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December 9, 2018

PARISH STAFF

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Fr. James McBurney, OSA, In Residence...Ext. 233
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Mrs. Karen Carey, Coordinator of Religious Education and
Youth Ministry...Ext. 227
Jo-Ann Stigliano, Director of Music Ministries...Ext. 238
Sr. Anne Woodeshick, RSM, Parish Ministry...Ext. 234
Donna Descano, Administrative Assistant...Ext. 221
Peggy Juhline, Business Manager...Ext. 225

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

5:00 P.M. - Saturday evening
7:30, 9:30, 11:15 A.M.

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday-Friday 6:30 A.M.
Monday-Saturday 8:00 A.M.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated once a month during a parish Sunday Liturgy. Arrangements are to be made 3 months in advance.

NEW PARISHIONERS:

Our Mother of Good Counsel warmly welcomes new parishioners. We believe in the "Stewardship Program" committed to serving God through offering our gifts of time, talents, and treasure for the good of our parish and those in need. We ask you to register as soon as possible by completing a registration form available in the church office during regular office hours. Parishioners moving should notify the church office of any change in address or phone number.

COMMUNION/HOME VISITS

If you are ill or unable to come to Mass for any period of time, please call the Parish Office (610-525-0147) and we will be happy to visit you and bring Communion to you.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 11:30 - 12:00 Noon

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Friday 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Summer: Office Closed on Fridays in July & August

Parish Office and Rectory Phone: (610) 525-0147

FAX NUMBER: (610) 525-0157

PARISH WEB SITE:

<http://www.OMGCPARISH.ORG>

THE WORD OF GOD CAME TO JOHN IN THE DESERT

The Gospel of Luke really begins with these verses of today's Gospel (Luke 3:1-6). The infancy narrative of Chapters 1 and 2 were a prologue that introduced major themes. Luke opened that prologue saying that he was writing an orderly history so that his reader, Theophilus, meaning "Lover of God," would "realize the certainty" of Christian teachings. Luke indicates that he is about to tell the story of fulfillment of history. Astute readers will note that not one of the seven characters on his list (Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, Lysanias, Annas, Caiaphas) will play a positive role in the new history God was inaugurating at that moment. Luke packed a lot into that verse!

The next verse takes readers into the heart of salvation history. In this verse, Luke declares that the word of God came to John the Baptist. Luke makes a point of the fact that God's word was heard not in palaces or temples, but in the desert – just where Isaiah said it would be. The desert was one of the most important places in Israel's history. The Exodus road to freedom went through the desert. The desert was the place where former slaves, a people who did not even own their identity, were formed into a nation. There, they entered a covenant with the very God whose call made them who they were. The desert was where the people learned to fix their hopes on God's future.

When Luke tells us that John preached throughout the entire region of the Jordan, Jews remember that river as the one they crossed at the end of the pilgrimage that they began by crossing the Red Sea. Luke introduces us to John at the heart of Israel and on her edges. His preaching announced a time newer than the one the people had known in the Exodus.

Luke presents John as the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy and the end of the first phase of history. Isaiah announced that God would come straight to the people. The valleys and mountains, traditional boundaries between people and nations, would be eliminated and all people would be God's people, worshipping in God's presence. In John's preaching, the mountains and valleys of inequality were what people would have to abandon in order to prepare for the coming salvation.

This Sunday's readings combine to give us great expectations. The stories of the past remind us that God's plans are always for our good. The appearance of John the Baptist tells us that great things are afoot. It is time for us to take our place in the story.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are asked to remember in our prayers:

Janine Hoffman, Anne Shea,
Carol Luty, Lori Lesutis, Jane Shaw,
William O'Donnell, Pelham McClellen,
Michael and Andrew McCaughey,
Bill and Ella Denny, Karen Schubert,

and all who care for the sick and dying.

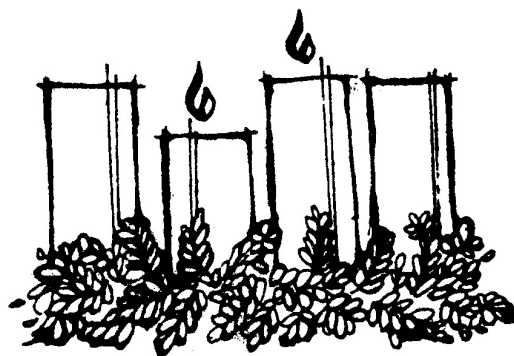
Please call the Parish Office (610-525-0147) if you would like to request yourself or a family member be put on our prayer list for the next 4 weeks. You can also make a request that the prayers of the community be renewed for another 4-week period as often as needed or desired.

