

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Welcome to
Saint Joseph Parish
 Downingtown, Pennsylvania
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2011

Clergy

Rev. William J. Smith, Pastor Emeriti
 Rev. Msgr. Robert T. McManus
 Rev. Msgr. William J. Lynn, Pastor
 Rev. Msgr. Joseph C. McLoone, Parochial Administrator
 Rev. Brian M. Kean, Parochial Vicar
 Rev. Matthew W. Guckin, Resident
 Deacon Edward R. Schiappa, Permanent Deacon

Parish Office

Phone: 610-269-8294 Fax: 610-269-2487
 www.stjoesdtown.org

Ken Chrusch, Director of Youth Ministry
 Roe DeRitis, Parish Secretary
 Jo-Ann Funkhouser, Bookkeeper
 Tom Keenan, Sacristan & Adult Faith Formation Coordinator
 Julie Wiant, Business Manager
 Jeannine Zack, Secretary

School

610-269-8999

Sister Catherine Irene, I.H.M., Principal
 Sister Rita Doyle, I.H.M., Vice Principal
 Julie Fitzgerald, Secretary

Parish Religious Education Program

610-873-8798

Kathy Thomas, Director of Religious Education
 Mary Ann Korpics, Assistant to the D.R.E.

Convent

610-269-8314

Sunday Masses

Saturday - 5:00 pm
 Sunday - 6:00 am, 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am,
 12 noon, 4:00 pm

Daily Masses

Mon-Fri 7:00, 9:00 am; Sat. 8:00 am

Holy Days of Obligation

As Announced

Parish Registration

Sunday, January 22 at 10 AM in the
 Parish Meeting Center behind the
 Saint Joseph Education Center.

Reconciliation

Saturdays, 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm;
 Wednesdays, 6:30 am, 8:30 am and 6:30 pm

Exposition and Adoration
of the Blessed Sacrament

Perpetual Adoration in the Holy Family Chapel

Weekly Morning Prayer

Mon-Fri at 6:30 AM

Devotions

The Holy Rosary - Recited before the 9:00 am Mass daily

Novena to Saint Joseph every Wednesday

Litany to the Sacred Heart 1st Friday of the month

First Saturday Devotions: Held the First Saturday of each month at 8:30 am

Miraculous Medal Devotions: Every Tuesday after 9:00 AM Mass



BAPTISMS

Congratulations to the following child who was Baptized on December 11.

SASHA CALVEY, KEEGAN ELISE CHIDESTER AND GABRIEL NICHOLAS DIJACOMO

Parents of babies to be baptized are asked to please register for Pre-Jordan, a *three-week* program at St. Joseph Parish, recommended by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for the formation of parents having their children baptized. Meetings are normally held on Mondays, 7:00-8:30 PM. To get the most benefit from these sessions, we encourage you to attend during your pregnancy. Baptisms take place Sundays at 1 PM. Please visit our web site for details and registration info or call the parish office.

MARRIAGE



Couples planning to marry are asked to meet with their parish priest as soon as possible after their engagement and to enroll in a marriage-prep Program (Pre-Cana) at least six months prior to the wedding.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Please call the parish office (each month) if you would like to add/remove someone's name from this list.

