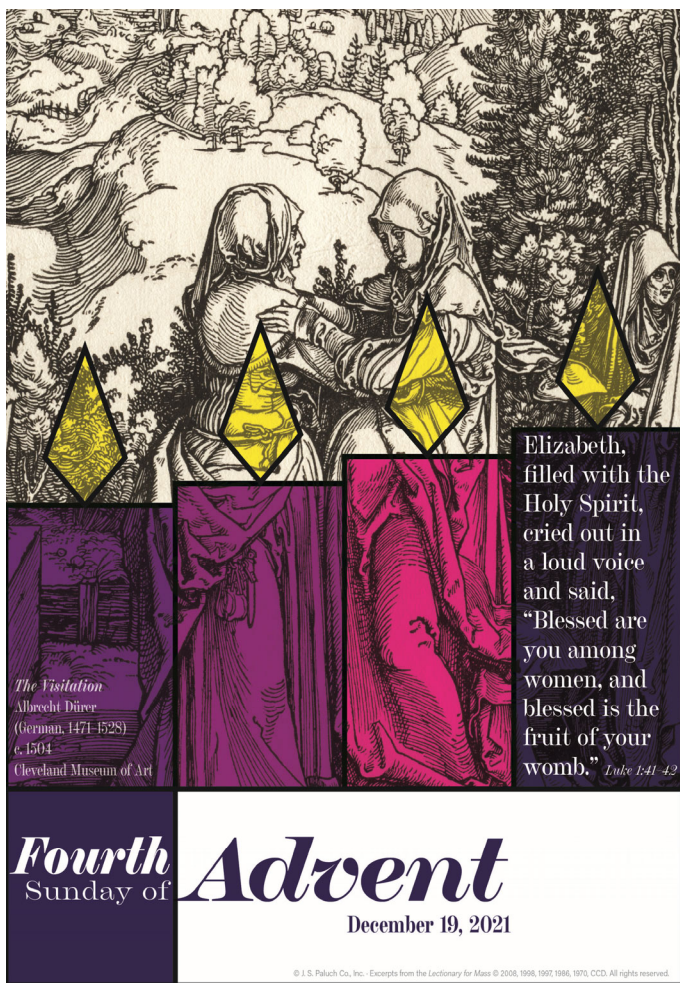




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Fr. Joseph S. Mostardi, OSA, Pastor, Ext. 230
Fr. James Martinez, OSA, Pastor Emeritus
Fr. John F. Deary, OSA, Parochial Vicar...Ext. 228
Fr. Thomas Pohto, OSA, In Residence...Ext. 250
Fr. Paul Galetto, OSA, In Residence
Fr. David Cregan, OSA, Weekend Associate
Fr. Craig McMahon, OSA, Weekend Associate
Joseph Carey, Facilities Manager...Ext. 262
Karen Carey, Coordinator of Religious Education & Youth Ministry...Ext. 227
Roger Pisani, Director of Music & Parish Ministries...Ext. 234
Michelle Marchetti, Administrative Assistant...Ext. 221
Donna Descano, Business Manager...Ext. 225

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

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

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Friday 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

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

FAX NUMBER: (610) 525-0157

PARISH WEB SITE: OMGCPARISH.ORG

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 parish office during regular office hours or on our parish website. Parishioners moving should notify the parish office of any change in address or phone number.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Parents are asked to register for Baptism at the parish office three months in advance and must participate in our Baptismal preparatory program. Ordinarily, we celebrate Baptism during any weekend Mass on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 11:30 - 12:00 Noon or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:

Couples desiring to be married at OMGCP parish must contact the parish office at least six months or upon their formal engagement to set up a time and date for your wedding celebration.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

If you would like to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, please contact the parish office to schedule a time.

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.

MARY VISITS ELIZABETH, WHO SINGS PRAISE TO MARY AND HER CHILD.

On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

PRAY FOR SICK



We are asked to remember in our prayers:

Beau Campbell, Fran O'Brien,
Griffin Rademaker, William O'Donnell,
Nam Baek, William Viola,
Jo-Ann Stigliano, Steve McCabe,
Michael Loro, Rusty Tinsley,
Linn Bramble, Eileen Colbert, Steve Codella,
Lori Lesutis, Wesley Jones, Joanne Bramley,
Michael Fedorak, Bill Denny, Leilani Scimeca,
Noah Collins, Rick Shumaker, Jane Bartol,
Terry Voran, Demetri Gaitanopoulos,
Sue and Dennis Atwell, The Umana Family,
Kimberley Turner, Matthew Jordan, Jackie & Russ
Rickert, Joe Callan, Giacomo Ballestrino,
Emmanuel Thomas, Sunny Russo, Joe Smith,
Carolyn Vonner-Hill, Tom Hogan, Johnny Descano,
James Baltich, Fr. Jim Martinez, and all those
suffering from Covid-19 and all who care for those
who are sick.

Please call the Parish Office at 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.



CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday, December 24, 2021

6:00 PM

9:00 PM (Live Streamed)

There will be NO MIDNIGHT Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday, December 25, 2021

8:00 AM (Live Streamed)

10:00 AM

No 5PM Saturday, Vigil Mass on Christmas Day

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Saturday, January 1, 2022

10:00 AM (One Mass)

This is a Holy Day, but not a day of obligation.

**5:00 PM Vigil Mass for Sunday,
January 2 (Epiphany)**

NEW 7:00 PM MASS

New starting January 9th!- Sunday, January 9, 2022 – 7:00 PM Sunday Mass will be added to our weekly schedule.

PASTOR'S NOTES



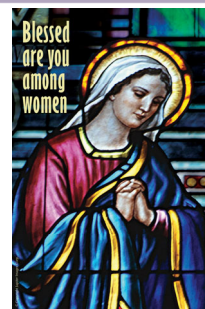
As we begin this fourth week of Advent, the everyday pressures of Christmas begin to take their toll on everyone as you try to accomplish the many tasks that this holiday season requires. The words of the prophets that we have already heard throughout Advent remind us that there were many generations of people who waited for the Messiah to come.

Some recognized Jesus upon his arrival, while others found reason to doubt his very existence and mission. We, too, have been waiting for Christ to come again but in a very different way. There are still those non-believers who are waiting while we celebrate this mystery of the Incarnation and our Redemption each year in the hope that they, too, will find their way to God.

Christmas is our opportunity to make visible the invisible. To create anew, our relationship with God each year. Christmas calls us to be the prophetic voice of the Messiah who has come among us to set us free from sin and death if we respond in faith to God's call. Christmas sets the stage for us to celebrate the greatest feast of the church year –the Resurrection on Easter Sunday and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Together these significant feast days mark us with a share in the divine life of Christ.

As we bring our Advent prayer to a close throughout this week, we will begin to transform our Church to reflect the true spirit of Christmas. Yet, the real transformation is what we hope we will experience as we celebrate the many days of the Christmas Season. That is deepening our friendship with Christ, who is already among us and visible in the good works that we share with all of those in need of God's grace and mercy; a gift that truly keeps on giving. May the blessings of this Christmas Season find a place in your hearts and homes as we journey together with the joyful hope that 2022 will be a year of health and happiness. On behalf of the Augustinian Community, we wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas, sharing the joys that this season brings at a time when **PEACE ON EARTH** and **JOY TO THE WORLD** are the greatest gifts we can give and receive.

Fr. Joe



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE for DECEMBER 12, 2021

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior, gave her time and love to others as well.

Due to early bulletin submission, the collection totals **for Sunday, December 19**, will not be available until next week.

Thank you for your Stewardship to your Parish.
Please remember OMGC in your will.



BANNS OF MARRIAGE TWO WEDDINGS

BRIDE: Elizabeth Hurtado &
GROOM: Richard Barakat

BRIDE: Emily Corzel &
GROOM: Matthew McBride

PARISH INFO: Our Mother of Good Counsel
DATE OF MARRIAGE: **DECEMBER 31, 2021**
Please join us in praying for them during this time

PARISH MINISTRIES

H.O.P.E - Helping Other People in Emergencies

If you need a ride to the doctor, shopping, etc., call Pat Mallon at 610-896-7038 or call Michelle or Donna at the office 610-525-0147.

RCIA -Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

If you know someone 16 years or older interested in becoming a Roman Catholic or completing their Christian Initiation into the Catholic Church, please contact Roger Pisani, Pastoral Associate, at rpisani@omgcp parish.net or call him at (610) 525-0147 x.234.

Our lessons can be virtual when necessary.



HELP OTHERS BY GETTING VACCINATED

Our community is stronger when we're all protected. The best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 is to get vaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccine is safe, effective, and widely available. The COVID-19 vaccine will protect you from severe illness, hospitalization, and death; and protects vulnerable people in your community who can't get the vaccine. A healthier community starts with you. For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, call the Montgomery County Office of Public Health at 610-278-5117 or visit <https://www.montcopa.org/COVID-19Vaccine>.

December PREP SCHEDULE

- o **December 19** - PREP Class 8:50 am
- o **December 26-January 5** - Christmas Break



OMGC BULLETIN BOARD

YOUR SMALL SACRIFICE, THEIR GREAT APPRECIATION

For over a dozen years, OMGC parishioners have generously responded to the request of local religious women for gifts for their clients, or financial help for their programs. They are requesting, once again, gift cards or monetary gifts of \$5 or \$10, or more, for presents of financial help to those they serve. ACME gift cards are welcome for all. The three Immaculate Heart Sisters and the replacement for retired Trinitarian, Sr. Bernadine Schmalhofer, now 99, who was our original beneficiary, are:

