

St. Hilary of Poitiers Parish

820 SUSQUEHANNA ROAD, RYDAL, PA 19046

215-884-3252 / sthilaryrydal@gmail.com / www.sthilarypoitiers.org

DECEMBER 24, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



PASTOR'S CORNER

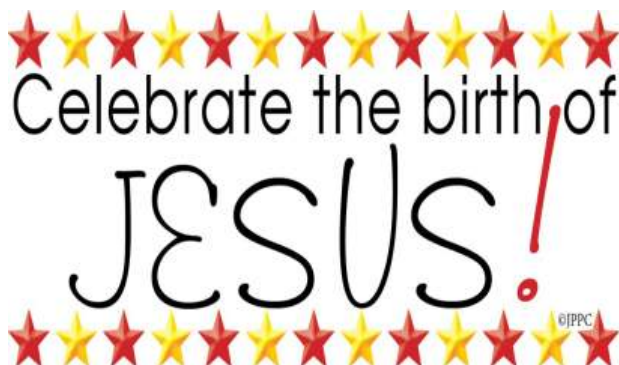
"Rejoice Always"

The Scriptures over and over again call us today to rejoice. Despite all the tribulation and trials of life, there is a sound reason to rejoice. Isaiah calls us to rejoice in the Lord. Mary sings "My soul rejoices in the Lord." John the Baptist finds joy because "a new light has come into the world." We may conclude that it's easy for them to say. Not so fast...Isaiah was mocked for his faith, and Mary knew great losses; her husband Joseph and her Son on the Cross. Despite it all, they remained faithful and confident that God would provide. Our God is a healer of broken hearts. Through Jesus Christ, He breaks the chain of sinful habits through mercy and kindness.

Yes, the source of their confidence and joy is found in a Person, Jesus Christ. It is not found in the Christmas card Jesus or shopping mall Jesus. It is Jesus, now flesh and blood, present here in the sacrament of the Eucharist. Allow Him to do great things for you with tenderness that never disappoints. Jesus is "the joy that never fades or diminishes." (Pope Francis)

Wishing you and your families a blessed and happy Christmas.

God's grace and peace,
Father Murray



*Mass Intentions
for the Week*

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:00pm Vigil ~ The McGilvery Family

9:00am ~ Robert and Matthew Davis

11:00am ~ Elizabeth Bossert

*** 4:00pm *Christmas Eve Mass* ~ Jack & Patsy Whalen

Monday, December 25, 2023

The Nativity of the Lord

9:00am ~ Stephen Emrich

11:00am ~ Michelle Massey

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

*** *There is no Mass on this day* ***

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

8:00am ~ Paul and Mary Piccone

Thursday, December 28, 2023

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:00am ~ Jim Manes

Friday, December 29, 2023

Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00am ~ Andrew Cauvin, Jr.

Saturday, December 30, 2023

5:00pm ~ Joseph Magee III

Sunday, December 31, 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00am ~ Marie and James Wise

10:00am ~ Tom Stengel

12:00pm ~ Lydia Yacilla

(This is the last Sunday with Masses at 8am, 10am, and 12pm)

**ST. HILARY PARISH NOW HAS A
TWITTER ACCOUNT, INSTAGRAM, AND FACEBOOK PAGE!
PLEASE SEE THE LINKS BELOW ~ YOU CAN ALSO
ACCESS THESE SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS BY GOING TO OUR
PARISH WEBSITE AT: www.sthilarypoitiers.org**

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**PLEASE "FOLLOW / LIKE" THESE PAGES,
AND ASK YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY TO DO THE
SAME! THANKS!**

UPDATE TO THE ST. HILARY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



This June, we have completed the first year of our two-year Capital Campaign. As previously noted, our original goal was \$350,000. The generosity of our parishioners has been overwhelming. Currently a total of \$422,176.25 has been pledged. Of that amount, we have collected and deposited \$327,918. Of the 231 families who have pledged, 163 families are paid in full. All of our projects have been completed...now we just have to pay the bills! I hope you enjoyed our new air conditioning system in the Church in summer. Our children and teachers were kept cool with our brand new school air conditioning system. Our new lighting in the parking lot and the new beautiful side Church doors have been a most welcome addition as well. So, as we are in the second year of our Campaign, I am most grateful for your kind generosity. As always, the people of St. Hilary always come through! God's grace and peace.



