

# St. Hilary of Poitiers Parish

820 SUSQUEHANNA ROAD, RYDAL, PA 19046

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

DECEMBER 25, 2022

*THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD*

Christ,  
the Saviour  
is born



**PASTOR'S CORNER**

**The Proclamation  
of the Birth of Christ**

Today, the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image.

Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.

Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king; in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome.

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since his conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

Merry Christmas,  
Father Murray



*Mass Intentions  
for the Week*

**Sunday, December 25, 2022**

*The Nativity of the Lord ~ Christmas*

4:00pm Vigil ~ Robert and Matthew Davis  
8:00am ~ John, Rose and Henry McErlean  
10:00am ~ Stephen Emrich  
12:00pm ~ Living & Deceased of St. Hilary

**Monday, December 26, 2022**

*Saint Stephen, The First Martyr*

\*\*\* NO 8:00am MASS ON THIS DAY  
\*\*\* NO ADORATION TODAY \*\*\*

**Tuesday, December 27, 2022**

*Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist*

8:00am ~ Emil A. Maikner

**Wednesday, December 28, 2022**

*The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

8:00am ~ Rose McCourt

**Thursday, December 29, 2022**

*Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr*

8:00am ~ Jack and Jean Adair

**Friday, December 30, 2022**

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

8:00am ~ Maryann and James McGovern

**Saturday, December 31, 2022**

4:00pm Vigil ~ Robert F. Babcock

**Sunday, January 1, 2023**

*Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God*

8:00am ~ Living & Deceased of St. Hilary  
10:00am ~ Anne McGee  
12:00pm ~ Charlotte Groll

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

*Wishing all St. Hilary parishioners, their families, and all those visiting St. Hilary Church this weekend, a blessed Christmas and a happy & healthy 2023.  
God Bless,  
Father Murray*

**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*

## "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!!!

**SPECIAL THANKS TO WACKERMAN FUNERAL HOME** for providing us the 2023 calendars for our homes!

**THANK YOU TO THE CHURCH DECORATORS** for their time and talent in decorating our beautiful Church!



## 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)

## 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.



**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.**



## **CHRISTMAS MASSES**

**Saturday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm**

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



## **MASSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY**

**Saturday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:00pm and**

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

### **"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!**



### **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**



**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!**

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

*McVey and Sons Construction*  
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*Malt House*  
*TMD Entertainment*  
*Tuttle Family*

*Joseph's Pizza*  
*Adrienne Rehiel*  
*Viterbo Family*



**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!

**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*

**UPDATED 55+ SPIRIT NEWS:**

**55+ Spirit Club Group** ~ the next meeting is on January 18 - this 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 faithful departed*

**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

**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 Friday, Dec. 30 at noon, and will re-open on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 \*\*\***

*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 as the Child Jesus said:** "Look at the sky. Do you see this moon and these stars? These stars are the souls of faithful Christians, and the moon is the souls of religious. Do you see how great the difference is between the light of the moon and the light of the stars? Such is the difference in heaven between the soul of a religious and the soul of a faithful Christian. True greatness is in loving God and in humility." (St. Faustina Diary, 424)

*(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, as well as for the Christmas flowers...as you see, our Church is beautifully decorated for the Christmas season! - - Fr. Murray



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