



Maternity B.V.M. Church

9220 Old Bustleton Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19115

Phone: 215-673-8127

Fax: 215-673-6597

Website:

www.maternitybvmchurch.net

Facebook:

maternitybvmphilly

**He Is Risen,
ALLELUIA!**

EASTER
APRIL 20, 2025

Dona Gelsinger

He is Risen!

What a glorious truth of our faith indeed! But on what basis do we believe? Or do we believe? Do we really believe? During these next few weeks we will hear several eyewitness accounts who saw Jesus after His death but there are no such reports here on Easter Sunday. In today's Gospel, Mary Magdalen did not see Jesus and it never entered her mind that He rose from the dead. She saw an empty tomb. Peter saw exactly the same thing and a resurrection did not occur to him either. John, however, witnessed the very same scene as did Peter and Mary but he saw and "believed" that Jesus was alive. Why? Because he saw two neatly placed burial cloths. His faith told him that if thieves had stolen Jesus' body, they would not have gone through the trouble of tearing the cloths, which would have adhered to the body because of the burial oils, and neatly folded them. And, undoubtedly, the cloths would have had to have been ripped into many pieces and could not have remained in two singular pieces. We can believe in Jesus' Resurrection today because in the midst of the "messiness" of our regular ordinary lives Jesus leaves signs, i.e. his neatly folded burial cloths, everywhere and primarily in the love and goodness that we receive from others. For us though, we need to believe so that we can see. I actually believe that is how it happened with John as well. I think that it is because he believed already that He "saw" that Jesus was alive even though he did not see Jesus in the flesh. Once we believe that Jesus is alive we can truly rejoice and strive through our joy and holiness of life to allow others to believe. But there is more to it than that. This is not the ending, this is only the beginning. There is no 'happily ever after' because this is not a fairy tale. And thank God it isn't. "Happily-ever-afters" are so very boring, and if there is one thing Jesus is not, He is not boring. After His resurrection, He doesn't just live happily ever after, He reigns over heaven and earth. He judges us based on our lives on earth. So, the good news is that because Jesus conquers death we will all live eternally. But it is also true that we will face a judgment. Truly, it might have been easier for Lazarus to have remained in the tomb. Sometimes the thought of a judgment which has eternal implications is pretty scary to me. Because I just know I wouldn't make the grade of my own accord. And I hate to tell you this but I don't know if any of you would make the grade either. But, don't fret, there is more good news. In the First Reading, St. Peter says this: "everyone who believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins through His name." This means that those who believe in Him will be judged by God the Father in Jesus Christ. So, because Jesus is alive, we have eternal life, and He becomes our judge. That's why we're all here today, folks. So the question is: do we believe and live as we believe or do we take a chance at being judged, not in Jesus Christ, but on our own merits? I know where I stand on that one, I can tell you that! Remember, He is Risen and He reigns! Alleluia!

Mass Intentions for the Week



April 19: Holy Saturday

7:30 PM UC: *Easter Vigil Mass*

For Our Living & Deceased
Parishioners and Benefactors

April 20: Easter Sunday, The Resurrection of Our Lord

8:00 AM
9:30 AM
11:00 AM
12:30 PM

All Mass Intentions are for Our
Living and Deceased Parish
Members and Benefactors.

NO 7 PM MASS THIS EVENING

April 21: Monday within the Octave of Easter

8:00 AM UC +Adelina Roberto, 10th Anniv.

April 22: Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

8:00 AM UC +Di Palma Family

April 23: Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

8:00 AM UC +Anne Seifert

April 24: Thursday within the Octave of Easter

8:00 AM UC +Antonio and Emma Sicilia

April 25: Friday within the Octave of Easter

8:30 AM UC +Albert and Dorothy Forster

April 26: Saturday within the Octave of Easter

8:00 AM UC +Marie Locher
4:30 PM UC +Harry Citrino, Jr., 10th Anniv.

