

St. Hilary of Poitiers Parish

820 SUSQUEHANNA ROAD, RYDAL, PA 19046

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

DECEMBER 18, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LOVE



PASTOR'S CORNER

"When Joseph awoke, he did what the Angel instructed him."

The story of Mary and Joseph reminds us that God, at times, interrupts our plans and daily routines. Mary had plans to marry Joseph, which she did - but God wanted to do something extraordinary with their relationship. Mary would bear a son, not of Joseph, but of the Holy Spirit. To Joseph, it was unbelievable and he was ready to divorce Mary. Being a just and righteous man, he would do it quickly and spare Mary any embarrassment. Yet here, too, God interrupts His plans, assuring Joseph that this child is of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, in great faith, took God at His word and took Mary and her child under his wings. This great faith led to an incredible journey. Both Mary and Joseph came to realize how much God wants to be a part of human life. God through Jesus is Emmanuel.

Advent is our time to allow God to interrupt our plans and submit to His plans. Like Mary and Joseph, we do not always know where God will lead us. We do know it will lead to great wonders and surprises beyond what we could ever dream. Pope Francis writes, "We must be willing to be led, to come out of ourselves and to find the God of perpetual surprises."

No gift can offer any greater surprises than the gift of Jesus Christ. Allow Him to interrupt your plans and you'll never be disappointed.

Happy Advent,
Father Murray



Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:00pm Vigil ~ Walt Griffin
8:00am ~ Willard and Anna Gould
10:00am ~ Christine Schroeder
12:00pm ~ Mary Melly

Monday, December 19, 2022

8:00am ~ Jean and Jack Adair

*** 8:30am-4pm ~ Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

*** 7:00-8:00pm ~ Confessions

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

8:00am ~ Mary and John Cornely

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of Church

8:00am ~ Hopkins and Morley Families

Thursday, December 22, 2022

8:00am ~ William and Rosemary Wynne

Friday, December 23, 2022

Saint John of Kanty, Priest

8:00am ~ Elizabeth Bossert

Saturday, December 24, 2022

4:00pm Vigil ~ Robert and Matthew Davis

Sunday, December 25, 2022

The Nativity of the Lord ~ Christmas

8:00am ~ John, Rose and Henry McErlean
10:00am ~ Stephen Emrich
12:00pm ~ Living & Deceased of St. Hilary

The 2023 Mass Book for Announced Masses is open.
Stop by or call the Rectory.



PLEASE SIGN UP FOR FLOCKNOTES!

If we don't have your email address to send you parish news, please either call the Rectory with it, or email us at sthilaryrydal@gmail.com. Thanks!

ST. HILARY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



I want to thank this parish community for the tremendous support for the 2022 Diamond Jubilee Capital Campaign. Seeing the progression of this campaign these past few months has been truly a blessing. We have an exciting update; this campaign has raised \$358,621.25. Through your prayers and help, we have even surpassed our initial goal of \$350,000.

For those who have yet to donate to the campaign, it is definitely not too late to still support. Please remember that this initiative will be beneficial for both our Parish and School. The sooner that the pledges are redeemed, the better it will be for paying for these projects. We currently have about \$199,000 of the campaign contributions deposited, and it is imperative that we continue to collect all payments on pledges to ensure we can complete all the capital work. Thanks!

Gratefully,
Father Murray

SAINTS OF ADVENT The holidays can be difficult especially for those whose lives have been derailed by divorce, abuse, widowhood, etc. Blessed Anna Yi Si-im (1782-1816) understands it all. Anna discerned a call to consecrated life, though she knew that remaining unmarried would draw unwelcome attention from the anti-Catholic government. She had heard of a community called Catholic Virgins and made up her mind to move there. But soon after, she found herself married against her will, a mother though she had hoped to remain a virgin. And then her husband died, leaving her a single mother. She moved to a Christian village but she and her son were arrested for their faith and sent to a prison for several years. It was there that her son dies. Even then, Anna remained faithful. She allowed her pain to drive her deeper into the Sacred Heart of Jesus rather than turning her back on Him. She trusted God. During this final week before Christmas, it's easy to be overwhelmed by the ways our lives are not what we hoped. Spend time this week asking the intercession of Blessed Anna Yi Si-im that you would be able to trust that God is good, even when your life is not.

