

MASSES AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

From the desk of Monsignor Brouwers

Christmas Greetings

On this most holy day, allow me to wish all of you a very blessed Christmas! I hope all of your preparations have been successful and you will be able to take a moment to sit back and reflect on the meaning of this great Feast – the birth of God’s only son for our salvation! All around you – even in the secular Christmas decorations and events around you – you can find symbols of this pivotal moment in Salvation History. Take, for example the Christmas tree. It is taken from the medieval German tradition that was in response to their belief that the gods and good spirits abandoned the earth in the winter, as seen by the lengthening darkness of every passing day and scarcity of food. They would hang food on an evergreen tree in the dead of winter to entice the gods and good spirits back to earth. Candles on the tree lit up the food so the food could be seen. We Christians took this pagan practice and provided our own interpretation. The evergreen tree – the only tree left alive in the midst of leafless trees that appear to be dead – symbolize the life of Christ that comes to us who are dead to sin. The ornaments speak of the many gifts that come to us as a result of our Lord’s birth. And, the lights remind us of Jesus, who is the “light of the world” (*Jn 8:12*). The wreath, which is traditionally made of evergreens as well, speaks of the eternal life God comes to give us through his son. The cards we send recall the good news that the angels brought to the shepherds in the field at our Lord’s birth: “For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is the Messiah and Lord!” (*Luke 2:11*) And, the gifts we exchange reflect the great gift God sent us – his son in the flesh!

Even many of our Christmas carols have deep religious messages, sometimes carefully hidden. *The Twelve Days of Christmas* is a good example. What in the world, you might ask, do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas? Allow me to give you a little history of song and the meaning of its lyrics.

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. Below the surface meaning of the song lay a hidden meaning known only to members of the Catholic Church. Each element in the carol had a coded message to teach everyone who sang it about their faith.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2011

9:30 AM Merry Christmas
11:30 AM Merry Christmas

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2011

6:30 AM Anne Wozniak
8:00 AM The Schleicher Family

There will be no Eucharistic Adoration today.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2011

6:30 AM Special Intention
8:00 AM Sam Vainisi

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2011

6:30 AM Special Intention
8:00 AM John Gavin

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2011

6:30 AM Special Intention
8:00 AM Special Intention

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2011

6:30 AM Special Intention
8:00 AM Joseph Leaming

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2011

8:00 AM Patricia Ryan
5:00 PM Vince and Ida Caniglia

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2012

NEW YEAR'S DAY

8:00 AM For the people of St. Katharine's
9:30 AM Thomas Dooling, III
11:30 AM Bonnie Algeo

Readings: Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

We Invite Your Prayers...

...for those newly baptized:

Kelsey Jane, daughter of Mark and Kara Quinn

...for those who have died:

Virginia Merschel, Cardinal John Foley,

...for the sick, including:

Marie Antonini	Ginny Jackson	Richard McDonnell
Ruby Burrell	Sean Kavanagh	Seth McGlenn
Patrick Campbell	Corrine Kerrigan	Joanne McGuigan
Kristen Chipollini	Phillip Kolea	Edward Rhodes
Catherine Coleman	Emily Lang	Logan Schweiter
Kelson D'Ambra	David MacMaster	Richard Shields
Rocco DeLaurentis	Charles Madden	Debbie Snyder
Theresa DiJoseph	Timothy Mahoney	Corey Stubnas
Nancy Frankowski	Mary Maguire	Sharon Bird Sullivan
Philip Gardner	Joseph Manion, Sr	Gerry Wallace
Greg Hamilton	Timothy McCarrick	David Wright
Collette Heldring	Elizabeth McCarthy	Gertrude Zagiba
Debbie Henderson	Michael McCollum	Julian Zekan
Helen Howe		

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of *Matthew, Mark, Luke and John*.
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit - Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the *Apostles' Creed*.

Yes, we can easily see how the world – sometimes unwittingly – presents the glories of this Christmas season for all to see! Let's not miss them but stand in awe and wonder at the great gift that came into our midst – Jesus, the Son of God who became the son of Mary and our savior. Merry Christmas!

