

# Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul And the Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel

18th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Philadelphia*



**December 22, 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**

## MASS SCHEDULE

**Sunday:** 5:15 PM Anticipated Mass on Saturday  
8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM in Basilica  
12:30 PM Spanish in Cathedral Chapel  
Sta. Misa en español, en la Capilla  
6:30 PM in Basilica

**Weekdays:** 7:15 AM, 12:05 PM in Cathedral Chapel

**Saturdays:** 12:05 PM in Cathedral Chapel

**Holy Days:** See website

## SACRAMENT OF PENANCE SCHEDULE

**Sunday:** 9:00 AM and 5:30 PM in Basilica  
12:00 PM (español) en la Capilla

**Weekdays:** 11:30 AM in Basilica

**Saturday:** 4:15 PM in Basilica

Please contact the Parish Office to arrange for the:  
**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE,**  
**SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK,**  
**AND HOLY COMMUNION OF THE SICK**  
**AND HOMEBOUND**

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul   
@CathedralPhila 

**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](http://www.cathedralphila.org) • [info@cathedralphila.org](mailto:info@cathedralphila.org)  
Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel <https://www.saintkatharinedrexelshrine.com/>

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

*“The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel.” MT 1: 23*



## *Mass Intentions for the week*

### **Dec. 21, Saturday, Late Advent Weekday**

12:05 Intentions of Thomas Roger  
5:15 Leone, Cuccurullo, Kenny Families

### **Dec. 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:00 For the People of the Parish  
9:30 Intentions of Antonia Pugliese  
11:00 Edward & Veronica Chudzinski  
12:30 Sebastian Rodriguez  
6:30 For the People of the Archdiocese

### **Dec. 23, Monday, Late Advent Weekday**

7:15 Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Cardom  
and Mr. & Mrs. Charles McGinnis  
12:05 Albert A. Cartrucci

### **Dec. 24 Tuesday, Late Advent Weekday**

7:15 Intentions of the Priest Celebrant  
12:05 Jacki Monoelli Distefano

### **Vigil Masses:**

5 PM, 7:30 PM

Intention of the Priest Celebrant

### **Dec. 25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (CHRISTMAS)**

12 AM - Midnight

For the People of the Parish  
8 AM Intention of the Priest Celebrant  
10 AM Intention of the Priest Celebrant  
12 Noon For the People of the Parish

### **Dec. 26, Thursday, St. Stephen**

7:15 Christmas Mass Remembrance  
12:05 James McGuire

### **Dec. 27, Friday, St. John, Apostle & Evangelist**

7:15 Christmas Mass Remembrance  
12:05 Kenneth C. Brabazon, Sr.

### **Dec. 28, Saturday, The Holy Innocents Martyrs**

12:05 Christmas Mass Remembrance  
5:15 Danielle Paolucci

### **Dec. 29 Sunday, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

8:00 For the People of the Parish  
9:30 Quici, Galipo & Grecco Family  
11:00 Brabazon & Bursillo Families  
12:30 Luis & Aura Hurtado  
6:30 For the People of the Archdiocese

Dear Parishioners,

*This is the Fourth Sunday of Advent.* Advent ends with Christmas Eve this Tuesday, December 24, 2019. The Church draws our attention this Sunday to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. The Gospel for this Sunday recalls the words of the Prophet Isaiah that a virgin shall bear a son and that his name will be Emmanuel (see Isaiah 7:14). Saint Joseph learns from the angel that the virgin is the Virgin Mary who conceived by the Holy Spirit and will bear the Savior Son Jesus who will save his people from their sins (see Matthew 20: 20-21). What remarkable realities are given to us today in the Word of God. The Savior and the plan of his virgin birth had been promised for centuries. When the promise is fulfilled, God will be truly with us, the meaning of Emmanuel. This promise is realized with the Virgin Mary when the Son of God comes into our world as our Savior. The Virgin Mary is at the center of God's plan as she humbly and freely allows God's promise of salvation to pass through her to all people for all time. This Sunday and these last few days of Advent we look to Mary as a woman of faith and confidence in God and his plan for her, as the one who received the Savior into her womb and gave birth to the Savior for the salvation of all the world for all time. This Sunday, let us pray with Mary that we may be open to allow God's grace to "conceive" the Savior in our hearts and lives this Christmas. Let us pray that we may fully respond to this grace of the newborn Savior given to us to live more fully in right relationship with God and our neighbor. Let Mary be your special companion these days as we await the Birth of the Lord among us this Christmas.

