

# St. Cornelius Parish

SUNDAY BULLETIN

December 18, 2022



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Chadds Ford, PA 19317  
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Fax: (610) 459-3942

Web: [www.saintcornelius.org](http://www.saintcornelius.org)

Email: [stcorn1@comcast.net](mailto:stcorn1@comcast.net) • Facebook: Like us on Facebook

**Msgr. David Diamond, Pastor**

Deacons: Harry Morris • John Todor • Richard Wirth (Ret.)

#### Parish Council Members

Agnes Arkus  
Michael Brisgone

Anslem Cooray  
Chris Fahey

Franca Felcher  
Michael Gidlewski

Kevin Hicks  
Jon Lippard

Joanne Morris  
Jennifer Swetland

**Business Manager:** David Bauer

**Pastoral & Administrative Assistant:** Marie McGuigan

**Office Manager:** Douglas Kitson

**Parish Religious Education Program:** Julie Sullivan

**Director of Music:** Margie Melchiorre

#### St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

*Abbie McCusker, Director*

Phone: (610) 459-8663

Website: [www.scornelius.org](http://www.scornelius.org)

#### St. Cornelius Parish Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Friday 8:00 pm to 12:00 pm Noon

**Saturday:** Confessions 2:30 - 3:30 Vigil Mass 4:00 pm

**Sunday:** 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 4:00 pm

**Weekday Mass: 7:30 am**

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Friday's after morning Mass to 4 pm

**LiveStream** [www.livestream.com/saintcornelius](http://www.livestream.com/saintcornelius)

## Thoughts from the Second Floor Front IV Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

As we begin to close out another Advent season, we once again hear that marvelous word: *Emmanuel* – God with us. Then there is King Ahaz. You would be hard pressed to find a more indecisive, deceptive and cowardly King. He pays lip service to the great prophet when he feigns humility in his relationship with the God of the Covenant. The king is directed to ask for a sign and instead he himself gets one. The sign he receives is the very presence of God that will come crashing into humanity and change all of it forever. In this prophecy, Isaiah may have been referring to King Ahaz's son and successor, Hezekiah, who was a better ruler, but he was not the promised One. Christians have read the verses and, placing a Christological meaning on the prophet's words, have recognized that Jesus of Nazareth is the fulfillment of the prophecy. Jesus is *the* sign for us. We are obliged to pause in what can be the ferocious and frenetic activity of the next several days and, even amid the chaos that can sometimes descend on us as we approach Christmas, pray to recognize the Christ.

As an example of that person who is essentially torn between what he thought would happen and what has happened we have St. Joseph. His plans were probably quite different than how his life and world worked out. Is that not true for all of us as well? However, despite the distraction that could have derailed his life he acts in fidelity to his beloved and takes her into his home. How was he able to do this in the face of all that had happened? Mary is pregnant. He knows he is not the father. Yet he acts in a way marked by a self-sacrificing love. He was able to do this because, as St. Matthew wrote: "... he was a righteous man...." To be righteous is to be in a proper relationship with God, others and self. These are the only three relationships that any of us are ever going to have, no matter our wealth or our property or our social status. Joseph's righteousness empowers him to be a man for others. Our lives only make sense if they are lived for another.

In a few days' time we will celebrate the great feast of the Incarnation – God has become a person like us. The very thought of it should drive us to our knees in overwhelming gratitude. Jesus has become like us so that we may become like him. That is the goal. To be Christ-like means to be willing to be a person for others. The opportunity to live like that comes to us every day in a variety of ways. This season of the year makes it an easier matter to live differently, gently and with consideration for others. A life marked continually by that gentleness and self-giving is a wonderful life. I am not talking about the sometimes-sloppy sentimentality of the season; like Scrooge at the end of the Dickens' *Christmas Carol*, a mean spirited crank made right. I am talking about the profound meaning of the reality that we celebrate. Jesus has come into the world and now all things are different. We are to be different.

In the new year think about living in a manner marked by intentionality. To be a disciple means that we are to be disciplined. In the opening his letter to the Romans Paul tells us that he *is a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God...* We too have been called by God and set apart. One of my favorite quotes from St John Henry Newman is:

"God has created me to do Him some definite **service**. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught."

Enjoy these closing days of Advent and the next several days of our Christmas celebration. Emmanuel – God is indeed with us. Praise him for that.

Faithfully,

Msgr. Diamond



# The Lord is Coming, Rejoice!



## Advent Vespers with Benediction

Sunday Afternoons 3:00 pm  
Please join us!

