



## ***Fourth Sunday of Advent***

***December 21, 2014***

**"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news  
that will cause great joy for all the people."**

*Luke 2:10*



### ***Dec. 20, Saturday, Late Advent Weekday***

12:05 Angela Pachioli  
5:15 Frank and Nancy Mazza

### ***Dec. 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent***

8:00 Pro Populo - For the People  
9:30 Quici, Galipo & Greco families  
11:00 Edison Giacomucci  
12:30 Sebastian Rodriguez Picos  
6:30 Pro Populo - For the People

### ***Dec. 22, Monday, Late Advent Weekday***

7:15 The Sherry family  
12:05 Rosa Serratore

### ***Dec. 23, Tuesday, St. John of Kanty***

7:15 Daniel Gerstein  
12:05 Dominic Santagelo

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

7:15 Marlene Panek  
12:05 Elizabeth J. Masi  
5:00 Pro Populo - For the People  
7:30 Pro Populo - For the People  
9:30 Misa de Gallo - For the People  
12 Midnight Pro Populo - For the People

### ***Dec. 25, Thursday, The Nativity of the Lord***

8:00 Pro Populo - For the People  
10:00 Pro Populo - For the People  
12 Noon Pro Populo - For the People

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

7:15 The Sherry Family  
12:05 Felice DiStefano

### ***Dec. 27, Saturday, St. John the Apostle***

12:05 James Curry  
5:15 Wiley-Gilligan families

### ***Dec. 28, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph***

8:00 Pro Populo - For the People  
9:30 Vincent and Margaret Angell  
11:00 Wes Tomczynski  
12:30 Luis E. Tellado  
6:30 Pro Populo - For the People

Dear Parishioners,

Every Sunday when we profess our Faith together following the homily, we bow our heads at the words, "and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man." This week, on Christmas Day, we kneel at these words in the Creed. These gestures of reverence are not so much for the words spoken but more so for the great divine event announced with these words, the *Incarnation*. God becomes man! The Father sends his Son, his only begotten Son, to take on our humanity as he shares with us his divinity. The Birth of Jesus, the God-man, in history, in time, makes eternal this Christmas gift to us of his Incarnation. This is why we pray and sing in the present tense on Christmas that *today* a Savior is born for us. It is with this Faith, our Christian Faith, that we enter into these next few days leading to the splendid celebration of the Nativity of the Lord, Christmas.

I encourage all of you to display the Nativity scene in your home—in some cases it may only be a Christmas card with the picture of the Birth of the Lord—and let it be an occasion to reflect on the great gift of Christmas. Reflect on how the Infant Savior brings to each of us the light of the Father's immense love and the promise of our redemption and salvation. God comes to us so that we can come to God. When you are in the Basilica, please take some time to stop and pray at our parish Nativity scene and trust in the nearness of the Savior to you and to all those you remember in prayer.

In addition to the many opportunities for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation listed this week in the Parish Bulletin, I want to highlight one especially. We have scheduled Confessions for an evening time this week on Tuesday, December 23, 2014 in the Basilica. This time is provided for those who have difficulty during the work day to make a good Christmas Confession. I hope this opportunity will be a help to many of you.

This Sunday and on Christmas the *Anniversary Book* commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> year since the Dedication of our beautiful Cathedral will be available after the Masses as a possible keepsake and gift for our parishioners and visitors.

Most of all, I hope and pray all of you have a holy and happy Christmas!

God bless all of you,  
Father Dennis Gill



*The Sanctuary Lamp Candle burns this week in the Cathedral Basilica for*

*David Joseph DiPinto  
At the request of Margaret DiPinto*



*The Sanctuary Lamp Candle burns this week in the Cathedral Basilica Chapel for*

*Thomas Mullen, Jr.  
At the request of The Mullen Family*

Donations are accepted for intentions for the Sanctuary Lamp in the Basilica and the Cathedral Chapel. This candle burns perpetually as a reminder that Jesus is truly and really present in the tabernacle. If you wish to make the suggested donation of fifteen dollars for an intention for a Sanctuary Lamp, you may contact the Parish Office directly or place your intention and offering in the collection basket.

