

St. Cornelius Parish

SUNDAY BULLETIN

December 21, 2025



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

Web: www.saintcornelius.org

Email: stcorn1@comcast.net

Facebook: Like us on Facebook

Msgr. David Diamond, Pastor

Deacons: Harry Morris • John Todor (Ret.)

Parish Council Members

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José Dominguez

Franca Felcher

Mary Jo Gordon

John Guest

Laurie Hays

Jon Lippard

Mary Rose Mitchell

Jerry O'Rourke

David Ripsom

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Pastoral & Administrative Assistant: Marie McGuigan

Office Manager: Douglas Kitson

Parish Religious Education Program: Abbie McCusker

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

IV Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

If ever there was to be an election held to vote for the worst King in Israel's ancient monarchy, Ahaz would be a top contender for the position. This King of Judah, husband of Jezebel, who himself has a reputation worse than terrible, tried to introduce pagan worship practices into the spiritual life of the Jewish people. He made an alliance with Syria in his effort to fight the Kingdoms of Israel and Aram this making himself subservient to others as a vassal to them. Devious, cheating, calculating and suspicious by nature he was not at all open to the intervention by the great Prophet Isaiah through whom God spoke.

In today's passage the conniving king makes a pretense of fidelity and trust by simulating a piety in which Ahaz presents himself as honest and trusting in God. In actual fact, this fraud had already struck a deal with the Syrians in a political and military alliance that he believed would save him and his family. Brother did he miscalculate.

Despite Ahaz' attempts at chicanery the prophet, ignoring the bogus posturing, announces the birth of Emmanuel – a word that means God is with us. Isaiah's sign is meant to give Ahaz confidence that he does not need to fear any foreign involvement. Isaiah is encouraging Ahaz to put his confidence in God which, of course, he has never done and is now quite incapable of doing.

The question then comes down to: Are you capable of depending on God and not relying exclusively on your own abilities, finances, electronic devices, influences, connections. I believe it was St. Ignatius of Loyola who advised: Work as if everything depends on you and pray as if everything depends on God, because it does. In a large part, because of what the nineteenth century sociologist Max Weber called the Protestant Work Ethic, our culture as Americans began to put more emphasis on the first part of Ignatius's assertion.

With all our so-called sophistication coupled with technological advances, the mystery in which we are involved seems somehow obscured. We have become all too reliant on our devices and ourselves to allow God to work in and through us. That is a great loss. The mystery we so casually call our lives can be missed and obscured. And we are masters of doing the obscuring and the missing, justifying ourselves with lame excuses and events that preoccupy our attention span and imagination which are both apparently shrinking each day. When was the last time you paused to simply look up at the sky and reflected on the immensity of creation as well as your own insignificance? And yet we are so significant that God Himself has entered time and space, becoming one like us in all things except sin.

We began this sacred season of Advent just a few short weeks ago. Think about how the time seems to have moved so quickly over these past weeks that now we stand on the threshold of Christmas. The question will soon be: Are you ready for Christmas? When asking that, people generally think of things like shopping, decorating, sending cards and wrapping gifts. How about spiritual preparation? Have you been to Confession? I know the practice of regular confession has lost popularity. Coming to confession once or twice a year isn't enough. If you were unable to attend the parish Penance opportunities. I encourage you to try and go to Confession before Christmas.

Faithfully,

Msgr. Diamond



*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel*



Advent Vespers with Benediction

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

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: Fr. Morrissey, O.S.F.S.

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



SNOW CLOSING

The safety of our children both in the Early Learning Center and PREP are of the utmost importance. Ice, sleet and snow can come at any time. We encourage you to monitor the weather from your home and use good judgement in determining your travel. While it is always good to gather for Mass each day, you should not feel obligated to risk your safety on days when weather conditions do not make it safe to travel.

It takes a big undertaking to clear the parking lot and have the pathways shoveled. Closing the Early Learning Center and canceling PREP allows our snow removal company to clean up the snow and restore our property to a safe and active place. If schools are closed ALL ACTIVITIES for the day and evening are canceled.

Remember - Safety comes First!!

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

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
klimming@scornelius.org
by December 16

AMPS

Association of Mature Parishioners

Alzheimer's Awareness

- Danielle DiGregorio

*Board Member of the
Alzheimer's Association*

Parish Life Center

Thursday January 15

Lunch provided at 11:30, talk
noon-1pm



Giving Hope to All



THE PARISH CHURCH
AND ITS FURNISHINGS
MANGER



A Christmas manger is a three-dimensional display of characters who populate the story of the Birth of Christ. It is also known as a crib or a crèche. St. Francis of Assisi originated the custom in the thirteenth century; it has been adopted by homes, churches, and even some public squares around the world.