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP
TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE**

Stewardship

“She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” - Luke 2:7

Where is Jesus in your life? Have you made room for Him or is He still in the manger wrapped in rags? If we are living our lives like all the rest of the modern and commercial world, we may be leaving Jesus out. It might be time to pick up this Infant Child and make Him a priority in our lives.



MASS SCHEDULE

December 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th
6:30 and 8:00 AM

Saturday, December 31st
5:00 PM Holy Day Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 1st, New Year's Day
8:00, 9:30 and 11:30 AM

“8 O’Clock at Wayne” Group

Weekly A.A. meetings are held in St. Katharine’s Parish Center on Friday nights at 8:00 pm.

H.O.P.E. Co-Leaders this Week – (Group 4)

Jeanne Dwyer	610-353-3822
Debbie Davis	610-688-3885

Mothers of Young Children

Wednesday, December 28th No play group this week. Play group will resume on Wednesday, January 4, 2012.

Aid for Friends

Aid for Friends provides delicious, home-cooked meals to the isolated, homebound, disabled and frail elderly. Our parish Aid for Friends freezer, located in the Parish Center, is available with meals for the needy. Please consider making some meals. Trays are available at the doors of the Church and in the freezer room.

To paraphrase the Scriptures, “How can we say we love God whom we do not see if we do not love our neighbor whom we see?” For more information or to volunteer to provide meals, please contact parish coordinator Bob Lewers at 610-688-4814.

Healing Mass

There will be a Healing Mass at St. Katharine’s on Thursday, January 5th at 7:30 pm. The Life in the Spirit Seminars will start on February 23, 2012. Register now. If you have any questions, please call Paul Hayes at 610-687-8835.

Sunday Offering

Thank you for your generous support of our parish.

Please continue to support the Church. God bless your loyal stewardship.

**Altar Server Schedule
December 26 through January 1, 2012**

Monday, December 26	
6:30 am	To be determined
8:00 am	Anthony Sabol, Charlie Minnich
Tuesday, December 27	
6:30 am	To be determined
8:00 am	Sofia Sowden
Wednesday, December 28	
6:30 am	To be determined
8:00 am	Michael Haley
Thursday, December 29	
6:30 am	To be determined
8:00 am	Ryan Mulvanerty
Friday, December 30	
6:30 am	To be determined
8:00 am	Jack Mulvanerty
Saturday, December 31	
8:00 am	Christian Reusche
5:00 pm	Shannon Quigley, Maire Sturm, Juliette Joseph
Sunday, January 1, 2012	
8:00 am	Grant McKnight, Kevin Gavin
9:30 am	Anthony Sabol, Gillian Diebold
11:30 am	Catherine and Andrew Oliver, Sofia Sowden

***Thank you for taking your assignments seriously.
If you cannot serve when you are scheduled please
find a replacement.***

Parish Nurse Ministry

Hypothermia

What is hypothermia? It's not just people outdoors who can be at risk for hypothermia. Even those indoors can be at risk, especially the elderly. Hypothermia occurs when the body temperature falls below 96 degrees. Temperature you may consider just slightly cool (60-65), can be low enough to bring on hypothermia in the elderly. Confusion, sleepiness, slurred speech and shallow breathing are all symptoms of hypothermia. The elderly can protect themselves by: dressing in layers (even indoors), consuming hot foods and liquids and using alcohol in moderation. It's essential to make sure the elderly's heating system is checked and ready to battle winter's cold.

Remember to check on your elderly loved ones and neighbors this winter.

Happy Christmas!

Thoughts to Ponder

The Giving Trees

I was a single parent of four small children, working at a minimum-wage job. Money was always tight, but we had a roof over our heads, food on the table, clothes on our backs and, if not a lot, always enough. My kids told me that in those days they didn't know we were poor. They just thought Mom was cheap. I've always been glad about that.

