholic.com

For Prayers Answered!

WE PRAISE & THANK THE LORD for the following answered prayer requests through the intercession of St. Columbkill Wednesday evening Prayer Meeting and the Mass Prayer Team Ministry in 2016:

- Woman received a successful heart transplant after waiting two years.
- Teenager now doing well after being injured in a car accident.
- New born baby experienced lung difficulties, now alert and breathing on his own.
- Niece did not need an ostomy (bowel bag), doctor was able to reconnect bowels.
- Sister is recovering well after major foot surgery.
- Homeless woman, living in her car, was taken in by a loving family.
- Cancerous tumor removed from pregnant woman with no harm to the baby.
- Aunt doing well after removal of one lung and one kidney.
- Son does not need radiation after treatment of a skin condition.
- Grandson who was born early, before they could do a C- Section, and was not breathing, is now well and breathing on his own.
- No back surgery needed after all, received treatment for bursitis instead.
- Family was able to attain affordable loan to keep their house.
- Mother's tests came back clear, no tumors were found in her abdomen.
- A prayer for a special intention was answered just at the right time.

Please feel free to come forward to the **Prayer Teams** after Mass. All requests are strictly **confidential**. You can also write your prayer petitions in the **Book of Intercession** on the table in the Narthex. They are included in the **Prayer of The Faithful** at all weekend and daily Masses and interceded for at the **7:00 PM, Wednesday evening Prayer Meeting** – all are welcome to come and join us! Please let us know when your prayers are answered so together we can praise and thank the Lord! Let the Prayer Teams know or leave a note with Lisa at the parish office. Thank you!

Youth Group

Letters to God: 5 Reasons to keep a journal
by JURELL SISON

#5 Write for your future Grandkids!

I have a distinct memory of being at my grandfather's funeral. We were surrounded by loved ones, picture boards, slideshows, and even poetry about the generous life that he lived. But even after all the stories, I wish I could have heard about his life first hand. I wish I could know the young disciple that he was.

It sounds silly but another reason I journal is for my future grandkids. I want them to know that I, like them, was a real person, with real struggles, challenges, and sometimes hopeless situations. But through it all, it was Christ who transformed my life into something worth living.

Spiritual journaling leaves a trace of our struggle to be holy. If we seek Christ worthily, our lives can blaze a pathway to Him and our written prayers can be a way for us to share in each other's journeys.



***A Merry Christmas to our great Youth Group
and all its members.***

Always let us keep in mind the words of our Savior, born in Bethlehem, "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do to me!"

Let's spend 2017 doing "good" for the least of our brothers and sisters!

Youth Group Events



Mission Trip/Steubenville

There are 10spots left for our Mission Trip to Dover, DE from **June 18th-June 24th**.

There are also plenty spots available for our Steubenville trip from **July 14– 16**. FRIENDS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR THESE TRIPS!!!! If interested, please contact Heather. A \$25.00 deposit is needed to hold your spot for one OR both trips. Heather must have **Final Count needed by Dec. 31** so let her know ASAP!

Monthly Meeting

The next monthly meeting will be in January 2017! Thank you for a wonderful start of the year. Many blessings to you and your families during this Christmas season. Please let Heather know of any activities you would like to do from January to May. The winter/spring newsletter will be available at our meeting in January.

Heather Shainline, our Youth Group & Young Adult Group Director can be reached via email at: youthgroup@stcolumbkill.org

Young Adult Group (ages 18 to 35)

And a very Merry Christmas to all members of our Young Adults Group, too!

May we be shining "lights" in our community and parish of St. Columbkill so that when people see us... they see Christ!

Message from St. Francis Academy Our Parish Elementary School



St. Francis Academy

610 Pine Road
Bally, PA

Parish School News: St. Francis Academy.

To all of our wonderful students and their parents

Merry Christmas
to all!

And may the Christ Child

continue to shower you and your families with His unconditional love and peace now and through the New Year to come in 2017!

We'll see you all after the New Year Holiday!!

Calling all 2nd to 6th graders If you love to sing!! Our Children's choir sings at the 11 am Mass on the second Sunday of each month. Practices are on Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Ehst Room. Please come join us!

