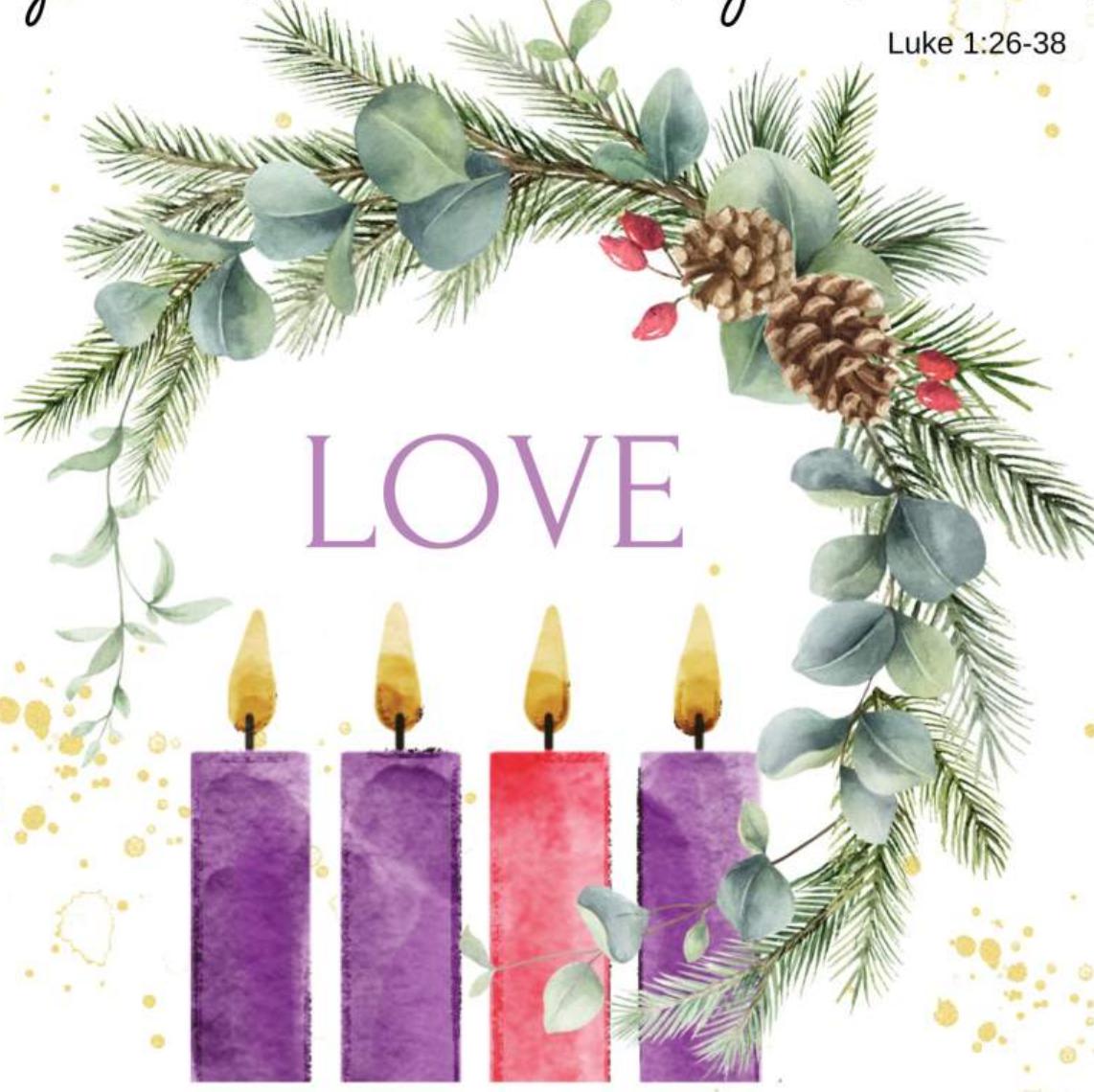


Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to Your word.

