

St. Cornelius Parish

SUNDAY BULLETIN

December 14, 2025



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

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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

III Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

We continue to hear from the Prophet Isaiah as the days of Advent rush by. His message this week is a startling announcement of the transformative nature of the Word of God. Isaiah preaches to the oppressed people of Israel that God is going to intervene on their behalf and not only make their lives better, He will free them from their enslavement and alienation. The issues of enslavement and alienation are still with us. This will not be experienced on national level as Israel experienced. Enslavement and alienation happen to us on a personal level and even more sadly, not only do we fail to recognize its presence in our lives, but we also bring it on ourselves when we embrace both stifling realities. The enslavement to which I refer is not one consisting of chains and shackles. But just as binding are the sinful attitudes, prejudicial sentiments and lack of willingness to engage in the transformation that is essential in this sacred season of Advent. Enslavement? You may ask *I'm not enslaved. How am I enslaved?* There is a certain pernicious enslavement to our devices, our computers, our work, our car, our things – the list is almost endless. The four weeks of Advent are capable of breaking the bonds that maintains us in the sometimes-self-imposed enslavement. If we collaborate with Grace available to us.

The excerpt from St. Matthew and Isaiah provide us with a happy confluence of good news. Did you ever notice that Jesus has a way of answering a question in such a way that it appears to be misdirection? He seems to be answering a question with a question. When encountered in ordinary conversation this type of interaction can be a bit more than mildly annoying. With our Lord, though, His response is anything but misleading. Rather He means to bring us to a greater understanding and a more profound appreciation of Him and His kingdom around us.

There is a teaching which emerges from Thomistic philosophy: *Agere sequitur esse – action follows being*. Or more loosely translated: *You can tell what a thing is by what a thing does*. If a thing has feathers and webbed feet and waddles and quacks, it's probably a duck. When asked pointedly by the disciples of John the Baptist if He is the Messiah, Jesus' response is to point to the things He has done: *...the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them*. Notice that there is an order to each miracle He mentions, they get more and more important as the list continues until we reach the dead being raised and the last action noted is the poor having the good news preached to them. Jesus has fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah and accomplished the transformation of the human condition.

The spiritual renewal we seek is not magic. There is an old teaching in our spiritual heritage that states Grace does not destroy [human] nature; grace works through nature and Grace alone can perfect nature. We live in an age when our culture posits the belief that the human person can be brought to perfectibility. The world believes this perfection can be brought about by the right diet, the right education, the right income even the right automobile we drive. We can only be made perfect through the presence, influence and work of the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. Only with God's Grace will we be transformed into the disciple Jesus calls us to be.

We all need that transformation which can only be wrought by collaboration with Grace. The transformation that is so necessary in the life of a disciple

Faithfully,

Msgr. Diamond



*I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way before you.*



**Advent Vespers
with Benediction**

Sunday Afternoon 3:00 PM,
During Advent. Please join us!

Advent Penance Service

Thursday, December 18,
11:00 AM and 7:00 PM

Church Decorating

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



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





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®**



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. 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

*We look forward to seeing you
and your family!*

PARISH SERVICES



THEOLOGY ON TAP

Speaker Series for Young Adults
(ages 18-35)

*Raising a Family in the
Catholic Faith*

- Kevin & Janelle Shaw

Sunday December 14, 5pm-8pm
Parish House Basement

Snacks
&
drinks
provided



Families with children, please join us for

Stocking Decorating

and a visit from

Santa

with light refreshments

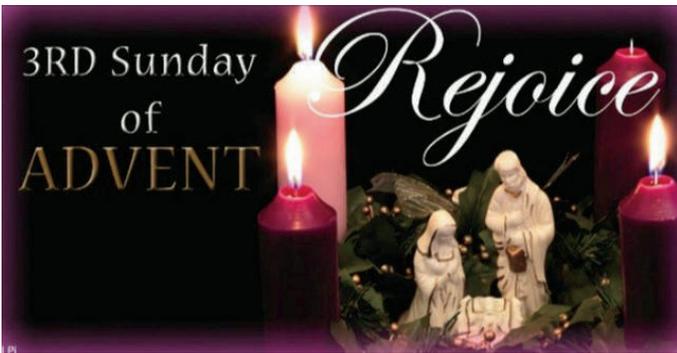
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

10am-12pm

In the Parish Life Center
All materials provided



RSVP
to
klimminga@scornelius.org
by December 16



What is special about the Third Sunday of Advent?

For much of the Church's history, this Sunday had a special name: "Gaudete" Sunday. The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent itself. Advent, our preparation for Christmas, was originally a forty-day penitential season like Lent. In fact, since it used to begin on November 12 (just after the Memorial of St. Martin of Tours), it was called "St. Martin's Lent." "Gaudete Sunday" was the Advent counterpart to "Laetare Sunday," which marks the midpoint in Lent.

