

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD ~ JANUARY 5, 2025

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

Fax 610-623-2926

E-mail sacredheartchurch@rcn.com

Parish Website:

www.sacredheart-cliftonheights.net

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

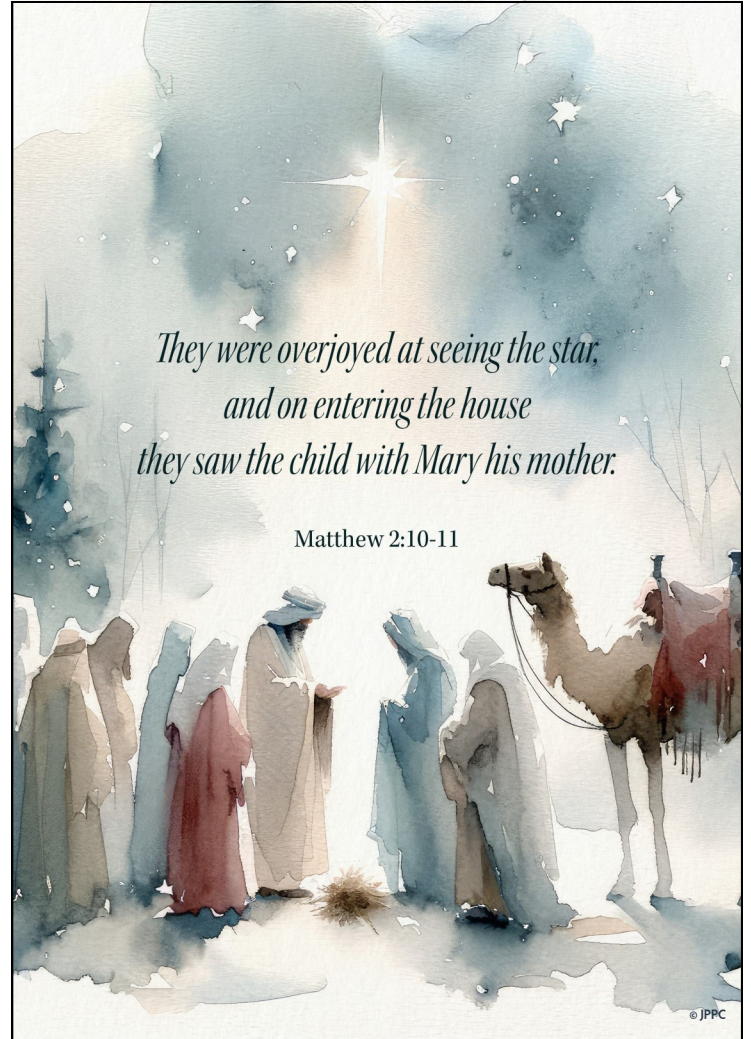
8:30AM to 3:30PM

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.



Sunday Schedule Of Masses

Sacred Heart (Vigil) 4:00PM, 7:30AM

St. Charles 10:00AM, 4:00PM

Weekdays Masses 8:30AM

Sacred Heart Mon, Tues, Wed

St. Charles Thurs, Fri, Sat

First Friday at St. Charles Borromeo

7:00P.M. – Holy Hour

First Saturday at St. Charles Borromeo

8:30AM Morning Mass

Exposition, Devotions, Confession, Benediction

Flame of Love Holy Hour

St. Charles Borromeo 6:30PM Thursday

Holy Day Masses

St. Charles (Vigil) 4:00PM, 8:30AM

Sacred Heart 12:00 Noon, 7:00PM

**Sacrament of Reconciliation
Confession Schedule**

Sacred Heart 3:00-3:45PM Saturday

St. Charles Borromeo 6:30-7:30PM on the Thursday
before First Friday, 9:30-10:30AM following the
Saturday 8:30AM Mass

St. Charles Borromeo 9:30-10:30AM on the First
Saturday of the month

Masses For The Week

Sacred Heart Church

4:00PM (Vigil) Victoria Rizzo Of Family
Sunday, January 5
7:30AM Antonietta Lelii Of Andrew Hunter

Monday, January 6

8:30AM Living & Deceased of Sacred Heart

Tuesday, January 7

8:30AM Louise Illian Of John Jerzak

Wednesday, January 8

8:30AM All Souls

Saturday, January 11

4:00PM (Vigil) Joseph DiMarcello Of Pyfer family

Sunday, January 12

7:30AM Antonietta Lelli Of Renata Ziolkowska

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 January

*Ernesto & Antonietta Lelii & Tina Mori
Frank Rizzo, Jr. Patricia Grassa
Thomas McGehrin*

