

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.*



Hark!

*...the herald
angels sing,
glory to the
new born*

King!

SUNDAY, 24th 2023



December 2023

I recall going to Radio City Music Hall in New York with family and friends to see the pageantry of the Christmas Show. At the end, they performed, One Solitary Life, a sermon written by James Allen Francis, a Baptist Pastor in 1926, which was delivered in Los Angeles, California to a Baptist Young Peoples' Union convention. You may have heard or come across it in your reading. It does highlight how Jesus is the only single person that was able to have the greatest effect on human history to have changed the world like no one else will ever do again.

This message is something to think about during Advent and throughout the holy days of this Christmas Season. What his life has done for us, no one else could possibly do. Only God can make things right in this world. It will take a renewed experience of Jesus to bring peace and healing to the conflicts of our times that separate peoples' and nations. Christ is the bringer of peace to His enemies and ours. You can't fight evil if you don't embrace good. Jesus' message calls for all virtuous lives to be lived in a right and holy way.

This season of good will is our best chance to change the way we live. Try to be the best you can be in this most wonderful season of the year.

Merry Christmas to All.

Sincerely Yours,

Monsignor Patrick E. Sweeney

Pastor



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 – 24th

4:00pm

No Intention

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00am

No Intention

11:00am

Our Parishioners

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26th – 8:00am

Joseph Pretchtel, requested by the Pretchtel Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27th – 8:00am

Adaline O'Harra

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28th – 8:00am

Margaret Delaney, requested by John and Beth Delaney

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29th – 8:00am

Special Intentions

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30th – 4:00pm

Doris, Marianne, Eileen and Dave, requested by Betty Thummel and family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st – 9:00am

Our Parishioners

11:00am

Joseph J. Wack and Mary Theresa Wack, requested by Joe and Mary Ellen Wack

NEW YEAR'S DAY

January 1st – New Years Day this year is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

Mass will be held at 9:00am and 11:00am on New Year's Day.



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.

Mail in offerings – 12/10

Sunday offering (55)	\$ 2,018.00
Block (1)	\$ 150.00
Christmas (2)	\$ 160.00
Christmas Flowers (2)	\$ 55.00
Immaculate Conception (2)	\$ 35.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,418.00

Due to the Publisher needing the Bulletin for December 24th to be in by December 18th, the collection totals for the week of December 17th and December 31st will be in the January 7th Bulletin.

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.



ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd - 4:00pm

Grace Welsh

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th - 9:00am

Joseph Arturo

11:00am

Jocelyn Welsh

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th - CHRISTMAS VIGIL

4:00pm

Charlotte Welsh – Mary Alice Missimer – Harry Mullen

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25th – 9:00am

Joseph Arturo

11:00am

Grace Welsh

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd - 4:00pm

Sister Mary Jo Larkin

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th - 9:00am

Mary Reed

11:00am

Jay Feinschil

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th - CHRISTMAS VIGIL

4:00pm

Mary Alice Missimer – Harry Mullen – Kathy Duffy

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25th - 9:00am

Mancuso

11:00am

Jeanine Censi-Lamont

LECTORS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd – 4:00 pm

Sister Mary Jo Larkin

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th - 9:00am

Mary Reed

11:00am

Dorothea Richardson

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th - CHRISTMAS VIGIL

4:00pm

Kathy Duffy

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25th – 9:00am

Lolita Bennett

11:00am

Dorothea Richardson



SUPER NEW YEAR'S
50/50 RAFFLE

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

Ticket stub 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 who 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.



Thank you to all our generous parishioners who donated to our Giving Tree. Those who are less fortunate will be blessed with gifts through your generosity.



HONOR ROLL

The following parishioners of Holy Family Parish have achieved Academic Honors for the First Quarter of the 2023-2024 school year at their respective schools.

Archbishop Carroll High School

Bailey Brennan

Dylan Brennan

St. Hubert's High School

Sophia Castro



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.



ONE SOLITARY LIFE

Dr. James Allan Francis was born in Nova Scotia, Canada. He became a pastor at age twenty-one and served in ministry for the remainder of his life. His first pastorate was in New York City at the Riverside Baptist Church, and after serving in other varied pastorates in the East, he came to Los Angeles in 1914.¹

Though he had a busy life as a pastor, Francis was able to publish a handful of books: *Drops from a Living Fountain* (1895), *Christ's Mould of Prayer* (1924), and *Christ is All And Other Sermons* (1928). His publications are full of passionate encouragement for Christians to know their Lord, to rely on him, and to follow his example.

Francis' most famous words, now known as "One Solitary Life," originated as part of a sermon that he delivered on July 11, 1926 to the Baptist Young People's Union at a Los Angeles Convention.² A friend transcribed the message titled "Arise, Sir Knight," and Dr. Francis published it that same year in a collection called *The Real Jesus and Other Sermons*.

Since one section of the sermon was particularly popular, minor changes were made to the original words in order to circulate them independently. This adapted version was first published around 1930 by The American Baptist Publication Society and was titled "Jesus — A Brief Life." This is the version that follows.

Over time, Francis' powerful description of Christ came to be known as "One Solitary Life" (the last words of the passage), and it was most often circulated during the Christmas season. Truly, it is remarkable to consider how Christ's birth proved to be predictive of how he would spend the rest of his life on earth — in great humility.

Interestingly, Francis' passage was so widely circulated that, along the way, it's authorship fell into obscurity. In fact, to this day, the words continue to be credited to an anonymous author. Perhaps this anonymity is fitting. After all, Francis' purpose was to turn attention to one particular man and his "one solitary life."

The Text of the Sermon:

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village as the child of a peasant woman.

He grew up in another obscure village.

He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty and then for three years was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book.

He never held an office.

He never owned a home.

He never had a family.

He never went to college.

He never put his foot inside a big city.

He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where he was born.

He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness.

He had no credentials but himself.

He had nothing to do with this world except the naked power of his divine manhood.

While still a young man the tide of popular opinion turned against him.

His friends ran away.

One of them denied him.

Another betrayed him.

He was turned over to his enemies.

He went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed upon the cross between two thieves.

His executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth while he was dying, and that was his coat.

When he was dead, he was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today he is the center of the human race and the leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon the earth as powerfully as has this one solitary life.

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