



## ***Third Sunday of Advent*** ***December 13, 2015***

**‘Great’ holiness consists in carrying out  
the ‘little’ duties of each moment.**

*St. Josemaría Escrivá*



### ***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

### ***December 14, Monday, Saint John of the Cross***

7:15 Margaret Kerins  
12:05 Col. Wendell Oren Jones

### ***December 15, Tuesday, Advent Weekday***

7:15 Ian Joseph Szcwzak  
7:00 Dolores Piccari

### ***December 16, Wednesday, Advent Weekday***

7:15 Raymond J. Kraft, Jr.  
12:05 Mary Gunn

### ***December 17, Thursday, Late Advent Weekday***

7:15 Oland Dillman  
12:05 Antonio & Maddalena Leone

### ***December 18, Friday, Late Advent Weekday***

7:15 Shaun F. O'Malley  
12:05 Benito A. Farnese

### ***December 19, Saturday, Late Advent Weekday***

12:05 Special Intention  
5:15 Mike Tulli

### ***December 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent***

8:00 Pro Populo - For the People of the Parish  
9:30 Quici, Galipo & Greco families  
11:00 Special Intention  
12:30 Jose Fontanez  
6:30 Pro Populo - For the People

Dear Parishioners,

Today, here in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia at the Cathedral Basilica, Archbishop Charles Chaput opens the *Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy*. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, opened the Jubilee Year in Rome this past Tuesday, the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Pope instructed all Diocesan Bishops to open the Jubilee in their Cathedral Churches on this Third Sunday of Advent.

The *Jubilee Year of Mercy* is an occasion for all the members of the Church to be more aware of the merciful love of our Father for every one of us. Our Father shows us his great mercy in his Son who came into the world—to show us his Father's face of mercy with his life, death and resurrection. The power of the Mystery, celebrated in every Sacrament, reconciles us to the Father and to one another over and over again—and all people for all time. This Jubilee Year invites us to be open to receive the mercy of God—a divine loving gaze upon us—and to respond with our whole lives. This response includes our personal reconciliation—turning away from sin, seeking the forgiveness of our sins, and serving one another with the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. During this Jubilee Year there will be a renewed emphasis on the celebration of the Eucharist each Sunday and the frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation on the part of all. In the coming weeks, you will hear much more about our observance of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. For more immediate information, please see the archdiocesan website, [www.archphila.org/mercy](http://www.archphila.org/mercy).

A significant feature of a Holy Year or Jubilee Year is the Holy Door. The Cathedral Basilica, as the mother church of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, will be the principal location of the *Holy Door of Mercy* for this Jubilee Year. The Archbishop has given permission for a Holy Door of Mercy at each of the five archdiocesan shrines as well. The Holy Door is a sign of the spiritual invitation of a Holy Year or Jubilee Year. The true Holy Door is Christ. Christ, as Sacred Scripture reminds us, is the Gate. Yes, Jesus is the Gate from sin to grace, the passage from all that separates us from God to all that unites us to him. See more information about the Opening of the Holy Door in the Parish Bulletin.

Archbishop Chaput sent a thank you letter to all pastors asking them to extend his profound gratitude to their parishioners for support and participation in the World Meeting of Families and the visit of Pope Francis this past September. The Archbishop hopes that we can build in many ways on the blessings of these great events in the future in the Archdiocese. In addition to the thanks of our Archbishop, I reiterate my gratitude to you, the parish World Meeting of Families Committee and our parishioners, for incredible and outstanding work to welcome the world—including our Holy Father—to our Cathedra Parish.