April 27: Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

8:00 AM +Keith Mueller
9:30 AM +Francis and Dennis Welsh
11:00 AM +Mario Bucci, 6th Anniversary
12:30 PM +Eileen P. Kelly
7:00 PM +Maria DiCicco

+Denotes Deceased

**Please note: The 8:30 AM Mass on Friday,
April 25, will be celebrated in the Upper
Church with our School Children.**

Sanctuary Candles Bread and Wine Offerings Week of April 20, 2025



Sanctuary Candle, Upper Church:
*In Loving Memory of
Francis, Dennis and Mary Welsh
and Family*

Sanctuary Candle, Lower Chapel:
*For the Healing of All
Children in Need*

Sanctuary Candle, Rectory Chapel:
*For the Living and Deceased
Parishioners and Benefactors*

Bread and Wine Offerings:
*In Thanksgiving for the Healing
of Mila Forster*

*To participate in our Candles and Gifts
Programs, please call the
Rectory at 215-673-8127.*

Weekly Events Calendar

*Please Note: There is no 6:30 AM
Daily Mass Easter Week.*

Monday, April 21: Easter Monday

The School and Rectory are closed.
No Exposition; Rosary prayed privately.

Tuesday, April 22

5 PM: CYO, Parish Hall

6:45 PM: PREP, School

7 PM: Bereavement Series, Rect. Mtg. Room 1

Wednesday, April 23

9:30 AM: Seniors Board Mtg., Conf. Rm., PH

11:30 AM: Seniors Meeting, Parish Hall

5 PM: CYO, Parish Hall

6:30 PM: Daisy Troop, Cafeteria

Thursday, April 24

1:30 PM: Legion of Mary, Rect. Mtg. Rm. 1

5 PM: CYO, Parish Hall

7 PM: Scouts, Cafeteria

Friday, April 25

8:30 AM: School & Daily Worshippers Mass,
Upper Church

5 PM: CYO, Parish Hall

Saturday, April 26

10 AM: CYO, Parish Hall

3-4 PM: Confessions, Upper Church

April 27: 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

12:30 PM: First Communion, Upper Church



Reflections & Acts of Kindness

Easter Sunday, April 20:
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA,
ALLELUIA!

HE IS RISEN AS HE SAID!

*"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice
and be glad." Psalm 118:24*

Christ DID RISE from the dead. That's WHY we
get together every Sunday to celebrate the
Eucharist.

**Please remember our First
Communicants in your prayers.**

**They are receiving the
Sacrament of Holy Eucharist
on Sunday, April 27, at the
12:30 PM Mass.**



**Please pray for all our deceased
Parishioners and Benefactors,
that they may know God's
eternal love of Heaven.**



**Divine Mercy Devotions
will take place on the
Feast of Pentecost Sunday,
June 8.**

090 Maternity BVM

MASS AND SACRAMENT SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass, Upper Church: 4:30 PM
Sunday Masses, Upper Church: 8, 9:30, 11 AM;
 12:30, 7 PM

Old Church: 10:30 AM (First Sunday of the month in May and October)

Holy Days: Upper Church
Holyday Masses: 6:30, 8, 10 AM; 7 PM

Weekday Masses: Lower Chapel
Monday-Friday: 6:30, 8 AM; **Saturday:** 8 AM

Baptisms: First and Third Sundays of the month,
 1:30 PM, Upper Church

Reconciliation (Sacrament of Penance): Every Saturday from 3 to 4 PM in the Lower Chapel, and any time by calling the Rectory

Anointing of the Sick: The Sacrament is given to seriously ill Catholics by calling the Rectory and arranging for this by appointment or whenever there is an emergency.

Pre-Jordan Class:
 After meeting with a priest and prior to their child's Baptism, parents are required (God-parents are encouraged) to attend this Program, held in the Rectory on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 PM. **Next class is May 7.**

Parish Registration: Welcome all new members to our Parish. Register at the Rectory; please call for an appointment during Office Hours, 8 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Friday.

