

Church of the Holy Family

PARISH RECTORY

234 Hermitage Street
Philadelphia, PA 19127

Phone: 215-482-0450

Fax: 215-482-7531

E-mail: contact@holyfamilychurch.org

Website: www.HolyFamilyChurch.org

Pastor

Rev. Msgr. Patrick E. Sweeney
pastor@holyfamilychurch.org

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Francis X. McKee

Sunday Visitor

Rev. John P. Collins

Pastoral Service Director and Permanent Deacon

Deacon James Browne

Music Director

Joseph O'Brien

Child Care Ages: Infant (6 wks.)-PreK (4)

Hours: 6:00am-6:00pm (year-round care)

Phone: 610-952-9186

Email: childcare@holyfamilychurch.org

Holy Hour: Second Sunday of each month
after the 11:00am Mass Miraculous Medal

Novena: every Friday after 8:00am Mass

Altar Servers: Bernadette Welsh

Cantors: Joseph O'Brien

Extraordinary Ministers:

Jeanine Censi-Lamont

Lectors: Kathy Duffly

RCIA: Wednesday at 7:00pm

PREP: Sundays from 10:00-11:00am



CHURCH SERVICES

Saturday Evening Mass: 4:00pm

Sunday Mass: 9:00am, 11:00am

Weekday Mass: 8:00am

Holy Day Vigil Mass: 7:00pm

Holy Day Mass: 9:00am

BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated every third Sunday after the 11:00am Mass. Please contact the rectory for details about the Pre-Jordan program which is held on the first Sunday of the month at 12:00pm in the rectory.

CONFESSION

Saturday: 3:00-3:45pm or any time upon request.

MARRIAGE

Couples must make arrangements at Holy Family at least 6 months prior to the wedding. Call the rectory at 215-482-0450 for an appointment.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK & ELDERLY

Visit those unable to attend Mass due to sickness or age on Thursday each week from 11:00am to 12:30pm

Pre-Cana Team: Program for engaged couples – John and Beth Delaney

Liturgy Committee: Plans religious services – Jim Browne

Parish Pastoral Council: meets first Monday of the month to confer on Pastoral planning

Women's Club: Meets six times/year and sponsors social activities

**Please note:* If you are interested in participating any of these activities, please contact the rectory at 215-482-0450.

Welcome

*We welcome all who join us for worship, and we invite you to become part of our parish family.
You may register as a parishioner in the rectory on any Sunday morning after the Masses or any time online.*



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th 2023



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th – 4:00pm

Genevieve Zane, requested by the Prechtel Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th

9:00am

Vincent Patrick Kelly, Jr., requested by Bernadette Furia

11:00am

John Censi, requested by the Censi Family

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18th – 8:00am

Joseph Watson, requested by Mark, Claire Dugan and Family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19th – 8:00am

Margaret O’Harra

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20th – 8:00am

Our Parishioners

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21st – 8:00am

No Intention

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22nd – 8:00am

Special Intentions

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd – 4:00pm

McNabb and Capella Families, requested by Joe and Mary Alice Missimer

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th

9:00am

Salvatore Mattoccia, requested by John and Louise Mancuso

11:00am

Our Parishioners

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS

4:00pm



Please remember your **CHURCH WEEKLY OFFERING**. You can either mail it in or do it by **Electronic Giving**. Please follow this secure link: www.holyfamilychurch.org/give

Your financial offerings are most appreciated.

Sunday Collection 12/10

Sunday (112)	\$ 5,707.00
2nd Collection	\$ 183.00
Block (13)	\$ 1,350.00
Christmas (1)	\$ 100.00
Immaculate Conception (20)	\$ 405.00
Religious Retirement (5)	\$ 50.00

TOTAL \$ 7,795.05

The second collection this weekend will be for the Parish.



In your prayers, you are asked to pray for all the sick of the parish and those who care for them especially, Josephine Barry, Ashley Brown, Christopher Browne, Megan Duffy, Daniel Evans, Terry Flanagan, Theodora Garrett, Anna Kenny, Jane Latta, Edward Lawnton, David Leahy, Lisa Long, Maeve Mahon, Erin McFarlane, Jerry McGough, Megan McHugh, Anthony Pelle, Marie Prince, Ronald Rigler, Daniel Seddon, Bill and Theresa Sherwin, Fred Smeltzer, Ava Snick, David Sparacino, Frances Sprenkle, Joseph Syrnick, and Roy (Toysie) Turvey, Jr.