## Church Decorating

Sunday, December 18  
5:00 pm

## Advent Penance Service

Wednesday, December 21  
11:00 am & 7:00 pm



## Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

### Christmas Eve Mass Schedule

4:00 pm

Celebrant: Fr. Joseph Serano, O. Praem.

Music Provided by:

*11 am Contemporary Ensemble*

6:00 pm

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

Music Provided by:

*Strings and Young Voices*

8:00 pm

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

Music Provided by:

*Trumpet, Flute and Adult Choir*

10:00 pm

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

Music Provided by:

*Young Adult Quartet & Walnut Street Trio*

### Christmas Day Mass Schedule

8:30 am

Celebrant: Fr. Joseph Morrissey, OSFS

Music Provided by:

*Cantor and Organ*

11:00 am

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

Music Provided by:

*Cantor and Walnut Street Trio*

### New Year's Eve

4:00 pm

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

### New Year's Day

7:30 am

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

9:00 am

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

11:00 am

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

NO 4:00 pm Mass



# Prayer Shawl Ministry... Come, Join US!



Did you know that each baby baptized at St Cornelius receives a hand-made blanket made by our Prayer Shawl Ministry? You are welcome to join us in this rewarding ministry. We also make shawls, blankets, scarves, hats, mittens etc. for elderly homes, the Giving Tree and anyone looking for a comforting gift.

**Every 4th Monday of each month  
1:30pm to 3:00pm**

We find ourselves in need of white acrylic yarn or funding to help continue this wonderful ministry. Please prayerfully consider donating to our ministry or purchasing a "Pound of Love" or "Caron Pound" of white acrylic yarn. We have a basket set up in the Bethany Room, which is in the back of church, to offer our works and for your donations. Also, you are welcome to drop off any yarn donations to the Parish Life Center. Donations are greatly appreciated.

Shawls and blankets are available in the Bethany Room. If you have any questions, please contact

Mary Jo Shell, (610) 361-8198  
or Joanne Fonash, (610) 299-9694



## YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS *Working in Witness for Christ™*

In a world that can be void of meaning and leave young adults restless and dissatisfied, Young Catholic Professionals Philadelphia brings together young professionals in their 20s and 30s into a community of belonging, support, and encouragement at all stages of your faith journey. Young Catholic Professionals empowers and equips you to live your Catholic faith through everyday work and to perform all work with excellence for the glory of God.

Our patron saint is Saint Joseph the Worker. Our mission calls upon the intercession of Saint Joseph the Worker, a simple carpenter who reminds us of the importance of stillness, reflection, and prayer.

Young Catholic Professionals mission is to challenge, train, and inspire young adults working in various professional careers to work in witness for Christ. For more information go to our local Philadelphia website at [www.ycppphiladelphia.org/cpages/home](http://www.ycppphiladelphia.org/cpages/home)



## HEED THE CALL

VOCATION OFFICE FOR  
DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD

Visit our website  
[WWW.HeedTheCall.org](http://WWW.HeedTheCall.org)

## Adult Choir Invitation



The Adult Choir is looking for new members to help us raise a joyful noise. If you enjoy singing, we would love to have you become a member of our group! No experience reading music or singing in a choir? No problem. Singers of all experience levels are welcome to participate. We practice once a week on Wednesday nights from 7-8pm. Sing for the Saturday evening Mass at 4pm and the Sunday 9am Mass. Please contact Margie Melchiorre at [m.melc@verizon.net](mailto:m.melc@verizon.net) or Teresa McColey at [Teresa.mccoley@gmail.com](mailto:Teresa.mccoley@gmail.com). Please consider joining a very special group of people!

## Sunday December 18 12:00 Noon



Join our Parish Pro-Life Group in the church on Sunday, December 12, at noon, as we pray a Rosary and the Litany of Loreto for the unborn and an end to abortion. It is a perfect way to perform a spiritual work of mercy for the most vulnerable. This event is scheduled every 3rd Sunday so please mark your calendars now. Bring a friend.

