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December 2, 2018

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Mrs. Karen Carey, Coordinator of Religious Education and
Youth Ministry...Ext. 227
Jo-Ann Stigliano, Director of Music Ministries...Ext. 238
Sr. Anne Woodeshick, RSM, Parish Ministry...Ext. 234
Donna Descano, Administrative Assistant...Ext. 221
Peggy Juhline, Business Manager...Ext. 225

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

5:00 P.M. - Saturday evening
7:30, 9:30, 11:15 A.M.

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday-Friday 6:30 A.M.
Monday-Saturday 8:00 A.M.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated once a month during a parish Sunday Liturgy. Arrangements are to be made 3 months in advance.

NEW PARISHIONERS:

Our Mother of Good Counsel warmly welcomes new parishioners. We believe in the "Stewardship Program" committed to serving God through offering our gifts of time, talents, and treasure for the good of our parish and those in need. We ask you to register as soon as possible by completing a registration form available in the church office during regular office hours. Parishioners moving should notify the church office of any change in address or phone number.

COMMUNION/HOME VISITS

If you are ill or unable to come to Mass for any period of time, please call the Parish Office (610-525-0147) and we will be happy to visit you and bring Communion to you.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 11:30 - 12:00 Noon

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Friday 9:00 A.M.- 3:00 P.M.

Summer: Office Closed on Fridays in July & August

Parish Office and Rectory Phone: (610) 525-0147

FAX NUMBER: (610) 525-0157

PARISH WEB SITE:

<http://www.OMGCPARISH.ORG>

STAND ERECT! RAISE YOUR HEADS! YOUR REDEMPTION IS AT HAND!

Today's portion of Luke's Gospel (Lk 21:25-36) is part of a larger *apocalyptic* discourse. The focus of apocalyptic writing is on the end of the world as we now experience it and the beginning of a new world. Usually, the transition is described in terms of transformations that are cosmic in scope and nature. Judgment upon oppressive persons and institutions and the vindication of those made to suffer by such people and institutions are part of the apocalyptic agenda. Amid painful and prolonged suffering, when no hope on the horizon can be seen, writers often turn the suffering faithful ones' faith toward the heavens and by doing so, they offer a vision of the end of the present misery and the beginning of the new age to come.

Preceding this passage is the prediction of the fall of Jerusalem, an event that had occurred about 10 to 20 years prior to the writing of Luke's Gospel (80-90 C.E.). What the Gospel writer relates in this earlier passage are the events that happened somewhere around 66-70 C.E. (common era) when the Roman armies destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple. The passage in the Gospel is written, however, in a way that makes both events seem as if they have not happened yet when in reality, the writer of Luke is writing the Gospel in hindsight.

Having featured Jesus delivering such harrowing news to his listeners and followers, the writer of Luke now portrays Jesus offering a word of comfort. Even though everyone and everything is coming apart at the seams, the collapse of the powerful ones, namely, the political and religious leaders of the day and their power structures that have long caused oppression and pain to the common folk, is a good occurrence. Thus, today's Gospel reading speaks about the turmoil that is to happen as the reign of God – the new age – is ushered in.

In the context of our world today, where certain leaders are amassing more and more power as people suffer under oppressive regimes, and where corrupt religious, political, economic and social institutions are failing and crumbling, we who hear today's readings are challenged to live lives of active love and to shore up that which is supposed to work for the common good such as democracy as a model of government.

Like Luke's image of Christ's Second Coming, we are called to usher in the new day, the new age. Redemption from oppression starts now, and we Christians, baptized into Christ, are called to embody Christ and move the apostolic mission forward in our world. The reign of God is at hand now, and we have no other choice but to hasten its coming by working for justice throughout our world.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are asked to remember in our prayers:

Janine Hoffman, Anne Shea,
Carol Luty, Lori Lesutis, Jane Shaw,
William O'Donnell, Pelham McClellan,
Michael and Andrew McCaughey,
Bill and Ella Denny, Karen Schubert,
and all who care for the sick and dying.

Please call the Parish Office (610-525-0147) if you would like to request yourself or a family member be put on our prayer list for the next 4 weeks. You can also make a request that the prayers of the community be renewed for another 4-week period as often as needed or desired.

