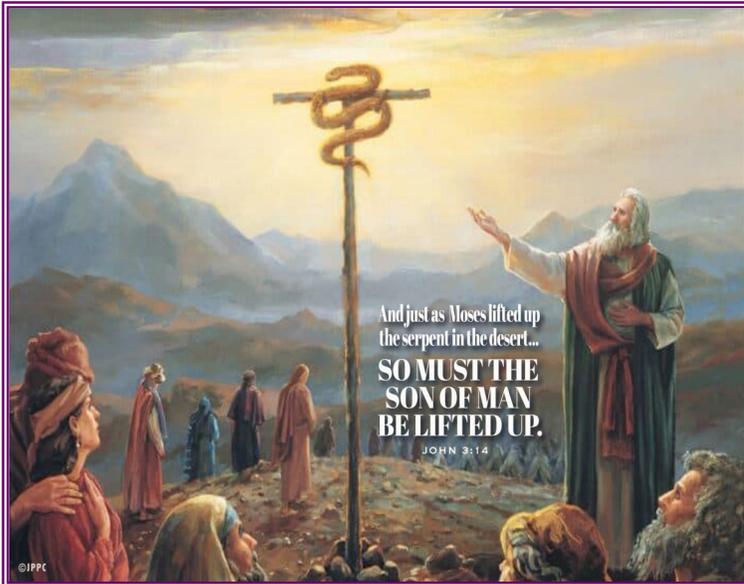


Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul And the Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel

18th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, Archbishop of Philadelphia



March 14, 2021

Parish Mission Statement

As a vibrant Roman Catholic community in Center City, the Cathedral Parish serves all those who come to the Cathedral Basilica, 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, October 13, 2020

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
Priest in Residence

Sister Eleanor McCann, R.S.M.
Pastoral Associate

Sister Mary Luchia, P.V.M.I
Parish Evangelization

Sister Mary Raphael Paradis, R.S.M.
Outreach Coordinator

Charlene Angelini
Director of Cathedral Parish Music

Mark Loria
Principal Organist

Edward J. Specht IV
Coordinator of Religious Education

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:15 PM Anticipated Mass
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM in Basilica
12:30 PM Spanish in Cathedral Chapel
(Santa 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**

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

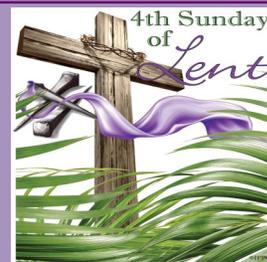
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul 
@CathedralPhila 

Parish Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
1723 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 • 215-561-1313
www.cathedralphila.org • info@cathedralphila.org
Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel <https://www.saintkatharinedrexelshrine.com/>

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 14, 2021

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.” JN 3:16



Mar. 13, Saturday, Lenten Weekday

12:05 Emily Robinson
5:15 Arthur Quici

Mar. 14 Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00 For the People of the Parish
9:30 John Francis McDemott
11:00 Nicole Obenski
12:30 Por DeJesus Colon
6:30 Silverio Berarducci

Mar. 15, Monday, Lenten Weekday

7:15 Mark Zisselman
12:05 Mary Harvey

Mar. 16, Tuesday, Lenten Weekday

7:15 Donald Okada
12:05 Marion C. O'Shaughnessy

Mar. 17, Wednesday, Lenten Weekday St. Patrick, Bishop

7:15 Audrey Mastrocola
12:05 Paul Jackins

Mar. 18, Thursday, Lenten Weekday St. Cyril of Jerusalem

7:15 Elizabeth Strittmatter
12:05 Irene Gomez

Mar. 19, Friday St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:15 Joseph DiPhillipo
12:05 Joseph Catari

Mar. 20, Saturday, Lenten Weekday

12:05 Joseph Rizzo
5:15 Carmela Berarducci

Mar. 21 Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 For the People of the Parish
9:30 Raffaele Berarducci
11:00 Ester G.Mactal
12:30 Ronald Santiago
6:30 Filomena Berarducci

Dear Parishioners,

This is the Fourth Sunday of Lent! This Sunday is known also as *Laetare* Sunday. *Laetare* is the first word of the prescribed entrance chant for Mass and translates as “Rejoice.” The reason for rejoicing is the nearness of Easter and the end of the preparation penance of Lent. Yes, we do rejoice that Easter is in sight. However, we again renew our Lenten resolutions to repent of our sins and strive to be ever more faithful to the Gospel. Be sure not to let Lent pass without making a good Lenten Confession in preparation for a holy Easter. Let us pray for one another, and especially for our catechumen and candidates for the Easter Sacraments, during these weeks of Lent!

