

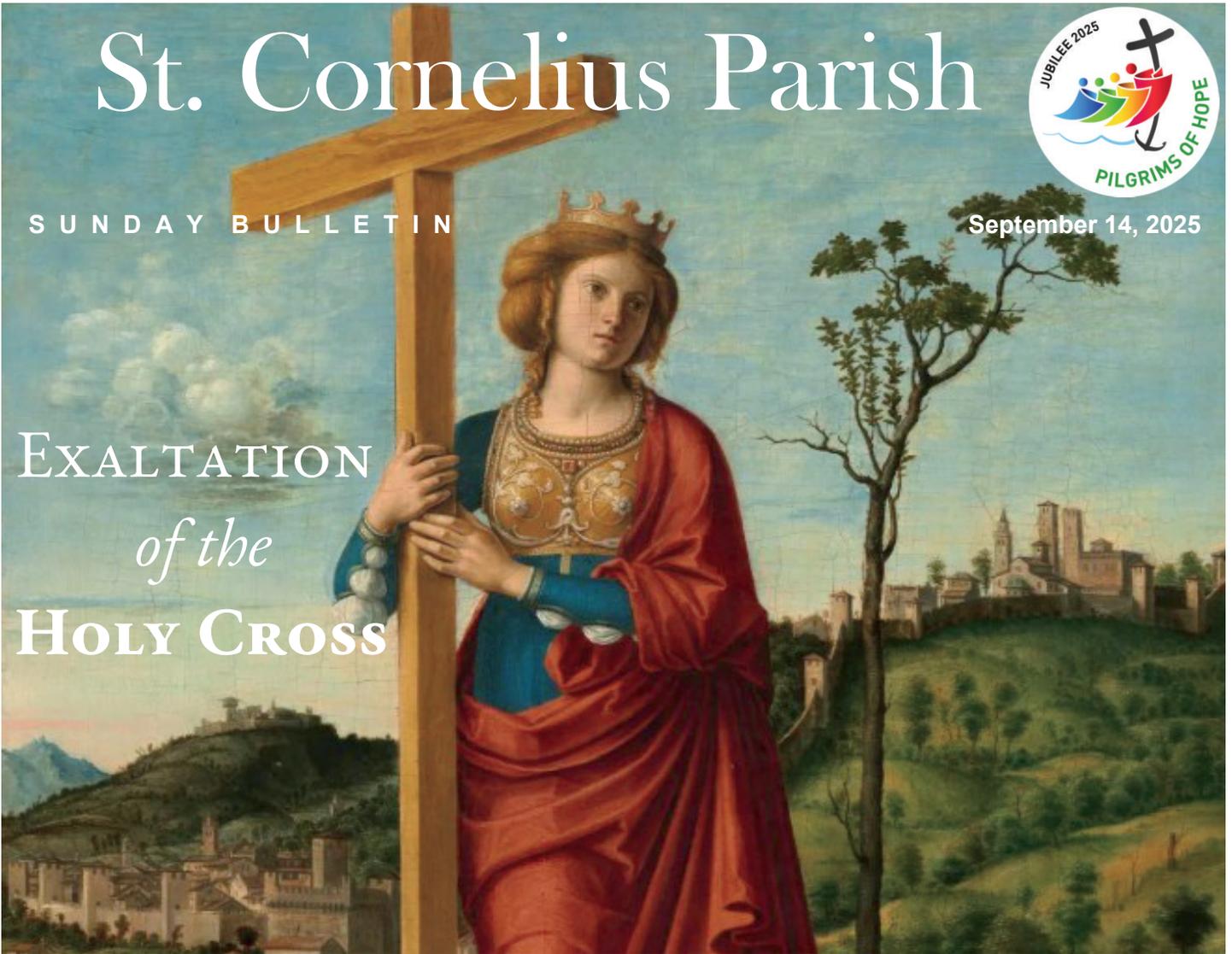
St. Cornelius Parish



SUNDAY BULLETIN

September 14, 2025

EXALTATION *of the* HOLY CROSS



160 Ridge Rd, Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Phone: (610) 459-2502 • Fax: (610) 459-3942

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Email: stcorn1@comcast.net • Facebook: Like us on Facebook

Msgr. David Diamond, Pastor

Deacons: Harry Morris • John Todor (Ret.)

