



December 27, 2015

Saturday, December 26

4:30PM Stephen Opiela Sr.

Sunday, December 27

7:30AM Margaret Minnick

9:30AM William Maher

11:30AM John J. Williams Sr.

Monday, December 28

8:15AM James & Genevieve McNamara
Rita McAvoy (11th Anniversary)

Tuesday, December 29

8:15AM Helen Bielawski

Wednesday, December 30

8:15AM Carmella Pedicone

Thursday, December 31

8:15PM J. Anthony Devadass

Friday, January 1 New Years Day

8:15AM St. Matthew Parishioners

12Noon Michael Kilgallon

Saturday, January 2

4:30PM Bernard J. Murray III

Sunday, January 3

7:30AM Mark Cardes

Philomena D'Orazio

9:30AM Joseph S. Baranowski (3rd Anniv)

Doris Leister

11:30AM William A. & Betty Moore



Pray for the Sick

Tom Tone, David Talone, JoAnn LaSorsa, Marie Carney, Greg Atkinson, Sophie Grabowski, Msgr. Robert Grudowski, Anthony Bonanno, Joanne Toth, Theresa Lenczewski, Luke Birkhead, Erik Kozlowski, Marlene Salkowski, Roselie Partenheimer, John Walski, Carl Reiff, Joseph Blaszczak, Patrick Kelly, Sean McGonagle, Mary Pierce, Brian Dunlevy, Sr. Jean Streibig, Stephanie Hathaway, Charles Streibig, Theresa McGrath, Kylie Reiff, Nikki Dolan, Joseph Rozecki, Betty DiCola, Brother James Riley, Shawn Gallen, Eduardo Gloria, Molly Glick, Deb Smith, Ann Campbell, Francina Capolingua, Cathy Pierlott, Lynn Bowman, James Sousa, James Gauger, Emilia Bello Jones, Rita Van Buskirk, Joan Nasielski, Stephen Greene, Caroline Smerecki, Joan Pierce, Kevin Miller, Mike Ancin, Alfred Zisk, Cynthia Allen, Rylan Borys, Susan Minnick, Ann Greco, Denise Kavanaugh, Ralph Manappello, Jessica Jara, Leanne Purcell, Joe Lotito, Matt McNamee, Kendall Soltys, Concezio Lelii, William McGrath, Madge Swift, Theresa Swetkowski, Carl Pierce, Ursula Kozlowski, Benedetto McDaniels



Staff Sgt Daniel Furtak, Lt. Michelle R. McNally, SSKC Terence J. McNally Jr., Sgt. Robert Bonneau, Andrew Midgett, Jonathan Staats, Col. Shawn McGinley, 108th Wing McGuire AFB, Matthew Horning, 1st Lt. Stanley J. Reimer III, SR Brett Pellicciotti, LCPL Thomas Mazzochetti, Staff Sgt. Michael Alfonse, Robert Catapano U.S. Army 101st Airborne, Paul Brown, Marines, Corporal Andrew Teitjen, Tech Sgt Eric Zweiback

CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE

12/26 4:30 Fr. Genovese

12/27 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Fr. Genovese



NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULE

New Year's Day, Friday, January 1, 2016 - 8:15 AM and 12 Noon

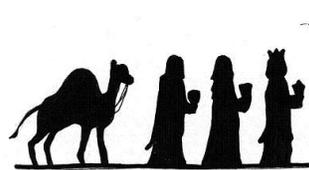
Prepare for Next Sunday

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 3, 2016

Isaiah 60:1 – 6 Ephesians –3:2 – 3a, 5 – 6 Matthew 2:1 – 12
 “The Magi set out because of a deep desire which prompted them to leave everything and begin a journey. It was as though they had always been waiting for that star” (Pope Benedict XVI). Our response to the Father’s offer of salvation is that of the Magi: “To offer gold is to proclaim Christ’s kingship, to offer incense is to adore his Godhead, and to offer myrrh is to acknowledge his mortality” (St. Odilo of Cluny). Creation responds as well: “When the King of heaven was born, the heavens knew he was God because they immediately sent forth a star; the sea knew him because it allowed him to walk upon it; the earth knew him because it trembled when he died; the sun knew him because it hid the rays of its light” (St. Gregory the Great). The manifestation of the Son of God to the world begs belief from us by which we will be led home by another way.