*Let us pray for our Men and Women  
serving in the Armed Forces. Especially for:*

SSG Ana Brunal	Capt Megan Love
SPC Mike Canfield	Sgt Jason Lyons
Cpl Michael Castle	Sgt Alexander Marlow
Lt. Connor Cleary	Pfc Zachary Marlow
Fr. Joseph Coffey (Chaplain)	LT. Cmdr Daniel McCadden
Maj Robert B. Cusick, Jr.	CSM Sean McGlensy
Capt Joshua deFreitas	Capt Jonathan McGrath
SSGT Michael DiVernieri	LT Molly K. McGuckin
Cadet Emily Fanning	LCDR Ryan A. McGuckin
Ens Ryan Gallagher	Cpt Sean P. Noll
Sgt Eric Gardner	Lt. Col Brian J. O'Shea
Capt Matthew Gibbons	Lt. Cmdr Inga O'Shea
Ens Patrick Gibbons	Maj James O'Shea
Ens John Paul Gibbons	PFC L Roland
Maj Rachel Gonzalez	Capt. Neal F. Schubert
SPC Logan Hannum	HM3 Charles Schwartz
Sgt Andrew Hart	Ens Nicholas Spadaccini
Devin J. Hunt	MSG Thomas Stone
PO1 Nathan R. Keller	Cpl Mark Truex
Lt Lauren Kinnee	Lt. Christopher Vish
Capt Daniel Kohli	1st Lt Aidan Walsh
Capt Chris Love	Capt Jennifer Wynn



The Sunday collection is very important for us to maintain our fiscal responsibilities. So, if you are away on a Sunday, ENJOY; but remember YOUR church.

December 11, 2022

WeShare eGiving	\$6,400.00
Envelope Offering	\$14,638.50
	\$21,038.50



“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”

Luke 12:34

Church Decorating  
Sunday, December 18th  
5:00 PM

Please join us to clean and decorate the Church for the coming Christmas Season.  
All you need is some yule tide spirit and elbow grease.

Prepare the way of the Lord  
Advent Penance Service  
Wednesday  
December 21, 2022  
11:00 AM & 7:00 PM



### Helping Hands and Hearts

This ministry offers temporary help (meals, errands, etc.) to individuals and families in need! If you are aware of someone in need or would like to be a volunteer helper, please contact Marilyn Gustin at [mgustin05@gmail.com](mailto:mgustin05@gmail.com) (484) 732-8842.



In our charity, let us pray for the repose of the soul of

*Joseph Fedena*

Husband of Caroline Fedena

Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord.  
May he rest in peace.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL 2022

[catholiccharitiesappeal.org](http://catholiccharitiesappeal.org)

### The Penn/Drexel Newman Center

“The Newman Center is the Catholic student center and community on campus. Students from both schools come here to be with like-minded individuals and to grow in our faith. They offer us so many amazing programs, like bible study, speaker series, daily Mass, weekly adoration, and service projects. When you have young people who go out into the world, they inspire others to follow in their footsteps. Without funding from the Catholic Charities Appeal, we would not be able to come together to celebrate our faith and partake in the activities the Newman Center provides. We are growing with our Catholic faith on campus, and the CCA makes that possible.” – Nigel Newby, University of Pennsylvania, Student



To support the Newman Centers throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, please consider donating today!



### Monsignor's Thursday Email

Msgr. Diamond's weekly Thursday Email is a popular weekly news letter for our parishioners. Currently there are **over 1035** people who receive his email each Thursday afternoon. If you would like to be on our distribution list, please call the office at (610) 459-2502 or send your request to be added to our distribution at

[Stcorn1@comcast.net](mailto:Stcorn1@comcast.net).



## St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

The students in PreK-4 had a fun Christmas writing activity, they did an amazing job with their writing and creativity! The children had to finish the sentence, *If Santa was stuck in the chimney I would...*

The answers were call 911, tickle him, get him out, call a fireman, and many more! We are so proud of all our students at Christmas and always. We know Santa is proud of them as well!



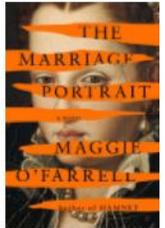
## The St. Cornelius Literary Society

For the book enthusiasts we have a new selection set in the 16th century. *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell. Nestle in with your favorite tea, coffee or cocoa and place yourself in Renaissance Italy!