Youth Joke of the Week!

One night a Viking named Rudolph the Red was looking out the window when he said, "It's going to rain."

His wife asked, "How do you know?"

"Because Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear."

Catholic Youth Quiz

Answers to last week's quiz.

1. Who is the mother of Jesus?
Anna, Martha, Mary or Dinah—[Mary](#)
2. Who did Jesus raise from the dead?
Mary Magdalene, Peter, Lazarus or James [Lazarus](#)
3. Who baptized Jesus?
John, Peter, Saul or Joseph [John the Baptist](#)
4. Who was Jesus' stepfather?
James, Joseph, Zechariah or Peter?
[Joseph](#)
5. Who would not believe that Jesus rose from the dead, until he saw Him with his own eyes? Simon, Andrew, Thomas, or Philip — [Thomas](#)

PRESCHOOL RELIGIOUS ED!

Attention Parents of Preschoolers

Are you aware that we have a Sunday morning preschool class for our 3, 4 and 5 year-olds? It meets during the 11:00 mass in room 101 every Sunday except the second Sunday of the month when we have the Children's Mass.

We have wonderful dedicated catechists waiting to share their love of God with your children. To register go to our website and find the form under "Religious Education" or contact our DRE Connie Boyer with any questions you might have.

Your little ones will enjoy the interactive and fun program and you will enjoy peace and quiet at mass. Give it a try!

Email Connie at: connieb@stcolumbkil.org

Father Marty's Corner

Merry Christmas ! As we commemorate the solemnity of the Incarnation of Our Lord, I wish you all God's choice blessings as you celebrate with family and friends. I can't help but reflect on the fact that the primary reason we celebrate at this darkest time of the year is to remember the mystery of the birth of the Savior.

People are able to say "Happy Holidays" as much as they want. There would not be a holiday right now without Jesus. Let us be renewed as we celebrate the Word becoming flesh for our salvation. I share one of my favorite reflections for your edification...

One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman.

He grew up in still another village where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty.

He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness.

He had no credentials but himself.

He was only thirty-three when the public opinion turned against him.

He was turned over to his enemies and was crucified.

When he was dead he was laid in a borrowed grave.

Twenty centuries have passed and today he is the central figure of the human race.

No one has affected the life of humanity on earth as much as that

ONE SOLITARY LIFE!

Be well. Love-- *Father Marty*

December 25th Christmas Day

Gospel of Luke 2: 1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town.

And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear.

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you:

you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

STEWARDSHIP

Facilities Faith Lift

Thank you for your continued support of our Facilities Faith Lift Campaign. Your support and prayers have been and continue to be vitally important to the success of our three year campaign.

July 1st marked our one year anniversary.

We will continue to accept new pledges at any time during our campaign. Please contact Gayle at the parish office if you wish to fill out a commitment card to pledge. We have reached our \$1,000,000 goal in pledges received....***we are still accepting pledges!!*** Your continued generous support is appreciated.

Please don't forget your pennies for our Penny Pledge. There is a container in the Narthex to accept your pennies as you come for weekly Mass. Our next goal is \$8,000 and we are well on our way with total deposits to date of **\$7,545.65!** At this rate we are on track to exceed our \$10,000 goal.

Please contact **Gayle Fontaine** at the parish office if you have any questions at all concerning your pledge payment.

Thank you for your continued support of our Facilities Faith Lift Campaign!

What does Scripture say about Stewardship?

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.
—1 Peter 4:10

You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: Only to do the right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.
—Micah 6:8

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given you besides.
—Matthew 6:33



THANK YOU!!!!

A special thank you and many blessings at Christmas for all that you, our Parishioners, do week in and week out.

Whether it be with your generous financial giving or the spirit with which you utilize your "talents" to support St. Columbkill.

We are the vibrant parish we have become "because of you!"
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Christmas Flower Collection \$2,829.00 Thank you!!!

THANK YOU CHILDREN!!