Pre-Jordan Instructions: The Sacrament of Baptism is administered in church on the first three Sundays of each month following the 11:30 A.M. Mass. In preparation for having a child Baptized, parents are required to attend “Pre-Jordan Instructions.” Classes are the 1st Tuesday of each month. **The next class will be Tuesday, January 5th at 7PM in church.** You will be required to attend a class if this is the Baptism of your first child. To schedule your Baptism go to www.stmatthewparish.com or call the rectory 610-828-0424 press 4 for the office to register.



The Epiphany of the Lord

On The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord a Mass will be celebrated at St. Gertrude’s Church on Sunday, January 3, 2016 at 3PM.

Religious Education News

How richly God has decked the wonderful town of Conshohocken! Washington Fire Co #1, affectionately known as "Washies", Conshohocken Fire Co. #2, and the Conshohocken Fire Police arrived at St. Matthews to place the star and string the lights for our Advent Tree Lighting Ceremony. Many thanks to Beth Januzelli who was lifted up high in the ladder truck to position the star in just the right place with her husband Joe and Chris Boychim in assistance. Chief Leo Costello, assisted by John and Danny Costello helped guide and place the lights. Andrew Carlin was there to assure the traffic would be no hindrance to our operation. Drew Trainer and Bernie Brady are ever present to organize and provide the decorations. Of course, Mr. Bill McAvoy engaged them all to get the job done!

With the children in the lead, Father bestowed the blessing. The tree and Nativity Scene lit up Fayette Street for all to rejoice in this Holy Season of Christmas! All thanks to the fine people of the Fire Companies of Conshohocken!



*O Christmas Tree
O Christmas Tree
How richly God has
decked thee
Thou bidst us true and
faithful be
And trust in God
unchangingly*

Many thanks to all the children who presented the real meaning of Christmas and participated in the Advent Tree Lighting!

PARENTS: NO CCD/PREP CLASSES UNTIL JANUARY 4, 2016

**Let it
SHINE
in the
New Year**

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

*God and Father of us all,
in Jesus, your son and our Savior,
you have made us your sons and daughters
in the family of the church.
May your grace and love
help our families
in every part of the world
be united to one another
in fidelity to the gospel. May the example of the
Holy Family,
with the aid of your Holy Spirit,
guide all families,
especially those most troubled,
to be homes of communion and prayer
and to always seek your truth and live
in your love.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

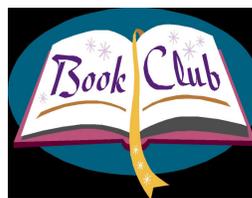
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!



Live the
JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY!

Encounter the life-changing mercy of God during this holy year by making a commitment to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy each day from Dec 8- Nov 20, 2016. Watch how God brings powerful grace and blessing to you and your loved ones! Learn more at archphila.org/mercy.

St. Matthew Book Club:



Our book selections are works of fiction with a "Christian twist". On January 13 at 7PM we will discuss the novel *Atonement* by Ian McEwan; on February 24 the novel selected is *This House of Brede* by Rumer Godden; and on March 23 the discussion will center on *The Heart of the Matter* by Graham Greene. New members are welcome as we begin the year 2016. To register contact Msgr. Owens (stmatt2014@gmail.com). If you need assistance in purchasing books, Monsignor will do that for you through amazon.com.

FOOD CUPBOARD WILL BE OPEN EVERY WEEK STARTING IN JANUARY ON FRIDAYS AT 1PM.

God's Plan for Giving

December 20, 2015

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR
YOUR OFFERTORY
GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:

These numbers are not available due to early printing.

