September 8, 2019

Parish Mission Statement

As a vibrant Roman Catholic community in Center City, the Cathedral Parish Serves all those who come to the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. We profess our Catholic Faith, minister to others and welcome all, as founded on the Word of God and the celebration of the Sacraments of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Adopted by the Parish Council, April 5, 2016

Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill
Rector and Pastor
Reverend Monsignor Arthur E. Rodgers
Rector Emeritus
Reverend Matthew K. Biedrzycki
Parochial Vicar
Reverend Monsignor Louis A. D’Addezio
Reverend Isaac Haywiser, O.S.B.
Priests in Residence
Deacon Epifanio de Jesus
Sister Eleanor McCann, R.S.M.
Pastoral Associate
Sister Mary Luchia, P.V.M.I
Parish Evangelization
Charlene Angelini
Director of Cathedral Parish Music
Mark Loria
Principal Organist
Edward J. Specht IV
Coordinator of Religious Education

The Cathedral Shop is open
Wed. 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM / Sat. 11:00 AM - 5:15 PM
Sun. 10:30 AM - 6:30 PM / 215-665-9032

Parish Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM (lunch break 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM)
1723 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 • 215-561-1313 • www.cathedralphila.org • info@cathedralphila.org
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, September 8, 2019

“Let your face shine upon your servant; and teach me your laws.”
Ps 119: 135

Dear Parishioners,

“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple (Luke 14: 27).” The Lord continues to form us as his followers, his disciples, with this Sunday’s Gospel. As with last Sunday’s teaching on humility, so this week we learn to follow Jesus with an invitation to be like him, to imitate him. Following Jesus requires a complete abandonment of ourselves to him, to his will, to his way. When Jesus went to the cross to die for us, he abandoned himself completely to his Father’s will for him so that he would be our Redeemer. Likewise, today Jesus calls us to carry our own cross—whatever it might be—and in so doing we imitate him and become his true follower and disciple. It is not possible to be an authentic follower of Christ and at the same time cling to ourselves, to our will, to our way. Rather, our following after the Lord must be complete and total. The Church and the world are in desperate need of authentic disciples. Let us encourage one another in this duty. Our fervent and conscious participation in the Holy Eucharist—the Eucharistic Prayer and the reception of Holy Communion—gives us the grace indeed to take up our cross and be the disciples of Jesus.

Next Sunday, September 15, 2019, we observe Catechetical Sunday throughout the United States. Catechetical Sunday provides the opportunity to highlight those in our parish community who assist the priests in teaching and passing on the Faith. At the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass next Sunday, our parish catechists will receive a blessing for their important work among us. In a sense, all of us are catechists, perhaps not in a formal way, by way of our Baptism into Christ. We all have the duty to pass on the Faith to family members, friends and those we meet each day. Many times this takes place with good example. It also takes place when we stand up for the Faith or correct an erroneous presentation of the Faith. Let us pray for our parish catechists and for ourselves for the strength to be solid witnesses to Jesus and all he teaches us through his Church.

On Sunday, September 22, 2019, the annual Blue Mass will take place at the 9:30 AM Mass. This Mass gives us the opportunity to pray in a public way for our Police, Fire Protectors and all first responders. The local news constantly shows us the bravery of these men and women who valiantly give of themselves to keep us safe in harm’s way. The annual Blue Mass reminds us that our thoughts and prayers should follow those in blue uniforms all year round.

We are still in need of parish sponsors for the adults among us preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist through our Christian Initiation ministry. If you are interested in accompanying one of these adults on their journey of preparation for the Sacraments, please contact Edward Specht, at cathedralreligiouseducation@gmail.com.

Next Sunday, the second collection will be directed to the poor and needy in the neighborhood of the Cathedral Parish. If possible, please make use of the online possibility of making your weekly offering. Thank you so very much for all your goodness and generosity to the Cathedral Parish and to the Appeal for Catholic Charities.