"MARY'S CHRISTMAS DREAM"

I had a dream, Joseph; I don't understand it, but in it, people were having a birthday celebration for our Son.

In my dream, people had been preparing for it for some weeks beforehand. They put lovely red-berried holly and tinsel all around the house and bought new clothes. They went shopping and bought elaborate gifts. But I found it strange that these presents were not for our Son, but for themselves.

They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows and placed them under a tree, which they call a Christ Mass Tree. I did think that this must be in memory of our Son. They'd decorated the tree with all sorts of colorful decorations.

The branches were covered with sparkling ornaments. There was a figure on the top of the tree. It looked like a protective angel. I must say I thought it was beautiful, especially if it was in honor of our Son.

Everyone was laughing and happy. They were all excited and at first, I thought it was excitement for our Son's birthday. But in all their celebrations, I again found it strange that they never mentioned His name. How can you have a birthday where the little child whose birthday it is, is not mentioned?

I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration, He would have been intruding. Everything was so beautiful, Joseph, and everyone so full of cheer, but it made me cry for our little Son, that he was not mentioned at His own birthday celebration.

I'M GLAD IT WAS ONLY A DREAM, JOSEPH!
HOW TERRIBLE IF IT HAD BEEN REAL!

(From Ireland)

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Sunday, Dec. 24th at 4:00pm

Monday, Dec. 25th at
9:00am and 11:00am



MASSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY

(January 1st is not a holy day of obligation in 2024 since it falls on a Monday)

Mass on Monday, January 1, 2024 is the daily Mass at 8:00am - all are welcome!

"We must consider how to inspire one another on love and good works. We should not stay away from our assembly, as is the custom of some, but encourage one another, and all the more as you see the day of the Lord coming near."

-- Hebrews 10:24-25



In this year of reviving our devotion to the Eucharist and encouraging everyone to return to Mass, we will offer weekly meditations, reflections, and poetry from various saints and authors on the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, which is "the source and summit of the Christian life." Excerpts are taken from the book *The Holy Hour*, a Word on Fire publication.

Reflection: A Prayer Journal (by Flannery O'Connor)

Give me the grace, dear God, to adore you, for even this I cannot do for myself.

Give me the grace to adore you with the excitement of the old priests when they sacrificed a lamb to you.

Give me the grace to adore you with the awe that fills your priests when they sacrifice the Lamb on our altars.

Give me the grace to be impatient for the time when I shall see you face to face and need no stimulus than that to adore you.

Give me the grace, dear God, to see the bareness and the misery of the places where you are not adored by desecrated.

Amen.

**NEW SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY MASS
STARTING IN 2024**

I am grateful for all of you who have returned to Mass after the pandemic. I hope and pray that more of our parishioners will return to Mass as well. There is nothing like being there! Watching Mass on TV no longer fulfills the Sunday obligation, unless you are sick, elderly, have an emergency or have conflicts with work schedules. With this in mind, please note our new Mass Schedule **BEGINNING ON JANUARY 6th/7th, 2024:**

2024 Winter/Spring/Fall Schedule

(January 6th/7th thru June, and Sept. thru Dec., 2024)

Saturdays at 5:00pm

Sundays at 8:30am and 10:30am

2024 Summer Schedule

(1st Sunday in July thru Labor Day in September '24)

Saturdays at 5:00pm

Sundays at 9:00am and 11:00am

PLEASE NOTE:

*** *The weekend Mass Schedule for 1 more week is:*

Saturday, 12/30/23 at 5pm

Sunday, 12/31/23 at 8am, 10am, & 12pm

**DID YOU KNOW?
THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

Aside from the fact that Epiphany - which comes twelve days after Christmas - used to mark the end of the Christmas Season, the "Twelve Days of Christmas" are not really any part of Catholic Liturgy. The song of that name actually derives from a time in England from 1558 to 1829 when it was illegal to be a Catholic, and so the song contains a hidden catechism of Catholic theology.

