

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH ~ DECEMBER 29, 2024

Sacred Heart Parish

Partnering Parishes Sacred Heart, St. Charles Borromeo (Drexel Hill) and St. Hedwig's Chapel (Chester)

Rev. Msgr. George A. Majoros,
M.Div., M.S., Pastor

Rev. Paul Stenson,
Retired Priest in Residence

Deacon John H. Farrell
Permanent Deacon

Sacred Heart Church
316 East Broadway Avenue
Clifton Heights, PA 19018

Rectory
Phone 610-623-0409
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Parish Website:
www.sacredheart-cliftonheights.net

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8:30AM to 3:30PM
Remotely Monday, Wednesday, Friday
In parish office Tuesday and Thursday

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
To live and grow as a church in the Roman Catholic tradition by devotion to God in worship, doctrine, ministry, and loving service to each other and to the people entrusted to us.



A Prayer for New Beginnings

Dear God, as the new year dawns, I come before You with a heart full of hope and anticipation. Please grant me the strength to leave behind past burdens and embrace the fresh opportunities that lie ahead. Help me to trust in Your divine plan and walk confidently into the future You have prepared for me. May this year be a time of growth, healing, and deepening faith. Thank You for Your unending love and grace. Amen.



New Year Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve, Tuesday, December 31, 2024

Sacred Heart	St. Charles Borromeo Church
4:00PM	5:30PM
	9:00PM Holy Hour followed by a social in the rectory.

New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1, 2025

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Holy Day of Obligation	
Sacred Heart Church	St. Charles Borromeo Church
8:30AM	10:00AM
12:00Noon	

Masses For The Week

Sacred Heart Church

4:00PM (Vigil) Olga Cienki Of DiCola & Crawford Family

Sunday, December 29

7:30AM Dominic, Vincent and Mary & Vincent Natale Of Strunk family

Monday, December 30

8:30AM Laura Wufsus Of husband, Mark

Tuesday, December 31 New Year's Eve

8:30AM For the People of St. Hedwig's

4:00PM(Vigil) Andrew DePiero Of Barrett family

Wednesday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary

8:30AM John Daggett Of Dolores McLoughlin & Jack McLoughlin

12:00Noon Louis A. Cabrelli Of Lenski family

Saturday, January 4

4:00PM (Vigil) Victoria Rizzo Of Family

Sunday, January 5

7:30AM Antonietta Lelii Of Andrew Hunter

Sacred Heart and St. Charles Borromeo Churches will be open Monday through Friday 9:00A.M to 12:00 Noon

High School Discernment Dates

January 25-26, 2025 March 29-30, 2025

For more information and to register, visit:

HeedtheCall.org/ComeandSee



Candles for the Month of December

Ernesto Lelii & Tina Mori

Thomas McGehrin Frank Rizzo, Jr.

Edna Soltanuk

Save the Date

National March for Life in Washington, DC

January 24, 2025,



Flame of Love Holy Hour

Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30PM
at Saint Charles Borromeo Church

All are welcome to join as we pray
for the intentions of the Immaculate
Heart of Mary.

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Mass Celebrants Weekend of December 28-29

Sacred Heart

4:00PM Msgr. Majoros

7:30AM Msgr. Majoros

St. Charles Borromeo

5:30PM Fr. Stenson

10:00AM Fr. McGowan

4:00PM Fr. Stenson



Mass Celebrants Weekend of January 4-5

Sacred Heart

4:00PM TBD

7:30AM TBD

St. Charles Borromeo

10:00AM TBD

4:00PM TBD



Celebrants Are Subject To Change

Beginning in January 2025

St. Charles Borromeo Church

Changes in Schedule

Discontinued Masses

The Saturday 5:30 PM Mass

Holy Day 7:00PM Vigil Mass

Weekend Confession Schedule

Confessions 9:30-10:30AM following the

Saturday 8:30AM Mass

Archdiocesan Opening of the Jubilee Year

December 29, 2024 - 11:00 AM

Solemn Mass Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul 18th and Benjamin Franklin Parkway Philadelphia, PA 19103. Representatives of every parish, institution and religious community are invited to come as pilgrims of hope and then return with the message of the Jubilee year to spread throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

For more information about the Jubilee Year 2025

see the Parish Website.



