

Saint George Parish Community

Under the Guidance of the Holy Spirit

22 E. Cooke Avenue, Glenolden, PA 19036

610-237-1633 Fax 610-237-9626

Celebrating 100 Years in 2023

4th Sunday of Advent - December 23-24, 2023

Mass Schedule: Saturday, 4:30 PM & Sunday 10:00 AM



The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of David His father, and He will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. ~ Luke 1: 26-38

The Nativity of the Lord - December 24-25, 2023

Mass Schedule: Sunday, 4:30 PM & 7:00 PM and 10:00 AM Monday

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through Him, and without Him nothing came to be. What came to be through Him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know Him. He came to what was His own, but His own people did not accept Him. But to those who did accept Him He gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in His name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'The One who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because He existed before me.'" From His fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed Him. ~ John 1: 1-18



Contact Us!

New Parishioners

We are pleased to welcome new members to our Parish Community. Please call the Rectory Office at 610-237-1633 to make an appointment to register and to learn more about our parish, or visit www.stgeorgeparish.org. *Note: Students must be registered in the Parish before registering in the Parish Religious Education Program.*

Sacrament of Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the **second Sunday of the month at 11:30 AM**. Parents seeking baptism for their child are asked to please call the rectory. Pre-Jordan is required for parents with a first-born child or parents with additional children who have not attended within a two-year period. Pre-registration is required for Pre-Jordan and Baptism. Please contact Mrs. Lynda Batten at the Rectory Office for more information.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples planning a wedding are asked to call Father Oswald at the Rectory Office at least six months in advance of the wedding date. Couples are required to attend the Archdiocesan Marriage and Family Life Preparation Program.

Sick or Homebound

In case of serious illness or advanced age, please call the Rectory Office. Arrangements will be made for the Sacrament of the Sick and for Holy Communion. If you are going into the hospital and you would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please call the Rectory. Also, when you are hospitalized, please contact the hospital Chaplain and the Rectory Office.

Tree of Life Memorial

If you would like to have a leaf (\$150) or a boulder (\$600) permanently inscribed in memory of a loved one on the Tree of Life, which is located in the vestibule at the main entrance of the church, please contact the Rectory Office at 610-237-1633.

Vigil Candles

Vigil Candles, which are located in front of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph statues in the front of the church, are available for your intentions. Small candles are \$2 and will burn for two days. These can be purchased by placing your donation in an envelope and dropping it in the slot provided by the candles. Large candles are \$125 and will burn for an entire year. Large candles can be purchased by contacting the Rectory Office at 610-237-1633. A gold label with your loved ones name will be placed on the candle and it will remain there throughout the year.

Godparents

Only one godparent is required for Baptism. If two are chosen, one must be male and one must be female. A godparent must be a fully initiated Roman Catholic (Baptized, Confirmed and receiving the Eucharist), at least 16 years of age, if married, must be married in the Church, and in good standing with the Church.

R.C.I.A.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, or if you were baptized Catholic but did not complete your sacraments, please contact Sr. Lorraine Muglie, SSJ at the Rectory Office at 610-237-1633 for RCIA details.

Mass Cards and Memorial Intentions

If you would like to have a Mass celebrated in memory of a deceased loved one, or a Memorial offering for a special intention, please contact the Rectory Office for details. Standard Mass cards are available for a \$10 stipend and booklets are available for a \$20 stipend. Memorial intentions for the Sanctuary Lamp are \$10 and for the Bread and Wine are \$15.

Quotes of the Week

"Faith don't come in a bushel basket, Missy. It come one step at a time. Decide to trust Him for one little thing today, and before you know it, you find out He's so trustworthy you be putting your whole life in His hands."

~Lynn Austin, Candle in the Darkness

"Strength of my heart, I need not fail, Not mind to fear but to obey, With such a Leader, who could quail? Thou art as Thou wert yesterday. Strength of my heart, I rest in Thee, Fulfil Thy purposes through me."