H.O.P.E.

Helping Other People in Emergencies

If you need a ride to the doctor, shopping, etc., call Joanne Bramley at 610-457-6638 or call Sr. Anne at 610-525-0147, ext. 234.

Baptisms: We welcome to our faith community Zoe Lynn Capecci daughter of John and Elizabeth and Olivia Faith Owsik daughter of Jeffrey & Maria who were baptized in our Church recently.

Deceased: We pray for the happy repose of the souls of Stephen Garzarella, John Corcoran, Jr. and Michael Bransome and for the consolation of their families.



PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT

If there is anything you would like to bring to the attention of the Council by way of ideas, suggestions or concerns, please contact Ron Hicks at 610-449-2748.

Immaculate Conception

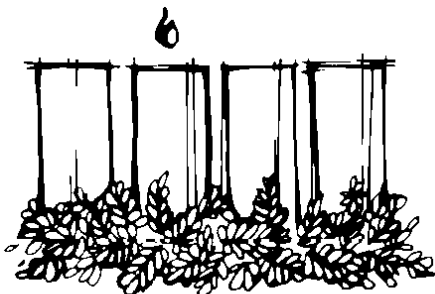


FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION A Holy Day of Obligation

Saturday, December 8, is the Feast of Mary's Immaculate Conception.

The Mass schedule is as follows:

Friday, December 7 at 7:30pm – Vigil Mass
Saturday, December 8: Mass at 8:00am and 12:10pm



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ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

The Advent Communal Penance Service will be held on **Monday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Parish Church. Please plan to join us as we prepare for the wondrous celebration of the Word of God Made Flesh in Jesus, the Christ.

PEACE AND JUSTICE

The Peace and Justice Committee will meet again on **Thursday, December 6 at 7:00 pm** in OMGC's Parish Center.

SPIRITUAL READING GATHERING

The Spiritual Reading Group will gather again on **Friday morning, December 7 at 10:00am** in the Parish Center.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE for November 18, 2018

Envelope Contributions	\$5,849.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$681.00
Mailed in	\$892.00
Total Offertory Collection	\$7,422.00
Offering this time last year	\$7,189.00

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE for November 25, 2018

We are the servants of God, each with his or her own task. We will be judged good stewards if, at His coming, God finds us ready and conscientiously pursuing the tasks to which we have been called.

Envelope Contributions	\$4,482.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$941.00
Mailed in	\$9,703.00
Total Offertory Collection	\$15,126.00
Offering this time last year	\$8,080.00
Electronic Giving (date).....	\$465.00

**Thank you for your Stewardship to your Parish.
Please remember the Church in your will.**

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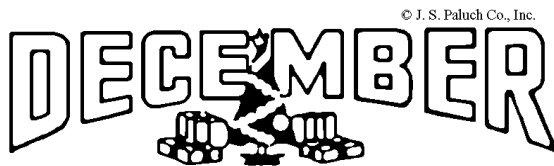


RCIA - RITE OF ACCEPTANCE

Today, **December 2nd at the 9:30 am Mass**, we, as a community, will welcome Cristina Duru into the second period of the RCIA process, known as the Catechumenate. Cristina is a student at Bryn Mawr College and has been attending the Inquiry sessions being held in our parish since early October, in the evenings.

The purpose of this second period of the RCIA process is to give the person who wants to journey toward Christian initiation through reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist a thoroughly supportive and encouraging environment. The catechumenate flows from the love of the parish family as it ministers to those who are choosing a deeper relationship with Christ and membership in the Church of Christ.

Let us continue to offer our prayerful support to Cristina as she continues her journey forward through further study and participation in the life and mission of the Church.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

All students in grades 6 through 12 are invited to join us next **Sunday, December 9 at 8:00am** to help with our Annual Breakfast with Santa. Please dress as best you can as an elf as we need many Santa helpers. You are needed to help with the craft table, and the games and the serving and cleaning up of breakfast. Please plan on going to the 11:15 Mass at the end of the morning! Please let Karen know if you will be there by emailing kcarey@omgcp parish.net or calling 610-525-0147.