Holy Saturday, April 19

9 AM: Morning Prayer Lower Chapel,
 followed by Church decorating, UC
 Noon: Food Blessing, Lower Chapel
No 4:30 PM Mass this evening



7:30 PM: Solemn Easter Vigil Liturgy with the Service of Light, Liturgy of the Word, Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation and the Rite of Reception into Full Communion, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, *Upper Church*

Easter Sunday, April 20

Regular schedule of Masses:
 8, 9:30, 11 AM and 12:30 PM,
 with the Renewal of Baptismal
 Promises at all Masses

THERE IS NO 7 PM MASS.



EASTER WEEK

Monday, April 21, through Saturday, April 26

Only the 8 AM Daily Mass is celebrated
 Monday-Saturday (Upper Church).

No Monday Adoration and
 the Rosary is prayed privately.

HE HAS RISEN!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Celebrate the Good News of the
 Resurrection of Jesus by going out and
 showing that Jesus has changed your life.**

Bereavement Ministry: YOU NEED NOT GRIEVE ALONE!

These meetings are open to anyone who is grieving the death of a loved one. This program offers information about the grief process and gives an opportunity to share thoughts and feelings in an environment of understanding and empathy. People of all faiths and neighboring parishes are welcome. Kindly pass this information on to anyone who might be interested in attending. Grief has no time limit. People who attended previously are most welcome to return. Meetings are held in Rectory Meeting Room 1 (lower level of the Rectory) and begin at 7 PM, lasting approximately one hour.

Topics include:

April 22: Feelings of Anger & Depression;

April 29: Spiritual Elements of Grief and Healing.

Please contact a Bereavement Team Member if you plan to attend or for more information:
 Eileen Keenan, 215-677-6582, Connie Terzyk, 215-206-1412 or Joanne Peak, 267-560-5909.

090 Maternity BVM

A Seder Meal was celebrated at Maternity B.V.M. on Thursday, April 3, in Our Parish Hall. Rabbi Sandra Berliner from the Congregation of Shaare Shamaryim led the service/meal.



**Easter Holy Water Bottles being prepared.
Thanks to our many volunteers.**

*Fr. Kearns doing his Physical Therapy on the dance floor
during BVM's Alumni's Dance Party.*



090 Maternity BVM





Your Good Stewardship Is Most Appreciated!

*A big "thank you" to all who keep
current with your Weekly Offerings
each and every week of the year.*

Your goodness is a blessing, as are you!

And know you can also contribute on line via our
Parish Website: www.maternitybvmchurch.net.

Because the Bulletin was transmitted
early due to the Easter Holyday,
figures will be included in a future Bulletin.

2025 B.V.M. RAFFLE TICKETS

**Tickets are available
for only \$10.**

**THE BIG DRAWINGS WILL
BE HELD ON SATURDAY,
JUNE 7, AFTER
4:30 PM MASS,
IN THE LOWER CHAPEL
MEETING ROOM.**

**Grand Prize is \$10,000
and many other cash
prizes!!!**

1 Winner receives \$5,000
1 Winner receives \$2,500
5 Winners receive \$1,000
3 Winners receive \$500

Tickets are still
Available.

Sellers, please make
your returns!

2025
Campaign



Please be
Generous!

CATHOLICCHARITIESAPPEAL.ORG

*"Did you know that 1 in 5 people across the Greater
Philadelphia area rely on the Catholic Charities Appeal
for help and hope each year?"*

They are our neighbors, and they are our brothers and
sisters in Christ. They are seeking comfort, support, and
dignity in the face of challenges many of us cannot
imagine. Your generosity touches their lives in profound
ways because you embody Christ's compassionate love
and mercy by coming to their aid."

— Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.

**Share your blessings from God
with others!**

090 Maternity BVM

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

*SCRIP is sold in
Rectorry Meeting Room 1.*

***Scrip Reopens on
Wednesday, April 23.***

Sunday: 8:45 AM-12:30 PM;

*Drop-off forms are available
for quicker pick-up;*

Monday & Tuesday: closed;

Wednesday: 9:00-11 AM;

Thursday: 9-11 AM; 6:30-8 PM;

Friday: 9-11 AM;

Saturday: 9:30-11:30 AM.



