



# Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015

**Saturday, December 12**

4:30PM Jane Graham

**Sunday, December 13**

7:30AM Nora Tiernan

9:30AM Rev. William Benonis

11:30AM Jack & Ann Crowphers

**Monday, December 14**

8:15AM Barbara Reardon

**Tuesday, December 15**

8:15AM Hugh G. Sheridan

**Wednesday, December 16**

8:15AM Eleanor Cardellino

**Thursday, December 17**

8:15AM Harvey Borzelleca

**Friday, December 18**

8:15AM Audrey DeFrancesco

**Saturday, December 19**

4:30PM William & Marie Woodward

**Sunday, December 20**

7:30AM James M. Williams

9:30AM Rocco Ricci

11:30AM Lillian Hooper

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, Florence Zapien, Luke Birkhead, Erik Kozlowski, Marlene Salkowski, Rosalie Partenheimer, John Walski, Carl Reiff, Joseph Blaszczyk, 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, Greg Falcone, Ralph Manappello, Jessica Jara, Leanne Purcell, Joe Lotito, Matt McNamee, Kendall Soltys, Concezio Lelii, William McGrath, Madge Swift, Theresa Swetkowski.

Deceased: Mary Durbas, Ella M. Giordano, Elaine Dippolito

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

Land of the Free



Because of the Brave

**CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE**

12/12 4:30 Msgr. Owens

12/13 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Msgr. Owens 11:30 Fr. Heron

12/19 4:30 Fr. Heron

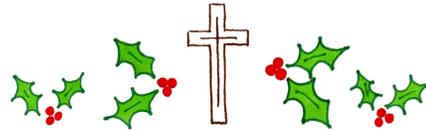
12/20 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Msgr. Owens

12/24 4:00 Fr. Heron 7:00 Msgr. Owens

12/25 7:30 Fr. Heron 9:30 Fr. Genovese 11:30 Msgr. Owens

12/26 4:30 Fr. Genovese

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



## Christmas Mass Schedule

**Confession**, Monday, December 21

7PM

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

Vigils: 4 PM and 7 PM

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

7:30 AM --- 9:30 AM --- 11:30 AM

**NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULE**

New Year's Day, Friday, January 1, 2016

8:15 AM and 12 Noon



**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 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. **The next class will be Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.stmatthewparish.com) or call the rectory 610-828-0424 press 4 for the office to register.



Due to flu season we will discontinue consumption of the precious Blood during the months of December, January & February. We will resume in March.

**The Food Cupboard will be open every Friday starting in January.** Food Pantry Needs: tuna fish, boxes of mashed potatoes, stew, canned fruits.

## Religious Education News

**PREP/CCD** is in need of a few willing **volunteers to sub** for when a catechist has to be absent. A lesson plan would be provided. Please contact Mary Kay at the rectory. 610-828-0424 press 6.



**FAMILIES OF ST MATTHEW PARISH THE CHILDREN OF THE PARISH ARE INVITED TO LEAD**

**...AN ADVENT TREE LIGHTING SERVICE, SATURDAY DECEMBER 19** at the closing of 4:30PM Mass.

**ALL FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.**

ALL the Children of the parish, from the tiniest to the tallest will present the true meaning of Christmas...and wish for the whitest and brightest Christmas by blessing and lighting the Nativity and the Tree on Fayette Street.

(All Candidates preparing for First Eucharist, First Reconciliation should attend the Advent Tree Lighting Service.)



### **PARENTS BE ADVISED:**

**DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> LAST CLASS BEFORE CHRISTMAS**  
**DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> ADVENT TREE LIGHTING**  
Classes resume January 4

### **Prepare for Next Sunday 4th Sunday of Advent December 20, 2015**

**Micah 5:1-4a – Hebrews 10:5-10 -Luke 1:39-45**

#### **First Reading:**

Micah speaks of the ruler who will come from Bethlehem. He discusses how the people of Israel will be saved from corruption and live in peace.

#### **Second Reading:**

Paul describes to the Hebrews how Jesus came into the world and offered to do God's will. We were saved through his sacrifice, the only offering sufficient for the sins of the world.

**Gospel:** Mary paid a visit to Elizabeth, whose baby stirred in her womb upon hearing Mary's greeting. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Elizabeth was deeply overjoyed that the words God had spoken to Mary had now been fulfilled.