LCPL. Shane Canavan, Sgt. Shane Carlson, Sgt. Tyler Manigly, RTC Dominic Remolde, Captain Zach Schwatka, Col. Scott Shore, and Cpl. Christopher Starrett.



Please pray for the happy repose of all the faithful departed especially, Marie Tinneny and James Childress.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th

4:00pm

Grace Welsh

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th

9:00am

Joseph Arturo

11:00am

Charlotte Welsh



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th

4:00pm

Kathy Duffy

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th

9:00am

Jamie Torna

11:00am

Jeanine Censi-Lamont



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th

4:00 pm

Kathy Duffy

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th

9:00am

Mary Reed

11:00am

Audrey Williams

CRECHE/MANGER



Volunteers are needed to help erect the Manger today, (Sunday) and decorate the church after the 11:00am Mass. Your help will be greatly appreciated.



SUPER NEW YEAR'S

50/50 RAFFLE

Drawing will be held on 12/30/23 after the 4:00pm Mass.

Envelopes due to rectory by December 29th.



Dear Parishioners,

As you are aware, your Block Collection Envelopes were delivered to you in the past few weeks. To those have already donated, thank you. To those who have yet to do so, please remember the fall block collection is one of the biggest fundraisers to help with upcoming winter expenses. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



ADVENT GIVING TREE

In the spirit of giving to those in need in our parish and community, please take a tag (or more than 1) from the Giving Tree. Please return UNWRAPPED tomorrow (Sunday, Dec. 17th) by 9 am. We will need a few volunteers on Sunday, 12/17 following the 11 am Mass to distribute the gifts. Thank you for your generosity and the many ways you bring Christ to our neighbors and our world.



CONFESSIONS FOR CHRISTMAS WILL BE ON THE 20th OF DECEMBER AT 7:00 PM. and SATURDAY AFTERNOON AT 3:00PM.



Thank you to the Northwest Veterans Association for donating Gift Cards for Christmas to our church.

Thank you also to all who joined us in the rectory for cookies, coffee and donuts. We look forward to future events.



Are you an early riser? Holy Family Childcare Center is in need of an early riser willing to open up the childcare center, open the gate, turn on the lights at 6 am. If you are interested, please call the rectory at 215-482-0450.



We are in need of Altar Servers. Please see Monsignor Sweeney after mass to discuss if you'd like to become an Altar Server. Your help would be very much appreciated.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – GAUDETE SUNDAY

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

There is a lead up time before special joyous events that actually become a major part of the occasion. Note the excitement in engaged couples as the day of their wedding draws near. Or that of a jubilant city of sports fans as the victory parade for their team is scheduled. Or the jump up and down kind of anticipation among children as Christmas approaches.

This weekend features a joyful liturgical respite from our Advent penance as the great feast of the Nativity draws near. In many parishes the priest will wear rose-colored vestments, the color derived from mixing the purple of penance with the white of joy.

I daresay this time period I've described has such built-in excitement to it that afterward there is bound to be a kind of letdown that settles in. It is not completely such, but just enough to remind us that such "highs" are usually passing, much like a beautiful high note in a cherished musical composition.

All is not lost, however. What can override a letdown is a kind of afterglow. The warm recall that in our more peaceful moments invites us to savor the memory of it all. We look back on that wedding day and smile. Or we recall that parade and the pride we felt. We relive that Christmas morning chaos with pajama clad grandchildren.

Above all is the lasting joy of knowing that God is definitely with us in all the moments of our lives, good and bad. News headlines all about the awful things we humans do to each other should not deter us. For on this "Gaudete" ("Rejoice") Sunday, we are better off enjoying relief from the dark side of human existence to the wonderful decision God the Father made to send His only Son to us in the person of a little Child. Our ultimate redemption from our sins is available.

Here is an apt comment on joy and laughter from the renowned G.K. Chesterton: "It is really a natural trend to lapse into taking oneself gravely because it is the easiest thing to do...for solemnity flows out of men naturally. But laughter is a leap. It is easy to be heavy; hard to be light. Satan fell by force of gravity."

God love you and help you make that leap!

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