**Maternity BVM Elementary School
Class of 1975
50th Class Reunion**

The Committee is looking to reach out to their former Classmates. Even if you're unable to attend the reunion, please e-mail your contact information to the e-mail below.

**November 22, 2025
Mass 4:30 PM
Reception-BVM Hall
6-10pm**

**Contact:
Denise Voisard
dvoisard@maternitybvm.net**

**Maternity B.V.M.
Seniors Group
Fun Trips For All!**

Sight and Sound: Noah

Thursday, September 25; \$180

Sea Watch Resort, Myrtle Beach

October 6 to October 10, 2025

For info on this trip, please call

Betty Ann at 215-964-7125.

Tropicana: Blockbuster Broadway

Monday, November 17; \$80.

**For information on these trips,
please call Connie at 215-338-9141.**

***Driver with a SUV or truck is needed on
Tuesday mornings for St. Basil Support
Ministry Food Pantry on Fox Chase Road
in Jenkintown. Please call
Sister Monica, 631-432-9587.***

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ED NEILSON'S
**FREE COMMUNITY
SHRED EVENT**

Saturday, May 3rd | 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

OR UNTIL TRUCK IS FILLED!

Our Lady of Calvary Church Parking lot

11024 Knights Rd. ■ Philadelphia, PA 19154

090 Maternity BVM

**MOTHER'S DAY
REMEMBRANCES**

Remembrance envelopes are in your monthly mailing packets. Return them to Church and they will be placed on the Blessed Mother's Altars throughout May. Mothers, living and deceased, will be remembered at all and specific Masses during May.

Mother's Day Cards are available at the Church's Main Entrance, the Rectory Side Entrance of the Lower Chapel, and the Rectory beginning Palm Sunday. There are cards and enrollment envelopes for living Mothers and enrollment envelopes for deceased Mothers.

Please take only what is needed and return your offering in the envelope provided to the Rectory or place it in the Collection. Thank you!



Bustleton Bengals

Clothing Drive & "more"

President St & Conwell Ave

Saturday, April 26— 7 AM to 3 PM

DONATIONS ACCEPTED:

CLOTHING - Usable and wearable clothing and shoes (men's, ladies, children's)

ACCESSORIES - pocketbooks, belts, baby accessories, backpacks, hats, scarves, briefcases, gloves, ties,

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS - blankets, sheets, curtains, tablecloths, pillows, towels, small rugs, quilts, comforters

TOYS - soft toys, children activity sets, beanie babies, rag dolls, stuffed animals, action figures, cars, trucks, airplanes, dolls, outdoor bicycles of any size, scooters

CAR SEATS (ONLY TOGETHER WITH BASE) AND STROLLERS

SHOES PACKED IN SEPARATE BAGS WILL GIVE US ADDITIONAL 0.02 PER LB

*****DONATIONS NO LONGER ACCEPTED:**

POTS, PANS, HARD TOYS, SPORTS EQUIPMENT, BOARD GAMES, BOOKS, PUZZLES

ELECTRICAL DEVICES, GLASS, HIGHCHAIRS, BABY CRIBS, LARGE TOYS, FURNITURE

NO VCR tapes, CDs, oversized playsets or outdoor playsets, workout/ exercise equipment

All donations must be in a tied trash bag. The BBC will receive payment based on price per pound.

So, clean out your garages, closets, basements and help the Bustleton Bengals at the same time.

If you cannot drop off your donations, call Chris Tarducci 215-906-8179 for possible pick up. Thank you!

PARISH POLICIES & PRACTICES FOR RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENTS

Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month at 1:30 PM in the Upper Church. Please make arrangements with the staff at the Rectory at least one month prior to the Baptism.

Pre-Jordan Program

After meeting with staff and prior to their child's Baptism, parents are required (Godparents are strongly encouraged) to attend this Session, held in the Rectory on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM.