ELECTRONIC GIVING:



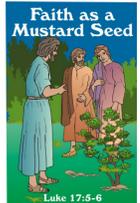
Parish Giving is convenient for you and there is **NO COST** for you to participate. Contact Deacon Mike Kubiak at

deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net to register
www.parishgiving.org or www.stmatthewparish.com

St. Matthew Prayer Shawl Ministry: We most 'warmly' invite you to be a part of this Ministry by meeting with us in the St. Vincent DePaul room **Tuesday, January 12 at 7PM.** If you know of someone who might like to receive a shawl, please let us know-or make one yourself for someone special to you. Contact Alice O'Connor acaoc@verizon.net



St. Matthew's Young Adult Group, The Mustard



Seeds:

Are you age 22-35 and interested in meeting other Catholics your age? Do you yearn for more community? Are you interested in service work? Sarah Burchell and Chris Farley are starting a Young Adults Group and would love for you to join!

If you have any questions, feel free to email Sarah at svarga27@yahoo.com or Chris at farleyfilms@gmail.com and Joe Boccella. Join our Facebook group The Mustard Seeds for updates!



PRE-CANA: St. Matthew Parish is offering a one day pre-Cana program on **Saturday, January 23, 2016** (snow date January 30) from 8:30am – 4 pm followed by Mass at 4:30PM. Cost \$200 per couple. Couples from all parishes are welcomed. Contact

Deacon Mike Kubiak: 610-828- 0424 X 5 or deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net

ST. MARY'S GOLDEN AGE CLUB: Meets every Thursday at St. Mary's Church Hall. Three dollar fee. Play Cards 9:00 AM Snacks 10 AM Lunch 11 AM Play Bingo 12 – 2:30 PM. Dues for members due 2015 is \$10.00 for the year.

Casino Trips: are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month: **January 12 & February 9.** Bus leaves 9:00 AM from 11th & Fayette, 9:15 AM from 3rd & Fayette, and at 9:30 AM from St. Mary's. Please call Joe (610-825-4596).

Part-Time Job Opportunity - Housekeeping Position
A part-time (19 hours a week) position is available at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. Responsibilities include washing, ironing and general cleaning of residence rooms. Interested parties should contact Randy Rushton, 610-785-6239, or e-mail rrushton@scs.edu. Pastor's reference requested.

22nd Annual MOM-Heart of the Home Day of Renewal
Registration is OPEN! Calling moms of all ages and types: new moms, seasoned moms, grandmothers, step-mothers. Even if you're not a mom, you are still welcome! Start your Lenten season by replenishing your spirit. Come listen to two amazing, inspirational morning and afternoon speakers Renee Eells and Kathi Clapham. February 13, 2016 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Sts. Simon and Jude Meehan Center, West Chester. See our registration form for all details at www.mom-heartofthehome.org/events.html or call 484-798-7368.

MOM registration form: <http://www.phillyevang.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Feb-13-MOM-Heart-of-Home.pdf>

MOTHER BONIFACE SPIRITUALITY CENTER, 3501 Solly Avenue in Northeast Philadelphia is offering a "Day of Reflection on God's Merciful Love" on Saturday, January 9, 2016 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Open your heart to receive the blessings of Pope Francis' Extraordinary Jubilee Year! It's a time to ponder God's mercy, know and receive it ourselves, and resolve to be "missionaries of mercy" to others. The program will include two Bible studies, theological reflection, and a refresher course on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Day concludes with Eucharistic Adoration and an opportunity for the sacrament of Reconciliation. Presenter: Sr. Sara Butler, MSBT, STL, PhD, seminary professor of theology for over 25 years and consultant to the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization.

Fee: \$40* (includes a \$10 non-refundable deposit). Please call 267-350-1830 to register or for more information.

*\$30 for those whose registration w/deposit is received by January 4th

IMMACULATA UNIVERSITY OFFERS NEW TWO GRANTS

"Immaculata is excited about these two new grants because they will provide even more students with the capability to afford a Catholic education," stated Gerald J. Wargo, Jr., vice president for Enrollment Management at Immaculata University.

Be Mighty Grant:

Immaculata's Be Mighty grant is awarded to students in recognition of their service and engagement during high school. Up to 40 full-time freshman or transfer students may apply. Students must have participated in two or more clubs, extracurricular or service activities within their school or community during their four years in high school. Awardees will receive \$2,000 per year for four years, \$8,000 total.