God bless you,
Father Dennis Gill
**CATECHETICAL SESSION FOR ADULTS**

**-Adult faith formation-**

**First Fall Session**

**What is Christiant Initiation?**

**What is Faith?**

**Thursday, September 12, 2019, 7:00 PM**

**Meeting in the Neumann Room**

**Catechist: Fr. Dennis Gill**

The weekly catechetical session is primarily for the adults among us who are preparing to receive the Easter Sacraments. However, anyone interested in the topic for better understanding and faith formation is most welcome to attend. Anyone, especially our parishioners, seeking more information on the reception of the Sacraments or assisting as a sponsor, please call the Parish Office, 215-561-1313 or email Edward Specht at cathedralreligiouseducation@gmail.com

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**PARISHIONER INFORMATION UPDATE**

**New Parishioners.** Welcome to the Cathedral Parish! The easiest way to register can be accomplished by speaking with one of the parish priests after any regularly scheduled Mass. If preferred, you can also contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment to meet with a priest for parish registration.

**Parishioners.** If you have new contact information, new members in your household, or someone in your household has receive a sacrament, please call the Parish Office so that our records can be updated. If you have not been receiving your weekly offering envelopes, again, please call the Parish Office to insure that your address is registered correctly. If you are planning on moving away please let us know. Parish Office phone number is 215-561-1313.

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**Congratulations Meghan!**

Pope Francis has honored our very own parishioner Meghan Cokley, Director of the Office for the New Evangelization, with the **Benemerenti** Medal. For laypersons, deacons, and religious, the **Benemerenti** Medal and its equivalent, the **Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice**, are among the highest honors the Holy Father can bestow on an individual. A total of forty (40) people within our Archdiocese, including Meghan, received papal honors this year.

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**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

The celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism is the doorway to the Christian life and to all the other Sacraments. As such, preparation of the parents and for the Baptism itself deserves very special attention. The celebration of Baptism at the Cathedral Parish takes place on the first Sunday of each month at 12:30 PM after the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass. Everyone is welcome. The celebration will be carried out with liturgical music and with a great sense of hospitality. **Upcoming Baptisms:** Oct 6, Nov 3, 2019, Jan 5, 2020 (no baptisms in Sep or Dec).

A **Baptism Preparation Session** takes place on the third Sunday of each month in anticipation of the celebration of the Sacrament. Parents in the Cathedral Parish are obligated to participate. The session is open to all of our neighbor parishes and to godparents as well. Parents are encouraged to participate during pregnancy, if at all possible. Please call the Parish Office at 215–561-1313 to register for the Baptism Preparation Session or email Nora at nnmartin@archphila.org; provide your phone number, parish, and names of people attending. Also note if you would like to schedule the baptism at the Cathedral.

**Upcoming prep sessions:** Sept 15 &Oct 20 in the Neumann Room, Nov. 17 in the Basilica.

For details on requirements for the parents and sponsors please visit our website: cathedralphila.org/sacraments/baptism

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**Readings for Mass for this Week**

Please see the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: usccb.org/bible/readings

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**PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

The Financial Support of the Cathedral Parish is the duty of our parishioners. Here at the Cathedral Parish we are greatly supported as well by our many visitors. The offertory collection for Sunday 9/01/19 was $5,147(1st), $810(2nd). **Thank you very much for your generous financial support to the Cathedral Parish.**

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Please remember these parishioners and friends of the Cathedral Parish in your prayers/ *Ora por los enfermos:*