...those who are sick: Joan Ashton, Molly Baldwin, Robert Barnes, Michael Barone, Karen Batty, Charlie Bauerlein, Robert Bellard, Patrice Blasdell, Daniel Bradley, Sue Bradley, Arlene Briggs, Kevin Brophy, Allison Brown, Pam Brown, Rose Bruno, Leonard Bucklin, Nathaniel Burt, Florence Ceulers, Mary Rita Coffey, Cecelia Colbert, Joseph Colella, Anita Conant, Agnes Cummings, Gino DiBernadetto, John DiBerardinis, Mario DiFrancesco, Sr., Donald D'Ginto, Ellen Doyle, Joe Dunn, Lee Eby, Andy Eppolito, Ryan Euler, Dorothy Foy, John Francis, Oscar Freitas, Vincent Gazzo, Mary Mento Groome, Madelin Harris, Charles (John) Hotter, Andy Ippolito, Mason Ippolito, Joseph Jackson, Patricia Jamison, Chris Jones, Ed Koroly, Anne Lewis, Brian Love, Frank Mariani, Nicholas Massari, Roberta McCormick, Heather McCready, Kaitlyn McLaughlin, Jay McManus, George Mehan, John Mento, Helen Miller, Mitzy Newlin, Patrick Oakes, Oakes & Martin Families, Bettyrene O'Connor, Ernie Panetti, Bill Pashinski, Ed Perley, Florence Popadick, Susan Pope, Ellen Quertzsch, Jacob Replogle, Declan Roberts, John Roch, Margaret Ronnen, Dolores Rudety, Maureen Ruggeri, Doreen Sadowski, Dave Sankula, Cindy Sattizahn, Christopher Sauk, Paul Scheidel, Scott Schiel, Phillip Seamon, Ken Sharpless, Robert Shetty, Mary Sheridan, Peter Short, Robert Smedley, Jessica Sirak Smith, Mario Spoto, Katherine Sousa, John Stagliano, Jr., Sister Mary Stanislaus, Carol Starner, Jerry Sturgill, Bill Subers, Heather Sutton, Sister Augustine Thomas, Karina Rose Thomas, Helen Vincent, Gabby Vogel, Betty Ward, Bill Ward & Darla Woodward.

...those who have died: Paul Bowman, Eric Van Sciver

Liturgy Intentions For The Week

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

5:00 PM-Carl C. Popadick by Bob & Joan Angiulo

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:00 AM-For the Parishioners

7:30 AM-Ida & John Baker by Daughter & Family

9:00 AM-Josephine Anderson by Jimmy & Family

10:30 AM-Julia DiMartin

by Michael, Tina, Julianne & Christina

12:00 PM-Bella Callegari by Buttner Family

4:00 PM-John Meehan by Wife

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

7:00 AM-Peter Reehil by Family

9:00 AM-Mauro & Philomena Massimini by Rose & Frank

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:00 AM-Joseph Rizzo by Family

9:00 AM-Martin Bucha by Joe & Aggie Kurtz

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:00 AM-Tomasina Colella by Dolly

9:00 AM-William & Concetta Pace

by Frank Manetta, Mary & Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:00 AM-Dom Romanelli by Wife & Family

9:00 AM-Mary Merkt Short by Short & Ferris Families

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:00 AM-Frank DiOttavio, Sr. by Wife & Family

9:00 AM-Orlando & Margaret Graveno by Children

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

8:00 AM-Christel Kennedy

by Terry, Michael Kennedy & Family

*The Altar Flowers are in memory of
Norma Piacun*

*The Sanctuary Candle burns in memory of
Ann Trolio Cross*

CHRISTMAS MASSES NEXT WEEKEND

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 PM; 5:10 PM (gym); 7:30 PM; 12:00 Midnight

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

7:30 AM; 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM; 12:00 Noon
(NO 6:00 AM or 4:00 PM)

PLEASE NOTE

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, December 24 - 9 AM - 2 PM

Sunday, December 25 - Closed

Monday, December 26 - Closed

December 18, 2011

Dear Friends,

This week I thought it best to reprint Archbishop Chaput's Pastoral Letter which was read aloud at all the Masses last Sunday. I would also like to remind you that our Parish Penance Service is this **Wednesday, December 21**. I pray you are continuing to have a Blessed Advent.

Saint Joseph, Pray for Us!
Monsignor McLoone

Dear friends in Christ,

Exactly three months ago, on September 8, I was installed as Archbishop of Philadelphia. In the weeks since, traveling the archdiocese, I've been struck by two things I encounter again and again; the reservoir of good will in our people, and the fidelity of our priests.

The Church in southeastern Pennsylvania has deep roots and an extraordinary legacy of saints, service and public witness. These are profound strengths, built by the faith of generations of Catholic families. But all of these good facts depend on our willingness to sustain them by our actions in the present. Advent is a season of self-examination in the light of God's word; a season of conversion and looking forward in hope to the birth of a Savior at Christmas. There is no better time to speak frankly about the conditions we now face as a community of believers.

Complacency is the enemy of faith. To whatever degree complacency and pride once had a home in our local Church, events in the coming year will burn them out. The process will be painful. But going through it is the only way to renew the witness of the Church; to clear away the debris of human failure from the beauty of God's word and to restore the joy and zeal of our Catholic discipleship.