We want to THANK all the children of our parish for their "stewardship" in saving their pennies and donating them to our Facilities Faith Lift. When Jesus said in the Gospel, "Let the Children come to me" He was talking about all of you! Through your efforts we have passed the \$8,000 mark in pennies donated. The actual total is **\$7,545.65!** You are all truly doing His work here at our parish in Boyertown.

Facilities Faith Lift Prayer

Thank you, Father, for every blessing comes from you. You gifted us with time, talent and treasure. Teach us to give time first to You. Teach us how to pray. You bestowed on us unique talents. By unifying our gifts, You connect us as one body. Teach us how to serve. Time and talent together create our treasures. Teach us how to glorify YOU with every breath of our lives. Amen!

Parish News and Information

OUR SENIORS GROUP

Tuesday, January 10, 2017
Sands Casino Bethlehem
\$20/group member \$25/guest



April 27-30, 2017
Azalea Festival & Tatoo Show
Norfolk, Virginia
\$550/double \$718/single
\$100 due at sign up, balance due 3/1/17

For information about trips or to sign up
Contact Peg Bryan at 610 754-7516 or email at
stcolumbseniortrips@comcast.net

St. Columbkil Daily Lottery

Just in time for your after-Christmas credit card bill blues...The Saint Columbkil Daily Lottery! With a winner, each and every day for the month of February, you have 28 chances to win and you can win more than once! The prizes are as follows:

Mondays to Fridays: \$100.00 prize each day!

Saturdays and Sundays: \$250.00 prize each day!

Monday, February 27th: \$500.00 Grand Prize!

Tuesday, February 28th: \$500.00 Grand Prize!

There are only 1000 tickets to be sold with ticket numbers ranging from 000 to 999...pick your favorite number while it lasts. Then look up the Pennsylvania Pick Three Evening Lottery at 7PM, straight number only, to see if you are a winner! Tickets are just \$20 and MAKE GREAT STOCKING STUFFERS! Tickets are available after all masses and in the Parish Office. Good luck!

Did you know?

Well, we do know there are four evangelists, the men who wrote the Gospels. Their names are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Many Catholics believe that they were all Apostles...no so. Mark and Luke are not named among the 12. Also, many believe or assume they were all Jewish...not so. Luke was a gentile and believed to be Greek. You can look it up!

QUESTION? The town of Bethlehem in Judea is also known as the City of "Who"(hint,...he's a famous man from the Hebrew Scriptures).

Last Week's Answer: Who in Church History established the Season of Advent?

According to the *Harper Collins Encyclopedia of Catholicism*, edited by Richard P. McBrien, **Gregory the Great**, who died in 604, was the real architect of the Roman Advent. Gregory fixed the season at four weeks and composed seasonal prayers and antiphons. Gaul (France) enriched the season with eschatological elements. And the fusion of the Roman and Gallican observances returned to Rome by the 12th century.

Widows & Widowers Support Group

The first "REACH OUT" for 2017 will be at MBS' Fr Schneider Hall at 1 PM on January 8th and the following meeting will be at St Columbkil's Conference RM at 1 PM on January 22nd. Starting a new year could be an up-hill battle for those who face the task for the first time without their spouse. We ask all to pray for the families who have lost a loved-one as they adapt to life after loss. Our "Reach Out" sessions can help by bringing the tools needed to meet the challenges ahead. For more information and for **anyone** who has suffered a loss of **any one** close to them, please call Dn. Mike Boyle at 484-336-9849.



Other Information and News

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP--All men (and their sons) are invited to join Deacon Jim on **the first Tuesday of each month beginning in December and each first Tuesday thereafter**, to pray and share their concerns about our world's future, the future of our Church and the continuing formation of our faith in our lives. **Prayer meeting begins at 7 p.m. and will last approximately an hour.** We should always remember the words of Our Lord to his apostles who were also concerned about the future, "Be not afraid"!

Pope John Paul II H.S. (Part-time job)

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 information . EOE

St. Vincent DePaul—The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dec 25: Today we celebrate the feast of Christmas and hear how the shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in the manger. Then they left glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Your gifts to the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry helped those who are suffering to find Emmanuel and they also came to know that "God is with us."

