

St. Cornelius Parish

SUNDAY BULLETIN

December 7, 2025



160 Ridge Rd, Chadds Ford, PA 19317
Phone: (610) 459-2502 • Fax: (610) 459-3942

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Director of Music: Margie Melchiore

Director of Parish Services: 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 8:00 am to 4 pm

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

Thoughts from the Second Floor Front

II Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

If you are paying attention, you would have noticed the gospel proclamation today focuses on one of the main characters in the Advent Season – John the Baptist. His call for conversion is as valid today as it was when he first shouted the words outside ancient Jerusalem. Citing the prophet Isaiah (the passage heard in the first reading) John calls for the people who hear his voice "*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.*" The preparation that we put into the celebration of Christmas is extensive. An essential element in that preparation for those who embrace the Gospel message is in answering the call that the Baptist gave to reform our lives and seek forgiveness.

The response to the call that John delivered to the people of his day is a curious one. They left the city and went out into the desert. The image is as of a great liturgical procession. The question is though: Why the desert? Why would anyone purposefully seek to enter an environment marked by extremes of temperature, howling winds, no shelter, an absence of what we would think of as essentials – food and water and a sense of absolute dependence on a need for help. The desert is an important place in scripture. It was in the desert that God led his people in freedom from Egypt. It was in the desert that the People of Israel were constituted the People of God. It was in a desert that Jesus entered immediately after his baptism.

This excerpt from the Gospel is given to us today for reflection.

At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him [in the desert] and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

There are all kinds of deserts that we are either forced to enter, or even enter willingly, on which we expend all sort of personal, psychological, emotional and spiritual energy attempting to avoid. There is the desert of loneliness, abandonment, ignorance and addiction. For most of us, deserts exist in spiritual terms not the blowing wind of the Sinai but the isolation of chronic disease, depression or family troubles. We can chose to avoid entering the deserts that seem to be a part of our lives. Or we can, in a spirit of docility, engage the desert and seek to understand God's will for us in that spiritual place.

In a book written several yeas ago the author addressed this issue. M. Scott Peck wrote The road less travelled. It was on the New York Times best-selling list for months and I thought it would be good to read. I purchased the bool. I was a young priest at the time. First words and first sentences in a books are very important. The mystery writer Erle Sanley Gardner , of Perry Mason fame asserted: If a gun is mentioned in the first chapter, somebody better be shot before the book ends. Peck's first line is: Life is difficult. I thought *I'm an Irish Catholic*, I didn't need to spend ten fifty for that!

The people of Jerusalem went into the desert – a place of difficulty and suffering. We do not need to go into a desert, all we need to do it look around.

The four weeks of Advent is a time of expectation. It exists alongside the time of preparation for the holiday. Set aside what is distracting in your life and find time in the remaining weeks to draw away from the fray and frenzy of the crowds and sit in quiet with the Lord. Talk to Him and tell Him your joys and your suffering. Jesus knows.

Faithfully,

Msgr. Diamond



Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.



Advent Vespers with Benediction
Sunday Afternoons 3:00 pm, during
Advent. Please join us!

Immaculate Conception
Holy Day of Obligation
Monday, December 8,

Masses: 7:30 am • 12:00 Noon • 7:00 PM

Church Decorating
Sunday, December 21.
After the 4:00 PM Mass

Advent Penance Service
Thursday, December 18,
11:00 AM and 7:00 PM



Christmas Eve Mass Schedule

4:00 pm

Celebrant: Fr. Joseph Serano, O'Praem.

Music Provided by:

Praise Band

6:00 pm

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

Music Provided by:

Strings and Cantor

8:00 pm

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

Music Provided by:

Choir and Flute

10:00 pm

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

Music Provided by:

Quartet with Walnut Street Trio

Christmas Day Mass Schedule

8:30 am

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

Music Provided by:

Cantor and Organ

11:00 am

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

Music Provided by:

Walnut Street Trio and Cantor

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 pm

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

NO 4:00 PM Mass



Immaculate Conception

(A Holy Day of Obligation)

Monday, December 8

Masses: 7:30 AM

12:00 Noon

7:00 PM



St. Cornelius Knights of Columbus

Christmas season is upon us, and the Knights are bringing back their beloved poinsettia sale! The Knights will be selling poinsettias on a first come, first served basis during the Masses on the weekend of December 13 and 14. The 15"-18" high plants in red, white, pink and marble will be offered in a foil-wrapped container. The price is \$15/plant, payable at the time of purchase in cash or check payable to **St. Cornelius Knights of Columbus Council 12391**. The proceeds from these sales helps support the many charitable functions of the Knights at St. Cornelius. Please support the Knights as we bring back this beloved tradition to St. Cornelius!