H.O.P.E.

Helping Other People in Emergencies

If you need a ride to the doctor, shopping, etc., call Carol Way at 610-525-5817 or call Sr. Anne at 610-525-0147, ext. 234.

New Members: We welcome to our parish community Reynalda Kilpatrick-Ray & Kevin Campbell who recently registered with us.



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PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT

If there is anything you would like to bring to the attention of the Council by way of ideas, suggestions or concerns, please contact Steve or Colette Sutton at colettesutton309@yahoo.com or call 610-520-2501.

LETTER REGARDING OUR CHURCH ROOF

Dear Friends,

We have entered the holy season of Advent; we prepare for the coming of our Infant Savior at Christmas.

Starting with Father Denny in 2014, we pastors of OMGC have made replacement of the church roof the centerpiece of this annual year-end appeal letter. As most of you are aware, we recently had small pieces of plaster falling from the ceiling in the second, third and fourth rows of pews on the railroad side of the church. Recently, we have had small water leaks in other parts of the church as well.

We have formed a campaign committee to raise funds for the roof and other necessary repairs. We had hoped to begin work on the roof in October and have the bulk of it done before Christmas, but we met with delays. I am happy to report that the final “small print” contract details between the Archdiocese and our roofing contractor have been worked out, as have issues between us and the local historical commission. Unfortunately, we had to move our start date to March 1. This will avoid the cold weather which can be unsafe for the workers and would degrade the quality of the end product.

So, this letter *is* the annual year-end appeal letter, and we *are* appealing for donations to pay for the new roof. But this is *not* the start of the roof campaign as such. The campaign committee is still working on informational materials that we’ll send you at a later date, after the details are worked out.

Since the August 14 Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report, we as Catholics have been dealing with the upsetting fallout from long years of abuse by clergy and cover-ups by the bishops. We pray for the victims and their families.

Earlier today (I am writing this on Sunday, December 2), we held our 2nd **Parish Conversation on the Crisis in the Church**. One question that came up in today’s discussion (a question that comes up often) was: “Will funds collected for the roof go to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia?” The answer is: **“No. All funds collected for the roof will stay in the Parish and be used only for the roof and ancillary repairs.”**

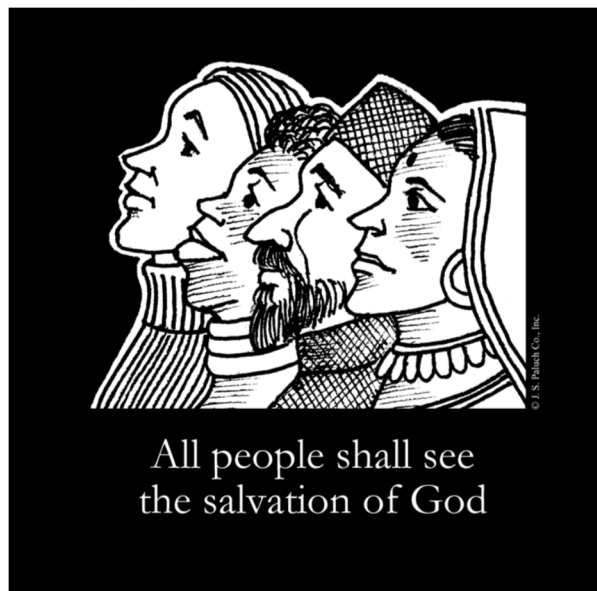
Many of you have heard me say that I believe that this time in the history of the Church is one of repentance and purification. This is a time of testing and a time of grace. In the context of this time of grace, I urge you to give generously to this project.

Give as an expression of your love for and faith in God – as an expression of thanks for His graces. Give in thanks for the work and generosity of previous generations of OMGC, so that we can pass on this parish as a living legacy to those who come here after us.

As we prepare for the celebration of His birth, I pray that Our Lord Jesus may fill you and your family with much joy, blessings and hope.