A manger scene usually shows Mary and Joseph together with shepherds and Magi, all in reverent pose before the newborn Jesus, who lies in an animal feeding trough. Around them gather livestock—lambs, a cow, a donkey, and the camels that transported the Magi. An angel may hover above the scene, proclaiming “Glory to God in the highest.” Most of these figures can be traced to the Gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:18-2:12 and Luke 2:1-20), but the cow and donkey (or ox and ass) come from a prophecy in Isaiah 1:3. Some scenes are filled with more delightfully fanciful figures. In all, the manger proclaims that Christ was born for all—the wise and the poor, angels as well as animals.

The manger foreshadows the Eucharist because Jesus would give his Body and Blood for food. It also foreshadows the cross; in art, the crib and the swaddling clothes sometimes resemble a coffin and burial cloths.

When the manger is first erected, it may be blessed with prayers from the *Book of Blessings*, which are also found in *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*.

In a church, the manger is not supposed to occupy a place in the sanctuary, lest it block one’s view of the altar or ambo. Still, it is fitting to arrange the scene in a place where the faithful can come, look, and be inspired to praise God for the miracle of Christmas.

Written by Paul Turner



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



OPEN HOUSE

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**Sunday,
January 11th
2026**

10am-12pm

160 Ridge Road
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

- ✓ Tour the school
- ✓ Meet teachers
- ✓ Review curriculum
- ✓ Ask questions

For more info:
610-459-8663

Visit us:
scornelius.org

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, Parish Life Center**

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 narthex, below the large TV monitor, 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.

If you have any questions, please contact

Valerie Childs (610) 213-0515
and Vickie Gambino (317) 440-5210



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 14, 2025

The offertory for December 14, 2025 was not available at the time of printing.



*"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

Give a CRS CHRISTMAS GIFT

Give a gift of hope to your sisters and brothers around the world in honor of the Christmas season today.



Provide Family Security - \$250

Can't decide what gift to give? Give a Basket of Hope that provides family security. From a micro-finance training, a winterization kit and quality seed to mosquito nets and a flock of chickens, your gift can help a family thrive with a secure and sustainable income.

Refugee Bedding Kit - \$165.

Often, people in need do not know where they will sleep at night. A kit will provide 3 blankets and 3 mattresses, so a family can rest easy.

Winterization Kit - \$100.

Kits help families in sub-standard housing survive cold winters. They include blankets, heaters, insulation and tarps to reinforce roofs and keep people dry.

1 Lamb or Baby Goat - \$80.

A lamb or baby goat, when it matures, can be a daily source of nutritious milk. Livestock helps farm families increase their incomes and provide their children with well-rounded diets.

Prenatal Care - \$30.

Prenatal care for expectant mothers is critical to the survival of women and their babies. This care includes consultations, immunizations and weight monitoring to ensure babies are born safe and healthy

Welcome Kit -- \$40

After escape or rescue, a Welcome Kit can make trafficking survivors feel safe and at home once again. CRS works to prevent human trafficking worldwide and protect victims. Survivors receive psychosocial support and job training. Welcome Kits provide survivors with all the necessary items of home as soon as they arrive. Give human trafficking victims a welcome with hygiene items, clothes and bedding. Help a girl feel like herself again.

Follow the link below to see more ways you can bring change to those who need it most.

<https://gifts.crs.org>

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 **January 17, 2026**, 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.



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.



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.



Caring for Friends™

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





Church Contributions

Parishioners who would like a statement of their 2025 contributions must call the Parish Office during business hours at (610) 459-2502, or Email the office at stcorn1@comcast.net.



December contributions made using WeShare will be posted by January 15th, 2026.