Luke 1:26-38



LOVE



**Sacred Heart Parish
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023**

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838 Walnut Street
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Fax: (610) 948-0573

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Reverend Christopher Cooke,
Weekend Assistant
David Kubczak, Deacon

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religioused@sacredheartroyersford.org

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

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christine.klag@sacredheartroyersford.org

BULLETIN

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Saturday Vigil: 4:15 PM
Sunday: 8 AM and 10 AM
Daily Mass: 8 AM (M-Sat)
Rosary Recitation: 7:30 AM (M-Sat)

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Monday - Saturday, at 7:30 AM
Saturday at 3 PM and by
appointment by calling
(610) 948-5915.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Christmas gathers us in the company of our loved ones, in order to remember and thus participate in this great event of the Nativity of Jesus Christ in a sense of love, trust, and security.

Jesus Christ, the Most Holy Redeemer, came to give man the certainty that he is loved, that he is needed.

Remembering this historic event on this Great Family Feast, we wish to immerse ourselves in this Great Mystery of God's Love for man. We do it only so that at least a little of what happened there would become our share.

Therefore, you rejoice in this great joy that the Prince of Peace, of Justice has been announced

"... He was born to us..."

I dare to make such ordinary and simple wishes:

May Peace and Trust be ours.

Let Love be our experience every day.

May the feeling that we are needed never leave us.

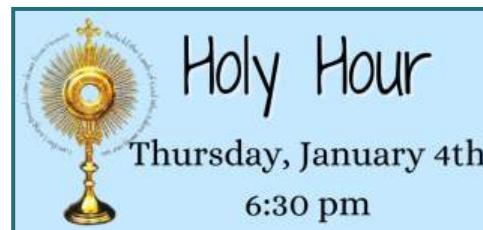
And above all, God bless us,

To share all this with those who lack it every day.

To all of you and your families, I extend the greetings of each of us here at Sacred Heart. Know that each of you is in our prayers and thoughts this holy season, and our wish is that your hearts may know the joy of the presence of the Newborn King. May the Virgin Mary and her Infant Son, Jesus, the King of Peace, fill your hearts and lives and homes with abundant blessings at Christmas and throughout the New Year!

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Grace-filled New Year!

Rev. Tadeusz Gorka



Please consider in your heart to spend
Holy Hour with us in January.
If you have never been to a Holy Hour, come
with a friend and follow along! It will all be
familiar to you and I encourage you to
experience it.

Deacon Thoughts with Dave

Those who first followed Jesus encountered God and God's presence in a new way through his human presence. Jesus was, for them - and is for us - the sacrament of God. In Jesus, we encounter God and God's presence. Jesus is the one great sacrament through which all other sacraments make sense.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:1, 14)

Tomorrow, we will be celebrating Christmas, the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Ponder and reflect on the greatest gift God has given to us, Jesus our Lord and Savior. Jesus, the Word made flesh, who offered his life freely on the cross for our sins and the sins of the whole world, so that one day, we may be called to our eternal home in heaven that awaits us, and has been prepared for us by Jesus.

Wishing all of you, and your families,
a Blessed and Merry Christmas. Deacon Dave

December Decade-A-Day Rosary Group
Prayer Intentions

For the month of December,
we pray for peace on earth as
we celebrate the birth of our
Lord, Jesus Christ.

May this Christmas season bring you moments of reflection, gratitude and love. Let us remember the true meaning of Christmas and cherish the time we have with our loved ones. From all of us at the Parish Office, we wish you a blessed and joyous Christmas!



Please pray for the sick of our parish and those that care for them.

