



St. Cornelius Parish

SUNDAY BULLETIN

January 4, 2026

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

Michael Brisgone

José Dominguez

Franca Felcher

Mary Jo Gordon

John Guest

Laurie Hays

Jon Lippard

Mary Rose Mitchell

Jerry O'Rourke

David Ripsom

Business Manager: David Bauer, CPA

Pastoral & Administrative Assistant: Marie McGuigan

Office Manager: Douglas Kitson

Parish Religious Education Program: Abbie McCusker

Director of Music: Margie Melchior

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

January 4, 2026

The Epiphany of the Lord

The great (an understatement) Irish author James Joyce is often credited with using the literary technique of epiphany in his stories and novels. He was among the first to invest this word with a secular meaning; which, if you know anything about Joyce and his appreciation for the Faith is not surprising. Although I have recently read an article that Joyce did not abandon the faith fully. He liked to consider himself more Jesuit than Catholic and his stories are replete with references to both the Jesuits and the Catholic faith. The epiphany in literary usage indicates a sudden revelation, a startling understanding that falls upon a character. Flannery O'Connor was to use epiphany in her stories as well. Her utilization of the technique involved the sudden movement of Grace on a character who may not initially be disposed to receive it.

Our celebration of Epiphany is the revelation that God has now given to the Gentiles, in the persons of the Magi, the knowledge of the birth of the Savior and that the opportunity for salvation extends to all humanity. Traditionally these three wise men, so numbered because of their gifts, represent all humanity. They draw closer to the Christ because they see the light from the star. Much has been written about the actuality of the confluence of celestial events that would produce the heavenly display that the magi used as their guide. On a spiritual level, they were drawn to the Light who is Jesus. The circumstances of their finding the child lead them in a way that they probably did not understand. Matthew goes to great lengths to tell the reader that not only has God revealed Himself to them: God has been given them the Grace of this revelation and protected them in their travels and from the evil machinations of the wicked King Herod.

We too have met the Christ and received His Grace. Not the child of Bethlehem, not Jesus in the Public ministry. We have met the Christ and received His Grace in our recent celebration of Christmas. We have met the Christ in the family and friends with whom we have been blessed to share the Love God has for us. We have met the Christ in the poor and less fortunate to whom we have extended our charity. We have met the Christ in the forgiveness of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We have met the Christ in the reception of Holy Communion.

In Matthew's Gospel the Magi are among the many people who meet Jesus. Because of that meeting they are changed. The change for them may appear to be simply a change in the route they take to return to their own homes. Traditionally the Magi represent all the people who will meet Jesus in the Public Ministry. When Jesus meet people, they are changed. Some for the better because they listen to His words – the words of the Word. Some are changed for the worse because they either do not listen or choose to reject Him and His word. The English word obey comes from the Latin word *obedire*. The Latin means to listen to heed. Many adults think that obedience is something that children alone need to practice. Adults would benefit from being obedient as well. We should practice obedience, which occasionally means that we need to change. St. John Henry Newman, Doctor of the Church, said: To live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often.

At the end of the story of the Magi in St. Matthew's Gospel we are told that because of God's intervention they choose a different route to return home. What will be different about our journeys now that we have met the Christ? How will we be different because of the Grace of this Holy Season? When we receive an epiphany, when Christ's presence is made known to us, may we respond with the courage needed to live as he calls us to live. That will, in all probability, require that we go a different way; different from the way of the world. Having met the Christ may we have the courage to go a different way – to go His way.

Faithfully,

Msgr. Diamond

**THE LITURGICAL
YEAR AND SEASONS
EPIPHANY ON SUNDAY**

On many calendars, Epiphany falls on January 6, but the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates it on whatever date Sunday falls during the week of January 2.

Epiphany means “manifestation,” and it celebrates the day that the infant Jesus revealed his divinity to the Magi. Traditionally, this event is connected with two others from the Gospels: the Baptism of Jesus and the Wedding at Cana. In all these events, the mystery of Christ became more manifest. The Magi, coming from the East, signify that gentile nations—not just Jewish nations—were coming to recognize Jesus as the savior of the world.