~Amy Carmichael

Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light." ~ Helen Keller

"Faith is the gaze of a soul upon a saving God." ~A.W. Tozer

"Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One who is leading." ~Oswald Chambers

~Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. It is the belief that God will do what is right." ~Max Lucado

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ~Hebrews 11:6

Parish Staff

Rev. Leo P. Oswald, Pastor

Rev. Martin E. Woodeshick, Pastor Emeritus - Holy Spirit

Rev. Francis Caponi, O.S.A. and Rev. James McBurney, OSA, Weekend Assistants

Weekday Assistant, Rev. John Hand, Pastor, St. Gabriel Parish

Mrs. Lynda Batten, Administrative Assistant and Coordinator of Religious Education, Ext. 101
Mrs. Pat Dinan, Receptionist, Ext. 113 (Tues & Wed)
Mrs. Gloria Greene, Accounts Payable, Ext. 104
Mrs. Kathleen Lerro, Director of Music, Ext. 101
Mr. Patrick McCullough, Maintenance, Ext. 104

Sister Lorraine Muglie, SSJ, Director of Adult Faith Formation and Pastoral Care, Ext. 103
Mr. Keith Tomson, Business Manager, Ext. 104
Mrs. Barbara Fister and Mrs. Teresa Murray - Housekeeping Rectory/Convent/Church
Ms. Karen Parker, Assistant Coordinator of Religious Ed

Parish Information

Rectory Hours

Monday thru Friday
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Phone Number: 610-237-1633
Fax Number: 610-237-9626
Email: st.georgesec@rcn.com

Convent

11 E. Lamont Avenue
Glenolden, PA 19036
Phone Number: 610-237-1633

Office of Religious Education

Director of Adult Faith Formation

Sr. Lorraine Muglie, SSJ
Phone Number: 610-237-1633
For details about RCIA and Bible Study, please contact Sr. Lorraine.

Coordinators of Religious Education

Mrs. Lynda Batten
Ms. Karen Parker
Phone Number: 610-237-1633
Fax Number: 610-237-9626

Our Parish Religious Education Program serves students in Levels 1-8 and prepares them for 1st Penance, 1st Holy Communion, and Confirmation.

Bereavement Ministry

Mrs. Mimi Ednie

Legion of Mary

Mrs. Theresa Murray

Ministry Outreach Program

Mrs. Lynda Batten

Choir Director and Music Ministry

Mrs. Kathleen Lerro

R.C.I.A.

Sister Lorraine Muglie, SSJ

Join us on Twitter!



Rite of Reconciliation

3:30 PM - 4:15 PM Saturday afternoons

Care of the Sick

Please contact the Rectory Office in the event of sickness or hospitalization.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Thursday 6:30 PM - Sept. to Easter

Baptism

Second Sunday of the month at 11:30 AM

Please call the Rectory Office for an appointment to schedule a Baptism and Baptism Preparation (Pre-Jordan)



Devotions

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Fridays 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Miraculous Medal Devotion - Following the 4:00 PM Mass on Mondays
Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet - Thursdays 7:00 PM

Daily Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 23: Malachi 3: 1-4 23-24; Luke 1: 57-66

4:30 PM Betty McGrath Ehrle

Requested by: McGrath and McGlone Families

Sunday, December 24: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38: 4th Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM Joseph & Mary Doran

Requested by: Eugeneo Family

Sunday, December 24: Isaiah 62: 1-5; Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1: 1-25: The Nativity of the Lord, Vigil Mass

4:30 PM Pro Populo

Sunday, December 24: Isaiah 9: 1-6; Titus 2: 11-14; Luke 2: 1-14: The Nativity of the Lord, Mass During the Night

7:00 PM Pro Populo

Monday, December 25: Isaiah 52: 7-10; Hebrews 1: 1-6; John 1: 1-18: The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Day