It was Christmas time, and although there wasn't money for a lot of gifts, we planned to celebrate with church and family, parties and friends, drives downtown to see the Christmas lights, special dinners, and by decorating our home. But the big excitement for the kids was the fun of Christmas shopping at the mall. They talked and planned for weeks ahead of time, asking each other and their grandparents what they wanted for Christmas. I dreaded it. I had saved \$120 for presents to be shared by all five of us.

The big day arrived and we started out early. I gave each of the four kids a twenty dollar bill and reminded them to look for gifts about four dollars each. Then everyone scattered. We had two hours to shop; then we would meet back at the "Santa's workshop" display.

Back in the car driving home, everyone was in high Christmas spirits, laughing and teasing each other with hints and clues about what they had bought. My younger daughter, Ginger, who was about eight years old, was unusually quiet. I noted she had only one small, flat bag with her after her shopping spree. I could see enough through the plastic bag to tell that she had bought candy bars - fifty-cent candy bars! I was so angry. "What did you do with that twenty dollar bill I gave you?" I wanted to yell at her, but I didn't say anything until we got home. I called her into my bedroom and closed the door, ready to be angry again when I asked her what she had done with the money. This is what she told me:

"I was looking around, thinking of what to buy, and I stopped to read the little cards on one of the Salvation Army's 'Giving Trees.' One of the cards was for a little girl four years old, and all she wanted for Christmas was a doll with clothes and a hairbrush. So I took the card off the tree and bought the doll and the hairbrush for her and took it to the Salvation Army booth. I only had enough money left to buy candy bars for us," Ginger continued. "But we have so much and she doesn't have anything."

I never felt so rich as I did that day.

Thank you to everyone who responded so generously to our Mercy Hospice giving trees and to our St. Martin de Porres Adopt – A – Family program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

School Choice

You have surely heard the debate in Harrisburg regarding school choice legislation. This legislation would create a more just system of education wherein students can attend the school that fits their educational needs, instead of being assigned to a school based solely on geographical location.

School choice reinforces the idea that parents, not the government, are the primary educators of their children. The current treatment of children, especially those from low-income families, is unjust and inequitable. This is not a public vs. private school issue – public schools and private schools *together* fulfill the moral obligation we have to educate our children. Simply put, school choice is good for students, for schools and for the entire community.

More information about the details of school choice legislation is available online via the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference at www.pacatholic.org. Please call or visit your legislator and ask them to support legislation that includes two parts – a voucher program and an increase to the tax credit scholarships. If you are unable to visit or call, log on to www.pacatholic.org to send a message via email.



Pro Life March to Life

A generous parishioner is again sponsoring our “March to Life” bus trip to Washington, DC on Monday, January 23, 2012. There will be a signup sheet in the parish library. St. Katharine of Siena School students, PREP students with an adult chaperone and St. Katharine’s parishioners will have priority.

Bulletin Brief

A culture of life, not death.... This vision our creator planted in the depth of every human person, as part of our normative law: that life is sacred; that, once God breathes it into us, it lasts forever; that to take innocent life is so inimical to a righteous society that its protection is mandated in the very middle of the ten commandments; that the more innocent and fragile the more it begs protection; that, indeed, to protect life is the most noble of vocations. *Archbishop Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, Homily at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, October 3, 2010*

**HAVE A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
A HOLY AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
MSGR. BROUWERS
MSGR. CARROLL
AND THE
ENTIRE
PARISH STAFF**



CHRISTMAS DAY Parish Mission Statement

We, of St. Katharine of Siena Parish, believe that we have been gifted with life, faith and discipleship. Empowered by Jesus in word and sacrament, we are called to grow in wisdom and grace, fidelity to His Church, and in service to our brothers and sisters.