In the year ahead, we have a grave and continuing obligation to help victims of clergy sex abuse to heal; to create Church environments that protect our young people; and to cooperate appropriately with civil authorities in pursuing justice for both the victims of sexual abuse and those accused.

At the same time, we need to remember that many hundreds of our priests—the overwhelming majority—have served our people with exceptional lives of sacrifice and character. Since arriving in September, I have pressed for rapid resolution of the cases of those priests placed on administrative leave earlier this year. The first months of 2012 will finally see those cases concluded. Whatever the results, the confidence of our people and the morale of our priests have suffered. The hard truth is that many innocent priests have borne the brunt of the Church's public humiliation and our people's anger. The harsh media environment likely to surround the criminal trial which begins next March will further burden our lay people and our clergy. But it cannot be avoided.

Finally, the resources of the Church do not belong to the bishops or the clergy; they belong to the entire Catholic people, including the faithful generations who came before us. The Church is a community of faith alive in the present but also connected across the years through time. The Church holds her resources in stewardship for the whole Catholic community, to carry out our shared apostolic mission as believers in Jesus Christ. This means that as archbishop, I have the duty not just to defend those limited resources, but also to ensure that the Church uses them with maximum care and prudence; to maximum effect; and with proper reporting and accountability.

In the coming year we will face very serious financial and organizational issues that cannot be delayed. They must be addressed. These are not simply business issues; they go to the heart of our ability to carry out our Catholic ministries. The archdiocese remains strongly committed to the work of Catholic education. But that ministry is badly served by trying to sustain unsustainable schools. In January, the archdiocesan Blue Ribbon Commission will provide me with its recommendations on Catholic education. The Commission has worked for months on this difficult issue with extraordinary sensitivity and skill. It will likely counsel that some, and perhaps many, schools must close or combine. It will also offer a framework for strengthening our schools going forward.

Over the next 18 months the same careful scrutiny must be applied to every aspect of our common life as a Church, from the number and location of our parishes, to every one of our archdiocesan operational budgets. This honest scrutiny can be painful, because real change is rarely easy; but it also restores life and health, and serves the work of God's people. We cannot call ourselves good stewards if we do otherwise.

These words may sound sobering, but they are spoken with love as a father and a brother. They are a plea to take our baptism seriously; and to renew our local Church with Christian charity, justice and zeal. As scripture reminds us so frequently; Do not be afraid. God uses poor clay to create grandeur and beauty. He can certainly use us to renew and advance the work of his Church—and he will.

May God grant you and those you love a holy Advent; and lift your hearts; and make you ready for the joy of Christ's birth. And please pray for me, as I pray for all of you and your families every day.

Gratefully yours in Jesus Christ,
Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia

PARISH NEWS

2011 Christmas Schedule

Confessions

Wednesday, December 21

7:00 PM Parish Penance Service
(Last opportunity for confession before Christmas)

Christmas Masses

(All Masses are in the church unless otherwise indicated.)

Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
5:00 PM	7:30 AM
5:10 PM (gym)	9:00 AM
7:30 PM	10:30 AM
12:00 Midnight	12:00 Noon
	(no 6AM or 4PM)

Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, December 31, 5 PM Vigil

Sunday, January 1, 2012

6:00, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM;

12 Noon; 4:00 PM

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 7, 5 PM Vigil

Sunday, January 8, 2012

6:00, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM;

12 Noon; 4:00 PM

PLEASE NOTE

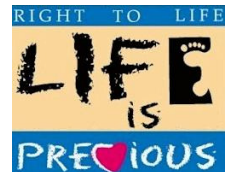
This **Wednesday, December 21**, we will have our **Parish Penance Service**
Confessions begin at **7PM**

This will be the last time for confessions before Christmas!

Save the Date for March for Life

January 23, 2012.

Stay tuned for details.



NEIGHBORING PENANCE SERVICES

Monday, December 19

Ss. Philip & James, Exton, 7 PM

St. Maximilian Kolbe, W. Chester, 7 PM

Tuesday, December 20

St Peter, West Brandywine, 6:15 PM

Ss. Simon & Jude, W. Chester, 7 PM

Wednesday, December 21

St. Joseph, Downingtown, 7 PM

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION!