**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-currant-memorial>.

HEED THE CALL



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WWW.HeedTheCall.org**

Sunday Mass Intentions

- 7:30 AM Dylan John Barmmer
- 9:00 AM Rose Marciano
- 11:00 AM Rose Lovell
- 4:00 PM Joanna Boznango

**Saturday Vigil / Sunday Morning
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Intention: *Missa pro populo (Mass for the people)*
Reading: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rm 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

**Weekly Mass Schedule
(Week of December 22 - December 26)**

Monday 7:30 AM

Intention: Karen Bergmann
Reading: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday 7:30 AM

Intention: Alex & Jennie Palovitch
Reading: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66



**Wednesday
Christmas Vigil**

4:00 PM ● 6:00 PM ● 8:00 PM ● 10:00 PM

Reading: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:18-25

**Thursday
Christmas**

**The Nativity of the Lord
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

Reading: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14



Friday 7:30 AM

Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr

Intention: Ditto Family
Reading: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Mt 10:17-22

TABERNACLE CANDLES

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

PILGRIM STATUE



- 12 - 21 - 2025 Mary Chuchman
- 12 - 28 - 2025 Carla Santoleri
- 01 - 04 - 2026 Open

The January - June 2026 dates are now available for you to sign up.

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

Reflecting on God’s Word

The Bible offers us a rich variety of men and women who qualify as heroes, warriors, prophets, and wise men and women. And every so often it places before us a dreamer. Jacob had the first big dream, with that ladder connecting heaven and earth, bearing ascending and descending angels.

His son Joseph started off with dreams that put himself at the center, much to his brothers’ chagrin, but later he saved himself by interpreting the dreams of others, including Pharaoh. However, the most important dreamer of all was Joseph, spouse of Mary and foster father to Jesus.

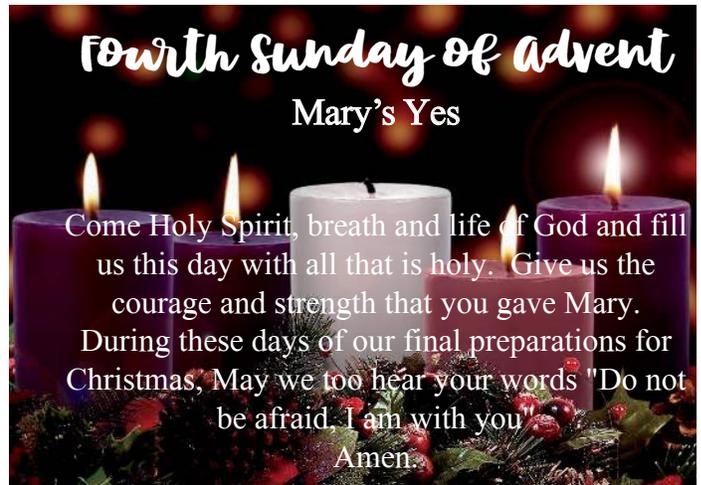
Joseph was asked to live out his dream. “Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her,” he was told in a dream (Matthew 1:20). And not only that, he was to name the child Jesus, which means “God saves.” What all this cost him we don’t know. All we hear is that when he awoke from the dream, he did what had been asked and took Mary into his home.

That wasn’t the end of the dreams. “Joseph, take the

mother and child into Egypt—Herod is trying to kill him.” “Joseph, take the mother and child out of Egypt—Herod is dead.” And Joseph did. Maybe once you begin to live God’s dream it gets easier.

God’s dream is that we live in the world as God’s adopted and saved children, working to bring God’s peace and justice, mercy and forgiveness into our world wherever they are needed.

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.



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BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE

Christmas is almost here! Have you blessed your Christmas tree yet?

According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing.

In the home the Christmas tree may be blessed by a parent or another family member, in connection with the evening meal on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time on Christmas Day.



When all have gathered, a suitable song may be sung.

[The leader makes the sign of the cross, and all reply "Amen."]

[The leader may greet those present in the following words]

Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever.

R/. Amen.

My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

[One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, **Titus 3:4 (lines 4-7)** or **Ezekiel 17:22 (lines 22-24 4; I will plant a tender shoot on the mountain heights of Israel.)**]

Reader: *The Word of the Lord.*

R/. Thanks be to God.

[The intercessions are then said. The leader says]

Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord.

R/. Lord, give light to our hearts. That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

That the joy of Christmas may always be in our homes, let us pray to the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

[After the intercessions the leader invites all present to say the Lord's Prayer. *Our Father who aren't in heaven...*]

[The leader says the prayer with hands joined]

*Lord our God,
we praise you for the light of creation:*

the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

The lights of the tree are then illuminated. The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:

May the God of glory fill our hearts with peace and joy, now and forever.

R/. Amen.

[The blessing concludes with a verse from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"]

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadow put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

—From *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*



"Mary said,
"Behold, I am
the handmaid of
the Lord. May
it be done to
me according to
your word."
—LK 1-38