The second collection at Mass next Sunday will be directed to defray costs associated with preparations for the opening of the Jubilee Year. 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

***The Sacred Now: Faith and Family  
In the 21st Century Mural***

This vibrant public artwork, unlike any mural in the world, was installed across three sections of the building comprising Saint Malachy School, 1419 N. 11th Street, Philadelphia. Designed by renowned Mural Arts Program muralist Cesar Viveros, and inspired by WMOF's theme, **"Love is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive,"** the 4,239-square-foot work is a lasting testament to WMOF and the Papal Visit. As Mr. Viveros shared in his artist's statement, the mural is intended to capture the powerful impact of "relationship, interaction, constructivism, actions, inclusion, compassion, and every moment of life that gives us the opportunity to share who we are by living this mission of love." In keeping with his vision, Mr. Viveros' mural, is created from 153 individual panels measuring 5' x 5'. The GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS title for Most Contributions to a Painting by Numbers was set in 2014 by 2,263 people.

The World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015 and the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, with Carlos Martinez, official adjudicator for GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS in attendance, surpassed that total when the Walker family painted the mural on the final day of the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015 Congress. The Walker Family journeyed by car more than 13,000 miles, across 13 countries, to travel to Philadelphia. The final number is currently being reviewed by GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PARISH**

**Dec. 13** Christmas Concert, Basilica, 3 PM

**Dec. 13** Opening of the Holy Door & Solemn Mass, 6:30 PM

**Dec. 15** Filming of Spanish Mass, Basilica, 6 PM

**Dec. 15** Augustine's Brothers - Prayer and Support Group for Men, Neumann Room, 7:00 PM

**Dec. 15** Las Posadas, Chapel Hall, 7 PM

**Dec. 16** Charismatic Prayer Group, Neumann Room, 6:00 PM

**Dec. 17** Catechetical Session, Neumann Room 7 PM

**Dec. 18** Concert in the Cathedral, 8 PM

**Dec. 19** Choir rehearsal, Chapel Hall, 4 PM

**Dec. 20** Baptism Preparation Session, Basilica, 12:30 PM

**Dec. 20** Men's Discernment Group, Neumann Room, 7:30 PM

***Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy***

**Opening of the Holy Door  
and  
Solemn Mass**

**Today, Sunday, December 13  
6:30 PM**

Join Archbishop Chaput and the faithful of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia as we begin our solemn observance of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Jubilee Holy Doors: Passage through a Jubilee Holy Door is an efficacious sign of our decision to enter into the life of Jesus and make passage from sin to grace. All are invited to respond to the Jubilee invitation to conversion of heart by passing through the holy door!

Further information can be found by visiting [www.archphila.org/mercy](http://www.archphila.org/mercy). Please read this material and consider sharing it broadly with others.

APERTURA DE LA PUERTA SANTA y  
MISA SOLEMNE

Domingo 13 de diciembre del 2015 a las 6:30 pm  
Confesiones a las 5:30 pm  
Arzobispo Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.  
Celebrante principal y homilista  
Catedral Basílica de San Pedro y San Pablo

*Acompañe al arzobispo Chaput y a los fieles de la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia al comenzar nues-tra observancia solemne del Año del Jubileo Extraordinario de la Misericordia. Recomendaciones litúrgicas y recursos catequísticos para ayudar en nuestra observancia arquidiocesana pueden encontrarse en: [www.archphila/mercy](http://www.archphila/mercy)*

**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 12/6/15 was \$8,849. 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 visit:  
[www.CathedralPhilaConcerts.org](http://www.CathedralPhilaConcerts.org)  
Tickets can be purchased online  
or at the door.

***Llamados a Estar Siempre Alegres***

Con demasiada frecuencia estamos o nos sentimos tristes. En este Tercer Domingo de Adviento la liturgia nos habla precisamente de Dios como el Señor de la danza. El Señor se siente feliz por venir a nosotros: “Él danzará con gritos de alegría por ustedes, como en un día de festival”. Para el Señor, el estar con nosotros es una auténtica fiesta. ¿Es una fiesta también para nosotros el estar con él? Abrámonos a la alegría de la venida y de la presencia duradera del Señor entre nosotros. Él viene a nosotros con su paz, su amor y su perdón, no solamente en la gran fiesta de Navidad, sino en cada eucaristía y cada día, cuando estamos dispuestos a hacer crecer en nosotros y en nuestro mundo el amor y la paz de Dios.