Charismatic Prayer Meeting : Come strengthen your faith on **Wednesday at 7:00 PM** in the Hall downstairs. We are open to gifts of the Holy Spirit, scripture, music joyfully praising the Lord. Scripture based teaching given each week. Let us intercede for you. For more info call Sue T. at: 610.367.4711 or email at: dondonick@comcast.net

WANTED!!! The Best Chili in Town

Do you think you have the best secret Chili recipe? Well, we're looking for it! The 2nd Annual St. Columbkill Chili Cook-Off will be held on **Saturday, January 7, 2017 from 6 to 10pm**. In addition to your chance to win the coveted 1st place Chili Pepper trophy and cash prizes, you can listen and dance to great music provided by Scott Entertainment! There will be kids' activities and more! Great craft beers from Other Farm Brewing Company and excellent wines from Blair Vineyards will be available for sampling as well as delicious desserts by Seraphim Cakes by Cindy Burdett. There are only 20 entry spots available so enter soon! For more information, please call the Parish Office or email Mike Lineman: michaell@stcolumbkill.org

See you at the Chili Cook-off!

Eucharistic Adoration : We have ONE opening still where we need an Adorer... on **Fridays at 1 AM.** Call Lissa or George in Parish Office at **610-367-2371**



Staff Directory

Pastor - Father Martin F. Kern

Deacons - James Kochu, Joseph L. Paschall, Joseph Petruskas, Michael V. Woodall, Emeritus

Administrative Assistants - Lisa De Simone: lisad@stcolumbkill.org

Along with: Mary Lou Heisler, and Joann Rivera

Chief Financial Officer/Campaign Coordinator - Gayle B. Fontaine

Parish Visitor - Sister Jean Wickenheiser OSF

Parish School, St. Francis Academy -

Deacon Thomas J. Murphy, Headmaster

Director of Preschool—Adriana Segaline;

preschool@stcolumbkill.org

Director of Religious Education - Constance J. Boyer: connieb@stcolumbkill.org

Coordinators of Religious Education

Patricia & Joseph Petruskas

Directors of Youth Ministry - Heather Shainline: youthgroup@stcolumbkill.org

Director of Music - Deborah Maskrey

Director Communications/Marketing -

George A. DeFrehn, OFS: georged@stcolumbkill.org

RCIA Coordinator—Margaret Chovanes 610-248-2171

Volunteer Coordinators—Mary Snyder & Robert Chisholm

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coord. - Wendy S Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC Direct Line 800-791-9209

Diocesan Safe Environment Coord. - Sr. Meg Cole, SSJ, MS, LMFT, 610-332-0442, ext. 19

2016 Donation Report for Tax Statements If you would like to receive your family's 2016 contribution statement, please write "Send tax Statement" on your contribution envelope and place it in the collection basket as usual. You only need to do this one time on ONE contribution envelope. If you are a direct debit contributor, there is no need to send an envelope in. You will receive your contribution statement automatically. After receiving your request via envelope, we will begin sending out the contribution statements in mid-January.

2016 Campaign Pledge Reports for Tax Statements

All parishioners who have made a pledge to our **Facilities Faith Lift Campaign** will receive a 2016 year end statement by January 31.

LIFE AD DONATION COUPON

Be counted when we publish this anti-abortion/pro-life ad in the Reading Eagle on Sunday, Jan 22, 2017. The suggested donation is \$6/person, \$12/couple or family. Deadline for the donation is Wednesday, January 11, 2017. Place this coupon with your donation (check payable to "Life Ad") into your Sunday Mass collection or mail to:

St. Ignatius Loyola Rectory
2810 St. Albans Dr.

Sinking Spring, Pa. 19608

Make sure your name, parish name & Phone # attached.

Sacramental Life

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession

- Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. or any time by contacting the Parish Office

Sacrament of Baptism

- 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 12:15 p.m.
- Baptism Prep Classes for parents and godparents are held the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 12:15 p.m. in the EHST Room.

Sacrament of Matrimony

- Arrangements must be made a minimum of 6 months in advance.
- All Couples must participate in the Marriage Prep Program.