*Florence, the 1550s. Lucrezia, third daughter of the grand duke, is comfortable with her obscure place in the palazzo: free to wonder at its treasures, observe its clandestine workings, and devote herself to her own artistic pursuits. But when her older sister dies on the eve of her wedding to the ruler of Ferrara, Modena and Reggio, Lucrezia is thrust unwittingly into the limelight: the duke is quick to request her hand in marriage, and her father just as quick to accept on her behalf.*

*Lucrezia must now enter an unfamiliar court whose customs are opaque and where her arrival is not universally welcomed. Perhaps most mystifying of all is her new husband himself, Alfonso. Is he the playful sophisticate he appeared to be before their wedding, or the ruthless politician before whom even his formidable sisters seem to tremble?*

*As Lucrezia sits in constricting finery for a painting intended to preserve her image for centuries to come, one thing becomes worryingly clear. In the court's eyes, she has one duty: to provide the heir who will shore up the future of the Ferranese dynasty. Until then, for all of her rank and nobility, the new duchess's future hangs entirely in the balance.*



### A Good Neighbor to the Homeless Opportunity to help a homeless family!

Saint Cornelius has four families who are serving as a support team for a local family experiencing homelessness. They have received training with Bridge of Hope and have been assigned a family to serve as good neighbors. Bridge of Hope provides case management for the vulnerable family and guidance for the volunteers, who meet with the family regularly.

Our St. Cornelius team and the family we support attended a Christmas party this past Saturday given by the Chester County Bridge of Hope. The children had fun with crafts, reindeer games, hot cocoa, goodies, and a visit from Santa himself! Santa read stories and handed out a gift for each child, as well as gift cards to allow the parents to choose presents for their children and to purchase a Christmas meal. The blessings of the Christmas season were truly evident to all! If you have any questions, please email [colleenmz@hotmail.com](mailto:colleenmz@hotmail.com) or call 610-361-9412



### Church Contributions

Parishioners who would like a statement of their 2022 contributions must call the Parish Office during business hours at (610) 459-2502, or Email the office at [stcorn1@comcast.net](mailto:stcorn1@comcast.net).



*December contributions made using WeShare will be posted by January 15th, 2023.*



### WeShare Online Giving

Online Giving is an easy and convenient way to save time and support St. Cornelius Parish. Donating is **simple, safe,** and completely **secure.**

With **WeShare**, you can set up a recurring weekly or monthly transaction using your checking, savings, or credit card account. You can decide how much to give to the offertory and make changes any time, day or night. Plus, you can leave your checkbook at home on Sundays.

If you would like to enroll in Online Giving, please visit

<https://saintcornelius.weshareonline.org>



If you have any questions or concerns about the program or would like help setting up your account, please call our parish office at (610) 459-2502.

WeShare accepts the following means of contributing  
debit card • credit card • checking & savings account



### The Faith Community Nurse Holistic Health Ministry

On request, Faith Community Nurses are making home visits to families who may be experiencing medical or social difficulties. The nurses confidentially address the needs holistically through bringing with them prayers from the parish, a knowledge of the medical field and process for providing support. If you know of anyone in the parish or beyond who would benefit from these services, please email: [stfcfn@gmail.com](mailto:stfcfn@gmail.com). Contact person is Joan Holliday, RN/FCN at (610) 717-2180.

### 2023 Calendars: Pilgrims on a Journey

Be sure to pick up your 2023 calendar, located in the back of church near the Christmas tree. These calendars offer beautiful images of cathedrals throughout France. Feast and saints days, holy days of obligation as well as Sunday liturgical Colors are indicated. Each month a prayer is provided during our journey through 2023.



### PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL AND THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

Deacon Richard Wirth, Lawrence Ramunno, Carolyn Duffy, Richard Arthur, Carleen Peters, Marian Short, Bob Alexander, Matthew Hess, Bryan Thompson, Cindy Ficca, Jack Bozzuffi, Carol McKnight, Paul Lucas, Carla Santoleri, Richard Maccarrielli, Edward Field, Judy Field, Bob Grant, Joyce Monaco, Matthew Hurst, Leonard Smith, Jr., Gary Hampton, Jim Waters, Kathie Buckley, Bernice & Arthur Hindle, Sean Mulvey, George Butler, Margaret Butler, Patricia Wells, Kathy Williams, Michael Gibbons, William Grant, Shirley Masse, Ellen Brisgone, Laura O'Brien-Black, Elizabeth Kephart, Tina Landis, Bill & Theresa Sherwin, Joseph Spetzer, III, Anne Spetzer, Michelle Dillione, Chris Roe, Frank Kuders, Kylee Dougherty, Dave and Ronnie Pryce, Rosemary Brennan, Ellie May McGrath, Vicki Wojdak, Deacon Clem McGovern, Andrea Bateman, Brandon Heacock, Brittany Lott, Nancy Young, Peyton Lott, Billy Lott, Nanci Ehmer, Peggy Peters, Paul McEaney, Ken Rudert, Ed Shell, Virginia Piergiovanni, Ellie McCreight, Ellie Griem, Gregory Varacchi, Michael McKinnen, Connie Carney, Eugene Monaco, Luke Post, Jim Buckley, Jerome Lienhard, Mary Rose Salisbury, Margery Butler, Charlotte Kensicki, Jim Barr, Jerome Lichard, Lisa Winkleblech, Aaron Winkleblech, Patricia Butler



### The Ministry of Consolation

A St. Cornelius community response to the needs of people grieving the death of a significant person/persons in their lives, the ministry honors the words and example of the Lord Jesus:

*"Blessed are they who mourn; they shall be consoled"*

(Matthew 5:4).