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

*Cindy Kiefer, Dave McNichol, Maryann Kehl, Pearl Bassar, Helen Ferris, 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 Sujana, 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 14**

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a/Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9  
Matthew 21:23-27

### **Tuesday: December 15**

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13/Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23  
Matthew 21:28-32

### **Wednesday: December 16**

Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21b-25/Psalm 85:9ab-14  
Luke 7:18b-23

### **Thursday: December 17**

Genesis 49:2, 8-10/Psalm 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17  
Matthew 1:1-17

### **Friday: December 18**

Jeremiah 23:5-8/Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19  
Matthew 1:18-25

### **Saturday: December 19**

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a/Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17  
Luke 1:5-25

### **Sunday: December 20**

Micah 5:1-4a/Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19  
Hebrews 10:5-10/Luke 1:39-45

## CATECHETICAL SESSION FOR ADULTS THIS WEEK

### *The Sacrament of Baptism*

Thursday, December 17, 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.



## 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 17<sup>th</sup> St. Room #1301 (the tall building behind the Cathedral). Our group gathers to reflect on the readings and the Psalm for the upcoming Sunday. Upcoming Bible Study Dates: **Dec 18**

**\*\*there will not be Bible Study Christmas Day (12/25) or New Year's Day (1/1), we will resume on January 8**

**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**

**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 to sing Christmas carols for 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](mailto:DougSteinberger@gmail.com) with you name and which date(s) 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](mailto:youngadults.cathedral@gmail.com). Please search for our Facebook page (search: Young Adults at the Cathedral).

Cathedral Student Excels at  
Roman Catholic High School

Mitchell McLeod '17  
achieved second honors  
in the First Quarter Report

We are particularly proud of Mitchell's academic excellence.

## Living Stewardship Now

### THE LORD IS NEAR

Historical records indicate that the birthday of our Savior was not celebrated at all for at least the first two centuries of the church's existence. For the early Christians, Easter was the primary feast in the church year. The Nativity of Our Lord did not finally enter the calendar until around 350 A.D., when it was settled on the date of December 25. Nowadays, Christmas is treated even in the civil calendar as the most important holiday in the year, and for reasons that have gone far beyond its true religious significance. Beginning with Charles Dickens and all the way through to Hallmark, a vision of the perfect Christmas has danced in our heads. Yet many treasured customs of today, such as the decorated tree, greeting cards, and the exchange of Christmas presents, originated only just over a century ago. Christmas has become more complicated in recent decades, and some of us get so tangled up in decorating, shopping, baking, parties, and family gatherings that we experience considerable stress. Others feel left out, isolated, and depressed by all the jollity. Now, with changing times, many Catholics have begun to refocus not only on *why* we celebrate Christmas, but *how* to celebrate in ways that are truly in harmony with the meaning of Christ's birth. In today's second reading Saint Paul assures us that "The Lord is near" (Philippians 4:5) and urges us to stop our worrying, knowing that God will bring the gift of peace to our hearts, a peace beyond human understanding. Like the crowds surrounding John the Baptist in today's Gospel, we may say, "What should we do?" (Luke 3:10). John's answer holds true today: Share with others, act justly, and be satisfied with what we have. Only then can "Emmanuel" truly be, as the name means, "God with us."

## Living Stewardship Now

Balance time spent Christmas shopping with efforts for the less fortunate.

- Buy gifts for "Angel Tree" families.
- Match each gift that you buy for family or friends with a contribution to a charity in the same amount.
- Give charitable donations as gifts in the recipient's name.

## Vatican Splendors

The beauty of Vatican City is currently being hosted at the Franklin Institute with the once-in-a-lifetime exhibit. Many of the items have never been seen outside of Vatican City. The Franklin Institute is offering tickets that are discounted more than 28% off the box office price. Visit [fi.edu](http://fi.edu) or call 215-448-1200 and use the promo code ARCHPHL and organize your trip today.