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Director of Music: Margie Melchiorre

Directors of Parish Services: Thomas Bosch & Kelly Limmina

St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

Abbie McCusker, Director

Phone: (610) 459-8663

Website: www.scornelius.org

St. Cornelius Parish Office Hours

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

Friday 8:00 am 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 after morning Mass to 4 pm

LiveStream <https://vimeo.com/user123448673>

Thoughts from the Second Floor Front The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

September 14, 2025

Crucifixion is one of the cruelest means of capital punishment devised by a depraved mind. So awful was the topic that the word would not even be mentioned in polite company in Roman society. Using the word crucifixion was equivalent to making a highly offensive word in a civil conversation. It was against Roman law for a citizen of the empire to undergo that form of execution. It is highly ironic in that a culture which could not bear to hear the word and protected its own members from its pain regularly used it as a means of brutally ending the life of those identified as enemies of the state.

On this day when the universal Church celebrates the Exaltation of the Cross it is good for us to reflect on this most central of symbols in our faith. It is the first symbol we encounter as we are brought into the church at Baptism: "...the Christian Community welcomes you with great joy and in its name, I claim you for Christ by the sign of the cross which I now trace on your forehead and invite your parents and godparents to do the same" says the celebrant. Every prayer we utter begins and ends with the sign of the cross.

As Catholics, we are people of symbols; they are all around us. A Catholic who, in referring to any aspect of the faith, remarks that the item or ceremony is only a symbol has absolutely no understanding of the concept of a symbol and an equal, as well as appalling, ignorance of the full meaning of the word. A symbol takes us beyond the immediate entity which we see or touch. People erroneously use the word sign and symbol interchangeably, as if they are the same thing. Again, revealing a level of ignorance or at the very least a lack of reflection. A sign has one meaning and it enjoys Universal acceptance. If not, the result would be chaos. The word EXIT over a door is not open to interpretation.

A symbol is open to any number of meanings. At Baptism we use water. It is a symbol of life; without water we would not live very long. It is a symbol of cleansing which we in the West take entirely for granted. It also brings death. Too much water kills.

What about the Cross. And where is the triumph in such an agonizing death?

The cross is the central symbol of our faith. The liturgist gives us the passage from the dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus and a seemingly passing reference to an obscure episode in the history of the people of Israel which is proclaimed in the first reading. This is the ultimate irony of our faith. That which was originally a means of death is now the only way to life. The serpent in the first reading is a means of dis-ease. Once made into a bronze image it becomes the means of healing. The cross, for centuries the sign of certain death, through the sacrificial offering of the Christ has become the symbol of our eternal life. It is the means for our safety, our eternal safety.

Jesus' Messianic claim came with a great price. Our union with the Messiah does not come cheaply; it too comes with a price. It is our cross that is also our cost. First identifying and then willingly accepting the cross that comes our way is an essential element of a disciple's life. In his work "The Cost of Discipleship," the Lutheran Pastor and Martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: "Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession...Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."

The shadow of the cross is never very far in the pages of the gospel. Jesus presses on to Jerusalem to fulfill the Father's will that he offer the perfect sacrifice on our behalf. We are often called to make sacrifices on behalf of others as well. Parents know this. Spouses know this. True friends and family know this. Occasionally the sacrifice is a great one. More often than not it is ordinary. What a fine place this world would be if our love were always an ordinary part of our daily life.

Faithfully,

Msgr. Diamond



Join us for our Fall Program!

We come together each Wednesday morning at 6:00 am for coffee, light fare and fellowship. At 6:15 am, we begin our program with a video followed by discussion. The group then closes at 7:15 am in time for daily Mass at 7:30 am.

This year's theme: "The Light of Men"

If you were not available to participate previously, no worries! The program is designed to jump in when you can.

The 2025-26 schedule for our TMIY group can be found at:

<https://www.saintcornelius.org/that-man-is-you>

Our first gathering is **Wednesday, September 17th, 2025.**

Scan the QR code to the right or copy the link below to join us!



<https://programs.paradisusdei.org/join/05E3A5>

All men are welcome to join us at any time during the program.

SCHEDULE: Each Wednesday, Parish Life Center (PLC)

6:00 am Coffee, light fare and fellowship

6:15 am Video and discussion

7:15 am Closing in time for 7:30 am Mass

All men are welcome to join this enriching formation experience.

All you need to do is show up Wednesday morning.

Welcome to the Matthew XXV Garden Season 5 Matthew XXV The Latest Harvest

Our most recent harvest from last week yielded over 94 Lbs. of produce! The total weight in produce is still being calculated and although the weather has been HOT, still our volunteers have returned to the garden to feed those in need.