If you have moved, or have been married recently, **changed your phone number** or email address or any other changes in your household? Call the parish office or email roed@stjoesdtown.org to update your records. Thank you!

ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY

Our parish cemetery is a beautiful, quiet spot located off Glenside Road in Downingtown. We have many traditional burial plots available and we recently set a Columbarium (an above ground monument with 48 niches) to hold cremains of loved ones. If you are interested in purchasing a plot or a niche for the future for yourself or your loved ones, call the parish office at 610-269-8294 for details.



NEW CHURCH

Cherishing our Past



UPDATE

Embracing the Future

GOAL: \$6 MILLION

Total Pledged to Date:

\$5,086,201.21

Total families pledged:

1,074

As you know the priests have been back in the Rectory for a few weeks. We are very happy to be living once again in familiar surroundings and on our beautiful parish campus.

So you can see all that has been done, we are going to have an "Open House" on **Sunday, January 8 from 1 pm - 4 pm**. Since the rectory is a parish house we will

welcome you to our house in its new location!

PARISH NEWS



SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL NEWS

Every year, students from Archdiocesan Parochial and Regional Schools can qualify to take the Neumann Scholarship Examination if they achieve high scores in their standardized tests in Grade 7 and achieve at least a 92 General Average in their first trimester of 8th Grade. They must also submit an essay to the Connelly Foundation. We congratulate the following 8th Grade Students from St. Joseph School who qualify to take the Neumann Scholarship in January: Jordan Ambrose, Nicholas Brennan, Matthew Crawford, Anthony Eells, Seamus Fromhartz, Eli Goforth, Andrea Herb, Angela Herb, Cameron Ireland, John Jursca, Marykate McCracken, Melissa Mitchell, Shannon Mountain, Lauren Moylett, Clare O'Connor, Liam O'Neill, and Rebecca Reeves.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Here are the deadlines for information:

January 1, 2012
Information due by Dec. 21

Help Wanted

Evening/Weekend Receptionist

We are looking for a part-time (approx. 17 hours per week) evening/weekend receptionist for our parish office. Responsibilities include database inputting, answering phones, signing out facility keys for meetings, greeting parishioners who come to the office, and assisting with special projects and mailings as needed. This position requires a responsible person with a cheerful attitude and computer skills. If interested, please apply at the parish office. For info, contact Julie Wiant, Business Manager, 610-269-8294.

Looking for a way to volunteer?

Two or three individuals are needed to serve as a recording secretary for the pastoral council, stewardship committee and steering committee. Parishioners interested in a great and easy way to give their gifts back to Our Lord are asked to contact Julie Wiant at 610-269-8294 or email Juliew@stjoesdtown.org

*'Twas the night before Christmas,
and on went the search,
to find people scurrying,
to set up the church!*



**Come one, Come all and help
decorate St. Joseph's for
Christmas!**

The Art & Environment committee invites you to join in this festive time of year. If you have a few minutes, or a few hours, and would like to participate in getting our parish ready for Christmas, here's your chance!

We will be setting up the church decorations on Friday 12/23/11 at 11:30 am and in addition. We will be taking down all the church decorations on Sunday 1/8/12 following the 4pm mass.

We appreciate any and all volunteers, so if you find yourself available at those times, please join in. Many hands make for light work. We hope to see you there!

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

610-873-8798

Level 4 students earned money through doing chores to help out those cared for through "Food for the Poor", their annual service project. Over the course of four weeks they were able to send \$107.00 to those in need.

Our Preschool and Kindergarten children collected toys that were donated to Operation Santa Claus, the Archdiocese's toy drive campaign, and Toys for Tots. Four large boxes of toys made their way to children throughout the region.

Several members this years' Confirmation class offered their time in service to the church community by assisting with changing out the Misallettes in the pews on the Saturday after Thanksgiving and in sorting packages from the Advent Tree on December 16.

P.R.E.P.