**Knights of
Columbus®**



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

Bob Lott

Husband of Debbie Lott

Helen Patricia Reilly

Long time member of the parish

*Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord.
May they rest in peace.*



Baptisms

Baptized in Christ

Drew Grace

Son of John and Kelly Grace

Evelyn and Olivia Vandegrift

Daughters of Tyler and Emily Vandegrift

Let us pray for our newly baptized Christians.



Have you Registered with the Parish?



Advent 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. Cornelious.

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

We look forward to seeing you and your family!

St. Cornelius CRAB CAKE SALE

Order in the Church Narthex after all Masses on the weekend of December 6 & 7

Pick-Up Dates: Friday, December 12
and Saturday December 13

**Orders available for pickup at the
Parish Life Center 4 pm to 7pm**



**Featuring
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Famous "Smith Island
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Crab Cake Box Options:

Box of 4	\$28.00
Box of 6	\$42.00
Box of 12	\$84.00
Lobster Stuffed Ravioli	\$17.00 box of 14
Crab Stuffed Ravioli	\$17.00 box of 14
Shrimp Stuffed Ravioli	\$17.00 box of 14
Maryland Crab Soup	\$13.00 per quart
Crab Kritters	\$18.00 per bag
(Bag of 50 bite-size crab cakes)	
Crab Marinara	\$15.00/quart



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OF COLUMBUS**
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St. Cornelius Council #12391



First Sunday Coffee

First Sunday

The St. Cornelius Council of the Knights of Columbus will be hosting a coffee reception in the Holy Family Portico after the 11:00 Mass on **Sunday, December 7.**



Nick Cappelli of Suburban Food Service is again supplying us with the caffeine, cocoa and tea. This month we invite those with the last names beginning with A-M to bring baked goods to share with all our parishioners. Please join us after Mass with your fellow parishioners.

See you there!!



Church Decorating

**Sunday, December 21st
After the 4:00 PM Mass**

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

Sunday December 21 11:45 AM

Join our Parish Pro-Life Group in the church on Sunday, December 21, 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.



St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

Our pre-K4 friends had a wonderful time sharing in a special Thanksgiving feast at school, celebrating the season with joy and togetherness. The children loved gathering around the table to enjoy muffins, fresh fruit, homemade butter they helped shake themselves, and a fun treat of popcorn. It was a sweet and simple way for them to learn about gratitude, community, and the joy of sharing food with friends. Their smiles and laughter made the feast feel extra warm and festive!



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.

November 30, 2025

WeShare eGiving	\$6,385.40
Envelope Offering	<u>\$11,725.50</u>
	\$18,110.90

November 23, 2025

WeShare eGiving	\$6,745.40
Envelope Offering	<u>\$11,321.00</u>
	\$18,066.40



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

Luke 12:34

Salesianum Sanders Scholarship Golf Outing

Save the Date October 5th, 2026



To benefit young men from Southeastern PA facing financial hardships, who aspire to attend Salesianum and join this community of distinguished gentlemen.

**Kennett Square Golf & Country Club
Kennett Square, PA**

Registration Opens Winter 2026

Sponsorship Opportunities are available.
For more information, please contact Mike Sanders at (610) 836-1864



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



CRS NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Looking for Advent prayers to use with your wreath? Inspired by the words of Pope Francis, our Advent prayer guide invites you to prepare your heart for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Use the guide each week as you light the candles of your Advent wreath, reflecting on the gifts Jesus brings into our lives—hope, faith, joy and peace—and on our Gospel call to share these gifts with our global family.

Each week of Advent includes a short, meaningful Advent prayer for your wreath lighting; a quote from Pope Francis highlighting the week’s theme; a story of faith and hope from our sisters and brothers around the world; and questions to deepen your spiritual journey toward the Nativity of the Lord. Let this holy season be a time of spiritual renewal, joyful preparation and global solidarity! Sign up now to access the full Advent Wreath prayer and reflection guide and receive weekly reminders directly to your inbox at <https://www.crs.org/join/crs-advent-wreath>



SAVE THE DATE!

The Brandywine Pops Orchestra will present a free concert **Monday, December 15th, 7:00 p.m.** in the **Parish Life Center.**

In addition to Christmas and Hanukkah music, the Orchestra will also play selections from the Nutcracker Suite and Wizards in Winter from the Trans Siberian Orchestra.