- 1) **Collette Wade**, of **St. Francis/St. Joseph's/St. Vincent Homes**, Bensalem. Please use the institution's name on checks. Collette is House Manager of the six group homes on the campus, five for boys, one for girls, and one for unaccompanied refugee minors. There are also apartments for those aging out at 18. The Homes request gift cards from McDonald's, Burger King, Five Below, Wawa, Walmart, or cash donations. Your gifts will, in part be used to take the adolescent boys and girls out for treats after communal Masses.
- 2) **Sr. Bernadette Mary Heister, IHM**, heads the IHM Family Literacy Center in Coatesville. She prefers Acme or Giant, other food-store gift cards, and cash donations. She provides this financial assistance to her entirely Latina clients, such as mothers and children from Mexico, Ecuador, and other Latin American countries.
- 3) **Sr. Kathryn Benham, IHM**, manages IHM Literacy Center West at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Southwest Philadelphia. Her clients are mostly adult refugees seeking asylum and immigrants from West Africa, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Haiti, Mexico, and Venezuela. They take one of the three literacy and citizenship courses offered daily. Sr. Kathryn informs us that her many widows prefer to shop at Walmart, Target, Shop-Rite, and Acme. However, cash donations are extremely helpful for housing problems.

- 4) **Sr. Margaret Paul Longshore, IHM**, heads the IHM Center for Literacy at St. Bernard Parish in Northeast Philadelphia. Her hundreds of immigrant clients are from over 20 countries. Sr. Margaret prefers to provide them with Acme, Shop-Rite, and Walmart gift cards, and would use financial donations to help buy food for them. There is one Afghan client so far.

The donations of gift cards, checks made out to the individual Sister or institution, or cash, will be delivered by Joe Betz, *God willing*, on **Wednesday, December 22nd**, or the next day.

To donate:

1. Please **place your gift in the collection basket** at Mass in an envelope with **SISTERS' CHRISTMAS GIFTS** written on it, or
2. Or **give it to Michelle in the parish office**, or
3. Or **phone or email Joe Betz** (610-525-4499) (joseph.betz@villanova.edu) to come to you to pick it up.

God bless you for caring. Providing your name and address will make their thank-you notes possible. Gifts received late will be mailed to them.



2021 CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL

Giving Hope to All The Catholic Charities Appeal is the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's single most important annual fundraising initiative, and we are counting on your support. This year, the CCA will be a channel of hope for tens of thousands of people through countless organizations and ministries in the Archdiocese and serve as 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 and we are counting on you to give hope this year to those who need it the most. Please join us in supporting the Appeal as it continues to impact those in need all over the Greater Philadelphia area.

Visit catholiccharitiesappeal.org to make your donation.



DECEMBER / JANUARY**MASS INTENTIONS**

SUNDAY <u>DECEMBER 19</u> 8:50 AM PREP MASSES: 7:30 AM—Fr. John 9:30 AM—Fr. David 11:15AM—Fr. Joe N.	SUNDAY HOLY FAMILY <u>DECEMBER 26</u> 8:50 AM NO PREP MASSES: 7:30 AM—Fr. Joe 9:30 AM—Fr. John 11:15AM—Fr. Joe
MONDAY <u>DECEMBER 20</u>	MONDAY <u>DECEMBER 27</u> Parish Office Closed
TUESDAY <u>DECEMBER 21</u> • 7PM Augustinian Spirituality Meeting	TUESDAY <u>DECEMBER 28</u> PARISH OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON
WEDNESDAY <u>DECEMBER 22</u> • 7PM Choir Practice	WEDNESDAY <u>DECEMBER 29</u> PARISH OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON
THURSDAY <u>DECEMBER 23</u> Parish Office Closes Noon	THURSDAY <u>DECEMBER 30</u> PARISH OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON
FRIDAY Christmas Eve Parish Office Closed <u>DECEMBER 24</u> MASSES: 6 PM—Fr. Joe 9 PM—Fr. John	FRIDAY <u>DECEMBER 31</u> New Year's Eve Parish Office Closed
SATURDAY Christmas Day <u>DECEMBER 25</u> MASSES: 8 AM—Fr. John 10 AM—Fr. Joe <i>No Vigil Mass</i>	SATURDAY <u>JANUARY 1</u> <i>Happy New Year!</i> MASSES: 10 AM—Fr. Joe 5 PM—Fr. John (Vigil)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18
(VIGIL)

5:00 MARY CURRY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 197:30 THE BENEFACTORS OF THE
MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE HOLY
ROSARY

9:30 ELIZABETH BLIMM

11:15 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS**MONDAY, DECEMBER 20**

6:30 CATHERINE AHERN

8:00 MARGARET SHERIDAN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

6:30 CATHERINE AHERN

8:00 JOHN PHILLIPS, JR.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

6:30 CATHERINE AHERN

8:00 JOHN & KATHLEEN O'DOHERTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

6:30 MEMORY OF MARY RITA O'NEILL

8:00 ELIZABETH BLIMM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve

6:30 ELIZABETH A. MURRAY

8:00 MARKS & SEIFERT FAMILIES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25
Christmas Day8:00
10:00**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26**

7:30 WALTER ZANIEWSKI

9:30 SISTER MAUREEN B. McCANN, RSM

11:15 MARY & GEORGE McANDREWS

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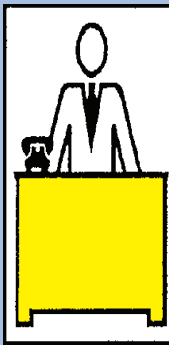
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