This Friday, March 19, 2021, is the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As we continue to observe the *Year of Saint Joseph*, this Solemnity takes on greater meaning for us all. I encourage you to participate in one of the many ways our Cathedral Parish is celebrating Saint Joseph’s Day this year as noted elsewhere in this edition of the Parish Bulletin. The 12:05 PM Mass on March 19, 2021, celebrated in the Cathedral Basilica, is an Archdiocesan Celebration. The Litany of Saint Joseph will be prayed before Mass and the Archdiocesan Monthly Novena to Saint Joseph, which begins on March 19th, will be prayed following Mass. Please try to be a part of this celebration of Mass on Saint Joseph’s Day. Please see the Archdiocesan website, <http://archphila.org/joseph/>, for many ways you can observe this *Year of Saint Joseph* with your own prayers and devotions at home. Saint Joseph, pray for us!

You are reminded that it is our Christian duty to provide for the Sacraments for those in danger of death, especially with the reception of the last Holy Communion, Holy Viaticum. In fact, it is a Precept of the Church to receive Holy Viaticum. Please call on the priests to minister to anyone who is seriously ill, especially nearing the end of life. It is best to make this contact with the parish priests while someone is still conscious and able to participate in the celebration of the Sacraments. Saint Joseph is the Patron of a Happy Death. Let us pray to him that each of us will have the blessing of a sacramental death when the Lord calls us to our heavenly homeland.

We are still looking for volunteers! Would you be interested in volunteering to be a part of our Basilica Spring Cleaning to prepare our beautiful church for the Easter celebrations. If so, please contact Terry Zubert, tzubert@archphila.org and sign up. The date for the spring cleaning is Wednesday, March 24, 2021 from 1:00 to 3:30 PM.

Next Sunday, there will not be a second collection. Instead, the Little Sisters of the Poor will be with us to beg for the care of the elderly poor in their care at the entrances to church after each Mass. You can mail your Sunday offerings to the Cathedral Parish Office or make use of the many ways to give electronically. Please see <http://cathedralphila.org/donate/>. Thank you so very much for your goodness and generosity to the Cathedral Parish.

God bless you!
Father Dennis Gill
Rector

**CATECHETICAL SESSION
FOR ADULTS**

**-Adult faith formation-
*The Tenth Commandment***

Thursday, March 18, 2021, 7:00 PM
Meeting in the Drexel Hall

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 Father Dennis Gill at info@cathedralphila.org

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

- Mar. 14** Via Crucis , Chapel, (Español)
following the 12:30 PM Mass
- Mar. 17** Scripture Reflection for lawyers, 8AM, DH
- Mar. 18** Catechetical Session , 7PM, Drexel Hall
Perpetual Novena to Saint Katharine Drexel,
following the 7:15 AM and 12:05 PM Masses.
- Mar. 19** The Way of the Cross, Chapel, (English)
following the 12:05 PM Mass
St. Joseph's death, 7PM, Zoom
- Mar. 20** Men and Women's Prayer Group, Chapel, 8AM

[Click here to view the previous bulletin](#)

Lenten  Friday

THE WAY OF THE CROSS



Will take place **each Friday** of Lent immediately following the **12:05 PM Mass** in the Chapel. The Via Crucis, the Way of the Cross in Spanish, will also take place **each Sunday after 12:30PM Mass** in the Chapel.

YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH



Visit <http://archphila.org/joseph/> often for new events and resources for the celebration of this holy year!