If interested in cutting grass around the garden beds, please TEXT Steve Muntz at 610-454-8937 and he will be happy to fill you in with what needs to be done.

Again, thank you,

Matthew XXV Committee

Laurie, JoEllen, Steve, & Regina



Thursday Scripture Study 10:00 am - 11:00 am Parish Life Center with Msgr. Diamond



Join us at any time!

All women and men are invited to join us each Thursday morning from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. If you weren't able to join us last year, do not let that deter you. The goal of this Scripture study will be to broaden our knowledge of Scripture, the Church's teaching regarding the Scriptures, and it will enhance our understanding and personal faith life. Please bring a bible.

saintcornelius.org/morning-bible-study

If you have questions, please call Nancy Todor - cell 609-234-1193.

*It is never too late to
pick up and read.*



Monsignor's Thursday Email

Msgr. Diamond's weekly Thursday Email is a popular weekly newsletter for our parishioners. Currently there are **over 1,148** 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.



Eucharistic Adoration

St. Cornelius is open again for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after the 7:30 am Mass on Fridays, beginning September 5. We are asking for your commitment for one hour of Adoration for each of the four Fridays in September.

As a committed Adorer, you agree to be present for your whole Holy Hour (or find a substitute). Committed Adorers are essential to ensure that Jesus is not left alone on the altar and that the gift of Adoration can continue to be offered at St. Cornelius. We need you.

Please help by signing up for Adoration at least one hour each week. Your commitment will cover the same hour for each of the four Fridays this month, including September 5, September 12, September 19 and September 26. A new request will be sent for October. Scan the QR code to sign up. Making a commitment to Jesus is important. Your reward will be great in Heaven!



The St Cornelius ProLife Committee invites you to join us on the PA March for Life Monday, September 22nd Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.



This March for Life is a very important statement for the ProLife effort in Pennsylvania. With the demise of Roe v Wade, each state now determines their own prolife policies and your legislators will see and hear your voice at this March.

We will be riding on the St Thomas the Apostle bus. The bus will leave St Thomas the Apostle at 8:30 am after their daily Mass and return to church about 4:00 pm Cost is \$15 and children are free. There will be an opportunity to get lunch at the March, or feel free to bring your own lunch.

To reserve a seat on the bus, please send an email to Kathy Howley at KHowley50@gmail.com. You will need to provide a cell phone number for contact at the March in case there are any changes to the expected schedule.

And please invite your friends who share your prolife concerns. More information is available at <https://pafamily.org/march>



OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

This year I invite any and all members of the parish to consider joining the group as a means of Adult Education and ongoing Faith Formation. The sessions follow the United States Catholic Catechism. We usually meet on a Thursday evening in the Fr. Simon Room. They last for about an hour. There are no tests. The only books you will need are the Catechism and a Bible. Even if you do not believe you can commit to each week, please consider joining when you can.

On **Thursday, September 18th** we will have a Meet & Greet prior to the start of our instructional and exploratory sessions.

HAPPY FEAST DAY ST. CORNELIUS! September 16

St. Cornelius was elected Pope in March of 251, and was martyred in June 253. He played an important role as Pope in our early church. To better understand it, the background is important.

Emperor Decius ruled from 249-251. He persecuted Christians in the Roman Empire locally, but in January of 250 he ordered all citizens to perform a religious sacrifice in the presence of the commissioners or face death. Many Christians refused and were martyred, while others denounced Christianity to spare their lives. There were two schools of thought after the persecution. Novatian, who was a priest in the diocese of Rome, believed that those who stopped practicing Christianity during the persecution could not be accepted back into the church even if they repented. He thought the only way to re-enter the church would be re-baptism.

The opposing side including St. Cornelius and Cyprian the Bishop of Carthage, did not believe in the need for re-baptism. Instead they thought that the sinners should only need to show contrition and true repentance to be welcomed back into the church.

Novatian, a Roman priest declared that the Church could not pardon the lapsed Christians, and declared himself Pope – the first anti-pope. Meanwhile, Pope Cornelius proclaimed that the Church had the authority and the power to forgive repentant lapsed Christians and could readmit them to the Sacraments and the Church after they had performed proper penances.

In October 251, a Synod of Western Bishops in Rome upheld Cornelius and condemned the teachings of Novatian. Novatian was excommunicated along with his followers. When persecutions of the Christians started up again in 253, Cornelius was exiled to Centum Cellae, where he died a martyr.

40 HOURS DEVOTION

The Forty Hours Devotion is a special forty-hour period of continuous prayer made before the Blessed Sacrament in solemn exposition. Of course, the focus of this devotion is on the Holy Eucharist.