10:00 AM Pro Populo

Tuesday, December 26: Acts 6: 8-10, 7: 54-59; Matthew 10: 17-22: St. Stephen, the First Martyr (Feast)

4:00 PM Mary Stefankowicz

Requested by: Family

Wednesday, December 27: 1 John 1: 1-4; John 20: 1a & 2-8

4:00 PM Anne Bittle

Requested by: Bill Battagliese

Thursday, December 28: 1 John 1: 5-2:2; Matthew 2: 13-18

4:00 PM Ashley McLean Gaylor

Requested by: Stanley & Donna Fitzgerald

Friday, December 29: 1 John 2: 3-11; Luke 2: 22-35

4:00 PM Joseph Pantano

Requested by: Bill Battagliese

Saturday, December 30: 1 John 2: 12-17; Luke 2: 36-40

4:30 PM Pro Populo

Sunday, December 31: Genesis 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3; Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2: 22-40: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

10:00 AM Pro Populo

Sunday, December 31: Numbers 6: 22-27; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 16-21: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

4:30 PM Evelyn Daniel

Requested by: Lisa Daniel

Monday, January 1, 2024: Numbers 6: 22-27; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 16-21: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

10:00 AM Pro Populo

Pro Populo means "for the people."

Daily Mass

4:00 PM Monday thru Friday

Weekend Mass

4:30 PM Saturday

8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Sunday

Holy Days and Legal Holidays: As Announced



Sanctuary Lamp/Bread & Wine

Our Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in loving memory of **Joseph and Mary Doran**. The Bread and Wine is being presented for the same intention. *If you would like to reserve the Sanctuary lamp or bread & wine, please contact the Rectory Office at 610-237-1633.*

Scripture Reflection, Parish and Local



Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

The normal routine of most high school days includes the morning announcements. Usually one member of the administrative team does the task. It always involved the basic needs for clarity and accuracy, lest a whole community fall into disarray.

I know from personal experience that delegating a student for the job is risky at best. When I once had the assignment of moderating the students in the TV studio from which the announcements were broadcast at a certain high school, they were for the most part good kids. But one day immaturity punctured the soul of one such student, and he made a pre-planned prank that angered the administration and me. I wore the red face of embarrassment for a while. Clarity and accuracy were replaced by nonsense. The students may have gotten their “jollies” over the incident. I did not.

Raising our minds to the gospel level, we note that the word “annunciation” means an announcement. When we spell that word a capital letter, in religious circles it defines this marvelous meeting of heaven and earth, when an archangel named Gabriel, called such because of the import of his message, visited a beautiful young Jewish girl to tell her something earth shattering. The incident has been described as an “announcement” simply because the presumption of a positive answer from Mary proved to be a guarantee.

Mary, we must remember, was perfectly free to say “No.” That would be understandable when one considers a pregnancy brought on by the Holy Spirit. Add to that the fact of the Baby’s divine nature as God’s Son. Nor can we forget the sudden change to the romance with her beloved Joseph. There was certainly clarity present and the highest of accuracy as well. This really became the most important announcement ever made.

In all truth, our very salvation as the human race hung in the balance with the virgin Mary’s answer. Would any negative reply from Mary provoke God’s wrath? There is no need for such speculation. The pivotal moment came and went, and we as a race remain ever grateful for it. World history would see God’s plan unfold. Christianity would be its lasting effect, although other faiths would remain, each with its own goodness, but incomplete and imperfect.

The formula for the best relationship between God and man was clearly spelled out for those who could accept it. All because a beautiful Jewish teen-aged girl said “Yes” to God!

In these final hours of Advent, as Christmas preparation goes into high gear, such thoughts, I believe, provide a spiritual antidote to any commercial invasion of the facts.

~God love you all, and my wish for you and yours to experience a blessed Christmas 2023!



Praying the Rosary

Our Rosary Group gathers on **Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM** in the Church for the recitation of the Holy Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Please join us.