"Go to Joseph" (Ite Ad Joseph)

Please join us for a special presentation on the following topics by **Father Gerald Dennis Gill**.

St. Joseph's death: Friday, March 19, 2021

Join us via Zoom at **7:00PM to 8:00PM**.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87281902477?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87281902477?pwd=c3N5VTRMaElJeFlaHRFZFhnZFNQUT09)

[pwd=c3N5VTRMaElJeFlaHRFZFhnZFNQUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87281902477?pwd=c3N5VTRMaElJeFlaHRFZFhnZFNQUT09)

Meeting ID: 872 8190 2477

Passcode: 351445

Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

LIVE STREAMED SUNDAY MASS AT 11:00 AM

Click [Here](#), or go to: <https://vimeo.com/event/17522>
Worship Aid

**TEXT TO GIVE IS AVAILABLE FOR THE
CATHEDRAL PARISH!**

Text at any time, especially for your
Sunday Mass Offering
Please text **Cathedral** to 215-709-9955
and follow the link to the on-screen prompts.

New Gospel Reflection Group

Location: Drexel Hall at the Cathedral Basilica
Tuesdays at 6:30 PM

Please reach out to Paul at pmaleski93@gmail.com if you are interested in joining or looking for more information.

**MEN AND WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP
AT CATHEDRAL BASILICA**

Saturdays in Lent at 8:00AM at the Cathedral Chapel

On 3/23 (tuesday) at The Planned Parenthood (12th and Locust, Phila.). To sign up, send an email to Kim Griffin at

woolgatheringwords@gmail.com

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 3/7/2021 was:

First Collection: \$3,909.00

Second Collection: \$696.00

[Click Here to Donate](#)

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: Sue Del Biondo, Paul Fischer, Valente family, Marlene Cinclair, Gloria Quici, Frank Munafo, Matthew Munafo, Rosemary Hennelly, Luisa and Rossana Schiarretta, Patricia Horton, Colleen Farrell, Theresa Sherwin, Lawrence Appiott, Maybel Mathews and her family, Eric McDonald, Alfred Brown, and those in nursing homes or hospitals and all the sick.

To add or remove parishioners, friends or family members to the prayer list, please send an email to: sr.mrparadis@archphila.org, or call Sister Mary Raphael, Parish Outreach Coordinator, at the Cathedral Parish Office, 215-561-1313 Monday through Thursday.

Por favor envíe un email o llame a la oficina parroquial para añadir o remover los nombres de la lista 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 Catedral Basílica, la Iglesia Madre de la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia, como una vibrante comunidad católica romana en el centro de la ciudad. Profesamos nuestra fe católica, servimos a los demás y damos la bienvenida a todos, fundamentado en la Palabra de Dios y en la celebración de los sacramentos de Jesucristo, Nuestro Señor y Salvador.

Adoptado por el Consejo Pastoral Parroquial, Octubre 13, 2020

EVENTOS DE INTERES

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

<http://oficinahispanacatolica.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Marzo-March-2021.pdf>



EL VIA CRUCIS

Se llevará a cabo **todos los domingos** durante la cuaresma después de la Santa Misa de las 12:30 PM en la Capilla de la Catedral.

SOMOS ICONO DE DIOS RETIRO DE CUARESMA

Ven y conoce la espiritualidad Franciscana



Sábado 27 de Marzo de 8:00am a 3:00pm

Iglesia San Williams 6200 Rising sun Ave.

Guardando el protocolo de distanciamiento social
Para más información llamar al 215-745-1389
Transmisión en vivo Divinaunción Ministerio

MISA TELEVISADA EN ESPAÑOL

En UNIVISIÓN 65

Todos los domingos a las **6:30 AM**

La Santa Misa Grabada en línea

SACRAMENTO DE LA RECONCILIACIÓN

Los domingos a las 12:00 PM en la Capilla de la Catedral

El Sacramento del Bautismo en Español

Abril 25, 2021— 1:30 PM

Por favor llame a la oficina parroquial al 215-561-1313 para mayor información.