Catholic School Grant:

This grant is awarded to graduates of Catholic high schools and is open to first-time, full-time freshman students. Awardees will receive \$2,000 per year for four years, \$8,000 total. The two new grants are available for the fall 2016 class. For more information, please email Financial Aid at finaid@immaculata.edu, call 484-323-3028, or visit <http://www.immaculata.edu/FinAid/SandG/Academic>

Fr. Tom Heron's Weekly Reflection

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord Jesus,

Welcome!

I rejoice in your presence with the Saint Matthew faith worshipping community as we participate in the Liturgy for the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph. We are blessed by your desire to give thanks to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, both parishioners and guests. May you be renewed in mind, heart and spirit through the Word and Eucharist we share. Thanks for joining us!

Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14 Psalm 128 Colossians 3:12-21 Luke 2:41-52

There is a story about a little boy who one evening after supper asked his dad to read a book to him. The father was comfortably resting in his lazy-boy chair watching his favorite TV program and told his son to see him later. The little boy persisted and finally the father went into his desk drawer and pulled out a map of the world. He cut up the map of the world into jigsaw pieces, scattered them over the kitchen table and told his son to put the map of the world together, come back when he was done, and the father would read him the book.

The father felt relieved thinking it would take his son at least 2-3 hours to put the map of the world together. In ten minutes the boy returned, telling his father he was finished. The father was amazed when he saw the map of the world put together and asked his son how he did it so quickly. The boy answered: "Dad, on the other side there was a picture of a family, so I put the family together and when the family was right, the world was right."

In most cases, it is within the family that we learned to walk and speak. We learned a measure of security, self-confidence and independence. We came to a sense of ourselves and acquired an ability to appreciate others. We came to have faith in God and a sense of His presence.

The verses in Saint Paul's letter to the Colossians are among the most eloquent in the New Testament. ***"Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness and patience"*** Saint Paul is saying that we need these virtues in our homes more than we need consumer goods. These virtues are spiritual clothing for us. They are far more important than matching holiday sweaters with snowflakes and reindeers. Blest is the family wrapped in the warmth of these virtues... It takes a lot of spiritual courage and spiritual strength to make any

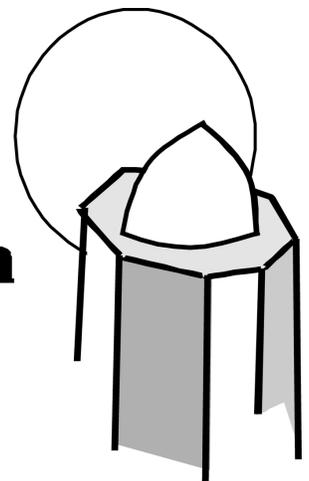
family work, and last, and grow.

Joseph, Mary and Jesus became a holy family for all of us because they did not seek their own individual, personal wills to be done, but because they lived for God and one another. They dedicated themselves to adjusting and readjusting, when necessary, to doing God's will as well as they could. God was always at the center of their lives. They adjusted well to the changes in their plans.

Studies tell us that we speak to others at a rate of approximately 140 words per minute, but we speak to ourselves at approximately 900 words per minute. That is what you are doing right now. Even as I speak, you are making editorial comments to yourself about what I am saying, and one idea triggers another, and you think about that idea, and on it goes. That's called self-talk. Here is the real importance of this finding. Researchers tell us that up to 70% of all self-talk is negative. In other words, you tell yourself all the things that you can't do, shouldn't try, will never do, aren't good enough to do, at a rate of 600 words per minute. For example, *"I'm too fat, I'm too dumb, I come from a poor family. I'm a nobody."* Friend, you are a child of God. Believe in yourself. Walk as a child of the Divine.

Today, as we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, it is a good opportunity to reflect on family life today. Families are the pillars of our society, the basic units of society. Family life has been under attack these days despite politicians proclaiming the need for family values. Television, today, mocks, ridicules and insults wholesomeness in family life. The increase of divorce, the unemployed father, the depressed mother, the pregnant daughter, and the drug-addicted son all contribute to breakdown as well as financial, emotional, and moral stress and strain on the family.

**Mary
and
Joseph
found
Jesus
in the temple.**



End of Bulletin