**SCHEDULE OF CONFESSIONS FOR CHRISTMAS**

Monday, December 22, Tuesday, December 23, and Wednesday, December 24  
11:00 AM in the Basilica

Tuesday, December 23  
7:00 PM in the Basilica

**SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THE HOLY DAY OF CHRISTMAS**

*Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord  
December 25*

Wednesday, Christmas Eve, December 24:  
5:00 PM Vigil Mass and 7:30 PM Vigil Mass

9:00 PM Representación Navideña  
9:30 PM Misa de Gallo  
11:00 PM Lessons and Carols

Thursday, Christmas Day, December 25:  
12 Midnight, Solemn Mass  
8:00 AM Mass, 10:00 AM Solemn Mass and  
12 Solemn Noon Mass

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE BASILICA**

**Dec. 21** Men's Discernment Group, Neumann Room, 7:30 pm

**Dec. 23** Posada begins, Chapel, 7 pm

**Dec. 23** Augustine's Brothers, Neumann Room, 6:30 PM

**Dec. 23** Posada ends, Chapel, 7 pm

**Dec. 24** Charismatic Prayer Group, Neumann Room, 6 PM

**Dec. 25** Please see bulletin for the Holy Day Mass schedule and liturgical music for Christmas

**Dec. 30** Augustine's Brothers, Neumann Room, 6:30 PM

**LITURGICAL MUSIC FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASSES**

*Our Cathedral Parish celebrations of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord are greatly enhanced by our fine tradition of liturgical music.*

**Wednesday, Christmas Eve, December 24**  
5:00 PM Vigil Mass and 7:30 PM Vigil Mass  
*Cathedral Schola and Instruments*  
11:00 PM Lessons and Carols  
*Cathedral Basilica Choir and Instruments*

**Thursday, Christmas Day, December 25**  
12 Midnight Solemn Mass  
*Cathedral Basilica Choir and Instruments*  
8:00 AM Mass  
*Cantor and Organ*  
10:00 AM Solemn Mass  
*Cathedral Basilica Choir and Instruments*  
12 Noon Solemn Mass  
*Cantor, Organ and Instruments*

## THE ADVENT GIVING TREE 2014



Today is the day to bring all your gifts to the *Advent Giving Tree* in the Basilica. This year the gifts will be distributed to Mercy Hospice, Women of Hope, St. John's Hospice and other neighborhood institutions that service the homeless and needy. After today gifts can be brought directly to the sacristy of the Basilica.

The response to our *Advent Giving Tree* has been very enthusiastic and generous this year. Thank you so very much for your support of this gift giving effort that will benefit many men, women and children in need this Christmas.

### ***Catechesis for the World Meeting of Families 2015***

*In order to help us prepare for the World Meeting of Families and the anticipated visit from Pope Francis, a catechism on family life entitled, Love is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive, has been prepared. Each month for the next several months, our parish will reflect on one chapter from this catechism. You can order a copy of this beautifully illustrated catechism and learn about the World Meeting of Families at [WorldMeeting2015.org](http://WorldMeeting2015.org).*

#### ***December 2014: Chapter 2: The Mission of Love***

Chapter 1 of the World Meeting of Families preparatory catechism taught that "Love is Our Mission" because love is our origin and destiny. God created us in his own image, which means that loving God and neighbor is the reason for our existence. Chapter 2 explains that the Bible bursts with images describing God's love – a father welcoming a prodigal son, a shepherd searching for lost sheep, a mother comforting her children, and many more (see paragraph #24 for details). But marriage is the dominant Biblical metaphor for God's covenant with Israel and the Church. The Bible is a love story between God and his people, and this love has all the dimensions of a good marriage: it is erotic and heart-felt, but it is also tough and sacrificial, weathering challenges and even betrayal. Jesus loves the Church like a groom loves his bride – even when we disappoint him, even when we hurt him. In this way, Christianity reveals hope for us all, including married couples and families. God commands forgiveness and service because he loves us; forgiveness and mutual service can transform any marriage into a parable of God's love. God is love, but there is nothing sentimental about this love. God is love – and when we love like he loves, it will cost us, but it is the only way to live authentically and avoid counterfeit loves. Contemplating Christ on the cross, we gaze on the miracle that created and sustains us. Next month, in chapter 3, we'll talk about God's love, the human body, and sex.