"GIVEN" TREE THANKS...

The Outreach Group congratulates and commends the parishioners for another season of outstanding generosity! Some general collection results are as follows:

St. Katherine received 23 hats, 15 pairs of gloves, 51 pairs of socks, over 75 books, and 7 bags of various miscellaneous items.



Birthright received over 140 various items and 56 diaper packages.

May you be blessed for your kind generosity!!!



ST HILARY WINNERS EAGLES BLOCK POOL



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

Week 12 ~ Connie Fennell and Fenstermaker Family

Week 11 ~ McCrea Family and Rehiel Family

Week 10 ~ Otto Family and St. Hilary

Week 09 ~ Barbara Ferrari and Meredith Merlini

Week 08 ~ Dan McVey and Ed Walker

Week 07 ~ St. Hilary and George Naab

Week 06 ~ Ed Bongard and Rosemary Naab

("Bye" Week on 10/23/22)

Week 05 ~ McCrea Family & Carbone Family

Week 04 ~ Jim Brady and Bob & Celeste Tate

Week 03 ~ The Stengels and Valentino -

Week 02 ~ Christy Stefanelli and Egan Family

Week 01 ~ Kathy McCaffrey and Roy & Carol Stein

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

TOTAL WEEKLY SUNDAY COLLECTION

*** Please note that due to early bulletin deadlines this month, the most recent collections may not be in the bulletin.

December 11, 2022

December 12, 2021

Sunday Offering: \$6,024

Sunday Offering: \$7,312

Electronic Giving: \$2,583

Electronic Giving: \$2,726

Total: \$8,607

Total: \$10,038

GOT SIN? GET MERCY

Prepare well for Christmas and let Jesus be your Lord and Redeemer!

There will be confessions this Monday, Dec. 19th at 7:00-8:00pm. We will have several priests to assist with confessions.

"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)

Some suggestions for this 4th Week of Advent in preparing for the Lord:

Sunday ~ Read Matthew 1:18-24. Light all the candles on the Advent wreath..

Monday ~ Visit your parish and light a candle for anyone traveling this week or next week.

Tuesday ~ Write down all your worries and entrust them to God. "Jesus, I trust in You."

Wednesday ~ Straighten up the house and make any final preparations. The King is coming!

Thursday ~ Read Luke 2:1-7 and place yourself in the scene. Imagine how you'd react if you were there..

Friday ~ Think of the Advent resolutions you want to keep year-round..

Saturday ~ Christmas Eve! Tonight, place Jesus in the manger and rejoice! Offer thanks to God for sending His Son for us..

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Saturday, Dec. 24th at 4:00pm

**Sunday, Dec. 25th at 8:00am,
10:00am, and 12:00pm**



MASSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY

**Saturday, Dec. 31st at 4:00pm
and**

**Sunday, January 1st, 2023 at
8:00am, 10:00am, and 12:00pm**

THE LEGEND OF THE CANDY CANE



The **hard candy** reminds us that *Jesus is our rock*. (Psalm 61:2)

The **cane shape** reminds us of a *shepherd's staff* and the shepherd that came to worship Jesus. It also reminds us of how Jesus came into the world to be a shepherd of his people. (Luke 2:8-15 and John 10:11)

The upside-down candy cane forms the **letter "J"** and reminds us of the name of *Jesus* which means "God saves." (Matthew 1:21)

The **peppermint flavor** reminds us of the *gift of spices* from the Wise Men. (Matthew 2:11)

The **white candy** reminds us of *purity and holiness*. It recalls the virgin birth of Christ, the sinless life of Christ and the holy life that Jesus wants his people to live. (Matthew 1:23 and 1 Peter 1:15)

The **color red** reminds us that *Jesus became a real flesh and blood man* and spilled his blood to save his people. (Hebrews 2:14)

The **stripes** remind us of the *lashes Jesus received* when he suffered for us and ultimately bore our sins that we might be healed. (1 Peter 2:24-25)

THANK YOU!!! Our Christmas Festival was a great success! It was a terrific turnout! Young and old had a festive time sharing friendship, laughter, great food, games for the children, and a visit with Santa! Many thanks to our Home & School and everyone who helped set up and clean up for this great occasion. It is so inspiring to see so many of you taking ownership and extending good will toward our parish and school community!