The Bible does not indicate on what day the magi visited—nor, for that matter, on what day Jesus was born. January 6 was probably chosen for this observance as an alternative for early Christians living in a culture where pagans already commemorated the birth of a sun god on the same day.

The day, the twelfth day of Christmas, gave rise to a host of customs, as well as a popular Christmas Carol (*Four calling birds, Three French hens, Two turtle doves, etc., etc*)

The biblical event is so important that the Catholic Church lists Epiphany among the solemnities that may be designated holydays of obligation. Episcopal conferences determine local holydays, and in the United States, January 6 was never included. In any country where Epiphany is not a holyday of obligation, the observance moves to a Sunday so that it may be celebrated by the entire Catholic community.

The transfer of Epiphany to a Sunday has the disadvantage of dividing the celebration among various Christian Churches of the world, but the advantage of helping the entire Catholic community proclaim and celebrate the meaning of coming of Christ.

Written by Paul Turner.



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

Agnes Ann LoSasso

*Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord.
May she rest in peace.*

**First Sunday
Coffee**



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, January 4.**

Nick Cappelli of Suburban Food Service is again supplying us with the caffeine, cocoa and tea. Both the women of **Walking With Purpose** and the men of **That Man Is You** will be spreading holiday cheer with their tasty Christmas treats! . Please join us after Mass with your fellow parishioners.

See you there!!

Holy Hour - Join Us!
Monday, January 5, 8:00 am



After the 7:30 Mass, the Pro-Life Group is hosting a Holy Hour. We will pray a rosary for the unborn, and an end to abortion. We will also pray the Miraculous Medal Novena for the unborn. There will be time for silent prayer. The hour will close at approximately 9:00 am.

Look for this event monthly on the first Monday of the month.

**The Epiphany of the Lord
January 4, 2026**



*Rise up in splendor
Jerusalem! Your light has
come, the glory of the Lord
shines upon you.*

Isaiah 60:1

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?



Christmas Season 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!

PARISH SERVICES



AMPS

Association of Mature Parishioners

The Impact of Alzheimer's and Dementia in Our Community!

- Dr. Danielle DiGregorio

Today, more than 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and more than 12 million are their unpaid caregivers - an escalating health crisis that affects many in our community. Join us for a brief informative program to learn about the impact of the disease, local resources and ways you can join the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

Parish Life Center
Thursday January 15

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

RETRouvaille

A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of **February 6-8, 2026** at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, call 215-766-3944 or visit www.MarriageHelpDelVal.org.

All inquiries are strictly confidential.



Giving Hope to All





PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

Saint Cornelius Parish

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

Our religious education students recently visited Naamans Creek Country Manor to share the joy of the Christmas season by singing beloved Christmas carols for the residents. Their cheerful voices, warm smiles, and heartfelt spirit filled the halls with music and meaning, bringing comfort and happiness to everyone who listened. The residents were touched by the children’s kindness and enthusiasm, many singing along. This special visit was a beautiful reminder of the true meaning of the season—sharing love, faith, and joy with others.



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 AMTRAK® 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



YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS Working in Witness for Christ™

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

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

Young Catholic Professionals mission is to challenge, train, and inspire young adults working in various professional careers to work in witness for Christ. For more information go to our local Philadelphia website at

www.ycphiladelphia.org/cpages/home



Giving Hope to All





St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

OPEN HOUSE

SAINT CORNELIUS EARLY LEARNING CENTER
Building a foundation in faith and education.

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



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 21, 2025

WeShare eGiving	\$7,057.40
Envelope Offering	<u>\$13,191.00</u>
	\$20, 248.40

The offertory for December 28, 2025 was not available at the time of printing.



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

Luke 12:34



St. Cornelius Giving Tree

Thank you for your generous support of the 2025 Saint Cornelius Giving Tree!

We collected over \$16,200 in gift cards for all 7 charities: St. Cornelius Ministry of Caring, Catholic Social Services, Mothers’ Home in Darby, Mary Mother of Hope Houses in Wilmington, St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Peter the Apostle Parishes in Phila. Everyone was extremely grateful for the generosity of our Faith Community during these difficult economic times.

Through the new year please pray for the recipients of your generosity; they are all children of God who are working hard to overcome extraordinary challenges in their lives.