*Keep Christmas alive!* Christmas Day is this Wednesday, December 25, 2019 and has a special octave or eight day celebration which concludes on Wednesday, January 1, 2020, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Christmas time lasts through to Sunday, January 12, 2020, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, with the great Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord celebrated in the United States on Sunday, January 5, 2020. The world around us shuts down Christmas in some instances on December 26<sup>th</sup>. As Christians we are encouraged to keep the whole of Christmas Time alive to us with all of its festive character—including the decorations and carols. This is so that we may keep in our minds the great Mystery of Christmas. As Jesus, the Son of God, takes on our humanity, so he shares with us his divinity. This Mystery will never be understood fully by us. However, if we allow ourselves the whole of Christmas Time to ponder it and celebrate it, the more fully we will live from it.

*Please see the schedule for the Masses for the Solemnity of Christmas found elsewhere in this edition of the Parish Bulletin.* Also, during these last few days of Advent, the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is available in the Basilica on Monday and Tuesday beginning at 11:30 AM.

*On December 1, 2019, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter, Admirabile Signum, on the meaning and importance of the Nativity Scene.* His letter is found easily online. The Holy Father encourages us to set up scenes of the Birth of the Lord in our home, at work and also in public places to remind us during Christmas of the great gift of the Incarnation, to aid our prayer and thanksgiving for so great a gift and to remind others of the wonder of the Nativity. The letter is a beautiful meditation on the Nativity itself.

*Next Sunday, the second collection will be directed to winter maintenance expenses for the Cathedral Basilica. If possible, please make use of the on-line possibility of making your weekly offering.* Thank you so very much for all your goodness and generosity to the Cathedral Parish, especially during Christmas.

God bless you, Father Dennis Gill

**FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT**

*Adoración Eucarística el primer viernes del mes*

**Friday, January 3, 2019**

**12:35 PM to 1:30 PM**

**Cathedral Chapel**

The Most Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration after the 12:05 PM Mass.

*Please come to adore the Lord!*

The Sacrament of Penance will be available on the First Friday of each month, beginning at 11:30AM

*El Santísimo Sacramento será expuesto para adoración después de la Misa de las 12:05 pm el 1er viernes de cada mes a partir de las 11:30 am en la Capilla de la Catedral. Confesiones en inglés a las 11am. Por favor ven a adorar al Señor.*

**“Our hours of adoration will be special hours of reparation for sins, and intercession for the needs of the whole world, exposing the sin-sick and suffering humanity to the healing, sustaining and transforming rays of Jesus, radiating from the Eucharist.”**

**CATECHETICAL SESSION FOR ADULTS**

**-Adult faith formation-**

*Living a Moral Life The First Commandment*

**Thursday, January 9, 2020, 7:00 PM**

**Meeting in the Neumann Room**

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](mailto:cathedralreligiouseducation@gmail.com)

**Readings for Mass for this Week**

Please see the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: [usccb.org/bible/readings](http://usccb.org/bible/readings)

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

**Dec. 22** Legion of Mary Meeting, APC, 12:45PM

**Dec. 23 & 24** Sacrament of Reconciliation, 11:30 AM, Basilica

**Dec. 24** See Mass schedule, P. 6

**Dec. 25** See Mass Schedule, P.6

**Please Support the CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL PARISH FUND**

We are proud to announce that the Cathedral Basilica SS. Peter and Paul Parish Fund has been established with The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia to help ensure the future of our Parish and its ministry. This Fund will be available exclusively for the needs of the Cathedral Parish, both now and for future generations.