"I myself am the living bread come down from Heaven. If anyone eats this bread, He shall live forever; the bread I will give is my flesh for the life of the world"

(John 6:51).



40 Hours Devotion
September 14 - 16
12:00 pm Sunday

The number forty has always signified a sacred period of time: the rains during the time of Noah lasted 40 days and nights; the Jews wandered through the desert for 40 years, our Lord fasted and prayed for 40 days before beginning His public ministry. The 40 Hours Devotion remembers that traditional "forty-hour period" from our Lord's burial until the resurrection. Actually in the Middle Ages, the Blessed Sacrament was transferred to the repository, "the Easter Sepulcher," for this period of time to signify our Lord's time in the tomb.

The Forty Hours Devotion can be seen almost like a parish mini-retreat or mission. This year **Fr. Frank Danella, OSFS**, has agreed to be our homilist and celebrant and he will lead us in three evenings of prayer and reflection.

Sunday, September 14

- 11:00 AM Mass Exposition at the close of Mass
- 12 noon Rosary
- 3:45 PM Repose Blessed Sacrament for 4 PM Mass
- 4:00 PM Mass Exposition at the close of Mass
- 7:00 PM Evening Prayer / Homily / Benediction
Repose Blessed Sacrament

Monday, September 15

- 7:30 AM Mass Exposition at the close of Mass
- 8:00 AM Rosary
- 7:00 PM Evening Prayer / Homily / Benediction
Repose Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday, September 16

- 7:30 AM Mass Exposition at the close of Mass
- 8:00 AM Rosary
- 7:00 PM Evening Prayer / Homily / Benediction
Conclusion
Repose Blessed Sacrament



Welcome to the Parish!

Susan Elder
Edward and Mary Donovan
Peter and Alexandra Brookes and family



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.

September 7, 2025

WeShare e Giving \$10,130.40
Envelope Offering \$12,879.00
\$23,009.40

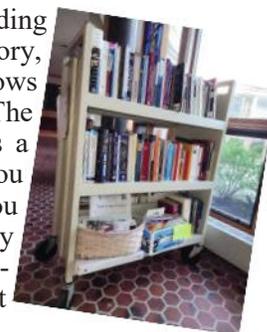


"For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."

Luke 12:34

LENDING LIBRARY

You may not be aware of the Lending Library that exists in our ambulatory, near the large stain glass windows overlooking the family portico. The cart pictured to the right contains a variety of reading material that you are welcome to take with you. You may also find a variety of holy cards, prayer pamphlets and novenas. Please feel free to take what you like.



AbbeyFest Fans...
It's YEAR ELEVEN!!
SEPTEMBER 20th

This year we are at the National Shrine of **Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA**

Tickets on sale NOW including new group rates so you can bring all your friends and family!!

For more information go to
www.TheAbbeyFest.com





St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

The first week of school at our early learning center was filled with excitement, smiles, and new beginnings! Our little friends were busy exploring their classrooms, meeting new teachers and classmates, and settling into their daily routines. From story time and songs to hands-on activities and play, the children were eager to learn and discover. While there were a few first-week jitters, the warmth and care of our teachers helped everyone feel comfortable and welcomed. We are off to a wonderful start and can't wait to see all the learning and growth that this school year will bring!



OCT. 17 | 6:30 PM

Saint Cornelius Parish Life Center
\$45 for Dinner and Comedy Show

Clean, Christian comedy is hard to come by.
Gordon Douglas is the answer.

Register here:



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 (484) 947-7295.

Have you Registered with the Parish?



End of Summer is a good time to reconnect with your Catholic faith and your parish. We invite you to stop in to the Parish Life Center and complete a registration form so we can meet you, your family and include you in our activities.

Perhaps you have recently moved to the area, or maybe you have been here awhile and just haven't taken the time to register.

Whatever the reason, we encourage you to stop in the Parish Life Center and join the life of the Church here at St. Cornelius.

Our office hours are Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, and Friday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm Noon. We close for Lunch 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

CRS NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Did you know that more than 700 million people go hungry every day? That's why international humanitarian aid is so important: it reduces global hunger. One in five children suffers from stunted growth because they lack the food their bodies need to thrive. But international humanitarian aid can change this. It provides emergency food assistance during natural disasters, conflicts and other crises. It prevents death from starvation and famine, especially among malnourished children whose lives can be saved with simple nutritional supplements. It ensures children receive healthy meals, which helps reduce malnutrition and sets them on a path to fulfill their God-given potential. And it's not just about today. Aid programs help local farmers find long-term solutions to hunger.