All students in grades 6 through 12 are invited to join us on our Annual Trip to Shady Brook Farm Light Show on **Saturday, December 15**. There is no cost for this trip but you must email Karen at kcarey@omgcp parish.net to attend. You will need a permission slip and money for your own treats! We will provide ingredients for smores!

PREP CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

December 4 – Regular Class
 December 9 – Breakfast with Santa, no Class
 December 16 – Regular Class
 December 23 – Regular Class

CONFIRMATION CLASS FOR DECEMBER

December 4 – 4:00 pm to 5:50 pm

SENIOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Join us for our Christmas Gathering on **Friday, December 14 at 12 noon** for the Christmas Gathering of our Senior Parish Members and their friends to celebrate the blessings of the Christmas season with each other. There is no need to bring a lunch or desserts with you. All will be provided at a cost of \$10.00 a person. If you have not already registered to join us on the 14th, please call Sr. Anne at 610-525-0147, ext. 234 so that we can be prepared to welcome you with a “place at the table.” We are looking forward to celebrating this special time of the year with each other.

PROJECT ELF

For the past several years, our parish has been in a position to be able to help parishioners in our very own parish who are struggling at Christmas time. We do this by providing gifts for families in need right here in Bryn Mawr. I am asking for your help in any of the following ways:

1. If you are in a position to purchase a gift or two to help out families, please call or email Karen Carey at 610-525-0147 or kcarey@omgcp parish.net. We will provide you with a wish list of gifts and you can choose what you would like to purchase.
2. If you are a family in need, OR if you know of a family that may need some help, please contact Karen at 610-525-0147 or kcarey@omgcp parish.net. I will then reach out to the family and we will go from there.
3. If you are unable to go to a store to purchase a gift, but are able to make a monetary donation to make up where we may be lacking, please contact Karen at 610-525-0147 or kcarey@omgcp parish.net, or just send your donation in and mark it PROJECT ELF.

I am so grateful for all those that have participated in the past. If you have any questions, please contact Karen.



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RESTLESS? SEARCHING FOR PURPOSE AND FULFILLMENT IN YOUR LIFE?

“Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only in prayer can they persevere and bear fruit.”

Pope Francis

If you are interested in learning more about the Order of St. Augustine and what it means to be an Augustinian, please visit our website:

www.augustinianvocations.org.

**ST. RAPHAELA CENTER
616 Coopertown Rd. in Haverford**

Taize Prayer will be offered at the Center on **Wednesday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m.** This contemplative communal prayer service is offered in the Center's chapel on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration is also available until midnight after the hour-long Taize service.

All are welcome – no reservations are required.

Sponsored Day of Prayer meets again on **Tuesday, December 18.** This prayer experience is offered one Tuesday each month from August to June from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Contact St. Raphaela for dates. The cost is \$15 (additional \$20 for Spiritual Direction).

Contact information:
www.straphaelacenter.org
or phone 610-642-5715



**CAROLLING AT THE MANSION
"I proclaim Good News of great joy!"**

Join us in song, scripture, prayer and fellowship to celebrate the spirit of Advent/Christmas as we carol throughout the IHM Mansion.

Wednesday, December 12 from 7:00-8:30pm
401 S. Bryn Mawr Ave. in Bryn Mawr
(on the grounds of St. Aloysius Academy)

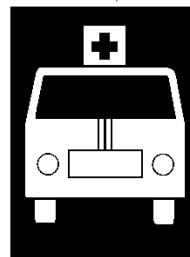
Please call or email to register for this event!
610-581-0120

ihmconferencecenter@gmail.com

**SUBSTITUTE SPANISH TEACHER
NEEDED**

Merion Mercy Academy, a Catholic independent all girls high school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, has an opening for a short-term substitute Spanish teacher. The position will begin on January 3, 2019 and conclude by April 8. Degree required. Experience and certification –preferred. Qualified applicants are asked to email a cover letter and resume as soon as possible or until the position has been filled to Mary Ann Danovich, Assistant Head of School for Academic Affairs, at madanovich@merion-mercy.com.