On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation. Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose-colored vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose colored, or if you prefer, pink.

The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.



Today's Second Collection

Elderly religious have offered a lifetime of service. Now they need your help. Please consider donating to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection this weekend. Learn more at retiredreligious.org.



MARCH FOR LIFE

Friday, January 23, 2026

This year our Pro-Life committee is not offering a bus trip to the March. However, that shouldn't keep you from participating. If you wish to attend the March there is another option—Go Amtrak!

Prices are dependent on departure time, earlier is cheaper, but you have to wait in DC for the days events to begin. The trip is about 1½ to 1¾ hours.

St. Thomas the Apostle parish will be using Amtrak, so you may want to coordinate with them as well as you plan your day.

www.amtrak.com/home.html



**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-K friends are beginning to learn about the season of Advent, a special time filled with wonder, kindness, and excitement as we prepare for Christmas, the birthday of Jesus! Together, they are exploring the meaning of waiting with hopeful hearts—lighting candles, hearing simple stories, and talking about ways to show love and kindness each day. With

songs, crafts, and thoughtful moments, our little friends are discovering that Advent is not just about counting down the days, but about sharing joy and caring for others along the way.



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 7, 2025

WeShare eGiving	\$10,035.40
Envelope Offering	<u>\$13,483.50</u>
	\$23,518.90



“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!

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, 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 | |



Giving Hope to All





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.



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.



Assisted Hearing Devices

We have assisted hearing devices, which connect directly to the sound system. They are located inside the church, along side the wall to your left as you view the altar.

Easy to operate: the ear pieces are already attached. Just turn it on, a green light will blink and then remain on, adjust the volume.

Comments from satisfied users:

Wow - That is the first time in a long Time that I have heard everything at Mass.

**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.



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





Sunday Mass Intentions

- 7:30 AM Raymond Kitson
- 9:00 AM Dr. Lewis Centrella
- 11:00 AM Mark Andrew Weber
- 4:00 PM Barrett Childs

Saturday Vigil / Sunday Morning Third Sunday of Advent

Intention: *Missa pro populo (Mass for the people)*
 Reading: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10;
 Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Weekly Mass Schedule (Week of December 15 - December 19)

Monday 7:30 AM

Intention: Thomas Gilholl
 Reading: Num 24: 2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab; 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday 7:30 AM

Intention: Eileen Deneen Atkinson
 Reading: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday 7:30 AM

Intention: Guy Sileo
 Reading: Gen 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8,17;
 Mt 1:1-17

Thursday 7:30 AM

Penance Service 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Intention: Intentions of Melani and Zorel Cooray & Cooray Family
 Reading: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19;
 Mt 1:18-25

Friday 7:30 AM

Intention: Intentions of Monica DeZoysa
 Reading: Jdg 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25



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>.



TABERNACLE CANDLES

In memory of Mark A. Weber
 Req. By the Weber family

PILGRIM STATUE



- 12 - 14 - 2025 Debbie Brisgone
- 12 - 21 - 2025 Mary Chuchman
- 12 - 28 - 2025 Carla Santoleri

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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WWW.HeedTheCall.org

HEED THE CALL

Reflecting on God's Word

Joy is different from happiness. Happiness is a transient experience, but joy has more depth to it, more lasting roots. It can be independent of what is going on around us. In John's Gospel, the night before he died, Jesus says to his disciples that he wants his joy to be in them and their joy to be complete (John 15:11). And Paul writes to the Thessalonians: "Rejoice always" (2 Thessalonians 5:16).

Today's readings invite us to think about what brings us joy. Isaiah offers images of a world that will blossom or bloom, flowering into fullness. The prophet gives us wonderful images of dry, parched land suddenly breaking into a colorful display of new and abundant life.

This fullness also results from something being restored that had been lost or that was missing from the start: sight, hearing, being able to sing and leap with joy, health of body and spirit. Such fullness comes from God. It is gift, pure and simple.

God wants us to have this fullness of life, to be sure. It will come with the coming of the Lord. In the meantime, we are to wait patiently, not complaining, but

with hearts marked by certitude. We have assurance in that we have already been welcomed into the kingdom at our baptism. The rest is only a matter of time. In speaking of John as more than a prophet, Jesus concludes by saying, "Yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" (Matthew 11:11).

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

Patience, Hope, Joy

Gracious, merciful, and patient God, your generosity rewards our complaint. You reap a fruitful harvest when we plant only hardness of heart. Strengthen us in this season of hope, grant patience in troubled times, and lift our fearful hearts. As the farmer waits for the fruitful harvest and the desert anticipates abundant blossoms may we, too, be blessed with patient hearts as we approach the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

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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