REFLEXIÓN DEL PÁRROCO

Estimados feligreses,

¡Este es el cuarto domingo de Cuaresma! Este domingo se conoce también como domingo de Laetare. Laetare es la primera palabra del canto de entrada prescrito para la Misa y se traduce como "Regocíjate". El motivo de alegría es la cercanía de la Pascua y el fin de la penitencia de preparación de la Cuaresma. Sí, nos alegramos de que la Pascua esté a la vista. Sin embargo, renovamos nuevamente nuestros propósitos de Cuaresma de arrepentimos de nuestros pecados y esforzarnos por ser cada vez más fieles al Evangelio. Asegúrese de no dejar pasar la Cuaresma sin hacer una buena Confesión Cuaresmal en preparación para una santa Pascua. ¡Oremos los unos por los otros, y especialmente por nuestra catecúmena y candidatos a los sacramentos pascuales, durante estas semanas de Cuaresma!

Este viernes 19 de marzo de 2021 es la solemnidad de San José, Esposo de la Santísima Virgen María. Mientras seguimos celebrando el Año de San José, esta solemnidad adquiere un mayor significado para todos nosotros. Los animo a participar en una de las muchas formas en que nuestra Parroquia Catedral está celebrando el Día de San José este año, como se indica en otra parte de esta edición del boletín parroquial. La Misa de las 12:05 pm del 19 de marzo de 2021, celebrada en la Catedral Basílica, es una Celebración Arquidiocesana. Las Letanías de San José se rezarán antes de la Misa y la Novena mensual Arquidiocesana a San José, que comienza el 19 de marzo, se rezará después de la Misa. Intente ser parte de esta celebración de la Misa el día de San José. Consulte el sitio web de la Arquidiócesis, <http://archphila.org/joseph/>, para conocer las muchas formas en que puede observar este Año de San José con sus propias oraciones y devociones en casa. San José, ruega por nosotros.

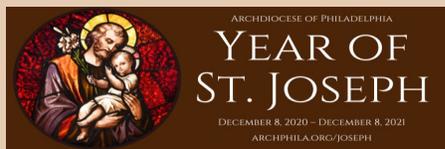
Se le recuerda que es nuestro deber cristiano proporcionar los sacramentos a los que están en peligro de muerte, especialmente con la recepción de la última comunión, el santo viático. De hecho, es un Precepto de la Iglesia recibir el Santo Viático. Por favor, pida a los sacerdotes que ministren a cualquier persona que esté gravemente enferma, especialmente cuando se acerca el final de la vida. Es mejor hacer este contacto con los párrocos mientras alguien todavía está consciente y puede participar en la celebración de los sacramentos. San José es el Patrón de una Muerte Feliz. Oremos a él para que cada uno de nosotros tenga la bendición de una muerte sacramental cuando el Señor nos llame a nuestra patria celestial.

¡Todavía estamos buscando voluntarios! ¿Estarías interesado (a) en ser voluntario (a) para ser parte de nuestra limpieza de primavera de la Basílica para preparar nuestra hermosa iglesia para las celebraciones de Pascua? Si es así, comuníquese con Terry Zubert, tzubert@archphila.org y regístrese. La fecha para la limpieza de primavera es el miércoles 24 de marzo de 2021 de 1:00 a 3:30 p.m.

El próximo domingo no habrá segunda colecta. En cambio, las Hermanitas de los Pobres estarán con nosotros para rogar por el cuidado de los ancianos pobres a su cuidado en las entradas de la iglesia después de cada Misa. Puede enviar sus ofrendas dominicales a la Oficina Parroquial de la Catedral o hacer uso de las muchas formas de donar electrónicamente. Consulte <http://cathedralphila.org/donate/>. Muchas gracias por su bondad y generosidad con la Parroquia Catedral.

¡Dios lo bendiga!
Padre Dennis Gill
Rector

**SOLEMN MASS
FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF
ST. JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY**



Friday, March 19, 2021 - 12:05 PM

Come and celebrate the mystery of God's plan for St. Joseph as husband of Mary and guardian of the Child Jesus during this Solemn Mass during the Year of St. Joseph.

Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill
Celebrant and Homilist

[View the Flyer](#)

**SOLEMN SUNG MASS
IN THE EXTRAORDINARY FORM
(LATIN)**

Friday, March 19, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Archdiocesan Novena to St. Joseph

*(To be prayed on the 19th of each month from March 19-
November 19, 2021)*

The Archdiocesan Novena to Saint Joseph can be prayed in any setting, especially before or after Holy Mass and/or at parish meetings, in the classroom and in the family home. The praying of this Novena is to unite everyone in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on the 19th of each month, from March through November 2021, in single petition of confident prayer to the Lord through the heavenly intercession of Saint Joseph. Please keep in mind the monthly Archdiocesan intention, found on page 4 of the Novena below.

[Click here for the Novena prayers](#) *(Spanish coming soon)*



YOUNG ADULT GROUP

If you are interested in the Young Adults of the Cathedral Parish as well as receiving the most up to-date information on our group's events please e-mail us at: youngadults.cathedral@gmail.com. Please search for our Facebook page: [Young Adults at the Cathedral](#). And Follow our Instagram page: [@YACPhilly](#)

THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL INVITES YOU TO

**FORMING A
People OF Life**
FAITH FORMATION SERIES

Join us at the Cathedral as we explore the Church's teachings on the urgent social issues of our day so as to be strengthened in our resolve to defend them and also be equipped to dialogue fruitfully with others. March 24 - "Speaking the Truth in Love," Speaker: Sisters of Life

June 16 - "Safeguarding the Dignity of Man," Speaker: Meghan Cokeley, Office for the New Evangelization

[View the series flyer here](#)

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Lenten Mini Retreat

Topic: "Even Now Return to Me with Your Whole Heart" (Joel 2:12)

Sharing and reflection will be held after Father's talk.

Monday, March 22 at 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Presenter: Father Dennis Gill, Rector and Pastor,
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul

**Jesus, remember me
when you come into
your kingdom!**



Join us via Zoom

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82773460166?pwd=WnBhYS8rY2Y5akpGZk9uSjNVbEpOZz09>

Meeting ID: 827 7346 0166

Passcode: 859259

**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 deserve 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:** April 4, May 2, 2021.

A *Baptism Preparation Session* takes place on the **THIRD Sunday** of each month at 12:30PM 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 Sister Martha at the rectory by calling 215-561-1313 **to register for the Baptism Preparation Session 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: March 21, April 18, 2021.

For details on requirements for the parents and sponsors please visit our website:

cathedralphila.org/sacraments/baptism

FROM THE OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP

Resource for Evaluating the Lyrics of Liturgical Hymns <http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Resource-for-Evaluating-Hymn-Lyrics-USCCB-Dec.-10-2020.pdf>

PENTECOST SUNDAY ADULT CONFIRMATION

Adult Confirmation scheduled to take place on **Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021 at 6:30 PM** at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul has been **CANCELED DUE TO THE PANDEMIC**. Adult Confirmation will now take place in each Archdiocesan Parish.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

EVANGELIZATION NEWSLETTER

Office for New Evangelization

[CLICK HERE,](#)

<https://phillyevang.flocknote.com/note/10620911>



GOLFING FOR
Gianna
OF PHILADELPHIA
MONDAY, MAY 3RD, 2021
LULU COUNTRY CLUB
A Donald Ross Design

11:00 SIGN IN & RANGE TIME | 11:30 LUNCH
12:30 SHOTGUN START | 6:00 PM DINNER & AWARDS
1600 LIMEKILN PIKE | NORTH HILLS PA 19028

Golf for Gianna		Sponsorships Available:	
Individual Golfer:	\$225	Platinum (Golf for 8)	\$10,000
Includes Green fees, Cart, Unlimited use of Range, Lunch, Dinner & Awards		Gold (Golf for 4)	\$5,000
Dinner Guest:	\$40	Silver (Golf for 4)	\$3,000
		Bronze (Golf for 4)	\$2,000
		Friend (Golf for 4)	\$1,000
		Host Sponsor	\$250

Contests:
Hole-in-one, Putting Contest
Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin

Help us help the Women of the Delaware Valley by Sponsoring!