Worship	Outreach	Adult Faith Formation	Parish Services
<p>The Worship Core Committee is chaired by Kathleen McNally – 610-687-7897</p> <p>Altar Servers Susan Diebold 610-254-0898 Florence and Bill 610-293-9045 Sturm</p> <p>Eucharistic Ministers Karen DelRaso 610-240-9968</p> <p>Ministers of Hospitality Denise Ratterman 610-660-1946 dratterm01@yahoo.com Barry Reilly 610-293-0367</p> <p>Ministers of the Word (Lectors) Craig Hadden 610-688-0481</p> <p>Liturgical Music Ministries Cally Welsh 610-574-5371</p> <p>Children's Liturgy of the Word Jayda Orsatti 610-688-5451</p> <p>Church Environment Amy 610-688-3970 Tahtabrounian</p>	<p>The Outreach Core Committee is chaired by Mary Packer – 610-688-4222.</p> <p>Social Justice Ministries</p> <p>Aid For Friends Bob Lewers 610-688-4814</p> <p>H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People in Emergencies) Colleen Maguire 610-688-0551 Shauna Munshower 610-688-4348</p> <p>Interfaith Hospitality Network Chris Motts 610-585-8324 Patty Hicks 610-688-1673</p> <p>Mercy Hospice Casserole Program Jerry and Kay 610-687-4707 Laffey</p> <p>St. Martin de Porres Outreach Ann De Laura 610-688-1746 Maureen Sheridan 610-964-9792</p>	<p>Adult Faith Formation Core Committee is chaired by Pat and Norm Danzik 610-688-1032.</p> <p>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) John McConnell 610-687-5466</p> <p>Marriage and Family Life Julie and Dan Pijawka 610-993-1249</p> <p>Marriage Encounter Ronald & Kathleen 610-254-9714 MacGillivray</p> <p>Bible Study Msgr. Brouwers 610-688-4584</p> <p>Charismatic Prayer Group Paul Hayes 610-687-8835</p> <p>Prayer Power and Adoration Pat Graham 610-989-3882 Nancy Sergovic 610-687-3330</p> <p>Prayer Line Paul Hayes 610-687-8835</p> <p>Rosary Group Elena Brazer 610-687-0598</p> <p>Spiritual Enrichment Carol Van Trieste 484-582-1216</p> <p>Respect Life Committee Kevin and Roseanita Iepson 610-688-1208</p>	<p>Parish Center Kitchen Manager Ginny Dutton 610-256-0790</p> <p>Reservations Manager Marian Brigg 610-688-7044</p> <p>Parish Library Jackie Mak 610-359-8534</p> <p>Facilities Bernie Drueding 610-687-5899</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Youth and Young Adults Ministry </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Community Support/ Community Building Ministries </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Catholic Education </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Finance Committee </div>
<p>Athletic Ministry Committee</p> <p>Athletic Association Jim Pachioli 610-520-1281</p> <p>"CYO" Group (Gr. 9-12)</p> <p>Girl Scouts Susan Diebold 610-254-0898</p> <p>Boy Scouts Bob McDonald 610-687-5044</p>	<p>Alcoholics Anonymous Contact Rectory 610-688-4584</p> <p>Bereavement Group Joan Klingner 610 687-8536</p> <p>Blood Drive Chris Doring 610-688-9479</p> <p>Bridge Club Ed Caterson 610-644-7230</p> <p>Hospitality Committee (Newcomers) Monica Robinson 610-687-0401 Pat Lewers 610-341-0620</p> <p>Mothers of Young Children Laura Childress Kerr 610-688-3335</p> <p>Parish Coffees Sara Leyden 610-688-8286</p> <p>Senior Friends Club William Spingler 610-687-0839</p>	<p>Home & School Association Jeanne Mulvanerty 610-902-0596</p> <p>C.A.R.E.S. (Children Are Receiving Extended Service) Michael Gavin 610-587-7440</p> <p>P.R.E.P. Board (CCD Advisory Board) Barbara Seaman 610-688-7890</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Out of Parish Resources </div> <p>Archdiocesan Information 215-587-3600</p> <p>Crisis Pregnancy Line 1-800-CARE-002</p> <p>Metropolitan Tribunal 215-587-3750</p> <p>Separated and Divorced Catholics 215-587-5639</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Would you like to volunteer your Time and Talent?</p> <p>If you are interested in knowing more about any of the groups listed, call the contact name listed, or the rectory at 610-688-4584</p> </div>			