Michelle Leighton, Charlotte McLaughlin, William Zawacki, Judy Miller, Rose McKenna, McKinley Angelucci, Mary Jo D’Ortione, Amanda Razzano, Jaelin Liver, Steve Cook, Daniel Moyer Sr., Gloria Quici, Michele Smith, Louise Quattrone, Phoenix McFetridge, Laura Bernal, Sophie Monterosso, Ryley Nazzario, Terry Dynako, Dave Dynako, Greg Lund, Corbin M. Schindler, John McGrath, Paige Bednarsky, Ted Johnston, Dolores Bearden, Michael Piotrowski, Beverly Martin, Evan C. Farrington, Darcel Burney, Sergia Hernandez, Marcia Clark, Fruma Ludwig, John Cantwell, Jr., Jeffrey Press, Daniel Kilpatrick, Carol Snipes, Eileen & Herbert Luscomb, Teresa Mirabelli, Janice Holshin, Rose Rippe, Russell Heim, Karen Spadaccini, Pearl Hammond, Mary W., James Pinto, Joan Decker, George Gunning, April DeMatto, Laura Kerr, and those in nursing homes or hospitals and all the sick. **Please call the Parish Office with the name of anyone who is sick, to be included in our prayer list. Por favor llamar a la oficina parroquial para añadir a la lista los nombres de personas que estén enfermas.**
**EVENTOS DE INTERÉS**

**TEN MISERICORDIA DE NOSOTROS, OH DIOS**
Hora Santa de Reparacion y Peticion
Hoy, Domingo 15 de septiembre, 2019, de 5:30 a 6:30 PM
Lugar: En la Basílica
Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia - [archphila.org/vigil](http://archphila.org/vigil)

**La Misa Azul**
Domingo, 22 de septiembre de 2019
Acompañamos a orar por los policías, bomberos, y paramédicos que sirven a nuestra comunidad. Agradecemos su compromiso y dedicación por el bien común.
Lugar: La Basílica

**Retiro Y Misa de la Herencia Hispana**
Sábado, 5 de Octubre del 2019, 8 AM a 4 PM
Salón de la parroquia San Pedro el Apóstol
1039 N. Lawrence St. Philadelphia, PA 19123
Registracion necesaria ya que se ofrecerá almuerzo. Para informacion y registracion: 215-667-2820 o kargango@archphila.org

**El Sacramento del Bautismo en Español**
Octubre 27, 2019 — 1:30 PM
El Sacramento del Bautismo normalmente se celebra en español cada 3 meses, el último domingo del mes; Por favor hable con el Diácono Epifanio para suscribirse en la clase de preparación y para programar el Bautismo de su hijo/a. Si su hijo/a es mayor de 7 años, el proceso es diferente, por favor llame a la oficina parroquial para mayor información. El Sacramento del Bautismo normalmente se celebra en inglés el primer domingo de cada mes. Para más información por favor llame a la oficina parroquial, 215-561-1313.

**La Corresponsabilidad Vivida Ahora**

Haz un espacio en tu casa y pon un crucifijo, una estatua o cuadro de la Virgen María y de algunos santos. Añaide además fotos de personas que son especiales para ti. Reza en ese lugar diariamente.

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**What's Happening at the Parish**
**Outside the Liturgical Schedule**

| Sep 8   | Legion of Mary Meeting, APC, 12:45PM
| Sep 10  | Adult Faith Sharing, Neumann Room, 2PM
| Sep 11  | Scripture Reflection for lawyers, NR, 8 AM
| Sep 15  | Charismatic Prayer Group, NR, 6 PM
| Sep 22  | **Remain in My Love**, mini marriage conference, Chapel, 2 PM
|         | Holy Hour for reparation, Basilica, 5:30 PM

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**UN CAMBIO DE CORAZÓN**

La lectura del evangelio de hoy es difícil de entender para algunas personas. Podemos aceptar que debemos cargar la cruz y seguir a Jesús pero, ¿por qué él dice que debemos preferirlo por encima de nuestro padre, nuestra madre, nuestro cónyuge, hermanos, hermanas y aún por encima de nosotros mismos, para ser discípulo suyo? Los seres humanos a menudo se aferran a sus relaciones y posesiones, llegando éstas a ocupar un lugar primordial en su corazón—el lugar que debería estar reservado para Dios. Cuando Dios queda desplazado en el corazón del creyente el verdadero discipulado es casi imposible. Si nos mantenemos en estas actitudes podrían ser desplazamientos temporales pero, si llegan a convertirse en hábitos, pueden alejar a las personas de Dios. Ir a Misa regularmente, decir oraciones con frecuencia y guardar los mandamientos son hábitos excelentes; pero no nos acercan a Dios, a no ser que Dios pase a ocupar de nuevo el primer lugar en nuestro corazón. Tal cambio es una verdadera conversión y nos permite convertirnos en discípulos de Jesús. Como discípulos cargamos una cruz que algunas veces nos hace vivir experiencias drásticas, pero la mayoría de las veces esa cruz significa reordenar nuestras prioridades y nuestra manera de vivir.

