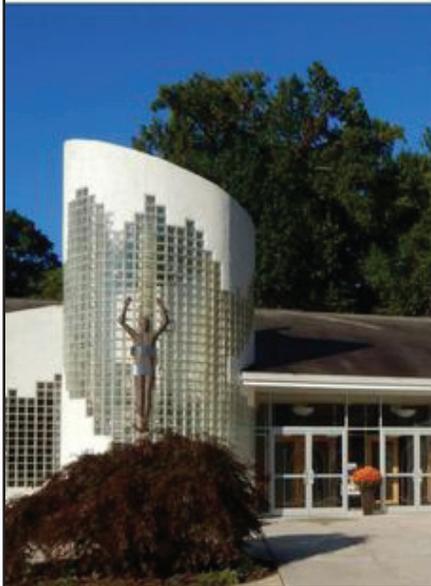


A Catholic Christian Community

3000 Videre Drive
Wilmington DE 19808
302-368-0146
www.resurrectionde.org

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.
Mon. Wed. Fri. 8:30 a.m.
Tues. 7 p.m.



Rev. William Graney, Pastor

John Falkowski, Deacon
Fran Huhn, Retired Deacon
Ruth Sanders, Liturgy/Music
Nancy Maloney, Christian Formation
Elaine Little, Youth Ministry
Sandy Landoll, Social Concerns
Tina Donald, Bookkeeper
Debbie Seymour, Admin. Asst.
Parish Office: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Mon. - Fri.
6:30-8:30 p.m. Mon. - Thurs.

ext 102
ext. 110

ext. 106
ext. 104
ext. 107
ext. 103
ext. 105
ext. 0

Pastoral Council

Al Mercatante	Executive Officer
Sharon Gidumal	Asst. Executive
Mike Mitchell	Secretary
Maritza Poza-Grise	Trustee
Dick Schwer	Trustee

Reconciliation

Tues. 6:30 p.m. Sat. 4:45 p.m.
or by appointment.

Baptisms

Please contact Deacon John.

Marriage

Contact clergy one year prior.

Pastoral Care of the Sick

For hospital and home visits
contact clergy or the office.

Becoming Catholic

Learn more by contacting
Fr. Bill or Deacon John.

Spirituality Outreach Stewardship

Prayer for Our Seminarians

Loving God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
please bless and protect all those who,
having responded to Your call,
have offered themselves for
priestly service to Your Church,
especially those men who are in formation
for the Diocese of Wilmington.
Giver of all good gifts, bless these men
with prudence and wisdom,
that they may be absorbed in Your mysteries;
bless them with the desire
for all things holy and chaste,
that they might lead us by their example;
bless them with courage, generosity and zeal,
that they might be faithful companions
of Your Son, Jesus Christ,
in Whose name I make this prayer.
Amen.

College Seminary of the Immaculate Conception at
St. Andrew's Hall
Seton Hall University, 400 South Orange Avenue,
South Orange, New Jersey 07079

Mr. James M. Gebhart (Junior) Birthday-July 25

St. Mary's Seminary & University
5400 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21210

Mr. Adam J. Bauer (I Theology)
Birthday-October 2

Mr. John Enemu (I Theology)
Birthday-September 11

Mr. Brennan Ferris (I Theology)
Birthday-May 22

Mr. Craig D. Kursinsky (I Theology)
Birthday-January 16

Mr. Michael A. Preston (II Theology)
Birthday-August 2



INTENTIONS

Monday	Jan 1	10:00am	Parish Community
Tuesday	Jan 2	7:00pm	
Wednesday	Jan 3	8:30 am	+Jill Irwin
Friday	Jan 5	8:30 am	+Marie Hazzard Rossbach
Saturday	Jan 6	5:30pm	+Victoria Cusack
Sunday	Jan 7	8:15 am	+Masina T. DiPatre
		10:30am	+Joan Corridori



God is the source of all healing and hope, to whom we lift up in prayer the needs of the sick and those who care for them.

Pray for all the needs in our Book of Intentions and for

those in our Parish Family who are sick: **Lord, allow your healing hand to assist** JD Howell, Jack & Jane Tabaka, Bill Dorsey, Joseph Hemphill, Alyssa Stover, Chet Andruskiewicz, Jim Gambort, Maryann Ciabattoni, Helen Meys, Candi Smith, Sean McCormick, Janice Kane, Ralph Culver, Kevin Rzucidlo, Mike Pohlen, Cass Thomas, Courtney Corridori, Joel Rivera, David Heckman, Carol Strasser, Burt Strasser, Patty Calhoun, Laurel Milano, Gloria Oosterom, Burt & Carol Strasser, and others mentioned in our parish book of intentions.