Candles for the Month of January

Ernesto & Antonietta Lelii & Tina Mori

Frank Rizzo, Jr. Patricia Grassa

Thomas McGehrin

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Prayerfully consider your Offertory Gift as your act of praise to God for all HE has given you.

Sacred Heart—December 15, 2024

Sunday Envelopes	49	\$1,760.00
Loose		478.00
Total		2,238.00
Loose		197.00
Maintenance		52.00
Immaculate Conception		85.00
Christmas Flowers		14.00

Sacred Heart—December 22, 2024

Will Appear In Next Bulletin

Thank you to all who have given so generously as we struggle to make ends meet.

This Bulletin Went To Print Early

MOTHER BONIFACE SPIRITUALITY CENTER

Renew and Breathe Retreats for Mothers of all Ages

New Year: January 11, 2025,

Lent: March 1, 2025

<https://msbt.org/mbsc/events-at-mother-boniface-spirituality-center>

The Movie "Finding Christmas"

From Pastor Tom Higgins – Holy Innocents Church, Philadelphia

"God so loved the world..." John 3:16

Yes, God so loved the world that He gave us his only Son so that all who believe may have eternal life. That was the passage from John's Gospel that was resonating in my heart and head as we watched "**Finding Christmas**" last Monday in the Parish Hall. You see, the movie filmed at our parish, by our good friend and Screenwriter/Producer, Mike Walsh, an alumnus of our school and North Catholic graduate and Bridget Smith the Director/Editor and graduate of King of Peace and Saint Maria-Goretti, was filled with love. We witness the love between Nick and Elisabeth, Mikey's parents, as Elisabeth cares for her husband suffering from severe PTSD. We witness the love between Mikey and Celestina, as they follow the star to the destination where all will be made known. And it is seconds with the Christ Child whose love transforms the person of Romulus from a man of violence and hate to one of peace and love. And finally, it is the love of God that surrounds the final scene in our church reminding us how blessed we are to be the sons and daughters of a loving God.

Do yourself a Christmas favor, watch "**Finding Christmas**" in English or Spanish on Amazon Prime, Apple TV, Fandango Home, Tubi, Roku TV or Youtube.

Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center, Stone Harbor, NJ
Wednesday, January 22 10:00 am—4:00 pm \$25

Private Day of Prayer—On the Day of Prayer for Legal Protection of the Unborn, spend a quiet day praying for the intention of the right to life from conception until natural death. Throughout the day, there will be periods of communal prayer for this very special intention. Lunch is provided.

Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center, Stone Harbor, NJ
Friday, January 31 8:45 am—2:15 pm \$60*

Arise and Call her Blessed Presented by Sr. Sheila Galigan, IHM Come to celebrate God's gift of his Mother Let's come to appreciate the role the Blessed Mother plan in keeping us close to Jesus. Coffee and check-in begin at 8:45 am. The day includes Mass and lunch. *You may opt to stay overnight the evening before this event for an additional \$95.

JOIN ARCHBISHOP PEREZ ON PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY FOR THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

Malvern Retreat House has been allotted 50 of the 200 available spaces at this time. Dates: **APRIL 23 - 29, 2025**
Price: From \$3171 pp + Airfare Please consider joining Archbishop Nelson J. Perez on a pilgrimage to Italy for the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis this spring! This pilgrimage has been facilitated by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Malvern Retreat House in partnership with Virginia-based ProRome Tours. The dates of the trip are April 23 - 29, 2025, with an optional extension to Assisi from April 29 - May 1, 2025. With luxury accommodations at the five-star Westin Excelsior in Rome, the trip features a flexible touring program in order to accommodate all. As this is a large group (up to 200 max), the daily program will be organized to run as smoothly as possible. Mass and dinner will be group events, whereas part of the day will be optional (with much included in the price). Highlights include the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis in Saint Peter's Square, the Papal Basilicas and Holy Doors, the Catacombs, the Pantheon and so much more. For more information or to register please visit www.prorometours.com/adop (password "carlo") or contact ProRome Tours directly at (434) 964 6352 or by email at office@prorome.com.