We hope to see you there!



Giving Hope to All



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

Doris Wysocki, Kathy Coleman, Kara Ulatowski, James M. Sullivan, Jim & Kathy Buckley, Brian Buckley, Judy & Ed Field, Eileen Talley, Tom Eno, Luke Post, Nancy Cunningham, Andrea Bateman, Bernice & Arthur Hindle, Joan Carrington, Edna Werwinski, Hayes Gonzalez



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 **December 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.

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| SSG Ana Brunal | 2nd Lt. Kevin Malone |
| SPC Mike Canfield | Sgt Alexander Marlow |
| Cpl Michael Castle | PFC Zachary Marlow |
| Lt. Connor Cleary | CPT. Travis Mauer |
| Fr. Joseph Coffey (Chaplain) | Lt. Cmdr Daniel McCadden |
| Maj Robert B. Cusick, Jr. | Capt Jonathan McGrath |
| Capt Joshua deFreitas | LT Molly K. McGuckin |
| SSGT Michael DiVernieri | LCDR Ryan A. McGuckin |
| Cadet Emily Fanning | Maj. Sean P. Noll |
| Lt. Ryan Gallagher | Lt. Col Brian J. O'Shea |
| SSG. Eric Gardner | Lt. Cmdr Inga O'Shea |
| Capt Matthew Gibbons | Maj James O'Shea |
| Ens Patrick Gibbons | Sgt. Maj. Justin Rogowski |
| Ens John Paul Gibbons | PFC L Roland |
| Maj Rachel Gonzalez | LTJG Christian Samulewicz |
| SPC Logan Hannum | 1st Lt. Olivia Samulewicz |
| Sgt Andrew Hart | Capt. Neal F. Schubert |
| Devin J. Hunt | Ens Nicholas Spadaccini |
| PO1 Nathan R. Keller | MSG Thomas Stone |
| 1st Lt Lauren Kinnee | Cpl Mark Truex |
| Spc. Andrew Koehler | Lt. Christopher Vish |
| Capt Daniel Kohli | Capt. Aidan Walsh |
| Maj. Chris Love | PFC Ellianna Welsh |
| Maj. Megan Love | Capt Jennifer Wynn |
| Sgt Jason Lyons | |



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. Please help by signing up for Adoration at least one hour each week. Your commitment will cover the same hour for each Friday.



You are welcome to visit anytime during the day until we repose the Blessed Sacrament at 4:00 PM.

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



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 *Charles Schwab*.

For further information, please contact David Bauer, the business manager for the church, at 610-459-2502.

Thank you for your generous support of the parish.

Festival of Lessons and Carols

December 7th at 1:30 pm in Church

Presented by the Music Ministry – Please join us!



The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer.

There will be a prelude presented by each of the music ministry groups.



Help provide home cooked meals to neighbors in need! Caring for Friends (formerly Aid for Friends) is collecting frozen meals and soups for homebound seniors and food insecure individuals. Meal trays and soup containers can be found in the utility closet on the right of the side door of the narthex. Consider putting aside an extra dinner or soup portion, freeze it and then bring it to the freezer also located in the utility closet. PLEASE sign the meals and soup in on the list attached to the shelves next to the freezer. The food is distributed all over the Greater Philadelphia Area. This effort is on-going at our parish. We invite you to contribute what you can. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Todor 609-234-1193



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.

**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.





Sunday Mass Intentions

- 7:30 AM Robert Post
- 9:00 AM William Francis Finnerty
- 11:00 AM William A. Minnis
- 4:00 PM Grace Cullen

Saturday Vigil / Sunday Morning Second Sunday of Advent

Intention: *Missa pro populo (Mass for the people)*
 Reading: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
 Rm 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

Weekly Mass Schedule (Week of December 8 - December 12)

Monday

7:30 AM ● 12:00 Noon ● 7:00 PM

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day of Obligation

Reading: Gen 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4;
 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday 7:30 AM

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

Intention: Jeff Cox
 Reading: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12,
 13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday 7:30 AM

Our Lady of Loreto

Intention: Gene Carty
 Reading: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10;
 Mt 11:28-30

Thursday 7:30 AM

St. Damasus I, Pope

Intention: Emily Meakin
 Reading: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11,
 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday 7:30 AM

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Intention: Matthew Ottaviano
 Reading: Zech 2:14-17 or Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
 Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47



ST BLAISE MEN'S RETREAT Malvern Retreat House January 30 - February 1, 2026

Please join us for the annual St Blaise Men's Retreat at Malvern, January 30th to February 1st, 2026. This year's retreat is being directed by **Fr Jason Buck**, the Dean of Men at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, where he oversees the formation of young men discerning the priesthood. Whether leading young men through the rigors of seminary life or crafting a powerful hymn or anthem, his mission remains the same: **to call men to greatness and holiness** in a world that desperately needs both.