The Giving Tree Committee wishes everyone a Blessed Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year! God Bless!

Our Pre-K friends are getting ready for Christmas with excitement and joy throughout our classrooms. The children are busy creating festive crafts, singing cheerful Christmas songs, and listening to stories that help them understand the meaning of this special season. As they count down the days, our little friends are practicing kindness, sharing, and generosity while celebrating the magic and joy that Christmas brings.

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



CRS NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

The Projected Toll of Funding Cuts: A rigorous study published in The Lancet estimates that more than 14 million lives could be lost over the next five years due to cuts in U.S. assistance — including 4.5 million children under age 5. At least 95 million people are projected to lose access to lifesaving nutrition, maternal care, vaccinations, and treatment for diseases like malaria and HIV.

88 deaths every hour. That’s the current pace, according to Boston University’s analysis. Without urgent action, the toll will keep rising. Families displaced by conflict, children facing hunger, and communities recovering from disaster are all at risk. Save Lives: Your Support, Their Survival is Catholic Relief Services’ urgent response to an unprecedented global funding crisis that threatens millions. As humanitarian aid declines, CRS is mobilizing private support to sustain lifesaving programs that provide food, water, shelter and health care to vulnerable communities. Save Lives calls for compassion, courage and action — empowering individuals to stand in solidarity with our most vulnerable sisters and brothers around the world. Please visit www.crs.org/save-lives for more information!

All Tracked Programs

Deaths caused by Funding Discontinuation		Deaths Per Hour
124,377	258,673	88
Adult Deaths	Child Deaths	Deaths

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 | |

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

Natalie Gallen, Doris Wysocki, Kathy Coleman, Kara Ulatowski, James M. Sullivan, Jim & Kathy Buckley, Brian Buckley, Judy & Ed Field, Tom Eno, Luke Post, Nancy Cunningham, Andrea Bate-man, Bernice & Arthur Hindle, Joan Car- rington, 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 Con- solation 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.

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 prayerful- ly 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



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.

Meal Packing Event Returns!

Registration is now open!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, February 28** when we once again "return to the tables" as a parish community to help fill the food gap that so many face in our world.

If you haven't participated in this event in previous years, I encourage you to view the slides from last year and see the great work, and fun, that is enjoyed by everyone.



Scan the QR code below or follow the link to view the slides from our 2024 event and to register for this year's Meal Packing. You can also view the instructional video that can provide insight to the fun and good work that is accomplished.



<https://www.saintcornelius.org/meal-packing-event>



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





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>.

Sunday Mass Intentions

7:30 AM Deacon Clement C. McGovern
9:00 AM Gino Fala
11:00 AM Bishop Herbet A. Bevard
4:00 PM Agnes Soltner

Saturday Vigil / Sunday Morning The Epiphany of the Lord

Intention: *Missa pro populo (Mass for the people)*
Reading: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13;
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Weekly Mass Schedule (Week of January 5 - January 9)

Monday 7:30 AM

Memorial of St. John Neumann, Bishop

Intention: Trish Hazzard
Reading: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a;
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday 7:30 AM

Intention: Arthur McGuigan
Reading: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8;
Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday 7:30 AM

Intention: Maureen Wydra
Reading: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13;
Mk 6:45-52

Thursday 7:30 AM

Intention: Marian & William Fuller
Reading: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17;
Lk 4:14-22

Friday 7:30 AM

Intention: John Moffa
Reading: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20;
Lk 5:12-16

TABERNACLE CANDLES

In memory of Raymond C. Schwab, III
Requested by the Schwab family

PILGRIM STATUE

01 - 04 - 2026 Open
01 - 11 - 2026 Peggy Vinnacombe
01 - 18 - 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.



HEED THE CALL

VOCATION OFFICE FOR
DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD

Visit our website
WWW.HeedTheCall.org

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were men in love with the lights of night—astrologers, star-gazers, meaning-makers tuned in to the signs in the heavens, as Matthew tells it. A strange star moving across the sky led them into Israel. Arriving in Jerusalem, they asked where the newborn king of the Jews was, so they could offer homage.