Requirements for Godparents

1. A Godparent cannot be the mother or father of the one to be baptized.
2. A Godparent must be at least 16 years old, a Catholic who has received the Holy Eucharist and has been confirmed. If married, he/she must be validly married in the Church and must not be cohabitating.
3. Although one Godparent is required, there can be two Godparents: a man and a woman.
4. Non-Christians cannot be Godparents, but a non-Catholic Christian can serve as a Christian Witness to the Baptism.

Becoming A Godparent or Sponsor? You Will Need a Letter of Eligibility

A letter from your parish is required to become a Godparent for Baptism or a Sponsor for Confirmation. This letter indicates you are a practicing Catholic in good standing. It is therefore necessary to be a **registered member** of the Parish in order to establish eligibility. **All Godparents and Sponsors, even if they are from Maternity B.V.M. Church, must present a letter of eligibility issued by their parish.**

Holy Eucharist/Reconciliation

Children of the Parish, including those enrolled in the third grade of the Parish School, PREP (Parish Religious Education Program) and Private Catholic Academies, receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (usually in the Fall) and First Eucharist (Spring) of each year. Children in Private Catholic Academies should contact the Parish School. Prior to receiving a sacrament, children in PREP must be in the program at least two years or come from a Catholic School or another PREP.

Confirmation

Children of the Parish, including those enrolled in the seventh/eighth grade of the Parish School and PREP, are invited to participate in a program of preparation

for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Prior to receiving the Sacrament, children in PREP must be in the program for at least two years or come from a Catholic School or another PREP. Parents of students from Private Catholic Academies and students in Grades 7 through 12 who have not as yet been confirmed, please contact the Parish School. Adults wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation must be involved in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Program and are asked to please contact the Rectory.

Sponsors for Confirmation

Qualifications to be a Sponsor at Confirmation and to receive a Letter of Eligibility are the same as those of a Catholic Godparent at Baptism (see section under Baptism). Candidates for Confirmation choose a Sponsor other than a Parent.

Matrimony

Couples planning to marry in Maternity B.V.M. Church should notify one of the Parish Priests as early as possible, and no less than six months prior to the desired wedding date, so that appropriate assistance in marriage preparation may be provided. Please be sure to arrange a wedding date and time with the priest before making any commitment for your Reception. Visiting priests are welcome to officiate, but you must still contact one of the Parish Priests to officially set the parish date.

Pre-Cana Instructions

Each couple is required to attend a Pre-Cana Program of Marriage Preparation. Our Parish offers an annual Pre-Cana Session. Registration forms can be obtained at the Rectory. **Our next scheduled Pre-Cana Session will be held on February 28.**

Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament is given to seriously ill Catholics by calling the Rectory and arranging for this by appointment or whenever there is an emergency. Parishioners scheduled to undergo surgery should contact one of the priests so that they may be anointed before their medical procedure. This can also be done at Church when you come to Mass.

Holy Orders

Those who think they may have a calling to the Priesthood can contact one of the Parish Priests in order to discuss this matter and receive appropriate direction for pursuing such a calling. They may also call directly to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Wynnewood, PA.