### **Reflections from My Rocking Chair**

Dear Friends,

The Blessed Mother is very prominent in the latter portion of Advent. And why not? Isn't every mother crucial in the birth of a child? The poet and contemplative nun, Jessica Powers, versifies a fitting meditation for the Advent season:

*I live my Advent in the womb of Mary,  
And on one night when a great star swings free from  
its high mooring and walks down the sky to be the  
dot above the Christus i, I shall be born of her by  
blessed grace.*

*I wait in Mary-darkness, faith's walled place,  
with hopes expectance of nativity.*

*I knew for long she carried me and fed me,  
guarded and loved me, though I could not see.*

*But only now, with inward Jubilee,  
I come upon earth's most amazing knowledge:  
someone is hidden in this dark with me.*

*(Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit {Jessica Powers})*

I hope you live with 'expectance of nativity'. The coming in the flesh of God's Son is a Nativity like no other. Children of God through baptism we wait in joyful hope for the coming of Jesus into our hearts, our families, our parish, our community in Conshohocken (and West C as well), our country and our brothers and sisters in the world.

Waiting sharpens our appetite and increases our joy as we contemplate what we are waiting for. Jesus – our gateway to so many fine things; faithful friendships, happy families, a generous pardon for our sins, wisdom about things unseen and mercy. I found it hard to wait for Christmas. I confess now that I searched through the house looking for the presents. Only later did I find out that Mom kept the toys in Mrs. Terra's house next door. The most difficult wait of all was the Christmas I asked Santa Claus for my first two-wheel bicycle. I sang in the choir at midnight Mass after Mass my father would walk me home. He put his hands over my eyes as we went through the living room upstairs to my bedroom. I thought I saw a bicycle in the moonlit dining room. I couldn't be sure. I don't think I slept waiting till morning. Such anticipation! Would that I be as excited for the coming of Jesus as for the arrival of my bike? I hope I am. If you are without expectation of God's good work in you, then religion is humdrum. You have no expectations. Sad. If you have high hopes then being a Christian is daring and exciting. Jesus comes and keeps knocking on the door but you have to let him in.

Blessings,

Monsignor Tom Owens ([stmatt2014@gmail.com](mailto:stmatt2014@gmail.com))

PS Santa brought the bike!!!

# God's Plan for Giving

December 6, 2015

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR  
YOUR OFFERTORY  
GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:  
**\$17,534.00**

Electronic giving \$1,689.00 +15,845.00 \$ = \$17,534.00

## 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](mailto:deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net) to register  
[www.parishgiving.org](http://www.parishgiving.org) or [www.stmatthewparish.com](http://www.stmatthewparish.com)

## ST. MATTHEW STUDENTS EXCEL:

Our parish recently received notification of the performance of our high school students. We are particularly proud of those who demonstrated academic excellence.

### Archbishop Carroll High School:

First Honors: **Emily L. Wittig**

Second Honors: **Mark A. Boccella**

**Congratulations!**



**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](mailto: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](mailto:svarga27@yahoo.com) or Chris at [farleyfilms@gmail.com](mailto:farleyfilms@gmail.com) and Joe Boccella.

Join our Facebook group The Mustard Seeds for updates!

**OPLATEK:** (Polish Christmas Wafers) are available on the tables in back of Church & at the Rectory. Donation \$2.00



This year during Advent we will be collecting for Dawn's Place in place of our Cradle of Giving. Dawn's Place is a residential program located in Philadelphia for women who have been exploited

and abused; a ministry very close to Pope Francis' heart. If you could donate gift cards for the women it would provide a dignified way for the women to purchase personal things without putting a stress on our limited resources. Gift cards to Target, CVS, Rite Aid, Staples, Walgreens etc. are most useful. Containers are placed around the church. Thanks so much, Sister Terry Sheilds, mshr, President.



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](http://archphila.org/mercy).



**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](mailto:deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net)

**ST. MATTHEW SENIOR GROUP:** Our next meeting is on December 16th at 12:30 in the convent. We are going to have a Pot Luck Lunch and a Pollyanna. Please let us know if you have not signed up yet what you will be sharing for the luncheon. Any questions/suggestions call Pat Hanna at 610-272-3610 or Kitty McNally at 610-825-9291.