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**Blood
Mobile**

**RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE
OMGC Gym – 2:00 – 7:00 pm
Tuesday, December 18**

Please consider donating a pint of blood when the Red Cross Bloodmobile comes to OMGC's gym on **Tuesday, December 18th from 2:00 to 7:00 pm.** Please invite a friend to come with you to donate as well. The number of willing donors decreases as the busy Christmas week approaches, yet the need for blood increases because more travel means more travel accidents. If you can donate, please fill out the pledge form here, or one from the pews, and place it in the Red Cross box at the entrance of the church. Also, you can phone or email your pledge to Joe Betz at 610-525-4499, or email at joseph.betz@villanova.edu. Or you can pledge on line at www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: our mother good counsel.

I will do my best to come and donate a pint of blood at the OMGC Bloodmobile on Tuesday, December 18 in the parish gym.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Best Time:
(in 15 min. segments between 2:00 -7:00pm)

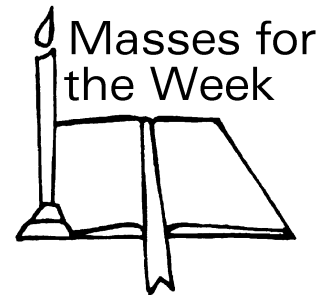
THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 2, 2018, ushers in for Christians throughout the world, the season of Advent. These four Sundays of Advent this year provide for us the time for expressing the hope and strengthening the dreams that will carry us through the new liturgical year. Advent is the way we as church express our hopes. Prophetic visions, prayers and songs calling for the Lord Jesus to come, do help us to hope profoundly. Advent allows us to do what most others do in December – but to see in the coming Lord the answer to our dreams. In our Catholic tradition, keeping advent means singing the songs of expectation, of our hopes and longings, before we enter into the full-throated praise of Christmas carols.

Here are a few lines from our tradition on what Advent is about. “Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare us for Christmas when Christ’s first coming is remembered, and as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and the heart to await Christ’s second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.” (General Norms for the Liturgical Year)

Thomas Merton, in his book, *Seasons of Celebration*, reviewed the ways St. Bernard of Clairvaux approached these comings of Christ. The first advent was Christ’s birth (History). The other will be at the end of time (Majesty). Faith in these two stimulates recognition of a third, the advent of Christ in our church now, today (Mystery). Viewed from this perspective, the Advent liturgy, with its scriptures, prayers and songs, is neither a romantic return to the Hebrew Scriptures while we wait for the baby at Bethlehem, nor is it an exercise in expressing hope for an ever-receding end of time. The Advent liturgy is neither nostalgic nor illusory. When we take the tradition and enter it fully, we become Advent, the people in and through whom Christ comes.

(Adapted from Liturgy Training Publications,
Chicago, 1997)



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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

- 7:30 JOSEPH GAVLICK
(40TH ANNIVERSARY)
9:30 JOHN FRANCIS NOONE
11:15 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 6:30 MATTHEW MARKFORD LUTY
8:00 JANET D. DAGIT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 6:30 ROBERT DERHAM
(25TH ANNIVERSARY)
8:00 MARK, MICHELLE & MICHAEL
CONNOR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 6:30 DECEASED MEMBERS
& BENEFACTORS OF OSA
8:00 VICTOR & ELEANOR MANDES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 6:30 SR. HELENA McNEILL, MSHR
8:00 SUSAN HOPPS-DESCANO
(9TH ANNIVERSARY)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 6:30 REMEMBRANCE
8:00 HARRIET FINEGAN
7:30 TRUDY GILDEA
(4TH ANNIVERSARY)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 8:00 PEGGY SHERIDAN
12:10 EMMA P. STIGLIANO

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 7:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS
9:30 DOMENIC MATTIOLI
11:15 JOHN PIUS ONUMAH

John J. Stretch, III F.D.
(Supervisor)

John J. Stretch, IV F.D.

Timothy J. Stretch F.D.

Edward F. (Ted) Power, F.D.

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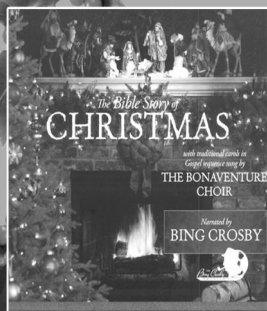


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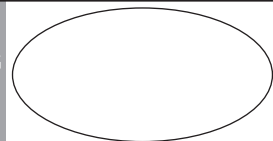
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