~ Dr. Christopher C. Roberts, editor, *Love is Our Mission* Preparatory Catechism

***Did you know?*** Registration for the World Meeting of Families is now open! Philadelphia looks forward to welcoming internationally-renowned Catholic speakers in addition to speakers from other religious faiths. In a genuinely international spirit, 30% of the speakers come from outside North America. It is truly an event for everyone! Learn more at [WorldMeeting2015.org](http://WorldMeeting2015.org).



#### ***Please remember these parishioners and friends of the Cathedral Parish in your prayers:***

*Patrishia Bollinger, Anna Marie Burgio, Jeanine Tingeter, Bobby Mitchell, Shirley King, Thomas Sabol, Tom Fiordimondo, Doris Davison, Nancy Tomaszewski, Therese & Bob Black, Robert & Marguerite Grant, Andrés Castillo, Antoinette Gonnella, Bryon Hoch, Ryley June Nazario, Kim Whybrew, Josephina Bianco, Richard J. Mott, Charlotte McLaughlin, Patrick Gallagher, Sheila Kendall, Shahidah Kendall, Ralph Berarducci, Winifred McKeon, Teddy Beaver, Robert Honish, Molly Suján, Edward Endrich, Nicole Carey, Ann Reilly, Mary Ellen Foyle, Bernard Thompson, Larry Ross, Samada family, John DeMelas, Nick Capozio, Linda Brigandi, Dottie Bianci, Alexia Mervine, Sarah Murnghan, Pauline Cope, Ted Rice, Rita Borsaris, Bernie Brill, Molly Suján, Linda Brigandi, Elizabeth Grinder, Joe Capozio, Linda Watson, Michael Roman, Diane Motley, Jason Toomey, Brother Thomas Chadwick, Bryan Anderson 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.*

## POSADAS 2014

Llego adviento y con este tiempo de preparación para conmemorar del nacimiento del Señor, también llegan las posadas. Nueve días, en los que en medio de sonrisas y villancicos preparamos con alegría y oración nuestro corazón para la venida de Jesucristo, y recordamos los momentos que pasaron José y María antes del Nacimiento de Jesús.

La última Posada termina el martes, **23 de diciembre 2014 a las 7 PM** en la capilla de la Catedral Basílica de Ss. Pedro y Pablo.

Que este tiempo sirva para hacernos reflexionar sobre el rumbo que llevan nuestras vidas y podamos descubrir si en realidad le estamos dando posada a Jesús en la única casa que quiere habitar, nuestro corazón.

**Dec. 20:** Religiosas de la Asuncion, 1001 S. 47th St., Philadelphia, 215-386-5016

**Dec. 21:** Jazmin de la Cruz, 1846 Vineyard St., Philadelphia, 267-393-0461

**Dec. 22:** Mercedes Urena, 3902 Henry Ave., Philadelphia, 646-267-4915

**Dec. 23:** En la capilla de Santos Pedro y Pablo

## Communion of the Sick

The priests of the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul are anxious to serve the spiritual needs of their Catholic brothers and sisters who live in Residences such as **Atria, Kennedy House, Penn Center House, Riverside Presbyterian, and Watermark.**

Therefore, if you are aware of anyone who would like a priest to visit and celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, the Sacrament of the Sick, and Holy Communion, please let us know.

There is no better way that we can emulate Jesus Christ than by sharing his love with all whom he places in our paths, especially the sick and the aged who long for his healing presence.

Please pass the above requested information on to us by calling the **Parish Office at 215-561-1313.**

Be assured of the love, concern, and prayers of your priests at the Cathedral, and in your goodness pray for us that we may always be channels of Christ's love and peace to others.

God bless you always and *in all ways.*

## 21 de Diciembre del 2014

### Domingo tercero de Adviento

#### LECTURAS CICLO B

**Primera lectura:** *2 Libro de Samuel 7, 1-5. 8b-12. 14a. 16.* Dios rechaza el ofrecimiento de David que quiere construirle una "casa". El mismo Dios construirá esa casa, en su Hijo, descendiente de David según la carne, al cual dará un trono eterno.