CRS has implemented school feeding programs worldwide for decades. However, recent terminations of the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program mean that more than 780,000 children across 11 countries will not receive school lunches (which, for many, are the only meal they will have each day), worsening the hunger crisis and jeopardizing their ability to learn, grow and thrive. Please visit www.crs.org and contact your local representatives to urge them to reinstate international humanitarian aid!

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

SSG Ana Brunal
SPC Mike Canfield
Cpl Michael Castle
Lt. Connor Cleary
Fr. Joseph Coffey (Chaplain)
Maj Robert B. Cusick, Jr.
Capt Joshua deFreitas
SSGT Michael DiVernieri
Cadet Emily Fanning
Lt. Ryan Gallagher
SSG. Eric Gardner
Capt Matthew Gibbons
Ens Patrick Gibbons
Ens John Paul Gibbons
Maj Rachel Gonzalez
SPC Logan Hannum
Sgt Andrew Hart
Devin J. Hunt
PO1 Nathan R. Keller
1st Lt Lauren Kinnee
Spc. Andrew Koehler
Capt Daniel Kohli
Maj. Chris Love
Maj. Megan Love
Sgt Jason Lyons

2nd Lt. Kevin Malone
Sgt Alexander Marlow
PFC Zachary Marlow
CPT. Travis Mauer
Lt. Cmdr Daniel McCadden
Capt Jonathan McGrath
LT Molly K. McGuckin
LCDR Ryan A. McGuckin
Maj. Sean P. Noll
Lt. Col Brian J. O'Shea
Lt. Cmdr Inga O'Shea
Maj James O'Shea
Sgt. Maj. Justin Rogowski
PFC L Roland
LTJG Christian Samulewicz
1st Lt. Olivia Samulewicz
Capt. Neal F. Schubert
Ens Nicholas Spadaccini
MSG Thomas Stone
Cpl Mark Truex
Lt. Christopher Vish
Capt. Aidan Walsh
PFC Ellianna Welsh
Capt Jennifer Wynn

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

Tom Eno, Luke Post, Nancy Cunningham, Andrea Bateman, Bernice & Arthur Hindle, Joan Carrington, Edna Werwinski, Jean Burke, Hayes Gonzalez

Bishop Barron says the following on Praying for the sick

- **Healing is through Christ:** Following the biblical narrative, Christ is the ultimate healer. He accomplishes this not only through his life and ministry but also through his passion and death on the cross, offering salvation and spiritual healing to a fallen humanity.
- **The Church as a "field hospital":** The Church as a field hospital for the wounded, with the sacraments as the primary means of healing, highlights how Jesus, our High Priest, enters into our suffering out of loving solidarity, inspiring believers to do the same.
- **The spiritual dimension:** A healing prayer is not simply about eliminating a physical ailment. It's about bringing the sick into closer union with God. True healing is the restoration of the whole person—body, mind, and spirit—and a deeper alignment with God's will.

If you would like a loved one added to the prayer list, please email us at stcorn1@comcast.net.

N.B. *Only family members should be added as a matter of privacy. Not everyone wants their name publicly listed*



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

On **September 20, 2025**, 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

dochollisv@aol.com or call (610) 717-2180.



Are you being called to be a Permanent Deacon?

Maybe It's Time To Answer The Call: Exploring a Vocation to the Permanent Diaconate

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025
Location: Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary
 1400 Evans Road, Ambler, PA 19002
Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

If you're a Catholic man feeling called to a life of service, prayer, and leadership in the Church, this may be your time to answer.

This session is open to Catholic men (and their wives, if married) aged 29 to 55. Learn about the discernment process and formation journey from a panel of clergy, featuring details about the School for Diaconal Formation program, and the Permanent Diaconate.

Interested in learning more?

Visit <https://archphila.org/deacon> or

School of Diaconal Formation website <https://www.scs.edu/diaconal-formation>

Scan the QR code below to sign up!

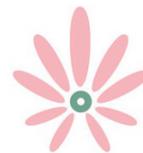


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In a world that can be void of meaning and leave young adults restless and dissatisfied, Young Catholic Professionals Philadelphia brings together young professionals in their 20s and 30s into a community of belonging, support, and encouragement at 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.ycphiladelphia.org/cpages/home



walking with purpose

Ladies, we would love for you to be part of something special.