A team of three St. Cornelius church members have been trained to set up and facilitate a Support Group for the Consolation Ministry.

On **January 21, 2023**, the Consolation Group will meet at the **Parish Life Center, Fr. Simon Room** from **2:30pm to 3:30pm**.

Contact Joan Holliday for any questions  
[docholliv@aol.com](mailto:docholliv@aol.com) or call (610) 717-2180.

# Eucharistic Adoration

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament flows from the sacrifice of the Mass and serves to deepen our hunger for Communion with Christ and the rest of the Church.

Join us for Adoration on Friday mornings after Mass. You are welcome to visit anytime during the day until we repose the Blessed Sacrament at 4:00 PM.

*If a funeral is scheduled for a Friday, there will be NO exposition.*



## PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

Saint Cornelius Parish

You can contact Mrs. Sullivan at [stcornprep@scornelius.org](mailto:stcornprep@scornelius.org) or by calling the PREP office (610) 459-7723

PREP families, please join us, Sunday December 18th at 10:00 am for our Christmas celebration with cookies and light refreshments. This is our last class before Christmas and the New Year. We will return to the classroom on January 8th. Enjoy the holiday season with your family.

If you have any questions about any of our PREP programs, please contact Julie Sullivan at [stcornprep@scornelius.org](mailto:stcornprep@scornelius.org).

### YOUTH GROUP

There has been a request for more service opportunities. We look forward to coming together again in a few weeks. If you have any suggestions for our group or would like to get involved, please contact Julie Sullivan at



[stcornprep@scornelius.org](mailto:stcornprep@scornelius.org).

### Children's liturgy of the Word:

The 9 am Mass December 18th is our final children's liturgy before the Christmas Holiday. We will welcome the children back in the new year beginning January 8th.

If you are interested in helping with this program, please reach out to Julie Sullivan at

[stcornprep@scornelius.org](mailto:stcornprep@scornelius.org)

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

*Pray for us,  
O holy Mother of God*

*That we may be made worthy  
of the promises of Christ.*



## Charitable Giving Through Appreciated Stocks and Mutual Funds

If your investment portfolio has appreciated assets, a great way to reduce your taxes and donate to the church is to gift St. Cornelius appreciated investments. If you do have appreciated investments, Saint Cornelius is able to accept stocks and mutual funds as a charitable contribution through TD Ameritrade. For further information, please contact David P.

Bauer, the business manager for the church, at 610-459-2502.

*Thank you for your generous support of the parish.*

## Come & See Weekends December 2022 through March 2023

Come & See Weekends offer men (high school and above) who are discerning a call to the priesthood a chance to get away, meet other men on a similar journey, and find a place of quiet to listen to God speak.

Held throughout the year, these weekends include Mass, praying the Liturgy of the Hours with the seminarians, Holy Hours, talks on discernment and vocations, and time for recreation with the seminarians.

There is no cost to attend these weekends, which include a single room and all meals. The first Come & See Weekends of the Academic Year will be held in October (see dates below). For more information and to register for a particular weekend, please visit [Heedthecall.org/ComeandSee](http://Heedthecall.org/ComeandSee) or contact Fr. Friel at [fr.dfriel@archphila.org](mailto:fr.dfriel@archphila.org).



### HIGH SCHOOL MEN

January 28-29, 2023  
February 25-26, 2023

### POST-HIGH SCHOOL MEN

February 10-12, 2023  
March 10-12, 2023

## CRS NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Communities are so full of strength, even during difficult times. In Liberia, Ma-Korto Clarke had a business selling charcoal until a flash flood wiped out her entire inventory. While she's working hard to start up again, cash from CRS allows her to feed her family. Visit [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org) to find out more information and to see how you can help!