Saturday, January 11, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Retreat- Mothers Be Still and Know That I Am God. This retreat offers a space for faith sharing and reflection with other mothers. Come as you are and let God delight in you. It's a meditative retreat designed for mothers to slow down, be present to God, breathe, relax, and start the New Year with a spiritual reset. The retreat costs \$55 and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Location: Mother Boniface Spirituality Center (3501 Solly Avenue, Phila, PA 19136) Speaker: Stephanie McCarthy, a Catholic wife, mother, spiritual director, and companion on the journey. Any questions, or to register by phone, please call 267-350-1830.

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The Feast of the Holy Family

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

My calling precludes me from experiencing the stomach-churning fear of a parent dealing with a lost child. This was the case for Mary and Joseph as Jesus is temporarily lost among the crowds heading home from the Passover celebration in Jerusalem. Having made this annual trip 11 times before, traveling with the same caravan each time, at first the holy couple presumed that their boy was in the company of boys and girls his age. But He wasn't. What a shock it was to find that out.

When they did meet up with Jesus at the end of their search, right back at the Temple, Blessed Mother Mary had every right to offer a scold. The elderly teachers gathered around Him had cause to be astonished. Mary the mother could only ask: "Why?" St. Joseph let her ask the question.

Instead of offering excuses, Jesus forthrightly but respectfully countered her His question: "Why? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" We are not told what Joseph's reaction was.

Yet, for all of Jesus' adolescent assertion, which we know caused His parents to be confused, He nonetheless "goes down" from the Temple mount with them. He enters that long period of what we later would call His "hidden life" where He was "obedient to them for some 30 years.

At this point I ask you to use a little imagination to consider what Mary and Joseph might answer to some present-day correspondent interviewing them on the subject of family life, and asking them, "Is it sometimes difficult?"

Their ready answer "Yes, at times" would be followed by their admission, supplied by St. Luke when he wrote that "they did not understand what He said to them." Jesus was a different kind of child to parent.

Even though there is a vast difference between the Holy Family and our own, the common element is that difficulty that inevitably arises when offspring are offbeat with their parents. Such happenings can usually be worked through successfully when there is a context of love present. That's the encouraging ingredient of today's feast. We are right within the Christmas season when Love itself came to earth and entered human history.

One other element that deserves attention in today's Gospel excerpt: obedience. Sad to say, that is a nearly forgotten concept in today's world. With all the cultural push for self-referencing and self-conviction that the only true judge of our behavior, is ourselves, who is to obey whom? Who has the right to command? Well, just open your bible and you will have your perfect example in Jesus' life of obedience to His divine Father.

If an objective analysis of your family yields mixed results in the matter of obedience, don't be downhearted. Try to think positively; forgive generously; and remember lovingly. A good closing thought: "It takes about five or six years for a tree to produce nuts, but this doesn't apply to a family tree."

God love you and your family.

Prayer For the Feast of The Holy Family

Dear Lord, bless our family. Be so kind as to give us the unity, peace, and mutual love that You found in Your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

Saint Joseph, bless the head of our family. Obtain for him the strength, the wisdom, and the prudence he needs to support and direct those under his care.

Mother Mary, bless the mother of our family. Help her to be pure and kind, gentle and self-sacrificing. For the more she resembles you, the better will our family be.

Lord Jesus, bless the children of our family. Help them to be obedient and devoted to their parents. Make them more and more like You. Let them grow, as You did, in wisdom and age and grace before God and man.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make our family and home more and more like Yours, until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with You. Amen.

Dear Church Family,

As we celebrate this Sunday within the Octave of Christmas dedicated to the Holy Family of Nazareth, we are reminded that God's blessings come to our society by way of the family. Saint John Paul II stated that we "owe to the family our very existence as an individual." Each of us is "...particular, unique and unrepeatable" as a person. We recognize the great truth that "although families have roles and functions, **the main value in families is in the relationships, which are irreplaceable.**" He prophetically said in his Apostolic Exhortation On The Family: "The future of the world and of the Church passes through the family." In this New Year –a Jubilee Year of 2025, may we seek God's graces to be a holy family. God our Father help us all live as the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, united in respect and love so that one day we may share the joy and peace of the eternal home of heaven.

2025 A Jubilee Year-Pilgrims of Hope



On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, marking the beginning of the 2025 as a Jubilee Year. But what is a Jubilee? The Vatican website (www.vatican.va) says it is a year of forgiveness of sins and also the punishment due to sin, it is a year of reconciliation between adversaries, of conversion and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and consequently of solidarity, hope, justice, commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters. A Jubilee Year is above all the year of Christ, who brings life and grace to humanity.