*Please pray for all our sick parishioners
and benefactors, especially:*

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Alessa Abruzzo | Frank Gmaz | Joan Oetzel |
| Katelyn Allen | Shirley Gmaz | Michael Pence |
| Mary Beth Bareis | James Griffith | Patricia Pence |
| Greg Bentz | Peggy Guckin | Pat & Tom Pilkington |
| Maria Berardi | Sherry Hanlon | Cynthia Pinto |
| Joseph Brown | Raymond Harrison | Jane Pinto |
| Shirley Callahan | Margaret Horbury | Veronica Reichardt |
| Bruce Carbone | Bill Hughes | Elizabeth Richards |
| Linda Carman | Mary Humphries | Marisa Rimshaw |
| Petrina Ciaccia | Albert Iannacone | Claire Ritzheimer |
| Edward Colfer, Jr. | Thomas Kelly | Regina Ryan |
| Jane Marie Coyle | Baby Claire G. Kessler | Thomas Ryan |
| Merry Derham | Tylor Kilgallen | Bill Ruch |
| Lisa Dillon | Matt Kimbrell, Sr. | Regina Sands |
| Lorraine Dimeo | Fran Kowalski | Jeff Scott |
| Nancy Diaz | Frank Kowalski | Margaret Sheedy |
| Fr. Daniel Dwyer | Alice Loglisci | William Slater |
| Lisette Giron Erace | Doris Londer | Mark Snow |
| Gina Feldman | Robert Londer | Armondo Suarez |
| Peter Fischer | Patricia Longenecker | Pamala Suarez |
| Trish Fisher | Marie Mauro | Debora Szafran |
| Bernard Gerasimas, Jr. | Gary McElvaney | Rita Talotta |
| Gerry Glasgow | Joan Morris | William Weir |
| Linda Glasgow | Charlotte Mroz | Mary Wood |

CONTACT PARISH CLERGY OR OUR RECTORY OFFICE

To leave a message for Rectory Staff:

Call 215-673-8127, 110#; or

VIA E-MAIL: www.church@maternitybvm.net.

Visit our Parish Website:

maternitybvmchurch.net.

Join us on Facebook: [maternitybvmphilly](https://www.facebook.com/maternitybvmphilly).

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

School Website: www.maternitybvm.net;

Facebook: Maternity BVM School;

Twitter: [Maternitybvm1](https://twitter.com/Maternitybvm1).

LIVESTREAMING SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday, 4:30 PM;

Sunday, 8 AM and 9:30 AM Masses

**On our website: maternitybvmchurch.net; facebook page: Maternity
B.V.M Catholic Church and on YouTube: @MaternityPhilly**

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

**Monday-Friday: 8 AM-4 PM
(Closed for lunch: Noon-1 PM)**

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 7:30 AM-3:30 PM

Check out Father Maloney's Daily Reflection:

**www.maternitybvmchurch.net;
[maternitybvmphilly](https://www.facebook.com/maternitybvmphilly); www.maternitybvm.net;
[Maternity BVM School](https://www.youtube.com/user/MaternityPhilly).**

PARISH CLERGY

Fr. Joseph L. Maloney, Pastor

Fr. Edward T. Kearns, Senior Priest

Fr. Dominic Ishaq

Fr. Michael Shea, C.M., Weekend Assistant

Deacon Charles R. Lindsay

Deacon Raymond Scipioni

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Rectory: 215-673-8127

School: 215-673-0235

**Please contact the Rectory during Office
Hours if you need to get in touch with
any of the organizations listed below:**

Adoration Society: Jemina Oniate

Altar Servers: Lisette Erace

Alumni Association: Cathy Boyle

Bereavement Group: Eileen Keenan,
Connie Terzyk, Joanne Peak

C.Y.O. H.S. (Gr. 9-12): Pending

C.Y.O. Jr. (Gr. 5-8): Mike Gozzi

Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors:

Eileen Costantino

Home & School: Maura Collins

Hospitality: Peggy Blank

Legion of Mary: Bridget DeVito

Liturgy Committee: Eileen Costantino

Music Director: Ron Coles

Parish Rectory/Organizations Coordinator:

Colleen Du Beck

Parish Religious Education Director:

Sister Mary Beth Geraghty, R.S.M.

Pre-Cana: Deacon Joseph & Marianne Bernauer

Respect-Life Committee: Ana Carvalho

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Linda Freeman

School Principal: Sally Unger

Scouts (Boys, Troop 174): Steve Thomson

Scouts (Cub Pack 174): Pete Luca

Scouts (Girls): Nancy Smith

SCRIP: Nancy Smith and Leanne Goodwin

Senior Citizen's Group: Jackie Kubacki

Traveling Madonna: Peggy Blank

Ushers: Jim Gallagher

Welcoming Committee: Nancy Toland

090 Maternity BVM