**Segunda lectura:** *Romanos 16, 25-27.* El misterio de la salvación es Jesús mismo, revelado paulatinamente por los profetas y que ahora se ha revelado plenamente.

**Evangelio:** *Lucas 1, 26-38.* El relato de la anunciación y de la encarnación de Jesús nos muestra que Dios cumple las promesas de salvación. María, a su vez, representa la colaboración humana, que Dios exige del hombre



#### Readings of the Week

**Monday: December 22**

1 Samuel 1:24-28/1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8abcd  
Luke 1:46-56

**Tuesday: December 23**

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24/Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14  
Luke 1:57-66

**Wednesday: December 24**

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29  
Luke 1:67-79

**Thursday: December 25**

Isaiah 9:1-6/Psalm 96:1-3, 11-13  
Luke 2: 1-14

**Friday: December 26**

Acts of Apostles 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17/Matthew 10:17-22

**Saturday: December 27**

1 John 1:1-4/Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12  
John 20:1a, 2-8

**Sunday: December 28**

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Psalm 105:1-6, 8-9  
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Hebrews 1:1-2

## WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS.....

Reflecting on the words of any Pope helps us to grow in our faith—after all, he is our shepherd, the one who calls us on as one body in Christ. We will offer short excerpts taken from Pope Francis' addresses and homilies which will reflect the themes that we can expect to hear again and again during his pontificate.....

### **The Joy of Being Carried by Jesus**

Let us follow Jesus! We accompany, we follow Jesus, but above all we know that he accompanies us and carries us on his shoulders. This is our joy; this is the hope that we must bring to this world. Please do not let yourselves be robbed of hope! Do not let hope be stolen—the hope that Jesus give us!



### **Parish Sponsors for Christian Initiation are Needed**

Our Cathedral Parish is blessed to have several additional adults express a desire to receive Baptism, Confirmation and Communion during this coming Easter Time. Presently, they are in a period of formation and instruction. During this period, they need the help of members of our Parish to assist them as Sponsors—mentors and guides for living a Catholic Christian life. The Sponsor is available to the candidate personally during this period of instruction, to answer questions, to introduce the candidate to the Parish, and to witness to the living of the Faith. If you think this role is for you, please call the Parish Office at 215-561-1313.

### **Basilica Tours**

A guided tour of the Basilica is available **after the Sunday 11 AM Mass**. Please meet in front of the side altar of the Sacred Heart, which is to the right of the Main Altar.



## *Living Stewardship Now*

### **RISKY BUSINESS**

Matthew's Gospel today tells us that Joseph was betrothed to Mary. Unlike engagement, betrothal was a binding contract. The couple might wait for a year before beginning married life. Sexual activity during the betrothal was frowned upon. If the bride became pregnant by another man, her groom could denounce her, and she would be stoned to death. The alternative was quiet divorce. This would have saved Joseph from humiliation, but would have done nothing to protect Mary. God spoke in Joseph's dream and told him to take Mary as his wife. God named her child Jesus—the one who saves. Joseph took a risk and said "Yes" to God, without regard for the outcome. Not all women have a "just man" like Joseph to stand by them during pregnancy and birth, or the resources to cope with single motherhood or a child with disabilities. Take a risk like Joseph and commit to offering help.

### *Living Stewardship Now.....*

Ways to help new life: make donations or volunteer time to Birthright, Right to Life, Blessed Margaret of Castello Home for Crisis Pregnancies or any other organization that benefits new mothers and their children.

### **Tithing Online**

You can make weekly, monthly or quarterly contributions or other donations on-line, either from your personal checking account or a debit/credit card. Go to our new website: **[www.cathedralphila.org](http://www.cathedralphila.org)** and click on "Make A Donation" and follow the instructions.

One option is to manually make weekly or monthly donations or you can have your credit/debit card or checking account automatically debited each week/month.

We hope this service will provide convenience and ease to our parishioners and visitors. Thank you for your truly generous support during this difficult financial time and for your continued commitment to our Parish!