The idea of the Jubilee, however, goes back to the Old Testament. The word *jobel* in Hebrew refers to the exaltation that followed the harvest. It came to be applied to the restoration of family land lost by indebtedness and the release from other debts which God commanded every fiftieth year (Leviticus 25:10). As in many Old Testament prefigurements, its authentic meaning is spiritual and is found in Christ through His Church-through release from the indebtedness of sin and the restoration of sanctifying grace. This is mankind's authentic patrimony, as we are made in the image of God and intended for His kingdom.

The first documented Christian Jubilee, or Holy Year, was in 1300 under Pope Boniface VIII. Since 1470, Jubilees have occurred every 25 years. Sometimes popes have established Great Jubilees, such as that of the Year 2000 celebrating two millennia since the Birth of Our Lord, and even special Holy Years, most recently the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015-2016.

The theme for this Jubilee Year of 2025 is Pilgrims of Hope. In *Spes Non Confundit*, the Papal Bull announcing the Jubilee, "Hope does not disappoint" (Romans 5:5), Pope Francis said, "For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps is find reasons for that hope." I encourage you to go to the Vatican website and read the *Spes Non Confundit*, the Papal Bull of Indiction in English, and to meditate on it as source of hope and strength for this new year.

Today, at the Cathedral-Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, Archbishop Nelson J. Perez, will celebrate the opening of the Jubilee Year in the Archdiocese with a Solemn Mass this morning at 11:00A.M. In fact, every bishop throughout the world will be doing the same at their respective Cathedrals. Archbishop Perez invites all Catholics in the Church of Philadelphia to experience spiritual renewal by participating in Holy Year events in their homes, in their local parishes, and at shrines throughout the region, and at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, the Mother Church of the Archdiocese. The goal of the Jubilee Year 2025 is to offer pilgrims opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences, prayer, and reception of the sacraments in their local communities. The fruits of these activities include strengthened personal relationships with Jesus Christ and enriched faith journeys.

One of the ways that Catholics can participate in the Jubilee Year is by making a pilgrimage to the church where they were baptized, according to Father Dennis Gill, Rector of the Cathedral-Basilica and Director of the Office for Divine Worship. "The Holy Father sees as one of the principal pilgrimages that we all make is the pilgrimage through life to eternal life," he said. "He is encouraging an understanding of the pilgrimage of living our Christian life more authentically, and he is encouraging people to visit the font where they were baptized, the origin of their Christian life."

Opportunities to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and plenary indulgences are important aspects of the Jubilee Year, Father Gill said. "The Archbishop has designated our national archdiocesan shrines as particular places of pilgrimage where the indulgence will be available for Catholics," he added. Those shrines are the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, and the National Shrines of St. John Neumann and St. Rita of Cascia in Philadelphia.

The gift of an indulgence provides the faithful — through the sacraments and good works — the remission of any punishment due to their sins upon death. The 10 Missionary of Mercy priests in the archdiocese will be key participants in hearing confessions. Pope Francis has commissioned these priests to emphasize the duty shared by all priests to "hear confessions and preach on behalf of and promote the Sacrament of Reconciliation."

The New Year's Mass Schedule is on the front cover of this bulletin.

Saturday, January 4, 2025 Vigil Masses for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord

Sacred Heart Church

3:00-3:45P.M. Confessions, 4:00P.M. Vigil Mass

St. Charles Borromeo Church

9:30A.M.-10:30A.M. Confessions, No Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 5, 2025-The Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord

Sacred Heart Church ~ 7:30 A.M Mass

St. Charles Borromeo Church ~ 10:00 A.M., 4:00 P.M. Mass

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Please accept my grateful appreciation for your generous support of our parishes through your consistent use of your Weekly Church envelopes, online giving, your special Christmas offering, and your donation to the Annual Stewardship Appeal of Treasure. May God reward your goodness! Parishioners who are preparing their taxes may wish a record of their contributions for the year 2024. Please call or email the rectory offices after January 15th and request a copy of your contributions for 2024. Merry Christmas and a Blessed Happy New Year of 2025!

Monsignor George A. Majoros, Pastor