Classes meet Dec. 18-20

NO CLASSES

Dec. 25-27 and Jan. 1-3, 2012

Classes resume January 8-10

RCIA

no session 12/21 and 12/28

January 4

(Annual Pot Luck Supper, details to follow),
11, 18, and 25

Stewardship

Stewardship Corner

In today's Gospel reading we hear proclaimed the story of the Annunciation, when the angel of the Lord announced to Mary that she would give birth to Christ through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Mary allowed God's messenger to speak to her. She was attentive, not afraid to enter into a dialogue, then unconditionally obedient. Mary's acceptance of this mystery is a stewardship model for us. Good stewards remain open to the incursions of divine life into the normal course of their daily lives. How open are we to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our own lives? What might we do this last week of Advent to be more attentive to the Lord?

AID FOR FRIENDS

Volunteer cooks for Aid For Friends, please remember our needy homebound neighbors and make some meals over the holidays. Anyone interested in using some of your holiday bounty can pick up individual meal pans at the Holy Family center, fill them and return to the freezer where they will be picked up and delivered. Contact Debby at 610-269-8032 for more information.

OPEN ADORATION HOURS

Please schedule your time commitment by emailing reception@stjoesdtown.org or the parish office.

Monday midnight-4am, 3-4pm	Friday 3-5am, 11am-noon,
Tuesday 2-4am, 3-5pm	10-11pm.
Wednesday 1-2am, 5-6pm	Saturday 9-10am, Noon – 1pm,
Thursday midnight – 1am, 10-11am	4-5pm, 6-7pm 9-10pm
Noon – 1pm, 6-7pm	11pm-midnight
	Sunday 1-2am, 10am –3pm

The reason for the season is JESUS. Come visit Him at our parish 24 hour Adoration Chapel. Should you like to be placed on a regular hourly schedule, please email reception@stjoesdtown.org

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Almighty & eternal God, those who take refuge in you will be glad and forever will shout for joy. Protect them with the shield of your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of your love enable them to return home in safety, that with all who love them, they may ever praise you for your loving care. Amen

Lance Corp. William Alvord	Spc. Nicholas Massari
Cpl. Steve Anderson	Capt. J. Kevin McKittrick
Andrew Bowser	Pvt. Francis Misantone
Sarah Debarberie	2nd Lt. Ryan Misero
Staff Sgt. Christopher	Lt. J.G. Brian Muka
Deutsch	Pvt. Ian Donoghue-Neider
Staff Sgt. Ian Deutsch	Sgt. Bradley Panichelli
Jennifer Dunn	Alex Rozon
1st Lt. Matthew Glisson	Lt/Cmd. Chris Schwarz
Leslie Harkness	Airman Timothy Schwarz
Lance Corp. Jeff Herbet	M/Sgt. Barry Snyder
Joshua Horrocks, LCPL.	A/2c Patrick Snyder
Steven Houser	Lt/Cmd. Peter Snyder
Major Nicholas Hupp	M/Sgt. Rebekah Snyder
Cpl. Daniel Kline	John Stagliano, III
James Kurtz	Ryan Strehl
Andy Landmesser	Bryan Williams
Major Paul D. Lang	Josh Woodward
PFC. Tim Liermann	Pvt. Andrew White
Sgt. Christopher Madden	Major Robert F. Williams III
Staff Sgt. Brian Manion	Vincent Yarch

To add/remove a name call 610-269-8294.

DECEMBER MERCY HOSPICE MENU

Group 3 - Old Fashion Beef Stew
Group 4 - American Chop Suey
For info, Call Gail at 610-269-9574.

H.O.P.E

Rides 12/19-12/25
Leslie Curtis at 610-518-5403
Nancy Coccetti at 610-269-3036

Rides 12/26-1/1
Helen Lyons at 610-873-8041
Betty Ahern at 610-518-2256.

Contact Helen Lyons at 610-873-8041 to volunteer.

Stewardship



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR COLLECTION

\$5,650.00

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

\$9,200.04

Religious give thanks. A Benedictine nun writes: "We ask God to bless the faithful who made contributions in order to help us in our retirement." Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests offer their heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

OUR YOUNG STEWARDS

See How Our Young Stewards Shared
their Time, Talent and Treasure
this past week!

Kiera wrapped a gift.

Bailey helped her little sister across the street.

Jack helped his mommy wrap presents.

