



Second Sunday of Advent December 6, 2015

*“Mankind is a great, an immense family...
this is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas”*

Pope John XXIII

Mass Intentions for the Week

December 5, Saturday, Advent Weekday

12:05 Felice DiStefano
5:15 Bonnie Dooley

December 6, Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 Pro Populo - For the People of the Parish
9:30 Lena Quici
11:00 Mario Cionci
12:30 Vincente y Carlos Cocon family
6:30 Pro Populo - For the People

December 7, Monday, Saint Ambrose

7:15 Kathleen O'Connor
12:05 Elizabeth Kosman
5:15 Vigil Mass
7:00 Spanish Mass—MISA vigilia

December 8, Tuesday, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:15 AM, 12:05 PM, 12:35 PM, 5:15 PM
7:00 Mass in Extraordinary Form

December 9, Wednesday, Saint Juan Diego

7:15 Helen Erdosy
12:05 Mary Harvey

December 10, Thursday, Advent Weekday

7:15 Daniel V. Donohue, Jr.
12:05 George Leibrand

December 11, Friday, Saint Damasus I

7:15 Demetrios Asprakis
12:05 Nancy Calabree

December 12, Saturday, Our Lady of Guadalupe

12:05 Thomas Cretella
5:15 Robert Iacobucci

December 13, Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 Pro Populo - For the People of the Parish
9:30 Arthur Quici
11:00 Special Intention
12:30 Gregorio Gonzalez
6:30 Pro Populo - For the People

Dear Parishioners,

Our second week of Advent brings the celebration of the *Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary* this Tuesday, December 8, 2015. Our Blessed Mother, under her title of the Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of the United States of America. Mary is also our Advent companion, as she was prepared in such a singular way to be conceived without Original Sin to be the Mother of our Savior, and prays for us that we may prepare well for a new coming of her Divine Son into our hearts. Please see the Mass schedule for the Holy Day in another place in the Parish Bulletin. You will notice there will be an additional Mass in Spanish on Monday evening at 7:00 PM and Mass in the Extraordinary Form at 7:00 PM on Tuesday evening. Mass in the Extraordinary Form makes use of the form of the Mass celebrated at the time of the Second Vatican Council.

I would like to announce to you the newly reconstituted membership of the *Parish Pastoral Council*. The year in parenthesis indicates the expiration of the term of office. I am grateful to all who served in the past—and some for many years—on the Parish Pastoral Council. I am hopeful that the new Parish Pastoral Council will be a great assistance to me as the Rector and Pastor as they advise me on your behalf for the pastoral development of our Parish.

MEMBERSHIP

Rector and Pastor	Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill
Parochial Vicar	Reverend Angelo J. Hernandez
Parochial Vicar	Reverend Kenneth C. Brabazon

EX OFFICIO

Member of the Parish Finance Council	TBD
Permanent Deacon	Epifanio DeJesus
Director of the Parish Religious Education	James Browne

SIX ELECTED MEMBERS

Young Adult (2018)	Richele Rainosek
Single Adult (2018)	Barbara Rensman
Married Couple (2017)	Mary Ann and Michael Leigh
Senior Adult (2017)	Nicholas Pascale
Spanish Community (2016)	Miriam Rodriguez
Liturgical Ministry (2016)	Anne Markham

THREE APPOINTED MEMBERS

Director of Parish Liturgical Music	Brandon Motz, Interim (2018)
Parishioner	Dennis Boylan (2017)
Parishioner	Louis Ferrero (2016)

The first meeting of the new Parish Pastoral Council is Monday, December 14, 2015. If you have any issues or topics of pastoral concern for discussion at this meeting, you are encouraged to bring it to the attention of any of the members.

The second collection at Mass next Sunday will be directed to supplement the utility costs for the Cathedral Parish. Thank you so very much for all of your goodness and generosity to the Cathedral Parish in so many ways.

God bless you, Father Dennis Gill



***Masses for The Immaculate Conception of
the Blessed Virgin Mary***

Holy Day of Obligation

***Monday, Dec. 7: 5:15 PM,
7:00 PM (Spanish)***

***Tuesday, Dec. 8: 7:15 AM, 12:05 PM,
12:35 PM and
7:00 PM (Mass in Extraordinary Form)***

FIESTA DE LA INMACULADA

María, la madre de Jesús, es considerada por la Iglesia la primera entre todos los santos. A María la llamamos “Purísima” e “Inmaculada”. Dios la preparó antes de su concepción; también nosotros decimos y creemos que Dios nos eligió y pensó en nuestras vidas antes incluso de ser concebidos. Las virtudes de María: la humildad de quien se siente pequeña, la disponibilidad más allá de explicaciones racionales, la confianza en su Señor, el cuidado de los suyos, la ternura, el servicio... son virtudes que también deberíamos cultivar sus hijos, los cristianos. Cantemos con María en este tiempo de Adviento: “Proclama mi alma la grandeza del Señor, se alegra mi espíritu en Dios mi Salvador”.