**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 11<sup>th</sup> & Fayette, 9:15 AM from 3rd & Fayette, and at 9:30 AM from St. Mary's. Please call Joe (610-825-4596).

## 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](http://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>

**Andrew Lanutti Post...** Full service kitchen, bar, C/A, great for Christenings, Communions, Confirmations, birthday, family reunions, small weddings, holiday parties, funeral luncheons & any social event. Open for rent 365 days a year. Call Lou at 484-919-0612.

## 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 Third Sunday of Advent. 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!*

*Zephaniah 3:14-18a (9C) Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:10-18*



People who are attracted to John's message keep asking "What are we to do?" They want to know how to recognize the Messiah, how to prepare a way for the Messiah. If the Lord is near, they want to know how to respond to the Lord? The question "What are we to do?" appears three times in today's Gospel passage and two more times in Luke's Gospel. During Advent we adapt some of these questions to our own lives. We want to know how to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation in the Third Millennium, how to share the true joy of the Nativity of the Messiah with our children, our family, our friends, how to recognize and celebrate the mystery that God is in our midst, how to pray during Advent. Like John's disciples, we want answers to our questions.

The Scriptures are full of answers to our questions. Zephaniah exhorts us to turn to God and "Be glad and exalt with all your hearts," "fear not," and share in the joy of God! We need to be attuned to the joy of God in Mary's "May it be done to me according to your word" and in John's preparing a way for Him. We need to be attuned to the joy of God when we respond to the Holy Spirit in whom we are baptized. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is answered consistently by inviting us to take social actions that are appropriate to the temptations and prejudices we face in our daily lives.

Care for the poor and the elderly - participate in programs that feed, clothe and adequately house them. There are many such programs in all of our communities. Jesus knew that there will always be poor people when He commanded us to love our neighbor. Participate in programs that overcome the sins of poverty, racism, sexism and the denial of human and civil rights to homosexual persons. Use the power of your position in society to enhance the

dignity of those within your sphere of influence. Don't abuse your power through harassment, intimidation or domineering behavior.

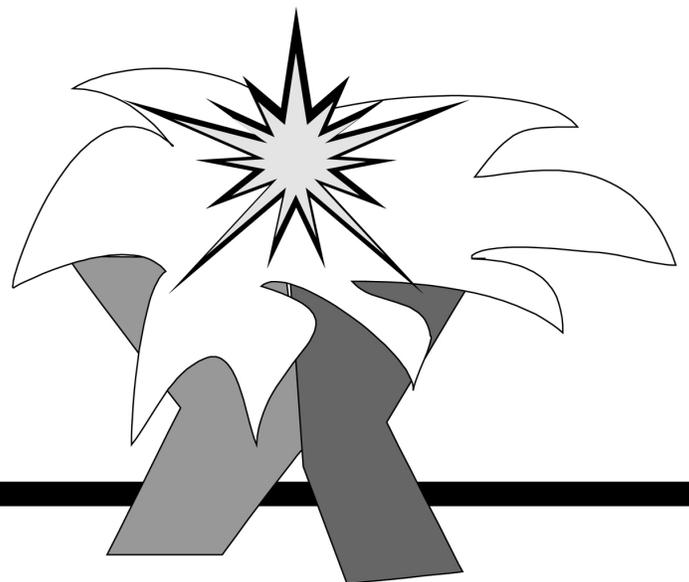
It is certainly appropriate to make or renew a pledge for charity, justice and peace.

The second reading today challenges us to "Rejoice in the Lord always!" and St. Paul repeats the exhortation. He says, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." God is very near to us, closer than our skin. Leon Bloy challenges followers of Christ to be more joyful: "Joy is an infallible sign of God's presence."

- Take the time to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week.
- Look for Christ in your home, in your neighborhood, in this parish, in the places where you shop this week.
- Pray the joyful mysteries of the rosary.
- Reflect on John 3: 16: "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son."

God is very near. He comes to us under the form of bread and wine. Rejoice! Breathe in the Holy Spirit! Be open to a joy that is far more profound than our consumer society can produce. Turn to God! Rejoice!

# God *is* near



End of Bulletin