- * **A Partridge in a Pear Tree:** *Jesus Christ*
- * **Two Turtle Doves:** *The Old and New Testaments*
- * **Three French Hens:** *The Theological Virtues (Faith, Hope, and Charity)*
- * **Four Calling Birds:** *The Four Gospels / The Four Evangelists*
- * **Five Golden Rings:** *The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch"*
- * **Six Geese-a-Laying:** *The Six Days of Creation*
- * **Seven Swans-a-Swimming:** *The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit / The Seven Sacraments*
- * **Eight Maids-a-Milking:** *The Eight Beatitudes*
- * **Nine Ladies Dancing:** *The Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit*
- * **Ten Lords-a-Leaping:** *The Ten Commandments*
- * **Eleven Pipers Piping:** *The Eleven Faithful Apostles*
- * **Twelve Drummers Drumming:** *The Twelve Points of Doctrine in the Apostles' Creed*



**This
Christmas
end a quarrel;
seek out a forgotten friend.
Dismiss a suspicion,
and replace it with trust.
Write a love letter. Share some
treasure. Give a kind answer.
Encourage youth. Manifest your loyalty in
word and deed. Keep a promise. Find the
time. Forget a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen.
Flout envy. Examine your demands on others.
Think first of someone else. Appreciate. Be kind;
be gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more.
Have confidence. Take up arms against malice.
Decry complacency. Express your gratitude. Go
to Church. Welcome a stranger. Gladden the
heart of a child. Take pleasure
in the beauty and wonder
of the earth. Speak
your love. Speak
it again. Speak
it still once again.**



**The goal of a Catholic
Liturgy is to
Communicate a
transcendent awareness of
the Real Presence of Jesus
Christ.**

**Faith in the
Real Presence of Christ
in the Eucharist demands
great beauty, dignity, and
reverence".**

From the Office of Clergy at Archdiocese of Phila.:

*The back-to-back observances of the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas, as well as the Sunday Feast of the Holy Family and Solemnity of Mary, raise some important liturgical and pastoral questions. The faithful are bound to observe the obligation of Holy Mass for a Sunday as usual for the 4th Sunday of Advent. The faithful are bound to observe the obligation of Holy Mass for Christmas at the Vigil Mass or on Christmas Day. **Thus, the faithful have two obligations back-to-back.** The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord is always a holy day of obligation, even if it falls on a Monday or a Saturday. But the Solemnity of Mary on Jan. 1st is not observed as a holy day of obligation this year since it falls on a Monday.*





GIVING TREE THANKS

The Outreach Group expresses its gratitude for your generous Giving Tree donations! This year, over 175 items will go to Ukraine Relief, and 60 clothes items and numerous packages of diapers will go to Birthright. **May your goodness of spirit light your Christmas season!**



**** Please note that due to early bulletin deadlines for Christmas and New Years, the most recent winners may not be current in the bulletin.*

ST HILARY EAGLES BLOCK POOL WINNERS

Week 12 Winners

Pool #1: Maria Greenberg
Pool #2: Katie Toffling

Week 10 Winners

Pool #1: Kathy Lennon
Pool #2: Hueber Family

Week 08 Winners

Pool #1: Greenberg Family
Pool #2: Rehiel Family

Week 06 Winners

Pool #1: The Stengels
Pool #2: Valentino Fam.

Week 04 Winners

Pool #1: Joe Henry
Pool #2: Mary McCallister

Week 02 Winners

Pool #1: Steve Farrell
Pool #2: Linda Powers

Week 11 Winners

Pool #1: Dan & Mary McVey
Pool #2: Art Fry (Schein)

Week 09 Winners

Pool #1: Joe McGinty
Pool #2: Hal Fagan

Week 07 Winners

Pool #1: Alex Muttreja
Pool #2: Egan Family

Week 05 Winners

Pool #1: Michele Stefanelli
Pool #2: Ed Walker

Week 03 Winners

Pool #1: Anne Wise
Pool #2: Alaina DiCiaccio

Week 01 Winners

Pool #1: Alex Muttreja
Pool #2: Egan Family



2023 CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Our annual Christmas Festival on Dec. 9 was a very joyous occasion! We began with Mass at 5pm with over 200 people in attendance! This was followed by a festive evening with delicious food, treats, entertainment, and the blessing and lighting of the Christmas tree. Santa paid an early visit as well. Many thanks to our Home & School and all our volunteers who spent many days/hours preparing for this special night. Thanks also to our 8th graders



who presented a lovely & reverent presentation of the Nativity. The true spirit of Christmas was evident to one and all! Thank you!