Kevin Schurr, Steven DiGuiseppe, Garrett Rogers, John Slanga, Kitty Heebner, Baby Briana, Tara Clarke, Aria Gessner, Dan Dordea, John Hoff, Max Good, Johanna McLaughlin, Helen Gallagher, Dex Volpe, Eileen Barone, Hank Edleman, Alex Stadelmaier, Jake Dailey, James McManus, Lauri Ronan, John Durante, Cecelia Ricci, Charlotte Cody, John Breslawski, Ed Reynolds, Steve Curril, Jackie Zabicki, Alyson Layser, Charles Crowder, Keith Garnett, Grace Giuffre, Patricia Berner, Elizabeth, Caroline, and Tommy Cummings, Orville Otis, Nancy McNamara, Patricia McMinn, Anna, Mary Jane Durante, Josephine, Madison D'Annunzio, Casey Glennon, the Gonzalez Family, Jimmy D'Annunzio, Annalies Frisco, Taylor O'Neill, Marissa and Enzo Fuentes, Mike Mehle, Genevieve Tuski, Deirdre Magolon, Rosemary Buchanan, Adrienne Eisenhauer, Doug Dunn, Moira Randazzo, Jim Bob and Barbara McEwen, Andrea and Jim McManus, Connie Udicious, Maureen Yust, Alfred DePaoli, Susan Krepps, and all the sick and suffering of the parish.

We pray that God will bless you all with His healing hand.

When your loved one recovers, please notify the Parish Office so we can offer a prayer of thanks!

Mass Intentions

MON, Dec 25		The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas
8:30 AM	-	
10:30 AM	-	
TUES, Dec 26		Saint Stephen - The First Martyr
8:00 AM	Michael Gorman	Requested by Cousins, Mary and Ann
WED, Dec 27		Saint John - Apostle and Evangelist
8:00 AM	Colleen Murray	Requested by Shannon Dougherty Meyer
THUR, Dec 28		The Holy Innocents - Martyrs
8:00 AM	Special Intention	
FRI, Dec 29		Saint Thomas Becket - Bishop and Martyr
8:00 AM	Special Intention	
SAT, Dec 30		
8:00 AM	Annie (DePietropaolo) DePaoli	Requested by the Children of Martin and Anne DePaoli
4:15 PM	Charles "Chick" Kieffer	Requested by Sharon Rossetti
SUN, Dec 31		The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
8:00 AM	Daniel and Rita Mesaros	Requested by Dan and Christine, and Family
10:00 AM	Dylan Unruh	Requested by Edwin and Vvallj Unruh
4:15 PM	Daria Riesberg	Nancy, Lynne, and Dani Kushner



Please Pray For Those Serving In The Military

U.S. AIR FORCE

Airman Nicholas Dougherty
Airman Nathan Hennessey
1st Lt. Daniel Jucker
2nd Lt. Kira Zeller

U.S. AIR FORCE SPECIAL FORCES

Captain Ian Gardocki

U.S. ARMY

Private Samuel Burns
2nd Lt. Nicholas Gardocki
SSG Daniel A. Manildo
2nd Lt. Michael McCormick
Tom Miller; National Guard



U.S. MARINE CORPS

Sergeant Justin Solorio

U.S. Navy

Marty Miller; Seabees
PO2 Ryan Wheaton

Saint Devotions

Dec 26 - *St. Stephen*

We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of the first martyr who looked up to heaven and prayed for his persecutors to Your Son Jesus Christ, who stands at Your right hand, where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Dec 27 - *St. John*

Merciful Lord, we beseech Thee to cast Thy bright beams of light upon Thy Church, that it being enlightened by the doctrine of Thy blessed Apostle and Evangelist Saint John may so walk in the light of Thy truth, that it may at length attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Dec 29 - *St. Thomas Becket*

O God, for the sake of whose Church the glorious Bishop Thomas fell by the sword of ungodly men: grant, we beseech Thee, that all who implore his aid, may obtain the good fruit of his petition.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.



December's prayer intentions are for
Deacon Dave Kubczak.