In His peace,

Fr. Liam Tomas O’Doherty, OSA
Pastor

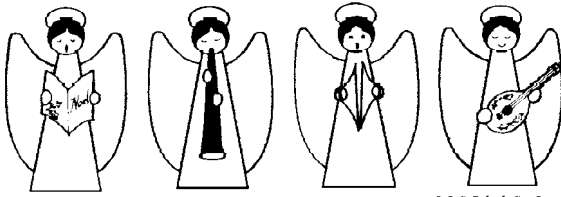


STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE for December 2

John the Baptist’s call to repentance is echoed in the US bishops’ pastoral letter on stewardship: “Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live—the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards.”

Envelope Contributions	\$5,159.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$725.00
Mailed in	\$1,220.00
Total Offertory Collection	\$7,104.00
Offering this time last year	\$13,402.00
Electronic Giving as of Dec. 3rd.....	\$4,310.00
Parish Giving.....	\$915.00

**Thank you for your Stewardship to your Parish.
Please remember the Church in your will.**



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

All students in grades 6 through 12 are invited to join us today, **Sunday, December 9 at 8:00am** to help with our Annual Breakfast with Santa. Please dress as best you can as an elf as we need many Santa helpers. You are needed to help with the craft table, and the games and the serving and cleaning up of breakfast. Please plan on going to the 11:15 Mass at the end of the morning! Please let Karen know if you will be there by emailing kcarey@omgcp parish.net or calling 610-525-0147.

All students in grades 6 through 12 are invited to join us on our Annual Trip to Shady Brook Farm Light Show on **Saturday, December 15**. There is no cost for this trip but you must email Karen at kcarey@omgcp parish.net to attend. You will need a permission slip and money for your own treats! We will provide ingredients for smores!

PREP CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

December 9 – Breakfast with Santa, no Class
 December 16 – Regular Class
 December 23 – Regular Class

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SENIOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Join us for our Christmas Gathering on **Friday, December 14 at 12 noon** for the Christmas Gathering of our Senior Parish

Members and their friends to celebrate the blessings of the Christmas season with each other. There is no need to bring a lunch or desserts with you. All will be provided at a cost of \$10.00 a person. If you have not already registered to join us on the 14th, please call Sr. Anne at 610-525-0147, ext. 234 so that we can be prepared to welcome you with a "place at the table." We are looking forward to celebrating this special time of the year with each other.



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

The Advent Communal Penance Service will be held on **Monday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Parish Church. Please plan to join us as we prepare for the wondrous celebration of the Word of God Made Flesh in Jesus, the Christ.



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MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

We are looking for parishioners who are interested in serving on this committee. We have 4—6 meetings per year and about 30 minutes of work on your own time each month analyzing the monthly financial reports.

Professional credentials (e.g., CPA, CFA, etc.) are not as important as experience in a commercial environment dealing with profit and loss statements, budgets, revenue and expense analysis and projections, allocation of resources, capitol expenditure recommendations and experience dealing with general financial issues.

If interested, please submit a letter of interest outlying your professional experience to Peggy Juhline at pjuhline@omgcp parish.net.

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IMPORTANT REQUEST Concerning Allergies

Please do not bring food that contains peanuts, nuts, peanut products or nut products inside the church. Someone sitting near you may have a serious allergy. Thank you.

**ST. RAPHAELA CENTER
616 Coopertown Rd. in Haverford**

Taize Prayer will be offered at the Center on **Wednesday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m.** This contemplative communal prayer service is offered in the Center's chapel on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration is also available until midnight after the hour-long Taize service.

All are welcome – no reservations are required.

Sponsored Day of Prayer meets again on **Tuesday, December 18.** This prayer experience is offered one Tuesday each month from August to June from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Contact St. Raphaela for dates. The cost is \$15 (additional \$20 for Spiritual Direction).

Contact information: www.straphaelacenter.org or phone 610-642-5715.

New Year's Eve Retreat: December 31 – 6:00pm to January 1 – 11:00am

Join us as we say farewell to **2018** and welcome **2019** in God's presence. We will begin at 6pm with a feast, followed by a presentation, quiet time for personal prayer and Adoration. Mass will be celebrated at midnight followed by light refreshments. We will conclude the retreat with Morning Prayer and a New Year's Day brunch.