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**40 DIAS POR LAVIDA - El principio del fin al aborto**
Sucríbete! [40daysforlife.com/browse-campaigns](http://40daysforlife.com/browse-campaigns)
Religious Education for Parish Children at St. Francis Xavier

St. Francis Xavier CCD/PREP will have its first class of the school year on Wednesday, September 18th at 6:30 PM
They will offer classes for grades 1 through 8.

Registrations will be held on Sunday, September 8th from 10:00 am to 2:00 PM at SFX school on 24th and Wallace Streets.

You may register by mail, please provide a baptismal certificate for children new to our CCD/PREP.
Print the Registration form here: cathedralphila.org/parish-info/REchildren

Registration fee is $45 and it must be included with the registration form. For more information, contact Pat Schuyler at 215-568-2594 or email patschuyler@gmail.com.

Send completed registration forms to Pat Schuyler, 9896 Bustleton Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19115. Please do not send registration forms and/or fees to the Cathedral or St. Francis Xavier rectory.

Evangelization
Getting “Unstuck” in the Spiritual Life—Part 2

Last week we considered the plight of being “stuck” in our sins. We pondered further how recognizing this plight is the first step towards getting unstuck spiritually and preparing to receive God’s mercy anew. We consider the words of St. Bernard: who said:
“Is it possible for such wretchedness to make a man happy? Whoever you are, if you are in this frame of mind, do not despair: it is mercy not misery, that makes a man happy, but mercy’s natural home is misery.
[...] Sickness has real utility when it leads to the doctor’s hands, and he whom God restores to health gains by having been ill.”

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation God works through his priests to communicate his mercy and grace to the soul in sorrow and lift him up to a new life, a resurrected life. Objectively the Sacraments communicate the graces they signify; by our sorrowful confession of sin, desire to amend our lives and reception of absolution, granted nothing bars us from receiving that absolution well, we may be confident of God’s forgiveness.

Subjectively, our fruitful participation in the sacraments can always grow. This is for instance where the distinction may come in between a good confession and one that could be better. What do I mean? Making a good confession might be described as making one wherein we take adequate time to prepare ahead of time by a thorough examination of conscience.

Objectively the sins most necessary to confess are those which are mortal. That is, those sins that are 1) objectively serious, according to revelation and Church Teaching, 2) we know them to be serious, 3) we commit said sins regardless of that understanding. These sins effectively put to death the life of God’s charity in us. While they can wound faith and hope in our hearts, these two remain and bring us back to God. If we were to die with such sins on our hearts, un-repented, we would deprive ourselves of heaven and its heart – God.

It is good to come to the sacrament too if the only sins we have committed are of a less serious nature, those sins which are venial. These sins, while able to be forgiven in confession, may also be forgiven by a sincere reception of our Lord in Holy Communion. Mortal sins may only be forgiven in Reconciliation because of their distinctly different character.

Any good examination of conscience will often walk a person through the Ten Commandments and help to identify/distinguish mortal from venial sins, the serious from the less serious. Ultimately, if we are uncertain as to the gravity or nature of an act (“Is this a sin or not a sin?”) we do well to seek the answer in scripture, through learned persons or simply ask the priest before or during confession. If we are satisfied that we have not violated the ten commandments, it can be helpful to turn to the Beatitudes and examine ourselves according to their standard; that of the blessed.

Lastly, we do well to bring with us to the confessional a firm purpose of amendment. Having sorrow for our sins, and recognizing our misery is the beginning. Building upon the mercy given so as to live the life of the new man in God is next step. God doesn’t merely call us to goodness but holiness. He knows what’s at stake, he knows how difficult that can be to grasp and so has given us every good thing in order to strive ever onward.