Nicholas bought presents for the giving tree.

Lily helped get ready for Christmas.

Penelope helped wrap the giving tree presents.

McKenna cleaned up toys.

Matthew cleaned up without being asked.

John vacuumed the kitchen.

Gillian helped decorate the Christmas tree.

Emily tied her brothers shoes.

My Gift
to God



December 11

26 envelopes were collected
22 included a donation of \$22.00
Total to date: \$45.55

Joseph's People is a group at Saint Joseph Church who help serve the unemployed/underemployed.

COLLECTION TOTAL

December 11 Collection Total: \$32,807.89

Ordinary Income: \$26,343.89 (712 envelopes)

Loose Cash: \$2,247.39

Weekly EFT: \$4,217 (135 Participants)

Collection Total: \$32,807.89

POOR BOX

December 11 Total: \$203.00

December total to date: \$469.28

The Poor Box for December is for Amigos de Jesús Orphanage. The Amigos De Jesús Orphanage cares for impoverished children. They offer financial help to families – enabling children to remain at home and in school. They offer a residence for children, a dining hall, a workshop area for carpentry, an agricultural program and an animal husbandry program. They offer a bilingual school for academics, religion and fine arts along with sponsoring continuing education for their children who graduate.

START CHRISTMAS SHOPPING NOW!

Is someone in your family hard to buy for?
Do you have a teenager who prefers gift cards
over actual presents?

shopwithscrip.com

Order Gift Cards using Shopwithscrip.com!

- ◇ Several stores have increased their percentage for the holidays and the service fee is now only 15 cents!
- ◇ Many gift cards are reloadable!
- ◇ Shopwithscrip also offers ScripNow that allows you to print cards! Perfect for last minute gifts!

**Order by December 19 to receive cards by
December 22!**

Parish Groups

YOUTH NEWS

Contact Ken Chrusch at 610-269-8294 or KenC@stjoesdowntown.org

JP2CREW

(All high school students welcome)

Special thanks to everyone who supported the youth group Luminaria sale. God bless and have a wonderful Christmas!

Dec. 18: Night will include praise and worship Taize Style:5 -7pm in the parish meeting center.

Dec. 30: Christmas Dance in Cafeteria 7-11pm. Dance lessons from 7:15 – 8:15pm. Don't miss it. All high school students welcome. Spread the word!



JAM (All 7th & 8th grade students welcome)

Dec. 21: Christmas Party in the parish meeting center. Spread the word and bring a friend!



Dec. 23: Christmas Movie Night (The Ultimate Gift) in the parish meeting center 7– 9pm. Bring snacks to share.

THE PRIME TIMERS

The Prime Timers will have their first meeting of the new year on **January 4, 2012** at 1: 30 pm. Don't forget to bring your non perishable donation for the Lord's Pantry as they do not get many donations after the holidays! Also, you can make arrangements to go to the next casino trip. And, you are invited to join our carving group on Wednesday mornings (starting the second Wednesday morning of January at 9:30) Refreshments are served. All are invited (50 years of age & older) to come and enjoy our meetings.

Catholics Reconnecting

Are you looking to more actively practice your Catholic faith? *Catholics Reconnecting* may be just right for you. This six-session series includes topics such as "Spirituality" "God's Mercy" "The Mass" and "The Church." You can learn and ask questions...all in a friendly and confidential setting with other Catholics. St. Joseph Parish invites you to 6 *Catholics Reconnecting* sessions **January 11, 18, 25 & February 1,8, 15, 2012**. Sessions will be held on the second floor of the Education Center in the Music Room. Please enter through the Cafeteria door and go up the stairs. Please come or contact catholicreconnecting@yahoo.com or Mary Ann 610-873-8798) or (610-241-7369) for more info.



CYO CORNER

The first annual Christine Ambrose Pray the Rosary CYO Regional team basketball tournament will be held in the St. Joseph gym on December 27 and 28 for Varsity boys & girls and 29 and 30 for Junior Varsity boys & girls teams. Games are scheduled each evening starting at 4pm. Come out and support the Teams.

THE KING'S MEN!