Herod was less than delighted, indeed “greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him,” at hearing of a new king on the block (Matthew 2:3). But he assembled the chief priests and the scribes, who remembered that the prophet Micah had proclaimed that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

So they set out again, with Herod’s duplicitous request whispered into their ears. The star reappeared and led them to the house where the child and his mother were. Falling down in worship, they offered gifts, and went back home. End of story—as we like to remember it.

Of course, that is not the end. Receiving no word, Herod is enraged and orders the death of all children un-

der the age of two. Joseph, Mary, and the child flee to Egypt. Power does not welcome competition, even in the form of a child.

But God wills all people to know salvation. Jesus came to draw all into the reign of God and to empower them to live the God-life that is the Father’s gift. The darkness of evil continues to threaten but it will not overcome as long as there are those who seek the light, follow it, and allow it to lead them to the child.

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.



EWTN.COM/RADIO



EWTN | Global Catholic Radio **TUNE IN**

S&D MECHANICAL
PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING SERVICES
 Established 1985
 sdmechanical.com
 610.485.4173

10% DISCOUNT FOR PARISHIONERS ON ANY PLUMBING HEATING OR COOLING SERVICE

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Angelica Marciel

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Avery Murphy

COME OVER TO OUR BANK!
 FOR ALL YOUR BANKING NEEDS!

Competitive rates on Home Equity Loans.
 Convenient hours: M.-W. Th. Fr. Sat.
 9-4 9-5 9-6 10-1

100 Ridge Road, Chadds Ford -- 610-361-8790
 3333 Concord Road, Aston -- 610-497-1800
 3 State Road, Media -- 610-565-7044

IRON WORKERS BANK
 FOUNDED 1879

Member FDIC
 www.iwsb.com

Funeral and Cremation Services Since 1892

Licensed in Pennsylvania
 Delaware & Maryland

CHANDLER
 FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORY

(302) 478-7100
 chandlerfuneralhome.com





Diocesan is proud to be printing
St. Cornelius' Sunday Bulletin



You are invited to help support our Parish!
For opportunities to advertise, please call 800-994-9817

ERNS BROTHERS TREE SERVICE
Pruning • Removal • Stumps • Insect & Disease Control • Landscaping & Hardscaping
7 CERTIFIED ARBORISTS ON STAFF
(302) 475-0466 Since 1973 (302) 764-8666

BRANDYWINE VALLEY HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, Inc.
"Comfort With Care"
Celebrating Over 25 Years
610-692-3900
www.bvhvac.com

Concordville Town Centre Dental
Comprehensive Dental Services for the Whole Family
Dr. Douglas A Filidore
Dr. Matthew J. Miller
610-459-3644
www.concordvilledental.com
Concordville Town Centre
Routes 1 and 322
Glenn Mills, PA

ADVERTISE HERE
Promote your Business AND support your Parish.
Michelle Stehman ~ 717-774-8833
mstehman@diocesan.com

catholicmatch® Pennsylvania
CatholicMatch.com/goPA

KW COMMERCIAL KELLERWILLIAMS.
Brenda Romeus Cell: (215) 910-1227
PA Office: (610) 399-5100 | brendar@kwcommercial.com
DE Office: (302) 299-1100 | www.brendaromeus.com
Serving Residential & Commercial Clients
Licensed in PA, DE, MD & NY
276 Dilworthtown Rd West Chester PA 19382 • 1521 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803
PA-RS#352345 Each office is independently owned and operated.

FATHER + DAUGHTER PAINTING LLC
INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING
Wallpaper Removal • Deck Sealing
Drywall Repair • Kitchen Cabinet Painting
Power Washing • Exterior Metal Painting (Fences, Metal Porch)
484-848-4599 • fdpaint9@gmail.com

Pagano Funeral Home
3711 Foulk Rd. Garnet Valley, PA 19060
Across from Booth's Corner Farmers Market
PA: 610-485-6200 Peter B. Pagano, Jr., Owner/Supervisor



PULLMAN PLUMBING, INC.
Complete Plumbing Services
Toilet and Leaks Repaired
Drain Cleaning • Well Systems
(610) 558-3338 - (302) 475-1316