Presenter: Rev. Bernard Farley

Date: December 31, 2018 to January 1, 2019

Time: 5:00pm Registration; Dinner 6:00pm

Cost: \$90.00 per Person/\$155.00 Couple
\$60.00 Commuters

Registration: Call St. Raphaela Center at
610-642-5715

Or register online at www.straphaelacenter.org

**SUBSTITUTE SPANISH TEACHER
NEEDED**

Merion Mercy Academy, a Catholic independent all girls high school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, has an opening for a short-term substitute Spanish teacher. The position will begin on January 3, 2019 and conclude by April 8. Degree required. Experience and certification –preferred. Qualified applicants are asked to email a cover letter and resume as soon as possible, or until the position has been filled, to Mary Ann Danovich, Assistant Head of School for Academic Affairs, at madanovich@merion-mercy.com.



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**RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE
OMGC Gym – 2:00 – 7:00 pm
Tuesday, December 18**

Please consider donating a pint of blood when the Red Cross Bloodmobile comes to OMGC's gym on **Tuesday, December 18th from 2:00 to 7:00 pm.** Please invite a friend to come with you to donate as well. The number of willing donors decreases as the busy Christmas week approaches, yet the need for blood increases because more travel means more travel accidents. If you can donate, please fill out the pledge form here, or one from the pews, and place it in the Red Cross box at the entrance of the church. Also, you can phone or email your pledge to Joe Betz at 610-525-4499, or email at joseph.betz@villanova.edu. Or you can pledge on line at www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: our mother good counsel.

I will do my best to come and donate a pint of blood at the OMGC Bloodmobile on Tuesday, December 18 in the parish gym.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Best Time:
(in 15 min. segments between 2:00 -7:00pm)

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

*God, Source of all Energy and Light,
the ancients saw the sun
as a great fire wheel rolling across the sky.
May our Advent wreath, this small wheel of green,
be for us a symbol of the sun
and of the Son of God.*

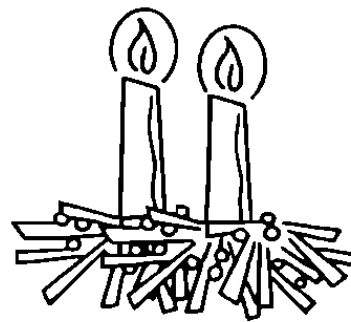
*May its ever-greenness
be a sign of life and of light
in the midst of the darkness of winter.
May the candles that burn brightly upon it
remind us of your Son, Jesus,
who is the light of the world.*

*Grant, O God, that this our Advent wreath
may be for us and for all who visit our home
a sign of faith in a world grown cold with disbelief,
a symbol of hope in a time of gloom and despair
and a flaming image of love
in a winter of mistrust and hate.*

*May all who look upon this symbol of Advent
be encouraged to prepare their hearts
for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
May this green wreath with its bright candles
help us to prepare for the real Christmas
which happens within our hearts.*

*May, then, Your blessing, O God of Light
Son of Glory and Spirit of Love,
be upon this Advent wreath and upon our home.*

Amen.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 7:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS
9:30 DOMENIC MATTIOLI
11:15 JOHN PIUS ONUMAH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 6:30 JACK CORCORAN, JR.
8:00 LEWIS H. VAN DUSEN
(70TH ANNIVERSARY)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 6:30 JOHN CORCORAN, JR.
8:00 DOMENIC BORGESE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 6:30 SPECIAL INTENTION
8:00 HAROLD & ROSE IRVING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 6:30 SUSAN HOPPS-DESCANO
(55TH BIRTHDAY)
8:00 SARAH P.G. WHELEN
(58TH ANNIVERSARY)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 6:30 MARY McCORMICK
8:00 ALL SOULS IN PURGATORY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 8:00 VINCENZO SALVATI

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 7:30 DECEASED MEMBERS OF CIRO
& IANNOTTA FAMILIES
9:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS
11:15 JOSEPH GAGLIARDI

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Timothy J. Stretch F.D.

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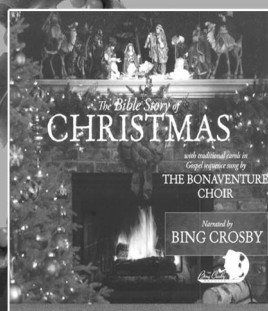


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