Pray for the Sick

Michael Amilcare, Bill Battagliese, Brenda Brolley, Sharon Calless, Rose Celia, Angelina Chevez, Fred Cuccinello, Lenora Cuccinello, Terry Dolores, Jon Doyle, Mark Ednie, Thomas Gallagher, Roy Grassinger, Tina Gula, John Haggerty, Ken & Peg Haynie, Peggy Hershman, Cynthia Horton, Eileen Leone, Madeline Loftus, Margie Loftus, Sean Mackey, Maureen Maley, John McBride, Peg McCann, Rev. James McCartney, OSA, Bethann McCormick, Joan McGlone, Marianne Mezei, Colleen Muldoon, Warren Nolan, Frank Ortega, Jason Parenti, Madeline Pfaff, George Phillips, Michael Plasha, Jr, Maria Prince, Sandy Shanahan, Michael Talent, Barbara Trumbetas, Yvonne Gair Wolfe and Carmella Young.

Names are listed for 30 days. If more time is needed, please contact the Rectory Office and we will be happy to extend it for you.



Pray for Our Beloved Deceased

As we remember to pray for our own families and our parish family, we ask for your prayers for **all those who have died during the past week.** May our faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in the peace of Christ.



Adult Choir

Choir season continues on **Tuesdays, at 7:00 PM** in the church choir loft. Join the fun of praising the Lord as we learn new music and sing together during Mass. For more details, please contact Mrs. Kathy Lerro, Director of Music for St. George Parish, at the Rectory Office. New members are always welcome and we would love to have you join us.

Light Up the Church

We invite you to light a candle on Christmas for your prayer intentions. Candles are available in the Jesus with the Children Shrine or at our Blessed Mother’s altar. If you are homebound and unable to join us for Mass, give us a call at the Rectory Office and we will light a candle for your intentions. A \$2 stipend is suggested, but whatever you can offer is appreciated. Let us light send our prayers to heaven powered by the warmth of a flame.



Thank you!

We take this opportunity to thank those who donated turkeys, hams and non-perishable food items to our Parish Food Cupboard this holiday season. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide a meal for Thanksgiving and Christmas to all those who came to us for assistance. If you would like to donate an item in the future, please place it in the receptacle located at the main doors of the church, or bring your donation to the Rectory Office during business hours. We also accept gift cards.



A Message from Father Oswald

Happy 4th week of Advent and Merry Christmas to all!

We celebrate this year the 4th week of Advent as it begins on December 24th, as well as the Nativity of the Lord, which also falls on December 24th. You will note this on the front page of today's bulletin. We broke it down to make it easier to follow this year's complicated schedule.

If you are joining us today for the first time, or if you have been away for awhile, a hearty welcome to you and your family! I am delighted you have come to worship with us. I encourage you to take home a calendar for 2024 as our gift to you this Christmas and to return on Sundays for Mass. If you would like to talk to me about the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation, or about planning a wedding or baptism, or about the annulment process, please feel free to contact me at the Rectory Office. I am always happy to assist you.

For all who worship with us regularly, know how important your presence is among us. And for those who are homebound and unable to join us for Mass, know you always remain in our prayers. And we count on your prayers as well. That is the best gift you can give to your Church and our parish community.

We received numerous donations of food, gift cards and monetary gifts so that you, my dear parishioners, made it possible for us to help families in our community and families at the struggling St. Hugh/St. Veronica Parish this holiday season. So on behalf of those who will benefit from your kindness, I sincerely thank you and I will pray for God to bless you in return for your thoughtfulness.

On a personal note, I thank you for the cards and the delicious goodies you sent me at the Rectory Office. (I'll worry about the calories after the holidays.)

I wish a truly blessed Christmas and New Year to everyone. I will keep you in my prayers and I ask that you please keep me in yours. Please keep well my dear friends. And never forget that *His Real Presence* is among us in the Eucharist!