Checks can be made payable to “**The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia**” with “Cathedral Basilica” noted on the memo line. Donations can be mailed to: The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia c/o Cathedral Basilica SS. Peter and Paul Parish Fund 100 N. 20th Street, Suite 301, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

You can also make a secure gift online at [www.catholicfoundationphila.org/donate/cathedral](http://www.catholicfoundationphila.org/donate/cathedral). Your donation to our Fund plays an important role in strengthening the financial foundation of the Cathedral and its future in continuing our mission as the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia!



**CARING FOR FRIENDS**

**Cooking for your family? Make a little extra for those in need, freeze it and bring it to the parish.**

Meal trays are available in the side entrance to the Chapel. Frozen trays may be dropped off in the Sacristy before/after any weekend Mass. Questions? Email Carmin de Jesus at [epi.dejesusjr@gmail.com](mailto:epi.dejesusjr@gmail.com). [aidforfriends.org](http://aidforfriends.org)

**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 **12/15/2019** will be posted on a future edition of the parish bulletin

*Thank you very much for your generous financial support!*

*Please remember these parishioners and friends of the Cathedral Parish in your prayers/ Ora por los enfermos: Michael McCann, Caroline Brennan, Samuel Pollino, Mark Terry, Terry Dynako, Dave Dynako, Anthony Ferraro, Charlotte McLaughlin, Rose McKenna, Mary Jo D'Ortone, Amanda Razzano, Steve Cook, Corbin M. Schindler, Gloria Quici, James Pinto, 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 llame a la oficina parroquial para añadir a la lista los nombres de personas que estén enfermas*

## **La Misión de la Catedral Basílica de Santos Pedro y Pablo**

La Parroquia Catedral sirve a todos los que vienen a la Iglesia Madre de la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia como una comunidad católica romana vibrante en el centro de la ciudad. Profesamos nuestra fe católica, servimos a los demás y damos la bienvenida a todos tal cual está escrito en la Palabra de Dios y la celebración de los Sacramentos de Nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo.

*Adoptado por el Consejo Pastoral  
Parroquial, Abril 5, 2016*

## **EVENTOS DE INTERES**

### **El Sacramento del Bautismo en Español January 26, 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 inscribirse 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.

### **Sacramento de la Reconciliación Los domingos a las 12:00 PM en la Capilla**

### **NOCHE JUVENIL HISPANA**

**Fechas:** 4 de Enero, 2020  
1 de Febrero, 2020  
7 de Marzo, 2020

**St. Joachim Church**  
1527 Church St. Phila, PA 19124

**Misa Televisada en Español**  
En UNIVISIÓN 65 - Todos los domingos a  
las **6:30 AM**

### **LAS POSADAS NAVIDEÑAS**

Las posadas empezarán el domingo 15 de diciembre y terminarán el lunes 23 de diciembre, 2019  
**7-8:45PM**