"My grandchildren have food to eat for now while I look for ways to rebuild my business." Ma-Korto Clarke, Liberia



**YOUR GIFT  
MEANS THE WORLD  
TO MILLIONS  
IN NEED**

For nearly 75 years, CRS has been providing expertise and compassion to the very poorest of our brothers and sisters in more than 100 countries. Your donation to Catholic Relief Services will feed hungry families, provide health care and clean water in remote villages, help farmers to grow better crops, protect orphans and vulnerable children, and allow for an immediate response to emergencies.



Community Latrine

\$420



Family Wash Kit

\$45

### share more compassion

You can do even more for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Will you please consider an additional gift of compassion?

Go to <https://gifts.crs.org> and make your gift of life to those who need it most



**CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES  
APPEAL 2022**

[catholiccharitiesappeal.org](http://catholiccharitiesappeal.org)

## Sunday Mass Intentions (Week of December 19 - December 23)

- 7:30 AM Patricia Fitzsimmons
- 9:00 AM Phyllis Young
- 11:00 AM Stephen Clancy
- 4:00 PM Joseph R. Marinano, Sr.

## Weekly Mass Schedule

### Saturday Vigil / Sunday Mass

Intention: *Missa pro populo (Mass for the people)*  
Reading: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

### Monday 7:30 AM

Intention: Karen Bergmann  
Reading: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a;  
Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

### Tuesday 7:30 AM

#### St. Peter Canisius

Intention: Eleanor Clancy  
Reading: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

### Wednesday 7:30 AM

Intention: Kevin Clancy  
Reading: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;  
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

### Parish Penance Services

11:00 AM

7:00 PM



### Thursday 7:30 AM

#### St. John of Kanty

Intention: The Ditto Family  
Reading: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd;  
Lk 1:46-56

### Friday 7:30 AM

Intention: Jenne & Alex Palovitch  
Reading: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14;  
Lk 1:57-66

## PILGRIM STATUE

- 12 - 18 - 2022 Debbie Brisgone
- 12 - 25 - 2022 Mary Chuchman
- 01 - 01 - 2023 Open

The second half of the year still has several openings.

Call Carla Santoleri at (610) 361-8447 for more information.



# Fourth Sunday of Advent

# December 18, 2022

## SUMMONED BY GOD

As Christmas draws near, Advent's scriptures lure us into a world of dreams, signs, wonders, and the miracle of the virgin birth. Too often we allow the great stories of our faith, the ones that are most familiar, simply to wash over us. Today's Gospel account of the events leading up to the birth of the Lord reads like a present-day soap opera. Yet Joseph's courage, even in the midst of what must have been an incredibly confusing time, provides a model for us. Each week, we are summoned by God to embrace the way of goodness and truth through the proclamation of God's holy word. Like Joseph, we are called to do as the Lord commands us. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, let us have the courage to be open to whatever it is that the Lord will require of us as we celebrate the miracle of Bethlehem.

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## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

By now, the first Christmas carols are heard in the home, but usually not yet in church. What is a "carol" anyway? Originally, a carol was any kind of communal song sung at a festival such as a harvest. By the thirteenth century or so, carols were associated with household celebrations. "Carol" comes from the Old French *carula*, meaning a circular dance. Carols weren't for church, since the language of liturgy was Latin and the carols were in the common language. Their characteristic sound comes from medieval chord patterns, and they often have strong refrains for everyone to

sing. Even in the churches of the Reformation, carols didn't make it into church services until the 1870s or so, since there was a preference for psalms. Anglicans resisted popular carols; most of our beloved carols came via the Methodists, an offshoot of the Church of England. The Catholic Church generally didn't admit carols to liturgy either, but we didn't make laws against them.

We are told that the beloved carol "Silent Night" comes from Catholic Austria and a harried parish music director. Joseph Mohr, the priest of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, had written the words in 1816, but offered them to his music director, Franz Gruber, when the church's organ broke. Mohr asked him to write a melody that could be played on guitar as a prelude to Mass. Gruber finished the tune just hours before midnight Mass in 1818. The people were shocked to hear a guitar in church, but were charmed by the sweet lullaby. The church was swept away by a flood in the 1990s and the village later relocated, but the townspeople have set up the "Silent Night Memorial Chapel" at the site. Today the carol is in print in some three hundred languages. How wonderful that the pipe organ broke on that night!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



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# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*December 18, 2022*



Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: *“Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about”* (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means “Yahweh saves.” He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: “. . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us].”

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

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*Behold,  
the virgin shall  
conceive  
and bear a son,  
and they shall  
name him  
Emmanuel,  
God is  
With Us*