Jesus

HE CAME NOT TO A THRONE,
but to a manger.
HE LIVED NOT AS A KING,
but as a servant.
HE CHOSE NOT A KINGDOM,
but a cross.
HE GAVE NOT JUST A LITTLE,
but everything.

~Holley Gerth

*Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us.
Ephesians 5: 2 NRSV*

May the Lord's great love bless you this Christmas.

How Does the Church Pray? Meeting God

In sacramental celebrations, like the Mass of any of the sacraments, we humans meet God the Creator we experience Lord, Revealed in Christ, and we given the Spirit of Love to live in our hearts forever. Through our actions and words, something inexpressible is finally said: Repent and believe. The Kingdom is at hand. The Liturgy of the Word is integral to our sacramental celebrations and every sacrament has this element. The signs with which this Word is proclaimed should be clear and evident: the book the Word itself, how we venerate that Word, where we proclaim it, audible and understandable reading, the homily and the response of the faithful. Music is an essential part of liturgy as well, combining sacred music and words to inspire and uplift our hearts. Music can really move us! It should, therefore, be beautiful, should allow for all to sing together, and should be solemn and prayerful. Because it is so important to us, and because it touches us so deeply, the words of the music must be carefully chosen to accurately reflect our faith, be drawn from Scripture, and be completely singable! Likewise, the use of sacred images and art should be of restraint and beauty rather than sumptuous display. Sacred art such as statues, paintings, and sculpture, help us express the same Gospel message that Scripture communicates by words. Image and word illuminate each other. Every work of art or sacred image should lead us to Christ, who is Divine Love Revealed. Love Incarnate. Even images of many of the saints should always lead us to Christ.

Exercise: Make a chart showing the principal high points of your own personal year. Include things like birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, civic holidays and church holy days.

~ Bill Huebsch, Growing in Faith Project (Part 3)

"What! Giving again!" I asked in dismay. Must I keep giving, and giving away?" "Oh no", said the angel, that's not what you do. Just keep on giving until the Master stops giving to you.

Merry Christmas!

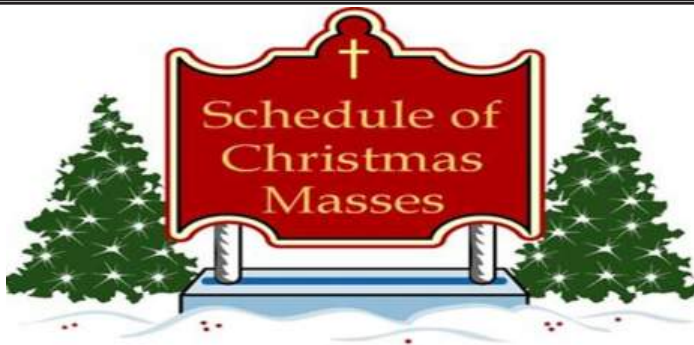
Merry Christmas to all of our homebound parishioners who are unable to join us for Mass. Please know that you are in our prayers. We offer well-wishes for a happy and healthy New Year! When you are unable to join us for Mass, the following prayer is a *Spiritual Communion* and we recommend praying it often: *My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

Homebound parishioners are reminded that if you would like to receive the Eucharist, or if you would like a visit from our Pastor, Father Oswald, you are invited to contact the Rectory Office at 610-237-1633 so that we can make arrangements to assist you.

Please remember that you are never alone. God is with you always. He never leaves your side. Talk to Him often.



Parish & Local



For your convenience, since we have a shortened Advent season and different Mass times, we are providing the Christmas Mass schedule for you well in advance so you can plan accordingly.