The King's Men will NOT meet this Thursday, December 22. Our next The King's Men meeting will be Thursday, January 5 from 7-8:30pm in the Parish Center, located behind the Church in the rear of the school building (park in the lot at the back of the school). The King's Men is a dynamic faith-formation group for men of all ages. Come meet other Catholic men and enjoy authentic fellowship, engage in learning and lively spiritual discussion, and be challenged to live a more integrated and full Christian life! The group, which is open to all men 18 and older and out of high school, meets weekly on Thursday evenings from 8-9:30pm. **SPREAD THE WORD AND START THE NEW YEAR BY ATTENDING THE KING'S MEN AND INVITING SOMEONE YOU KNOW.** For more information about the St. Joseph parish group, please contact Bill Reagan at b_reagan@rocketmail.com. To learn more about The King's Men organization please visit thekingsmen.us/.

LOCAL NEWS

CYACC



All young adults in their 20s and 30s are invited to attend the weekly meetings of CYACC (pronounced "kayak", the Catholic Young Adults of Chester County). Events and speakers focus on fellowship, faith formation, and service to the community. Admission and parking are free! Details on Facebook and at <http://www.cyacc.org/>. We hope to see you soon!

December 21

Christmas Social!

(at Ss. Simon and Jude Meehan Parish Center)

December 28

No Meeting- Happy New Year!

January 4

Holy Hour (at St. Agnes)

January 11

"Heaven, Hell, Death, & Judgement"

Fr. Francis Caponi

****Please pay special attention to times and locations**** listed on Facebook during the next few months, since holidays and Holy Days will occasion **some changes**. Generally, meetings will be held on Wednesdays at 7:30 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in West Chester.

Exercise Your Faith to Impact Lives!



St. Martha Manor & Villa St. Martha are looking for a few wonderful volunteers to befriend the senior residents in our community. We are also looking for volunteers for 1:1 friendly visits.

Specific Needs

***Sunday Morning Bus Driver**-No need for a special license! From Villa St. Martha, across the parking lot to the door of St. Joseph's Church! Sundays from 10:00 to 11:40—can attend the 10:30 Mass with the residents.

***Volunteers for our memory support Alzheimers Unit** -No special skills or experience needed—we will train! All you need is a compassionate heart for people—you will enjoy yourself. Just a few hours a week can make a huge difference in their lives!

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Dave Fournier at dfournier@chs-adphila.org, with "Volunteer" in the subject line.

BISHOP SHANAHAN NEWS



- * **PSAT/SAT Program with Dr. Richard Fuller.** 35 -hour training experience (with a student teacher ratio of 8:1 in math), **classes begin January 18, 2012.** We also have info on our summer programs which include: Algebra I enrichment program (grades 5-9) and Math Programs in Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus and Calculus (all grades); "Critical Thinking and Study Skills" program (grades 8-12); and a PSAT/SAT Program (with a student teacher ratio of 8:1) summer classes start June 18, 2012. For info call Dr. Fuller 610-275-9660 or BSHS 610-518-1300.
- * **8th Grade Universal Visitation Day - Thursday, January 19, 2012** from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- * **Open House & Registration - Sunday, January 22, 2012,** 12 Noon - 3:00 p.m. Visit www.shanahan.org under Admissions for info or call Mrs. Dale at 610-343-6206.
- * **Temporary Maintenance Position**-Bishop Shanahan has an immediate opening for a custodian in the Maintenance Department. This position is full time but temporary (at least until June 30, 2012). It may become a permanent position. BENEFITS ARE INCLUDED. The rate is \$10/hour. The hours are from 3-11 PM Monday -Friday. The person accepting this position is responsible for the overall cleanliness, maintenance, and security of the school buildings and grounds to which they are assigned and will perform work as required by the maintenance supervisor. Respond to Donald Gentile, Maintenance Supervisor, at dgentile@shanahan.org or 610-343-6230.

Downingtown West High School Post Prom Party in Need of Volunteers

The Downingtown West Post Prom Party committee is in need of volunteers to ensure safe and fun activity continues. Specific needs include activities and entertainment planning and fundraising. Contact Gina Ferron at 484-364-6729 or gferron40@aol.com to volunteer or for more information. Monthly meetings take place in the DWHS library on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Next meeting is January 17. Visit www.dwestpostprom.com for info.