Congratulations to the Winners of the Raffle:

\$1,000 ~ Mary Ellen Dougherty

\$300 ~ Daisy Sloan

\$200 ~ Alicea Family

Special Thanks to our sponsors and donations of gifts in kind:

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SCHOOL SAFETY

In light of the recent school shootings and the rising concern for the safety of the students and faculty, a School Security Site Assessment was completed by the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety, along with security assessments by the Abington and Philadelphia Police, and Montgomery County Emergency Management Team at the start of the school calendar year. All three services identified the targeted concern of limiting access to the school building. Since the school is connected to the church, it allows unimpeded access to the school. The recommendation was made to limit access to the school on weekends and to school personnel only, during school hours. This access will be through the main door only, and all visitors' access will be recorded. With these restrictions, the school main entrance will not be accessible for Masses or to enter the church. Entrance to the church for Mass will be by the front doors on Susquehanna Road, as well as the two side doors. We thank you for your patience and understanding!

UPDATED 55+ SPIRIT NEWS:

55+ Spirit Club Group ~ the next meeting is on December 21 at 10am in the Parish Center. We will celebrate the music of Christmas with Elizabeth Knecht. She brings us the classic and beautiful hymns we love. Santa will add a little magic to the show. Instead of a Pollyanna, we will have a collection for St. Hilary Parish Outreach Program. Our 50-50 winners will take home prizes and everyone will pack a box of homemade cookies baked by our own bakers baking (boxes provided). Remember the Book Swap we mentioned at the last meeting; please limit to three books per person at this time. We are accepting any yarn donations for our School Knitting Club - bring to meeting or call for pick up. The January 18 meeting will be coordinated with Principal Mrs. Fagan in honor of Catholic Schools Week. It will also be a game day! On February 15, we will meet Mary Wible from the GAR Civil War Museum. She is anxious to introduce this local Holmesburg museum to us. They have a program collecting stamps for wounded veterans. She will explain it but suggested Christmas is a good time to start collecting - just cut off stamps, leaving 1/4" border; no peeling needed. Old stamp collections accepted. Merry Christmas to all! *Margie 215-885-8722 / Bridget 215-663-0411*

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 215-663-1046.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING SICK:

Michael Dooley, Jack Avak, Michael Brown, Nicolas Liddy, Bob Kilcoyne, Mary Jane Namola, Elizabeth Dieckman, Sophia Southerling, Mary Deely, TJ McDonald, Ahmed Abdul, Sal Sermania, Sue Masantonia, Angela Gavin, William Hartner, Mary Jane Hummel, Pat Cass, Michele Kelly, Tina Savarino, Nicholas Esposito, Sarah Koehler, Paris Luckowski, Judy Sklar, Bernadette Redican, Gina Devaney, Bob Steele, Linda Smithson, Eileen Burger, Brian Bailie, Tina Hardimon, 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, Timothy Dempsey, Dilynn Listman, Anne Visco, Daniel Hare, Gloria Hannah, BJ Verdon, Jim Curley, Fidelia Almerini, Liliana DeGrazia, Leila Koehler, Chap Nowicke

*Please pray for the souls of all the deceased:
Timothy Merlini Tom Golla*

ST. HILARY OF POITIERS CHURCH

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturdays at 5:00pm
Sundays at 8:00am, 10:00pm, and 12pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

8 AM on Monday thru Friday

CONFESSIONS:

Saturdays 4 – 4:45 PM; **Sundays in Advent after 10am Mass and Monday, Dec. 19 from 7:00-8:00pm**

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
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
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 Rectory six months before the desired date.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday: 8:30 AM to 4 PM
Closed for Lunch: 12 PM to 1 PM

***** Rectory is closed on Thursday, Dec. 22 at noon, and will re-open on Tuesday, Dec. 27 *****

*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!*

Divine Mercy said: "It should be of no concern to you how anyone else acts; you are to be My living reflection through love and mercy. As for you, be always merciful toward other people, and especially toward sinners." (St. Faustina Diary, 1446)

(Used with permission of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M.)

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



Thanks again to all those who have contributed to the St. Hilary Annual Block Collection! Your kind loyalty and care for the needs of the parish have really been a true inspiration. Thank you also for all who donated for the Christmas flowers...as you'll see beginning next weekend, our Church will be beautifully decorated for the Christmas season!

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