OLIVER
Comfort You Can Trust
Serving the Delaware Valley since 1971
Joe Oliver, Founder Member of Parish
484-477-4032 • OliverHeatCool.com

WORTHRIGHT & GAINES LLC
BUSINESS LAW • WILLS • ESTATES
610-897-0800 | www.worthrightlaw.com
Dec. - Jan. - Feb. Specials
\$500 per Will or \$350 each for Husband & Wife Wills

Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.
Simply go to **www.DM.CHURCH/3468**
...or scan 
DISCOVERMASS

DIOCESAN ▶ To Advertise 1-800-994-9817 Online at Diocesan.com/Business VISA 3468

The Businesses listed above make this bulletin possible.
Please support them when you can.

Sign up to get our bulletin in your email each week. Go to DiscoverMass.com/subscribe

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

POPE FRANCIS
Saint Peter's Square
Friday, 6 January 2023



Dear brothers and sisters, Buongiorno and Happy Feast Day!

Today, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, the Gospel speaks to us about the Magi who, arriving in Bethlehem, open their [treasure] chests and offer gold, incense and myrrh to Jesus (cf. Mt 2:11). These wise men from the East are famous because of the gifts they offered. Considering their story, however, we could say that, above all, they receive three gifts. They received three gifts, three precious gifts that regard us as well. They give gold, incense and myrrh, but what are the three gifts they received?

The first gift is the gift of the call. The Magi were not alerted because they had read the Scriptures or because they had seen a vision of angels, but they sensed it while they were studying the stars. This tells us something important: God calls us through our aspirations and our greatest desires. The Magi allowed themselves to be amazed and inconvenienced by the novelty of the star, and they set out on a journey towards the unknown. Educated and wise, they were fascinated more by what they did not know than by what they already knew. They opened themselves to what they did not know. They felt called to go beyond. They did not feel happy remaining there; they felt called to go beyond. This is important for us as well. We are called not to settle, to seek the Lord by stepping out of our comfort zone, journeying towards him with others, immersing ourselves in reality. For God calls every day, here and now. God calls us, each one of us, every day. He calls us here and he calls us today, in our world.

But the Magi speak to us about a second gift: discernment. Seeing that they are looking for a king, they go to Jerusalem to speak with King Herod, who, however, is a power-hungry man and wants to use them to eliminate the baby Messiah. But the Magi do not allow themselves to be fooled by Herod. They know how to distinguish between the goal of their journey and the temptations they find along the way. They could have remained there in Herod's court, serene. No, they move ahead. They leave Herod's palace and, attentive to the sign from God, do not pass that way

again, but return by another route (cf. v. 12). Brothers and sisters, how important it is to know how to distinguish life's goal from the temptations along the way! Our goal in life is one thing, the temptations on the way are another. To know how to renounce that which seduces but leads down an ugly road, to understand and to choose God's ways! Discernment is a great gift and we should never tire of asking for it in prayer. Let us ask for this grace! Lord, grant us the ability to discern what is good from what is evil, what is better from what is not better.

Finally, the Magi speak to us about a third gift: the surprise. After a long journey, what do these high-ranking men in society find? A baby with his mother (cf. v. 11): certainly, a tender scene, but not astonishing! They do not see the angels like the shepherds did, but they meet God in poverty. Perhaps they were expecting a powerful and prodigious Messiah, and they find a baby. And still, they do not think they made a mistake; they know how to recognize him. They welcome God's surprise and experience their encounter with him with amazement, adoring him — in his littleness, they recognize God's face. Humanly, we are all inclined to seek greatness, but it is a gift to know how to truly find it — to know how to find greatness in the littleness that God loves so much. For the Lord is encountered like this: in humility, in silence, in adoration, in the small and in the poor.

Brothers and sisters, we are all called — the first gift: the call — by Jesus; we can all discern — the second gift: discernment — discern his presence; we can all experience his surprises — the third gift: the surprise. Today, it would be beautiful to remember these gifts: the call, discernment and the surprise, gifts that we have already received — to think back to when we sensed God's call in our life; or even when, perhaps after quite a struggle, we succeeded in discerning his voice; or even still, an unforgettable surprise he gave us, astounding us. May Our Lady help us remember and treasure the gifts received.