A candle burns this week next to the
Blessed Virgin Mary statue

for **Clara and John Murray**

Requested by Daughter, Eileen and Family



A candle burns this week next to the
Saint Joseph statue

for **Justin Jay Wilson**

Requested by His Loving Mom Mom



A candle burns this week next to the
Holy Family

for **Mr. and Mrs. Joseph DePaoli**

Requested by Son, Alfred and Family



A candle burns this week next to
the Divine Mercy image

In Memory of
Our Beloved Daughter, Charmagne

Requested by Mom and Dad

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April 5 - 7th 2024
Fr. Stephen De Lacy
Fr. Dermot Roache
Kathleen McCarthy
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"Those who sincerely say 'Jesus, I trust in You' will find comfort from all their anxieties and fears." St. Pope John Paul II



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or Call: (610) 644-0400

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\$275 in-person & \$75 for virtual!

"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle."
-St. Francis

Take the time to light a candle today and think of Francis' words, "where there is darkness let me bring light." Who in your life could use hope amidst their despair? Pray for them as you watch the flame.



FAMILY HOLY HOUR

FOR VOCATIONS

Feast of St. John Neumann

St. Aloysius Church
223 Beech St, Pottstown
Fri. Jan 5, 2004 at 7:00 pm

Celebrate the Feast of St. John Neumann with a Holy Hour for Vocations. Come and pray for our children and their vocations. All ages welcome. If you are able, please bring a snack to share afterwards.

ATTENTION ALL MEN!!!
You are **summoned** to join us on the 2024 Men's Retreat

St. Francis de Sales Men's Retreat 2024
"Are You Man Enough to be Christ-like" with facilitator **Deacon Tom Phillips** of SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA, Limerick, PA

March 1st – 3rd, 2024
Sacred Heart Spirituality Center
Newton, NJ
arrive between 5-7pm the evening of 3/1

Submit completed form and payment to parish office by **February 23rd** to:
St. Francis de Sales, PO Box 785, McAfee, NJ 07428
ATTN: Pam McCann

or via St. Francis de Sales website.
www.osvhub.com/st-francis-vernon/forms/men-s-retreat-2024

Mail the following information with payment BY FEBRUARY 23rd. Or use the link above.

Name, Address, Phone, Email Address
Is this your retreat with us? Y/N

Please consider donating a small amount to help support men with financial difficulties that hope to experience the retreat:
\$5 \$10 \$15 \$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 \$_____ other

The Emmaus Men's Group
Our Hearts Were Alive



A well-known story about St. John the Evangelist relates how someone tried to kill him by poisoning a goblet of wine from which he was to drink. The Apostle blessed the wine and the poison slithered out in the form of a snake.

Hence, a common parish tradition on St. John's feast day (December 27th) is the blessing of wine. The blessed wine is known as "St. John's Love" due to the great love that St. John had for Our Lord. We see this love in St. John's Gospel, where he often speaks of God's love. John 3:16 reads: "For God so loved the world that He sent His only Son, that whoever believes in Him might have eternal life." Again, in John's recounting of the Last Supper, he says: "...having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them unto the end." St. John himself was the only Apostle to stay with Our Lord throughout His entire Passion and death.

"St. John's Love" is traditionally shared by families on the feast and on days of festivity or need throughout the year. They may add a bit to all the wine in the family wine cellar. Newly-married couples traditionally have a sip after the wedding Mass, and the sick and dying partake as well.



Christmastime in the Catholic Church falls between two major Christian Feasts:

the Nativity on Christmas Day and Epiphany (Jan 6), which is celebrated on the Sunday after January 6 at Mass in the U.S. Catholic Church. (Jan 7, 2024 this year).

What that means is, on December 25th, when we celebrate Christmas, we are *JUST* beginning the Christmas Season in the Catholic Church!

The **Octave of Christmas** includes the eight days between Christmas Day and January 1, which is both the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, and New Year's Day.

When we sing "**The 12 Days of Christmas**", the song is referring to the 12 days between Christmas Day and Epiphany. The "12 Days" likely had pre-Christian roots, though the term was likely adapted to fit the Church calendar in celebration of the Nativity. Tradition also holds that the Three Kings' journey to meet the baby Jesus was twelve days.