MISA vigilia:

**A las 7pm, el lunes, 7 de diciembre
en la Capilla.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PARISH

Dec. 6 Spanish Choir rehearsal, Chapel Hall, 3 PM

Dec. 7 Choir rehearsal, Basilica, 7:30 PM

Dec. 8 Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - please see opposite for Mass times

Dec. 8 Augustine's Brothers - Prayer and Support Group for Men, Neumann Room, 7:00 PM

Dec. 8 Choir rehearsal, Chapel Hall, 6:30 PM

Dec. 9 Charismatic Prayer Group, Neumann Room, 6:00 PM

Dec. 10 Choir rehearsal, Chapel Hall, 6:30 PM

Dec. 10 Catechetical Session, Neumann Room 7 PM

Dec. 11 Cathedral Young Adults Social Gathering with reflection on Sacred Scripture, Neumann Room, 7 PM

Dec. 11 Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass, Basilica, 9 PM, Archbishop Chaput, celebrant

Dec. 12 Choir rehearsal, Basilica, 10 am

Dec. 13 Christmas Concert, Basilica, 3 PM

The Cathedral Shop

Now open year round on weekends, all major events such as concerts and scheduled guided tours on both weekends and weekdays, and for Holy Days of Obligation, is The Cathedral Shop, located thru the double doors to the front right of the Basilica! Featured now thru Christmas are the well loved Fontanini Nativity Sets (stable included) for the whole family, Fisher Price Nativity Sets for children, Oplatki Polish Christmas Wafers, Advent Wreaths, Advent Candles & Calendars, Three Kings Incense, and much more! Some of our current religious goods include Medals, Rosaries, Adult & Baby Bracelets, Holy Cards, Books, Bibles, Statues, Saint Bottlelight Candles, and of course Pope Francis memorabilia right from the Cathedral Basilica where the Holy Father offered his Philadelphia Papal Masses!

GIVE TO GROW



HOSPICE SUNDAY **NEXT WEEKEND**

Please remember to bring your food donations for **St. John's Hospice**. Please bring all items to Mass and leave them in the Sacristy. Your recent donations were very much appreciated.

Thank you for your continued generosity,
God bless you.

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.

This sacrificial offering—which benefits all—is greatly appreciated. Please consider an increase to your weekly offering. The operation and maintenance of the Cathedral Basilica and Parish is approximately 20,000 dollars a week.

The Offertory Collection for the weekend of 11/22/15 was \$6,705 and weekend of 11/29/15 was \$11,953. Again, many thanks for your goodness and generosity!



Concerts at the *Cathedral Basilica*

Come and Experience
Great Music in the Cathedral

Christmas at the Cathedral Basilica

Sunday, December 13 at 3 PM

Tickets: \$25

Christmas in Germany

Friday, December 18 at 8 PM

Tickets: \$29

For more information and to
Purchase Tickets visit:
www.CathedralPhilaConcerts.org

CATECHETICAL SESSION FOR ADULTS THIS WEEK

The Sacraments

Thursday, December 10, 7:00-8:30 PM

Neumann Room (entrance from the rear of the Basilica)

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 seeking more information on the reception of the Sacraments or assisting as a sponsor, please call the Parish Office.



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

*Cindy Kiefer, Dave McNichol, Maryann Kehl, Pearl Basser, Helen Ferris, Catherine Ferrero, Oscar Rodriguez, Enrique Rodriguez, Linda Watson, Randy Burbage, Rosa Maria Santos, Amy Fife, Theodore Barry, M.D., Marissa Kostrzewa, David Kaplan, Marilyn Mullen, Kathleen Aponik, April DeMatto, Paula Cohen, Janice Holshin, Lauri Mitchell, Maryann Healy, Darren Gardner, Barbara Elaine, Nicholas Tiziano, Christopher Browne, Darren Gardner, Laura Emerson, Regina Carberry, Patrisha Bollinger, Anna Marie Burgio, Jeanine Tingeter, Bobby Mitchell, Shirley King, Thomas Sabol, 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, Sheila Kendall, Shahidah Kendall, Ralph Berarducci, Winifred McKeon, Teddy Beaver, Robert Honish, Molly Suján, Nicole Carey, Ann Reilly, Mary Ellen Foyle, Bernard Thompson, Larry Ross, Samada family, John DeMelas 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.***



THE ADVENT GIVING TREE 2015

The *Advent Giving Tree* in the Basilica is decorated with gift tags which identify gift ideas for the less fortunate in our area. This year the gifts will be distributed to Mercy Hospice, Women of Hope, St. John's Hospice, Sacred Heart Home and other neighborhood institutions that service the homeless and needy.

Please participate in the *Advent Giving Tree*! During the first weeks of Advent take a gift tag or tags. Drop off your wrapped gift or gifts, with the identifying tag on the gift, by the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2015. This will allow for the distribution of these gifts for Christmas. Thank you in advance for your generosity to the many men, women and children who will benefit from your kindness this Christmas.