**Salón Drexel** de la Catedral

**BOLETIN INFORMATIVO**  
Oficina para Católicos Hispanos  
[CLICK AQUI](#)

## **REFLEXIÓN DEL PÁRROCO**

Estimados feligreses,

*Este es el cuarto domingo de Adviento.* El Adviento termina con la víspera de Navidad este martes 24 de diciembre de 2019. La Iglesia llama a nuestra atención este domingo a María, la Madre de Jesús. El Evangelio de este domingo recuerda las palabras del profeta Isaías de que una virgen dará a luz un hijo y que su nombre será Emmanuel (véase Isaías 7:14). San José aprende del ángel que la virgen es la Virgen María, que concibió por el Espíritu Santo y que llevará al Hijo Salvador Jesús, quien salvará a su pueblo de sus pecados (ver Mateo 20: 20-21). Qué realidades notables se nos dan hoy en la Palabra de Dios? El Salvador y el plan de su nacimiento virginal habían sido prometidos por siglos. Cuando se cumpla la promesa, Dios estará verdaderamente con nosotros, el significado de Emmanuel. Esta promesa se cumple con la Virgen María cuando el Hijo de Dios viene a nuestro mundo como nuestro Salvador. La Virgen María está en el centro del plan de Dios, ya que humilde y libremente permite que la promesa de salvación de Dios pase a través de ella a todas las personas para siempre. Este domingo y estos últimos días de Adviento consideramos a María como una mujer de fe y que tiene su confianza en Dios y en su plan para ella, como la que recibió al Salvador en su vientre y dio a luz al Salvador para la salvación de todos el mundo por todos los tiempos. Este domingo, recemos con María para que podamos estar abiertos a permitir que la gracia de Dios "conciba" al Salvador en nuestros corazones y vidas esta Navidad. Oremos para que podamos responder plenamente a esta gracia del Salvador recién nacido que se nos ha dado para vivir más plenamente en una relación correcta con Dios y nuestro prójimo. Deje que María sea su compañera especial en estos días mientras esperamos el nacimiento del Señor entre nosotros esta Navidad.

*¡Mantenga viva la Navidad!* El día de Navidad es este miércoles 25 de diciembre de 2019, tiene una celebración especial de octava u ocho días que concluye el miércoles 1 de enero de 2020, la Solemnidad de María, la Santa Madre de Dios. La Navidad dura hasta el domingo 12 de enero de 2020, la Fiesta del Bautismo del Señor, con la gran Solemnidad de la Epifanía del Señor celebrada en los Estados Unidos el domingo 5 de enero de 2020. El mundo que nos rodea apaga la Navidad en algunos casos el 26 de diciembre. Como cristianos, debemos mantener vivo todo el tiempo de Navidad con todo su carácter festivo, incluidas las decoraciones y los villancicos. Esto es para que podamos tener en mente el gran Misterio de la Navidad. Cómo Jesús, el Hijo de Dios, adquiere nuestra humanidad, él comparte con nosotros su divinidad. Este misterio nunca será entendido completamente por nosotros. Sin embargo, si tomamos todo el tiempo de Navidad para reflexionar y celebrarlo, más plenamente viviremos de ello.

*Consulte el calendario de las Misas por la solemnidad de Navidad que se encuentra en otra parte de esta edición del Boletín Parroquial.* Además, durante estos últimos días de Adviento, el Sacramento de la Penitencia y la Reconciliación está disponible en la Basílica los lunes y martes a partir de las 11:30 a.m.

*El 1 de diciembre de 2019, el Papa Francisco emitió una Carta Apostólica, Admirabile Signum, sobre el significado y la importancia del Belén.* Su carta se encuentra fácilmente en línea. El Santo Padre nos anima a establecer escenas del Nacimiento del Señor en nuestro hogar, en el trabajo y también en lugares públicos para recordarnos durante la Navidad el gran regalo de la Encarnación, para ayudar a nuestra oración y acción de gracias por un regalo tan maravilloso y para recordar a otros la maravilla de la Natividad. La carta es una hermosa meditación sobre la Natividad misma.

*El próximo domingo, la segunda colecta se destinará a gastos de mantenimiento de invierno para la Basílica de la Catedral.* Si es posible, utilice la posibilidad en línea de hacer su oferta semanal. Muchas gracias por toda su bondad y generosidad con la Parroquia de la Catedral, especialmente durante la Navidad.

Dios te bendiga, Padre Dennis Gill

## MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT NEEDED

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul The Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, 18th Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, is in need of a part-time Maintenance Assistant. Hours are flexible. This assistant is supervised by the Facilities Manager and principally responsible for deep cleaning, especially the stripping and waxing of floors. If you are interested, please email Father Dennis Gill, Rector and Pastor, at [fr.dgill@archphila.org](mailto:fr.dgill@archphila.org). More complete information about the position and salary will be available at the time of the initial interview.



**PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES**  
... under Papal direction; created for bringing the Gospel,  
material support & Humanitarian relief to the world  
222 North Seventeenth Street-Eighth Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

## NEWS FROM THE *Pontifical Mission Societies*

As we approach **ADVENT**, we have included three Mission stories for your bulletin to encourage the faithful to sacrifice for children in the Missions during this liturgical season. The **larger-than-life World Mission Rosary** that was on display in the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul during the *Extraordinary Month of Mission*, will also be on display during **ADVENT**. Visitors are invited and asked to select one of the **ADVENT** ribbons, write their prayer intention and place it in the basket. The ribbon will be placed on our 50-foot Blessed Rosary as all are asked to pray *for the people of the Mission lands* that they may know **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**, this Christmas season.

**NOTE FOR THE PARISH:** Contact our office at 215-587-3944 if you would like a supply of **ADVENT** ribbons for your faithful to write their prayers intentions. They can be sent, publicized at your parish and returned to the Missions office to be added to the **larger-than-life World Mission Rosary**.

If you have any questions, please call 215-587-3944, e-mail [pofaith@archphila.org](mailto:pofaith@archphila.org), or visit our website at [phillymissions.org](http://phillymissions.org)

## CARING FOR FRIENDS AT THE CATHEDRAL PARISH

*Caring For Friends* is a non-profit organization that seeks volunteers to prepare meals in their homes and/or to deliver food for those unable to prepare their own meals. These prepared meals are a tremendous service to the elderly and disabled who cannot afford their meals or have difficulty getting to the food store.

Please consider helping Aid for Friends by picking up the meal trays in Chapel Hall on Sunday mornings during the Mass times, from 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM. These trays are located next to the *Caring For Friends* freezer with further instructions in Chapel Hall. Please return prepared meals any weekday between 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM or Sunday mornings during the Mass times.

If you are interested in taking meals to the homebound, especially in the Cathedral Parish area, please contact Mrs. Lynn Trumbetta, by phone (215-464-2224) or email [afflynnt@yahoo.com](mailto:afflynnt@yahoo.com). You must first register with *Caring For Friends* to deliver meals. *Caring for Friends* encourages a visit with the persons receiving the meal as well.

## MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS 2019

*Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, December 25,*  
A Holy Day of Obligation

**Tuesday, *Christmas Eve*, December 24, 2019**

5:00 PM Vigil Mass and  
7:30 PM Vigil Mass (English and Spanish) in the Basilica  
11:00 PM Christmas Readings, Songs and Carols in the Basilica

**Wednesday, *Christmas Day*, December 25, 2019**

12 Midnight, Solemn Mass in the Basilica  
8:00 AM Mass, 10:00 AM Solemn Mass  
and 12 Noon Solemn Mass in the Basilica

*There is no evening Mass.*

**Saturday, December 28, 2019**

5:15 PM Anticipated Mass for Sunday in the Basilica

## MASSES FOR SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

*Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph,*  
December 29

*Follows the regular Sunday Mass schedule*

**Sunday, December 29, 2019**

8:00 AM Mass, 9:30 AM Mass, 11:00 AM Solemn Mass,  
12:30 PM Mass (in Spanish in the Cathedral Chapel)  
and 6:30 PM Mass in the Basilica

*Confessions on Saturday, December 28, beginning at  
4:15 PM and Sunday, December 29 beginning at 9:30  
AM,*

*12 Noon (in Spanish in the Chapel)  
and 5:30 PM in the Basilica*

## MASSES FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY 2020

*Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, January 1*  
A Holy Day of Obligation

**Tuesday, *New Year's Eve*, December 31, 2019**

5:15 PM Vigil Mass in the Cathedral Chapel

**Wednesday, *New Year's Day*, January 1, 2020**

12 Midnight, Solemn Mass in the Basilica  
8:00 AM Mass,  
10:00 AM Mass,  
and 12 Noon Solemn Mass in the Basilica

*There is no evening Mass.*

## OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

**Rediscover the Love in your Marriage!**  
Retrouvaille of Delaware Valley offers hope for married couples experiencing loneliness, boredom, misery, or frustration in their marriage. Couples learn valuable communication skills and rediscover intimacy. Our next program starts **February 21-23** at the **Family Life Center in Malvern, PA.**

For more information, call **215-766-3944** or **800-470-2230.**

All inquiries kept strictly confidential.