Last Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23 4:30 PM Mass
Sunday, December 24 10:00 AM Mass only

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24 4:30 PM Mass-Youth Mass
Sunday, December 24 7:00 PM Mass-Adult Choir

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25 10:00 AM only

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30 4:30 PM
Sunday, December 31 10:00 AM only

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - New Year's Eve

Sunday, December 31 4:30 PM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - New Year's Day

Monday, January 1, 2024 10:00 AM

Limited Edition

St. George 100th Anniversary Keepsake Ornaments

In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of St. George Parish, limited edition ornaments are available to purchase, while supplies last, throughout the month of December at the doors of the church. The cost is \$5. Great stocking stuffers!

We also have 100th anniversary mugs available. These are beautifully glazed to a smooth finish, hold large amounts of hot beverages, and have a picture of St. George Parish on the front and the 100th Anniversary inscription on the reserve side. These also make nice gifts. If you are interested in purchasing one, please check the doors of the church or contact the Rectory Office.

Returning to Church?

If you have been away from the Church for awhile, we here at St. George Church would like to personally invite you back. We miss you. If you feel uncertain or nervous about returning, please visit the following website for some tips about coming back and how to prepare: <https://catholic-link.org/survival-guide-for-returning-to-mass-when-you-havent-been-in-awhile/> We are just happy to have you back. No questions asked. But if you are not fully comfortable with that, please visit the link or feel free to contact Father Oswald at the Rectory Office for advice. If you would like to experience the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation, we offer the sacrament on **Saturday afternoons at 3:30 PM to 4:15 PM or by appointment.**



Each **Sunday during the 10:30 AM** Mass, children are invited to join us in the Chapel to hear the Gospel message on a level they can more easily relate to. The celebrant will ask the children to come forward right before the Gospel and they will return following the homily when the Universal Prayers begin. Children of all ages are welcome. Please encourage your child to participate.

Remembering Our Military

The United States Military defends us all year round, and for that we're proud and grateful. And as the Christmas Season arrives, the patriots among us are mindful that those serving in active duty around the globe have sacrificed the opportunity to be with family and friends for our security and protection. As we honor the Holiday Season, we salute our military folks with a sincere "Merry Christmas" wish, and pray that they remain safe as they stand guard on our way of life.

If you have loved ones who are serving in the military and would like us to pray for them, please send their name & photograph to the Rectory Office and we will place it on our Blessed Mother's altar. Please light a candle in church this Christmas in memory of all of our brave military personnel.

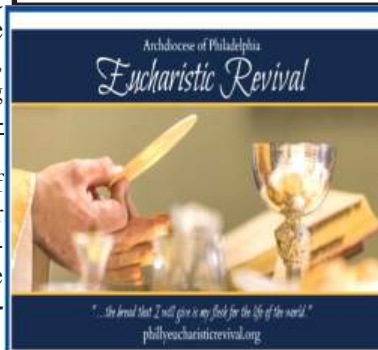


December's Drawing Project

Father Oswald invites our youth to draw their depiction of the Nativity Story for the month of December. Create your own images of Joseph and Mary, Jesus in the manger, the animals, such as the donkey, the camel, a cow, some chickens, the stable, the Christmas star and the angels. When you are finished, bring them to the Cry Room in church and hang them on the bulletin board provided. We can't wait to see your creation!

Mass Intentions

If you would like to request a Mass for a deceased loved one, or for the intentions of someone who is living, please come to the Rectory Office during business hours. We have beautiful cards for \$10 or padded booklets for \$20. These make a thoughtful gift and a Mass will be said for the intention you request. Masses are available in **2024** and the book for **2025** will open in **January**. Reserve early! Call 610-237-1633 with any questions.



Jesus Christ is truly present in the Eucharist. His Real Presence is among us. In this year of Eucharist Revival, consider spending time with Him in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on **Friday afternoons from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM** in St. George Church. Mass follows at **4:00 PM Mon. to Fri.** He awaits you!

Parish Religious Education



Parish Religious Education Program

On behalf of the St. George Parish Religious Education Program, we wish all of our students and their families a blessed and Merry Christmas. Enjoy the holiday break!