LITURGY

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention--December 2017
The Elderly: That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

LITURGY MINISTERS: Are you able to serve on **January 1** for our **10:00 am** celebration of **Mary, Mother of God**? Please contact the office or sign up in the SERVE binder in the Gathering Space! Thank you for your gift of time.

PARISH LIFE

*Do you ever wonder about the names of those people who worship with you every week? The weekend of January 6-7, 2018 will be a **Community Weekend** when you will have an opportunity to learn who they are. When you enter the Gathering Space, you will be invited to prepare a nametag. We encourage you to include your last name on the tag and wear it during Mass.*

8 foot folding tables with metal frame -free to good home. Call Elaine at 302-368-0146 ext. 107 to set up pick up time before January 8, 2018.

Save the Date!



The Annual Winter Arts Festival and silent auction will be held Saturday Feb 24, 2018 in the gathering space. Plan ahead for

how you can participate for help in making this a success. Thank you.



The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Group will be Monday Jan 8 from 12:30 - 2 pm. Please join us.

Dual Recovery Anonymous (DRA)

A 12 Step Program for men and women who meet to support each other in our common recovery from two *No-Fault Illnesses*:

- an emotional or psychiatric illness, and
- chemical/substance dependency.

Meetings are Open and meet at Resurrection Parish (3000 Videre Drive, 368-0146 x.115) every Monday from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Timeless truths for the New Year

A survey named these four books as the best Christian books of all time:

The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.
The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien.
Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis.
Confessions by Saint Augustine.

Mere Christianity was published for the first time 65 years ago, in 1952. Oddly enough, it wasn't even written as a book. During the darkest days of World War II, Lewis prepared four sets of radio talks on basic Christianity, and these evolved into the book *Mere Christianity*. Since 1952, the book's popularity has grown, and between 2001 and 2016, it sold 3.5 million copies in English alone. On top of this, it has been translated into at least 36 languages. For many Christians, *Mere Christianity* is their favorite religious book apart from the Bible.

So why is *Mere Christianity* one of the best Christian books of all time? According to church historian George Marsden, Lewis "was determined to present only the timeless truths of Christianity rather than the latest theological or cultural fashions." The book is his attempt to explain and defend "the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times."

Timeless truths. Basic beliefs. Common convictions. *Mere Christianity*.

"When you teach a child writing," says Lewis, "you hold its hand while it forms the letters: that is, it forms the letters because you are forming them." The same is true for God -- we love because God loves, and God "holds our hand while we do it."

Being focused more on God and Jesus than on ourselves, and trusting God to work through us -- that's the first step in being "merely" Christian. It requires leaning more on divine power than on human power, more on the Lord than on ourselves. "Give up yourself," writes Lewis, "and you will find your real self."

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Jan. 12th Emmanuel Dining Room (9AM-1PM)
Join parishioners preparing a serving a lunch for the needy. Sign up on the parish website under "Volunteer" tab or ion the Serve binder in the Gathering Space.

Thanks to you for stocking the pantry. We help 4 to 5 families per week.

Visit CRS: <https://www.sharejourney.org/> to learn about our brothers and sisters who have fled their homes, and how you can support them.

ELEMENTARY CHRISTIAN FORMATION



Welcome! K-5 Christian Formation Program (CFP) will meet on 1/7 from 9:15-10:15. Drop off begins at 9:10. See you there!

Would you like more information about Christian Formation for Children (Religious Education or Sacramental Preparation)? Contact Nancy Maloney, CFP Coordinator, at nmaloney@resurrectionde.org

First Reconciliation is Saturday, January 6th at 9:00am

CFP: YOUTH MINISTRY



Middle and High School Youth Group
Enjoy your Christmas break!
We will gather again on January 7, 2018 6:30-8:15 PM.

Epiphany Party for High School and College students! Bring a wrapped gender neutral \$5 gift.

College Age Retreat on the Jersey Shore- January 5-7, 2018: This retreat is designed to bring together young people of college-age to renew your spiritual life, deepen your relationship with God and to enrich your association with your peers. To register and for more information go to capemaymarianists.org
Marianist Family Retreat Center
417 Yale Avenue Cape May Point, New Jersey 08212-0488

Jesus House Prayer and Renewal Center

We offer a variety of spiritually enriching programs for adults. We provide time and appropriate facilities for prayer, contemplation, teaching, and recreation. We are located on a 10-acre partially wooded site. Visitors to the center are welcome to use the grounds for walks and private meditation. Our chapel is open all day, every day. 2501 Milltown Road (302) 995-6859, jesushousecenter.org

April 8 - April 17th, 2018. Pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes with Barcelona. Jesus House Prayer and Renewal Center 302-995-6858 Please visit our website, www.jesushousecenter.org for more details.