And that brings us to **Epiphany**. Epiphany is the celebration of the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God - here on earth with us. The feast is also known as "Three Kings Day," the day the Magi visited Jesus in Bethlehem.





Attention PREP Families: NO CLASSES December 24 and 31 for our **Winter Break**. Class resumes on Jan 7th.

Supporting THOSE WITH MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES

A Workshop for Parish Leaders, Family Members and Friends

St. Cecilia Parish Auditorium

535 Rhawn Street Philadelphia, PA 19111

Cost: \$25 per person. Morning coffee and lunch is included.

Presenter: Dave Eckert, MDiv, CPRP Director of Intersect Network

Saturday, January 27, 2024. 9:15 AM - 2:30 PM

(Snow date: February 3)

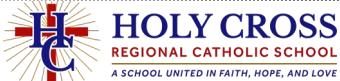
Mass available at 8:30 am

Register Here: <https://archphila.org/support/>



Other News and Events

- **Martin Saints Classical High School Open House:** January 28th, 2024, 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Martin Saints is a private Catholic high school currently located in Oreland, PA and moving to the campus of St. Titus parish in East Norriton in Summer 2024. As a member of the Chesterton Schools Network, MSC provides a rigorous, integrated curriculum taught through the lens of the Catholic faith. Come and visit us to learn more. 3006 Keenwood Road, East Norriton, PA 19403.
Register: www.whymsc.org/admission/#events
- **Pray For My Priest:** *Adopt a Philadelphia Priest Today!* We seek to provide each priest with a Spiritual Mother, who will commit to anonymously adopt him and pray for him and his vocation as long as she lives. In the spirit of holy detachment, the spiritual mother knows who her priest son is; however, he will not know her identity until her death. The form can be found at: stmariagoretti.net/spiritual-motherhood/. Questions: Rosemary Doyle at rdoyle@comcast.net, 215-368-5875 or Maria Richardson at marichar@comcast.net, 215-721-6559
- **Come & See Discernment Opportunities:** Online and in person for men who are considering a vocation. Visit the St. Charles Borromeo Seminary to see what seminary life is like and explore a possible call to the priesthood. To register, go to: heedthecall.org/comeandsee, or contact Fr. Friel, Vocation Director: fr.dfriel@archphila.org. **High School Men:** Jan 20-21, 2024.
- **St. Patrick's All Year Reunion:** March 23, 2024, 6 - 10 PM. Embassy Room. 1489 DeKalb Pike, Blue Bell. \$50 per person includes roast beef, meatballs, penne, dessert, beer and soda. Bring your own wine!
Reserve Your Ticket: Santangelob1@verizon.net and mail checks to: Barbara Santangelo 1202 W. Elm St. Norristown, PA 19401.
- **Hope in Christ: Spiritual Support for Addiction:** archphila.org/hope10
- **Events for Teens:** [https://phillyomy.org/events/](http://phillyomy.org/events/)
- **Young Adult Groups & Events:** phillyyam.org/events



We Celebrate Christmas at Holy Cross



Our 2nd through 4th graders performed a Christmas pageant at St. Eleanor Church on Monday, December 18th. Our 7th grade students prayerfully presented the Christmas Tableau on Friday, December 22nd, after our 9:00 am school Mass. Both events were wonderful ways for our students to connect with the story of Jesus' birth at Christmas. All our students worked very hard in preparation for these special reflections on the Nativity story. We wish all our school families a Blessed Christmas.

We also would like to extend our warmest wishes to our parish families for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May the joy and peace that comes from Christmas stay with all of you throughout the new year!

Happy New Year 2024



COMING SOON - JANUARY 2024!
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Sunday, January 28th

Join us for an OPEN HOUSE for **NEW** prospective families. More details to follow.

Catholic Schools Week 2024

Sunday, January 28 - Saturday, February 3

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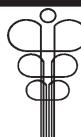
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