Students in Levels 7&8 will return on Monday, January 8th at 6:40 PM. Students in Levels 1-6 should follow the schedule provided by St. Gabriel Parish.

If you would like to learn more about our program, please contact Mrs. Lynda Batten at St. George Rectory Office at 610-237-1633.

Do You Celebrate the Real Meaning of Christmas?

It's here! It's finally here! Christmas is finally here! We just love Christmas, don't you? What do you like best about Christmas? Is it the Christmas tree with its blinking lights?

Maybe you like the beautiful music or the delicious Christmas goodies. Perhaps it's Christmas dinner with turkey and dressing and all of the trimmings. For some it might be all of the parties or visiting with family and friends. For many people the best thing about Christmas is the presents — both the ones we give and the ones we receive. Especially the ones we receive!

Hmm...Can you think of anything we have left out? Oh yes! It's someone's birthday, isn't it? Whose birthday is it? That's right! It's Jesus' birthday. What do you know about Jesus' birthday?

You know, sometimes we get so caught up in all of the decorations, lights, parties, and presents that we miss the real Christmas. That reminds us of a story we heard about a little boy who had always wanted to go to a circus.

One day the boy was walking down the street when he saw a poster in a store window. The poster said that a circus was coming to town and that a ticket to the circus cost one dollar. The boy ran home and asked his father if he would give him a dollar to go to the circus on Saturday.

His father told him that if he would work hard and get all of his chores done, he would give him a dollar to go to the circus. Saturday morning came and the boy got up early and did all of his chores.

"I have all of my chores done," the boy told his dad.

The boy's father gave him a dollar and the boy headed into town filled with excitement about seeing wild animals, trapeze artists, and all of the things that come with a circus. Since he arrived in town so early, he was on the front row when the circus parade started down the main street of town. The boy was thrilled when the animals and other circus acts paraded by.

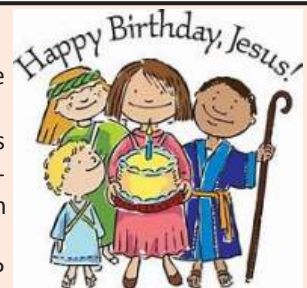
At the end of the parade came the clowns and following the clowns was the ringmaster. When the ringmaster passed by where he was standing, the boy ran out into the street, took his folded dollar bill from his pocket, and handed it to the ringmaster.

"Thanks," mister, said the boy, "that was a great circus." Then he turned around and walked home. He never knew what he had missed. He thought he had been to the circus, but he had only been to the parade.

What do you think about what happened to the little boy?

If we are not careful, we can be like that little boy. We can get so caught up in the celebration, the decorations, and the gifts that we miss the real Christmas — the birthday of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Dear Jesus, it's your birthday. We pray that we won't get so caught up in the celebration that we miss the real meaning of Christmas. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Celebrating Christmas

Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. Celebrating the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is the culmination of the mystery of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment"). It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him), He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar. The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him, including the fact that he was born to die for us. The Christmas tree and the Nativity scene are popular symbols of the season and a tradition in many Christian homes. It is also traditional to exchange Christmas gifts with family and friends to honor God the Father's gift of his only son to the world. Having received the gift of Christ, we naturally want to pass that gift along to our loved ones. ~Enjoy this holy and blessed season!



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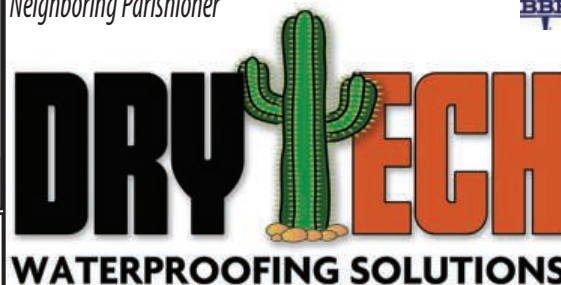
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