2015 ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE IN THE BASILICA

Sundays of Advent:
9:00 AM, 10:30 AM and 5:30 PM

Weekdays of Advent:
11:30 AM Monday through Friday
4:15 PM on Saturday

Monday through Thursday,
December 21 through December 24:
11:00 AM

Tuesday, December 22:
7:00 PM

*Resources for the Sacrament of
Penance and Reconciliation
can be found on the website of
the Office for Divine Worship*

<http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/sacred-liturgy/archdiocesan-guidelines/>



Readings of the Week

Monday: December 7

Isaiah 35:1-10/Psalm 85:9ab, 10-14
Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday: December 8

Genesis 3:9-15, 20/Psalm 98:1-4
Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday: December 9

Isaiah 40:25-31/Psalm 103:1-4, 8, 10
Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday: December 10

Isaiah 41:13-20/Psalm 145:1, 9-13ab
Matthew 11:11-15

Friday: December 11

Isaiah 48:17-19/Psalm 1:1-4, 6
Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday: December 12

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Judith 13:18bcde, 19
Luke 1:39-47

Sunday: December 13

Zephaniah 3:14-18a/Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7/Luke 3:10-18

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 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!

Young Adult Group

Friday Evening Bible Study: Please join us for Bible Study every Friday from 7:00-8:30pm in the Neumann Room (room entrance is from the outside on the backside of the church). Room Change Update – on Friday, Dec 18 we will be meeting in 222 17th St. Room #1301 (the tall building behind the Cathedral). We will be in the Neumann Room on Dec 11. Our group gathers to reflect on the readings and the Psalm for the upcoming Sunday. Upcoming Bible Study Dates: **Dec 11, 18** **there will not be Bible Study Christmas Day (12/25) or New Year's Day (1/1)

Food & Fellowship: Our group meets for dinner on the **second Sunday of each month directly following the 6:30pm Mass** at Con Murphy's (1700 Benjamin Franklin Parkway). Our next Food & Fellowship will take place: **Dec 13**

Faith Building Event: On **Monday, December 7** following the **5:15pm Vigil Mass** for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception the Young Adults will be meeting in the Chapel to have a presentation by our priests on **How to Pray the Rosary**. This event will be prayerfully focused on deepening our devotion to our mother Mary whether you are faithfully devoted to the Rosary or are looking to begin a relationship. Following the presentation we will move into the main sanctuary and pray a Rosary together. We hope to have you join us for Mass, the presentation and praying the Rosary.

Ice Skating & Snacks: The Young Adults at the Cathedral will be gathering at **1:30pm on Saturday, Dec 12** at the Cathedral to walk over for Ice Skating at Dilworth Park. (adults \$5, skate rental \$9) We will skate for a few hours and then enjoy some snacks at the park. Please plan to join us for this afternoon get together.

Service Activity: Do you like to sing Christmas carols? Do you want share the Christmas spirit with everyone around you? Please join us as the Young Adults at the Cathedral are going sing Christmas carols to a couple of local senior living communities on Dec. 19th (Saturday) from 4:30-6:30pm & Dec. 21st (Monday) from 7:30-9:00pm. If interested, please email Doug Steinberger at DougSteinberger@gmail.com with your name and which date you are available. All parishioners are welcome to join us for this event.

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 youngadults.cathedral@gmail.com. Please search for our Facebook page (search: Young Adults at the Cathedral).

Living Stewardship Now

BEGINNING ANEW

In the Gospels, Luke pinpoints the year when John the Baptist first began to announce the salvation of God. Only Matthew and Luke make any mention of how and where Jesus was born; all four Gospels are silent on the exact date of Jesus' birth. Preoccupation with accurate dates and details is a modern notion. The Gospel writers are much more intent on what it means that God has broken so personally into human history. The Good News is that God comes to meet us no matter what condition we are in: sick, divorced, caring for an elderly parent, depressed, suffering a business loss, estranged from family. God comes to us when we have hit the wall, bottomed out, or simply begun to drift away. In the Gospels, to the astonishment of all the "good" people, Jesus spends a lot of time with men and women of low reputation. Jesus does exactly the opposite of what society expects: He forgives their sins and puts hope in their hearts. As Oscar Wilde once said, "Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future," which is another way of saying that it is never too late to allow God into our hearts and, repenting of our sins, begin anew. Beginning anew includes praying to do God's will and then giving a proportion of our time, our abilities, and our resources to our community and the world around us—what Saint Paul, in today's reading, calls producing "the fruit of righteousness" (Philippians 1:11). It seems easier to give around Christmas time when we are in the Christmas spirit, and that is all well and good. The more difficult but essential part is to take that same Christmas spirit into the rest of the year.

Living Stewardship Now

Take part in the parish Advent penance service or the sacrament of reconciliation, and experience again God's loving mercy.

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.