Please contact David Santoleri at dave@santoleri.net for more information or follow the QR code below to go directly to the retreat registration page.

Register at: <https://www.malvernretreat.com/events/st-blaise-curran-memorial>.



PILGRIM STATUE



- 12 - 07 - 2025 Jean Wysocki
- 12 - 14 - 2025 Debbie Brisgone
- 12 - 21 - 2025 Mary Chuchman

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

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



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Visit our website
WWW.HeedTheCall.org

HEED THE CALL

Prepare The Way

Saint John the Baptist appears on the scene today as Advent enters its second week. The mysterious consumer of locusts and wild honey, John echoes the words of the prophet Isaiah as he calls for repentance in the face of the nearness of the kingdom of heaven. The rhythms of the Christian life are often confounding. Each year we meet the Baptist and hear his calls for repentance. Each year we see him pointing to the one who is coming after him, the Lord Jesus. Yet each year the words and actions of John the Baptist echo anew in our hearts, because we have fallen into old sinful traps again and again. Advent gives us the opportunity once again to turn away from our sinful ways and embrace the gospel way of life. John the Baptist invites us to prepare the way for the Lord, in whom we place our hope.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Did St. Francis of Assisi invent the Christmas crib? Not exactly, but his devotion to the Incarnation and his love for the poverty of the Christ Child certainly popularized this beloved custom. Long before Francis, it was a custom at the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome to enshrine a rich image of Mary, gilded and bejewelled, embracing the child Jesus. This church was founded as a kind of home for the feast of Christmas in the fourth century. In 1223, Francis was ready

to celebrate this feast in a new way. In the tiny city of Greccio, he asked friends to prepare a place where they could experience the poverty and suffering embraced by Christ in his birth. It was a living scene: an ox from the barn, an ass from the stable, and peasants standing in for shepherds and kings. The night of the celebration was beautiful, the weather was warm, and people came in crowds, bearing candles and singing hymns that echoed through the forest. Francis himself chanted the Gospel and preached. The custom spread quickly, and by the sixteenth century cribs were seasonal features not only in church, but in the home.

On December 17, the liturgy begins to unfold the Lord's birth before us, and it's the right time to follow this beautiful tradition. In Germany, each night throughout Advent children prepare a bedding for the manger. At bedtime prayer, a child places a single straw in the manger for each act of devotion or virtue performed during the day. If the children are good, then the Christ child will have plenty of soft bedding when he is placed in the manger on Christmas.

—Rev. James Field,



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St. Cornelius 2025 Christmas Giving Tree



Since 1991 our parish Giving Tree has generously donated gifts and gift cards for the less fortunate throughout our region. We support 7 charities, and they all ask to receive gift cards. The charities and outreach programs are extremely grateful for your generosity!

When purchasing Gift Cards please ask for an **activation receipt** for each card, attach the receipt to the gift card **and write the value directly on the gift card**. If you prefer your gift card(s) to go to a specific organization, then indicate it on the envelope.

Final Drop Off Date: Sunday, December 14th

\$25 Gift Cards For

Catholic Social Service of DELCO	Walmart, ShopRite, \$ Tree, \$ General
Mothers' Home in Darby	Target, Walmart, Giant (PA), Acme, Save-a-Lot
Mary, Mother of Hope House II (Wilm, DE)	Target, Walmart
St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish	Target, Walmart, ShopRite, Aldi, Fresh Grocer
St. Peter the Apostle School	Target, Walmart, ShopRite, Acme
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish	Target, Walmart, ShopRite, Aldi, CVS
St. Cornelius Ministry of Caring	\$50 Gift Cards to Target, Walmart, Giant (PA), Acme & Visa

Drop Off Options

Snowman – stand next to Giving Tree

Music Room Mailbox – inside left of Church entrance

PLC Building Mail Slot – directly to the right of PLC entrance door

Last Resort Mail - to St. Cornelius Church, 160 Ridge Rd, Chaddsford, PA 19317

Any questions please contact Mary Allen: text 484-432-5098 or maryballen16@verizon.net

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS

