

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2015

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."

Luke 1:35



Mass Intentions for the Week

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

December 21, Monday, Saint Peter Canisius

7:15 Agnes E. Marziano

12:05 Sister Mary Lawrence Scanlan

December 22, Tuesday, Late Advent Weekday

7:15 Elizabeth Donnelly

7:00 Leonard Diana, Jr.

December 23, Wednesday, Saint John of Kanty

7:15 Jane Rita Scanlan

12:05 Leone & Cucurullo

December 24, Thursday, Late Advent Weekday

7:15 Souls in Purgatory

12:05 Frank Christaldi

5:00 PM, 7:30 PM, 9:30 PM

December 25, Friday, Nativity of the Lord

12 Midnight, 8:00 AM, 10 AM, 12 Noon

December 26, Saturday, Saint Stephen

12:05 Special Intention

5:15 Stephen Pron

December 27, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 Pro Populo - For the People of the Parish

9:30 Yolanda Thomas

11:00 Wes Tomczynski

12:30 Sebastian Rodriguez

6:30 Pro Populo - For the People

Dear Parishioners,

This is the *Fourth Sunday of Advent*! Where did the last three weeks go? On the First Sunday of Advent, just a short time ago, I wrote in this column how fast Advent would pass and Christmas Day would quickly arrive. Of all the weeks of Advent, the Fourth seems to just disappear into Christmas. I encourage you to take advantage of these last days of joyfully anticipating the Nativity of Our Lord by setting some time aside for prayer and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Let us pray—alone and for one another—that we will receive the Infant Savior into our hearts and lives with a real desire to be faithful to his Gospel way of life. Let us make a good Advent Confession seeking the forgiveness of our sins with gratitude for the mercy of the Lord. There are several extra times for Confessions this week at the Cathedral Basilica, especially on Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM. Please see the notice in the Parish Bulletin for these additional times.

The *Holy Door of Mercy* was solemnly opened by Archbishop Chaput last Sunday evening, December 13, 2015, at the 6:30 PM Mass. The Holy Door of Mercy signifies the journey of all the members of the Church during this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. This is our journey to pass through the door that is Christ to his Father, to pass from sin to grace, to pass from a weak or dull relationship with him to a more vibrant and life giving relationship. I ask you to pass through the Holy Door of Mercy, which is the far right front door of the Basilica facing 18th Street, conscious of its meaning. A gift of an indulgence is associated with passing through the Holy Door of Mercy under the usual conditions—passing through the Holy Door itself, having no attachment to sin, the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and the reception of Holy Communion, and prayers for our Holy Father. The gift of the indulgence—which can be obtained for you or applied to someone who has died—is the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven. For more information on the gift of an indulgence, please see: <http://archphila.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Plenary-Indulgence-Catechesis.pdf>.

Next Sunday, December 27, 2015, the *Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*, there will be a special celebration for families at the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass. Families from throughout the Archdiocese are invited to join us at the Cathedral Basilica on this Sunday Feast of the Holy Family to continue to pray for families and the renewal of family life as part of an ongoing response to the September World Meeting of Families here in Philadelphia.

The *Parish Calendars* available after the Masses for the next few weeks are a gift to us from Dinan Funeral Home on Spring Garden Street. If you have homebound neighbors, please consider taking a parish calendar to them.

The second collection at Mass next Sunday will be directed to assist with expenses associated with the celebration of Christmas here at the Cathedral Basilica. Thank you so very much for all of your goodness and generosity to the Cathedral Parish in so many ways.

God bless you for Christmas,
Father Dennis Gill

Masses for Christmas Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Thursday, Christmas Eve, December 24:

5 PM Vigil Mass

7:30 PM Vigil Mass

9:00 PM Representación Navideña

9:30 PM Misa de Gallo (in Spanish)

11:00 PM Lessons and Carols

Friday, Christmas Day, December 25:

12 Midnight, Solemn Mass

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM Solemn Mass

12 Noon Solemn Mass

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday, December 26:

5:15 PM Anticipated Mass

Sunday, December 27:

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM Solemn Mass,

12:30 PM (in Spanish), 6:30 PM

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God A Holy Day of Obligation

Thursday, December 31:

5:15 PM Anticipated Mass

Friday, January 1:

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12 Noon and

2:00 PM (in Spanish)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PARISH

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

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

Dec. 21 Choir rehearsal, Chapel Hall, 7 PM

Dec. 22 Confessions, Basilica, 7 PM

Dec. 22 Augustine's Brothers - Prayer and Support Group for Men, Neumann Room, 7:00 PM

Dec. 23 Charismatic Prayer Group, Neumann Room, 6:00 PM

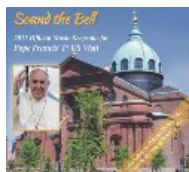
Dec. 23 Las Posadas, Chapel, 7 PM (see schedule in the bulletin)

Dec. 24 Choir rehearsal, Chapel Hall, 4 PM

Dec. 24/25 See Christmas Mass schedule

Dec. 27 Spanish Celebration, Chapel Hall, 1:30 PM

Dec. 28 The 25th Anniversary Memorial Mass for Firefighter Steven Yale, Basilica, 11 AM



ANNOUNCING THE CD "SOUND THE BELL" 🔔🔔🔔

Celebrate the Pope
in Philly forever!