## MARCH FOR LIFE

The annual **March for Life** in Washington, DC is Friday, **January 24th.**

Details regarding the bus trip with the Philadelphia Chapter KofC will become available at a later time. Consider going with us.

The cost is \$35 per person.

For our council members and their families, the cost is only \$20 per person, with the remaining \$15 being picked up by our council. Boxed lunch is included.

There will be a pit stop for breakfast and recitation of the holy rosary.

Contact Guy Vacca at [mgvacca@verizon.net](mailto:mgvacca@verizon.net) if interested.

## EVANGELIZATION NEWSLETTER

Office for New Evangelization

[CLICK HERE](#)

## Liturgy and Church Music

Sunday, January 5, 2020  
12:45 PM — 2:45 PM

Presenters: Fr. Dennis Gill and Mr. Mark Loria

Location: Archdiocesan Pastoral Center,  
Room 1307

*\*Sandwiches, Coffee, and Donuts are provided during the Tea Break.*

[View Flyer](#)

## 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.



## EVANGELIZATION

### *Why God Asks Us to Wait*

In our life with the Lord, there are times when Jesus draws us into periods of waiting. These times come about when we are faced with a great problem that we cannot solve, a great need that we cannot fill, or a big question that we cannot answer. When we find ourselves in these situations, we do everything we can to search, seek, and obtain the solutions. But then we reach the point where we discover that there is simply nothing else we can do. We go into a period of waiting, waiting on the Lord. Even though it often doesn't "feel" like it, Jesus brings us into these periods of waiting as an expression of his deep love for us. Periods of waiting are very precious to him because when we wait, we are acknowledging that we have no way to provide for ourselves and we become entirely dependent upon him. This posture of childlike dependence is very precious to God, who wants to be our provider in everything.

Frequently, however, times of waiting can be extremely difficult for us. We are taught since childhood that a valuable life is an active one, a life that is "doing" and producing. So when we journey into patches of waiting we can feel useless, uncomfortable, frustrated and insecure. But ironically, it is these periods of seeming "inactivity", that God himself is often doing the most powerful work of transformation in us. The reason for this is that in periods of waiting it is God himself who is the primary actor. When we relinquish power and control and surrender ourselves to waiting on the Lord, we are permitting him to act in us in ways that belong solely to his wisdom and love. A metaphor for this is the great mystery of pregnancy, where the development of an infinitely precious and unrepeatable human being is taking place in a manner almost entirely hidden to the eyes of the world. In this same way, any period of waiting, especially when we see little to nothing "happening", has the potential to become a period of dramatic new birth for each of us.

Advent is such a precious and fruitful time in the Church because it is a period of waiting. The decision of the Church to preface the birth of Christ with a period of waiting, silence and prayerful preparation show how deeply the Church understands the transformative power of waiting. When we wait for something we desire, our hearts grow. They stretch and change like the fresh wineskins in the Gospel that have to grow and stretch with the pouring in of new wine. In light of this, the most important thing we can do this Advent is to carve out time to experience this "waiting" through periods of silence, intentional inactivity, and contemplative preparation. Let us guard these moments of waiting jealously for Christ who wishes to use this period to bring about something new for us. Let us choose to enter that very uncomfortable place of "inactivity" and tell the Lord, "I trust in you", "I believe that you will act" "I know that you will bring about something new in me."

Meghan Cokeley,  
Office for the New Evangelization, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

## Gospel Reflection

There will be **NO Gospel Reflection**  
this Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

*Thank you!*