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 January 4-5

Sacred Heart

4:00PM Fr. Stenson

7:30AM Fr. Stenson

St. Charles Borromeo

10:00AM Msgr. Majoros

4:00PM Msgr. Majoros



Mass Celebrants Weekend of January 11-12

Sacred Heart

4:00PM Msgr. Majoros

7:30AM Msgr. Majoros

St. Charles Borromeo

10:00AM Fr. Stenson

4:00PM Fr. Stenson



Celebrants Are Subject To Change

Year 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

Sacred Heart will take down the Christmas
decorations on Monday, January 13, 2025
The Baptism of the Lord

Sensory Friendly Masses

St. Thomas the Apostle

430 Valleybrook Road

Glen Mills, PA 19342

2:00 PM – Every Third Sunday

Contact: Cleo Hoey at socialmedia@staglenmills.org

Catholics believe that all people are made in the image and likeness of God, and that all the Baptized share in the life and mission of the Church. This includes people from every range of ability.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

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

Sacred Heart—December 22, 2024

Sunday Envelopes	33	883.00
Loose		172.00
Total		1,055.00
Loose		170.00
Maintenance		60.00
Retired Religious		10.00

Christmas—December 25, 2024

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

This Bulletin Went To Print Early

Epiphany of the Lord

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

It truly is “the most wonderful time of the year” and this story of the Visit of the Wise Men is yet another lyrical element of the Christmas story. Into the drab stable cave come these Gentile visitors from the Orient richly dressed in vibrant colors. Whatever is of gold in their garb catches the light of the fire there. We can also hear the tinkling of the bells on the camel harness as the stately animals make their moves. They are a stark contrast to the locals gathered. Analyzing Matthew’s story, a bit makes us wonder. How many visitors were there? Three or thirteen? After all, it’s the number of gifts they brought that makes us compute the group size. Along the way, these exotic visitors became the Three Kings. Tradition further conferred names on them: Caspar (who is made black), Balthazar and Melchior in the Western Church. Their gifts became highly significant. Gold highlights the kingship of Jesus. The frankincense His divinity. The Myrrh, an embalming fluid no less, stands for Christ’s redemptive suffering. We can see that this story is more than meets the eye. Remembering that Matthew wrote his gospel for Jewish converts to Christianity, we must recognize his main point: Jesus came for Gentiles as well as Jews. He is the designated Savior of all mankind. This last aspect of the story had to be a challenge for Matthew’s readers. They had a long tradition behind their generally accepted belief that Yahweh God had chosen them as His people. That is true even in our own time. But this was a choice that had to call for expansion. Otherwise, God is rendered too small. Believers in the myriad Gentile gods had to know that paradise was an option for them that entailed belief in the one supreme Lord. We contemporary believers must maintain an immense respect for the children of Abraham. After all, as the Roman Canon declares: “Abraham (is) our father in faith.” The baby Jesus came to us as a Jew. The Blessed Mother and St. Joseph were good practicing Jews. So were most of Our Lord’s closest early followers. Anti-antisemitism has no place in a Christian heart. That evil threatens the beautiful poetry of this feast on this first Sunday of the new year. The axiom is true: “Wise men still seek Him.”

“We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts, we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.”

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>

**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.

Young Adult Women’s Conference that will take place on **June 7, 2025** at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Come to enter a community of young adult women in their 20’s and 30’s, receive spiritual nourishment, and grow deeper in your walk with Christ

The Origin of the Twelve Days of Christmas

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" I think. To most it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written. It is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts.

Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law - private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith - a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in *writing* indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged, or shortened by a head - or hanged, drawn and quartered, a rather peculiar and ghastly punishment I'm not aware was ever practiced anywhere else. Hanging, drawing and quartering involved hanging a person by the neck until they had almost, but not quite, suffocated to death; then the party was taken down from the gallows, and disemboweled while still alive; and while the entrails were still lying on the street, where the executioners stomped all over them, the victim was tied to four large farm horses, and literally torn into five parts - one to each limb and the remaining torso.

The songs gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..."

The other symbols mean the following:

2 Turtle Doves = ***The Old and New Testaments***

3 French Hens = ***Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues***

4 Calling Birds = ***The Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists***

5 Golden Rings = ***The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.***

6 Geese A-laying = ***The six days of creation***

7 Swans A-swimming = ***The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments***

8 Maids A-milking = ***The eight beatitudes***

9 Ladies Dancing = ***The nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit***

10 Lords A-leaping = ***The ten commandments***

11 Pipers Piping = ***The eleven faithful apostles***

12 Drummers Drumming = ***The twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed***

THE 2025 MARCH FOR LIFE ON JANUARY 24th IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ~ marchforlife.org

Over the past 52 years, the March for Life has collectively united millions of pro-life Americans from every age, background, nationality, and faith with a common purpose: to witness the inherent dignity and worth of every single human life, especially those endangered by abortion. The March's powerful presence in the nation's capital every January has demonstrated the seriousness, conviction, and permanence of the movement. It has also helped educate Americans about the beauty of the lives of unborn children and their mothers so that a majority of Americans now support protections for life in the womb at least by the time a baby can feel the pain of an abortion.