The Walking with Purpose Bible study

Whether you are just beginning to explore your faith or have walked with God for years, you will find encouragement, support, and meaningful conversation as we study God's word. Previous experience with Bible study is not necessary. Bring your Bible, bring a friend and consider joining us this fall for our next study:

Opening Your Heart

We meet weekly in the Parish Life Center starting Tuesday, October 7th -through March of 2026, with breaks for the holidays.

For more information, an Open House will take place at the Parish Life Center on Tuesday morning September 30th from 10:00 am -11:00 am, and Tuesday evening from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm.



To Register for the fall session, contact one of our Parish Coordinators for your preferred time:

Tuesday Mornings
 10:00 am -12:00 pm - Agnes Arkus
agnes324@verizon.net (302) 290-3486

Tuesday Evenings
 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm - Beth Baldo
baldobetha@gmail.com (845) 558-7089

Information about WWP is available on the St. Cornelius parish website at: <https://saintcornelius.org/walking-with-purpose>

Accompanying study guide for *Opening Your Heart* can be purchased at: <https://shop.walkingwithpurpose.com>





PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
(PREP)

Saint Cornelius Parish

You can contact Mrs. Abbie McCusker at stcomprep@scornelius.org or by calling the PREP office (610) 459-7723

We are happy to share that beginning this fall, September 21, our parish will be offering a Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 9:00 AM Sunday Mass. This special time allows our youngest parishioners to hear God's Word in a way that is age-appropriate and meaningful, helping them grow in their love for Jesus and understanding of the Gospel. The children will be invited to gather separately during the Liturgy of the Word and will return to their families for the remainder of Mass. We are blessed to have Abigail McCusker and Debbie Anderson leading this ministry, and we encourage parents to bring their children so they can take part in this wonderful opportunity to learn, pray, and grow in faith.

**Sunday
September 21
11:45 AM**

Join our Parish Pro-Life Group in the church on Sunday, July 20, at 11:45 AM, 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 calendar now. Bring a friend.



Sunday Mass Intentions

- 7:30 AM Raymond Kitson
- 9:00 AM Rosemary Marciano
- 11:00 AM Susanne Whitehead
- 4:00 PM Shirley Polk

**Weekly Mass Schedule
(Week of September 15 - September 19)**

Saturday Vigil / Sunday Morning

Intention: *Missa pro populo (Mass for the people)*
Reading: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

Monday 7:30 AM

Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

Intention: Karen Bergmann
Reading: 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Tuesday 7:30 AM

Memorial of Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop and Martyrs

Intention: Giuse Lê Dinh Diêne
Reading: 1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6; Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday 7:30 AM

Intention: George Bender
Reading: 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 7:31-35

Thursday 7:30 AM

Intention: John Rodgers
Reading: 1 Tm 4:12-16; Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10; Lk 7:36-50

Friday 7:30 AM

Intention: John Tulli
Reading: 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20; Lk 8:1-3

PILGRIM STATUE

- 09 - 14 - 2025 Jean Wysocki
- 09 - 21 - 2025 Jean Wysocki
- 09 - 28 - 2025 Open

The dates for August thru December are now available on the sign-up.

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



Giving Hope to All



T HE STORY OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Early in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."

To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on

the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.

Reflection

The cross is today the universal image of Christian belief. Countless generations of artists have turned it into a thing of beauty to be carried in procession or worn as jewelry. To the eyes of the first Christians, it had no beauty. It stood outside too many city walls, decorated only with decaying corpses, as a threat to anyone who defied Rome's authority—including Christians who refused sacrifice to Roman gods. Although believers spoke of the cross as the instrument of salvation, it seldom appeared in Christian art unless disguised as an anchor or the Chi-Rho until after Constantine's edict of toleration.



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ST. CORNELIUS CHURCH

In partnership with Rise Against Hunger



JOIN US TO FIGHT GLOBAL HUNGER

PACKAGE MEALS FOR THOSE IN NEED WITH HELPING HANDS

Our goal this year is to package and send at least 50,000 meals to those who suffer food insecurity in Africa and other parts of the world. In addition, we hope to raise the awareness of the growing need of our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

With the support of volunteers like you and your family, we will once again gather to confront the hunger that our brothers and sisters suffer from each day.

Register on line at saintcornelius.org/meal-packing-event and join your fellow parishioners to fight hunger.

DATE

November 8, 2025

2 TIME SESSIONS

8:30 am - 11:00 am

or Noon - 2:30 pm

LOCATION

St. Cornelius Church, PLC

CONTACT

Parish Office 610.459.2502