St. Junipero Serra had a motto: “Always forward, never back!” May this describe our walk with him on the road to heaven!

Fr. Matthew Biedrzycki

1 Sermons of Conversion, p.46
OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

The Sixth Patricians Meeting
Remain Steadfast in Your Faith with a little help from the angels, like St. Raphael
Sunday, September 8, 2019, 12:45 PM—2:45 PM
Spiritual Director: Sister Mary Luchia, P.V.M.I.
Presenter: Mr. Thomas Koge
Location: Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, Room 1307
September 8 is the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. During the tea interval, a special lunch will be served to honor our Blessed Mother. For additional information visit catholicphiladelphia.org/legion-of-mary

American Catholic Historical Society
“Historical Preservation in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Documenting Cases at St. Peter Claver & St. Laurentius”
Sun. Sept. 15, 2019, 1:30 PM Open House, 2:00 PM Talk FREE and open to the public
Screening and discussion of two short documentaries that recount efforts by Catholics in Philadelphia to preserve their sacred spaces. Location: American Catholic Historical Society, 263 S. 4th St, Philadelphia. For more information, visit www.amchs.org. RSVP with your name and number of attendees by Sept. 12 to info@amchs.org

Marian Movement of Priests
NATIONAL RETREAT FOR LAITY
Fri., Sep. 13, Sun., Sep. 15, 2019
The schedule will follow the format of a cenacle and include the recitation of the Holy Rosary prayed throughout the day, and the reading and meditation on Our Lady’s messages. Daily Mass will be celebrated, and the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for Eucharistic Adoration. Location: Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA. To register, go to www.malvernretreat.com or call 610-644-0400; FMI, call MMP Headquarters: (207) 398-3375

Padre Pio Festival—September 14 & 15, 2019
St. Bede the Venerable Parish, Holland, PA
More info: https://padrepifestivalhollandpa.com/

SISTERS OF LIFE
CO-WORKER OF LIFE
Initial Formation
Training Day
Sat., Sep. 21, 2019, 9:00AM-4:00PM
Registration begins 8:30AM
St. Malachy’s Catholic Church
1429 N. 11th St. Philadelphia, PA
For all those interested in serving alongside us in our mission to vulnerable pregnant women. The day will include Mass, lunch and talks by Sisters of Life on topics including: • Understanding the heart of a pregnant woman. • Roles of co-workers • Brief overview on speaking to a woman who has suffered from an abortion in the past
For more info and to RSVP please contact us at: philly@sistersoflife.org | 267-831-3100

A Baby’s Breath Silent Auction
Please come to A Baby’s Breath Crisis Pregnancy Center’s 18th Annual Silent Auction & Dinner Reception – Saturday, October 26th 6:30 PM at the Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia, PA. The auction features vacations, tickets to Phillies & Flyers games; restaurant gift certificates, gift baskets & more! Rev. Stephen DeLacy will be the guest speaker and MC. Tickets are $70 per person (complimentary beer, wine & soda included) For tickets and more info, please contact Kim Granito at 610-792-0737 or email kim@thegranitos.com

Resources for Catholics to know their Faith
(Cont.)
♦ Magisterium
  ○ Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2nd Edition
    • Online: http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015_INDEX.HTM
    • Online/Print: http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/catechism-of-the-catholic-church/
  ○ Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church
  ○ YouCat (youth catechism based on the above)
    https://www.youcat.org/
    https://www.youcat.org/products/youcat
  ○ Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church
    • https://www.amazon.com/Compendium-Doctrine-Pontifical-Council-Justice/dp/1574556924
  ○ DoCat (youth compendium of the social doctrine)
    • https://www.youcat.org/products/docat
  ○ Papal Writings and other Councils’ documents:
    • https://www.papalencyclicals.net/councils

Tours of the Cathedral Basilica
A guided tour of the Basilica is available after the 11:00 AM Sunday Mass (except on 1st Sunday starting October). Please gather in front of the Side Altar of the Sacred Heart, which is located to the right of the Main Sanctuary.