In the two years since the Dobbs decision, the pro-life community has fought the advancement of relentless and radical pro-abortion legislation at both the state and federal level; faced attempts to destroy and discredit pro-life pregnancy resource centers; and even battled deadly misinformation campaigns related to state pro-life protections – all which allow medical treatment to save the life of pregnant women.

"Life: Why We March" will encourage pro-life advocates to draw renewed energy for this challenging moment in the movement by reflecting on the basic truth that inspires the pro-life cause: every human life – including the unborn and their mothers – is beautiful, has unique dignity, and worthy of protection. "Life: Why We March" invites all Americans of goodwill to recognize and unite around this truth.

Dear Church Family,

Today, Pope Francis opens the final Holy Door of this Ordinary Jubilee Year of 2025 at the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls in Rome. Across the world, bishops opened their respective Cathedrals in their archdiocese, diocese, and eparchies on Sunday, December 29, 2024 to join with Pope Francis in inviting all Catholics and people of good will to cross the threshold of these Churches and encounter Jesus Christ, the door to the love of the Father, as Pilgrims of Hope!

On this day, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. The young Messiah is revealed as the light of the nations. We as Church pray: O God, who on this day revealed Your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in Your mercy that we, who know You already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of Your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

On this Solemn day, the **Epiphany proclamation** is given. The Proclamation is a summary of liturgical dates announced (sometimes sung) annually by a priest, deacon, or another minister as we gather for the **Epiphany**, the celebration of the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the nations. The proclamation dates from a time when calendars were not readily available. It was necessary to make known the date of Easter in advance, since many celebrations of the liturgical year depend on its date. The number of Sundays that follow Epiphany, the date of Ash Wednesday, and the number of Sundays that follow Pentecost are all computed in relation to Easter. Although calendars now give the date of Easter and the other feasts in the liturgical year for many years in advance, the Epiphany proclamation still has value. It is a reminder of the centrality of the resurrection of the Lord in the liturgical year and the importance of the great mysteries of faith which are celebrated each year.

Here is the text of The Epiphany Proclamation for 2025- Know, dear brethren (brothers and sisters), that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Savior. On the fifth day of March will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season. On the twentieth day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the twenty-ninth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the eighth day of June, the feast of Pentecost. On the twenty-second day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. On the thirtieth day of November, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

In some countries the custom of exchanging gifts occurs on the Solemnity of the Epiphany derived from the gifts offered to Jesus by the three kings (cf. Mt 2, 11) and more radically from the gift made to mankind by God in the birth of Emmanuel amongst us (cf. Is 7, 14; 9, 16; Mt 1, 23). Also, the custom of the blessing of homes takes place on this solemn day. The Priest, Deacon or head of the household inscribes on the lintels of the front door the Cross of salvation, together with the indication of the year and the initials of the three wise men (C+M+B), which can also be interpreted to mean *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, written in blessed chalk; this custom, often accompanied by processions of children accompanied by their parents, expresses the blessing of Christ through the intercession of the three wise men and is an occasion for gathering offerings for charitable and missionary purposes; —#118 *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*

The Christmas Season is coming to an end

The festive season of Christmas will conclude next week with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, January 12th. The Baptism of Jesus is a significant moment in His public ministry. As we celebrate this feast we recall the day when we received new life from God who is love. Plan on coming to Holy Mass and renew your baptismal commitment to love God and neighbor, reject Satan and sin and strive to share the Good News of your love for Jesus Christ and His Church.

During this Ordinary Jubilee Year of 2025, we are encouraged to visit the Church of our Baptism. Christian hope is rooted in the saving work of Christ and our participation in that work through the Sacrament of Baptism. For as Pope Francis indicated in the Papal Bull announcing the Jubilee Year, he stated, "The death and resurrection of Jesus is at the heart of our faith and the basis of our hope" (no 20). In this light, the Jubilee Year is an opportunity for the Christian faithful to appreciate the gift of Baptism more deeply and the Holy Father proposes the baptismal font as an object of further reflection. In particular, he states, "Baptism is the dawn of the 'eighth day', the day of the resurrection, a day that transcends the normal, weekly passage of time, opening it to the dimension of eternity and to life everlasting: the goal to which we tend on our earthly pilgrimage" (no 20).

As Pilgrims of Hope, let us strive to love God, our neighbor, and ourselves each day.

God bless,
Monsignor George A. Majoros