VOCATIONS

If you think God might be calling you to live out a religious vocation, please call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113 or vocations@cdow.org). Be sure to visit our website: www.cdow.org/vocations/

TAKING IT HOME

The interesting thing about families is that we do not get to select the family we are part of. But the question is where would we be without our families? Families come in all shapes and sizes. They come with joy. They come with sorrow. They come with chaos and struggle, but most especially they come with blessing. Why? Because the family is where we first find and experience holiness. It is where we first experience acceptance and love. Yes, the turmoil and struggle, the joys and cares of family life is where we first discover the call to holiness.

To think that it is in our families that we first discover holiness is probably a crazy idea for many of us. Families can at times be so dysfunctional that the thought of discovering holiness in such families is the last thing on anyone's mind. But where else do we first learn and put into practice all the things that our faith teaches us. In the Catholic Update, "Seeing Family Life As Holy, Warts and All," it says, "what makes family life sacred is not to attain some kind of pristine perfection, but the fact that to live with people as lovingly as you can is to live with God... What makes a family holy is not to be totally free from conflict or to become a group of people who never hurt one another.

Rather holiness in families comes from learning to forgive and be reconciled and learning to face up to our problems and to do something about them. In family life, holy means striving to surrender to God's light within us at times when the darkness around us seems overwhelming. It means struggling day after day to bring creative order – if only for a bit – to the chaos. When we work at cultivating forgiveness, reconciliation and community, we embody God's holy will in the context of family life."

Wilkie Au in his book, "Urgings of the Heart," also says this about family life. "While the goal of loving like Jesus is quite lofty, it is meant to take place at home, that is, in the familiar places where we find ourselves and where opportunities to embody the love of Jesus abound. Spiritual growth (which is the call to holiness) is achieved through our efforts to love and care in daily ways as husbands and wives, parents and siblings, friends and neighbors, employers and colleagues. Our present lives – just as we find them – are the places where transforming grace is at work making us holy by inspiring us to love like Jesus."

These are the images we bring with us today as we celebrate the Christmas Feast of the Holy Family. In the serene images of Mary, Joseph and Jesus we have a picture of the perfect family; at least these are the images we create for ourselves in the many saintly images that we use to depict the Holy Family. In fact in this Sunday's gospel we have one of the few descriptions of the Holy Family in all of scripture. Their appearance here emphasizes how important family care is for children and for all human beings. Mary and Joseph seem hesitant but have exquisite care for the baby Jesus. But we celebrate this feast today not so much as a reminder to us of what our families should be like, although there is some truth to that. But instead we celebrate it as a reminder that it is here, in the midst of a human family, that God chose to dwell. It was through the human family, the family of Joseph and Mary and all their many relatives that Jesus entered our world. And not unlike the situation with today's many families, it too was a family that faced hardship, fear and turmoil. Deacon John



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD GOSPEL – MATTHEW 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”

When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star’s appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage.”

After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

Gospel Reflection: The gospel of Mark, the first of the four canonical gospels to be written, does not bother at all with the question of the birth of Jesus. Written some ten or more years later, the gospels of Luke and Matthew both present a version of the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. The gospel of John, written later still, also avoids details of Jesus’ birth. The two accounts of the infancy that we do have from the gospels tell very different stories because they have each been used to place the rest of the gospel in a particular context. Unfortunately, the two stories have been mashed together so much that we now have one notion of the Christmas story that is a poor amalgam of the two unique narratives. In the gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary are living in Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem and are forced to give birth out in a field because there is no room at the only inn in Bethlehem. The ones who bear witness to the birth in this account are shepherds—some of the lowest of the low—as the gospel of Luke identifies Jesus as having a preferential option for the lowly ones.

In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph and Mary are living in Bethlehem and give birth in their own house. They later flee to Egypt and then settle in Nazareth. The two towns need to be included in both accounts because they are named in some of the ancient prophecies about the Messiah. In the gospel of Matthew, the witnesses to the birth are wise men, dignitaries from another land. The Matthew writer wants to emphasize the “kingship” of Jesus and it is fitting that foreign dignitaries present gifts on the birth of a king. The two stories deserve to be dealt with uniquely and should be unraveled from the muddled, entwined version that dominates our Christmas imagery.

The Magi: In some translations, the “wise men” of this passage are referred to as ‘Magi’. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference “We saw his star as it rose.” It is interesting that the passage describes “some” wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three—based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their “relics” lie in honor beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.

Epiphany: The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but as the Savior of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasizes the “Jewish-ness” of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

Going home: The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way—indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus—in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves—then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.

- Q. Why did the wise men approach Herod to ask about the infant king of the Jews?*
- Q. Why is it significant that Jesus’ birth be witnessed by important men from a distant land?*
- Q. Even if the wise men are a purely literary device, what “truth” does their story convey?*
- Q. In what ways do you “bear witness” to Jesus?*

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