FOR REGISTRATION AND FURTHER INFORMATION GO TO:
WWW.PHIANNACENTER.ORG

Spiritual Getaway Weekend March 26-28

[Marianist Family Retreat Center –](#)

www.capemaymarianists.org

Cape May Point ▪ NJ ▪ 08212 ▪ 609-884-3829

This retreat is an opportunity to create your own spiritual experience. You can walk the beaches and nature trails or just sit out on the porch to read and reflect. Daily Mass and all meals provided, otherwise your time will be your own.

Cost: \$140/pp (single rooms only)

CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH: A TRIDUUM IN PREPARATION FOR HIS FEAST DAY

Guest Speaker: Rev. David M. Friel
Talks:

Wednesday, March 17: “Joseph the Just Worker” with Evening Prayer, Exposition, Benediction, Confession

Thursday, March 18: “Joseph the Sleeping Giant” with Evening Prayer, Exposition, Benediction, Confession

Friday, March 19 (Solemnity of St. Joseph): “Joseph the Spouse of Mary” with Mass including Litany and Consecration to Saint Joseph

Location: St. Bede the Venerable Church,
1071 Holland Road, Holland, PA

More info: [View the flyer](#)

NUTRITIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (NDS)

Is hosting its annual “One-Can Meal” food drive to enable broad and meaningful participation in the Lenten season. More info can be found at <https://yougivegoods.com/>

EVANGELIZATION

St. Joseph:

Intercessor, Support and Guide for Times of Trouble

On December 8, 2020, Pope Francis declared that the year ahead (concluding December 8, 2021) would be dedicated to St. Joseph. This commemoration takes place on the 150th Anniversary of St. Joseph’s being invoked as Patron of the Universal Church. In the course of his words introducing this commemoration Pope Francis reflected upon the figure of St. Joseph saying:

“Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”¹

Pope Francis joins several Holy Fathers and many saints who have especially lauded St. Joseph’s virtues through the ages. A year ago, I began a book by Fr. Donald Calloway entitled: *“Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father.”*² The book details a 30-Day reading & prayer plan in preparation for consecrating oneself to the special patronage of St. Joseph. The book takes as its guide for reflection the various titles of St. Joseph as found in the Litany of St. Joseph, among them: *“Mirror of Patience... Pillar of families... Hope of the sick... Patron of the dying... Terror of Demons...”* While each of the titles gives us pause for reflection, that last one was especially striking. As we reflect on St. Joseph’s life, we might not jump immediately to the image of St. Joseph doing battle with the evil one and yet upon closer review the image is fitting.

Joseph in the scriptures is described as a just man. We may imply two things form this brief note. First, he was man of the law – he followed the commandments. Second, he was a man of prayer. When God communicates his will to St. Joseph by way of a dream we can see that Joseph is not absolutely unprepared to the reception of such a life-changing call.

St. John Paul II reflects that St. Joseph’s mission was prepared for in advance by a vigorous interior (spiritual) life which we can all strive to imitate. He writes:

“The total sacrifice, whereby Joseph surrendered his whole existence to the demands of the Messiah’s coming into his home, becomes understandable only in the light of his profound interior life. It was from this interior life that very singular commands and consolations came, bringing him also the logic and strength that belong to simple and clear souls, and giving him the power of making great decisions...”³

We are each engaged in a Spiritual Combat and need to be grounded in the interior life if we want to have any hope of ultimate victory. St. Joseph’s life, death and glorification in heaven make him especially ready to serve us as an intercessor, support and guide in times of trouble. This Lent, let us take inspiration from our heavenly protector and patron – St. Joseph and make especial time for prayer and a healthy examination of our consciences according to God’s commandments. Following our heavenly protector, we too might be a terror for the demons – faithful followers of Joseph’s son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. St. Joseph, pray for us!

Fr. Matthew Biedrzycki

¹ Pope Francis, *Patris Corde*

² Calloway, Donald H. *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*, (Marian Press: Stockbridge, MA, 2020).

³ St. John Paul II, *Redemptoris Custos*, 26.