-- Fr. Murray



ST. HILARY 55+ SPIRIT CLUB NEWS

The St. Hilary 55+ Spirit Club had a wonderful visit from the St. Hilary School Choir at the December meeting. In addition, a special visit from Santa greeted the members, followed by a holiday luncheon. The Parish Center was decorated in full Christmas mode. **The next meeting is Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at which time the Abington Fire Marshall will talk to the members about fire safety.** As always, new members are welcome. We are a very welcoming and fun group! You do not have to be a parish member to join. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Ro or Mike Schell at 215-663-1421 or Rosesylvia McDonald at 215-219-0651. Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting on January 17th - doors open at 9am and the meeting starts at 10am.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



Thanks once again to all those who have contributed to the St. Hilary Annual Block Collection! Special thanks to Wackerman Funeral Home for providing the calendars for 2024. Many thanks to our Church Decorators for their time & talent in decorating our beautiful Church for the Christmas season!

PRAYER LINE

Help is needed for our Parish Prayer Line. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Line and be contacted to pray for the sick and infirmed, please join by calling Virginia at 215-663-1418.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING SICK:

Michael Dooley, Jack Avak, Michael Brown, Nicolas Lid- dy, Bob Kilcoyne, Mary Jane Namola, Elizabeth Dieckman, Sophia Southerling, TJ McDonald, Ahmed Abdul, Sal Sermania, Sue Masantonio, Angela Gavin, Wil- liam Hartner, Mary Jane Hummel, Pat Cass, Michele Kelly, Tina Savarino, Nicholas Esposito, Sarah Koehler, Paris Luckowski, Judy Sklar, Bernadette Redican, Gina Deva- ney, Bob Steele, Linda Smithson, Eileen Burger, Brian Bailie, Lionel Melly Wright, Cole Plachter, Mary Jo Reaby, Kevin Rosenbaum, Capt. Schaffr, Dan Webb, Rhodena Thompson, Bruce Thompson II, Linda Urie, Sonna Alamar, Sharon Fainelli, Donald Budrejko, Maura Murphy, Gregory Marrone, Jim Comet, Ian Reilly, Kira McKeever, Michael Lucas, John Rieth, Holly Judge, Greg Ziembe, Dilynn List- man, Anne Visco, Daniel Hare, Gloria Hannah, BJ Verdon, Fidelia Almerini, Liliana DeGrazia, Leila Koehler, Martha Serdner, Rolando Juarez, Colleen Legare, Tom Montvydas, Theresa Williams, Jim Curley, Bob Donnolly, Marie Hen- nigar

*Please pray for the souls of the recently deceased:
Joe Hartey Mary Jane Riley*

ST. HILARY OF POITIERS CHURCH

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturdays at 5:00pm
Sundays at 8:00am, 10:00am, and 12:00pm
(thru the end of 2023)

WEEKDAY MASSES

8 AM on Monday thru Friday

CONFESSIONS:

Saturdays 4 – 4:45 PM; **and Sundays in Advent after 10am Mass**

HOLY DAYS

7 PM Vigil; 8 AM and 10 AM on holy day

Pastor ~ Rev. Kevin P. Murray

Weekend Assistant ~ Msgr. Gregory J. Fairbanks

In Residence ~ Rev. Jacob John

Deacon ~ Deacon Joseph W. Bernauer, Jr.

Pastor Emeritus ~ Msgr. Michael J. Carroll

School Principal ~ Eileen Fagan

efagan@sainthilaryschool.com School phone: 215-887-4520

Coordinator of Religious Education ~ Noreen Forkin

sthilaryprep@gmail.com

Business Manager ~ Maureen Maher

Parish Secretary ~ Marian Stengel 215-884-3252

sthilaryrydal@gmail.com

Music Director ~ Justin Jue Plant Manager ~ Hal Fagan

BAPTISM: Sundays after the 12pm Mass. Please email or call the Rectory for more information.

MATRIMONY: Couples planning to marry should contact the Rec- tory six months before the desired date.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4pm

Closed for Lunch: 12 PM to 1 PM

***** Rectory is closed on Dec. 25 & 26, and on Dec. 29 *****

*Please note that church envelopes as well as Tuition payments can be dropped off in the secure **BLACK** lockbox outside the rectory during off-hours. Thanks!*

A Christmas Letter from Jesus

*When you look for me at Christmas,
You won't need a special star.
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem.
I'm right here where you are.
You may not be aware of me
amid the celebrations.
You'll have to look beyond the stores,
and all the decorations.
But if you take a moment
from your list of things to do,
To close your eyes and say a prayer,
I'm waiting here for you.
You're the one I want to be with.
You're the reason that I came!
And you'll find me in the stillness
Where I'm whispering your name.*

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