Featuring the **Official Hymn** of the
World Meeting of Families 2015
"Sound the Bell of Holy Freedom"
Pope Francis' commemorative
downloadable or CD

Sound the Bell - a musical keepsake of
the Pontiff's Mass on the Parkway 🔔🔔🔔

Now available in
The Cathedral Shop

Dios Visita a su Pueblo

Nuestro mundo está lleno de gente ordinaria, humilde, que vive en oscuros pueblecitos, y sin embargo algunas personas como éstas han cambiado el curso de este mundo. Dentro de la historia de la Iglesia honramos hoy a la primera persona que procede de ese medio ambiente ordinario. Una frase sencilla suya, un humilde "Sí", cambió el curso del mundo y de la futura Iglesia. Con la canción popular preguntaremos: "¿Quién será la mujer...?" Ella es María. Su SÍ a Dios, su "Heme aquí", le dio a ella y a nosotros a Jesús, el Hijo de Dios. Ello hizo posible el "Aquí estoy, vengo para hacer tu voluntad" de Jesús. El SÍ de María y el de Jesús nos llama a nosotros y a toda la Iglesia hoy a dar nuestro SÍ incondicional a Dios. Pidamos en esta eucaristía que podamos unirnos a Jesús y a María en su SÍ. Y de ese modo podremos cambiar el curso del mundo hoy.



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

*Dominic A. and Josephine C.
Siravo*

Request of Rosemary Montgomery



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.



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.

Posadas Navideñas – Año 2015

Lunes 15 al 23 de diciembre — 7PM

La primera y la última Posada serán en la Capilla de la Catedral Basilica de Santos Pedro y Pablo Familias que ofrecieron sus casas para las posadas de este año 2015:

20 de diciembre de 2015: (Domingo)

Sra. Jazmín de la Cruz, 872 Perkiomen Street, Philadelphia

21 de diciembre de 2015: (Lunes)

Sra. Elena Nava, 1316 N. Newkirk Street, Philadelphia

22 de diciembre de 2015: (Martes)

Sra. Mercedes Ureña Durán 3902 Henry Avenue, Philadelphia

23 de diciembre de 2015: (Miércoles)

En la **Capilla de la Catedral** Salón de la Capilla

Dramatización de la historia de la Natividad

por los niños de la parroquia a las 9 PM

Misa de GALLO-diciembre 24, 2015 a las 9:30 PM



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

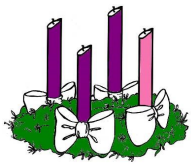
Barbara DiPipi, Cindy Kiefer, Dave McNichol, Maryann Kehl, Pearl Basser, Helen Ferris, Oscar Rodriguez, Enrique Rodriguez, Linda Watson, Randy Burbage, Rosa Maria Santos, Amy Fife, Theodore Barry, M.D., Marissa Kostrzewa, David Kaplan, Marilyn Mullen, Kathleen Aponik, April DeMatto, Paula Cohen, Janice 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 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 was 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 drop off your wrapped gift or gifts, with the identifying tag on the gift, **TODAY** - December 20, 2015 or bring to the Parish Office by December 23. 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 THIS WEEK

*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 21

Song of Songs 2:8-14/Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
Luke 1:39-45

Tuesday: December 22

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

Wednesday: December 23

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

Thursday: December 24

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

Friday: December 25

Isaiah 62:1-5/Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27,29
Matthew 1:1-25

Saturday: December 26

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

Sunday: December 27

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28/Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10
1 John 3:1-2, 21-24/Luke 2:41-52

CATECHETICAL SESSION FOR ADULTS THIS WEEK

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Thursday, January 7, 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 17th 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: **January 8**

****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: **January 10**

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: **Dec. 21st (Monday) from 7:30-9:00pm**. If interested, please email Doug Steinberger at 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. Please search for our Facebook page (search: Young Adults at the Cathedral).



Cathedral Custom Rosary

These beautiful custom made rosaries from Italy are still available. Chose from a Bohemian Glass brown or pearly/green shade. The Crucifix is the same one that appears on our Main Altar, There is also an exact replica of our Main Altar and images of SS. Peter and Paul and our Cathedral crest. The Cathedral Rosary can be purchased in The Cathedral Shop.

Living Stewardship Now

JOY TO THE WORLD

When the vast prairies of this country were opened up to settlers in the nineteenth century, many of the families who went out West and staked a claim on the land lived very hard and isolated lives, often long miles away from their nearest neighbors. The husbands did back-breaking work to start their farms and raise crops to support their families. The families lived in sod huts or log cabins and the wives struggled with a daily round of child-rearing, cleaning, and cooking in primitive conditions that we can hardly imagine today. They, perhaps far more than their husbands, felt the extreme loneliness of this kind of life. When two families met, the women would as often as not fall about each other's necks, embracing in tears simply at the joy of being together.

This is just an echo of what we hear about in today's Gospel. Luke tells of two women, Mary and Elizabeth, united after some time apart. Each is pregnant, each will bear a child who will one day change the world. What is expressed between them is an amazing, overflowing, unconcealed joy. Elizabeth is a woman who has awaited pregnancy for many years, and Mary has learned that she is the chosen one to bear the Messiah. The waiting, the risks, the soul searching, the opinions of neighbors count for nothing as they sense the future unfolding before them, brought about by the hand of God.

On this last Sunday of Advent, the story of Mary and Elizabeth reminds us that Christmas is not simply about the birth of a child in a small village in an obscure corner of the world. It is about recognizing light—the light of Christ, the Anointed One, breaking into the world's darkness and coming to rest in our hearts.

Living Stewardship Now

Pray with thanksgiving for the greatest gift of all at Christmas—Jesus, the Savior of the world.

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 or call 215-448-1200 and use the promo code ARCHPHL and organize your trip today.