

St. Frances Cabrini Parish

"Come and See" 325 S. Oxford Valley Road, Fairless Hills, PA

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Rev. Msgr. Michael P. McCormac
Pastor

Deacon Paul S. Ablaza

Deacon Mace M. Mazzoni

Rev. Msgr. Michael K. Magee

Mrs. Theresa Leonetti O'Connor
Director of Parish Services

Miss Jean E. Madden
Director of Religious Education
Director of Music

Mr. Henry J. Wajda, Jr.
Principal Organist

Mrs. Karen M. David
Parish Business Manager

Miss Mary Ann Allton
Parish Secretary

Rectory Office

Hours: Monday-Friday
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 1:00 - 8:00 PM
Phone Number: 215-946-4040
Fax Number: 215-943-1116
Email: parish@saintfrancescabrini.net

Office of Religious Education

Phone Number: 215-946-1115

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening Vigil: 5:30 PM

Sunday: 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Monday - Saturday: 9:30 AM

HOLY DAYS: 6:30 AM, 12:00 Noon, 7:00 PM
(except January 1st which follows a Sunday Mass schedule)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

SATURDAY: 4:15-5:15 PM or by appointment

DAILY ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

SAINT JOSEPH CHAPEL

MONDAY - SATURDAY: 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

SUNDAY: 12:30 PM - 8:00 PM



Holy Family Regional Catholic School

2477 Trenton Road, Levittown, PA 19056

Phone Number: 215-269-9600 Fax: 215-269-9609

Website: www.HFRCS.org;

Email: hfrcs@HFRCS.org

Principal: Mrs. Kara Haggerty

Advancement Director: Mrs. MaryAnn Conway

Enrollment Director: Ms. Regan Downey

Business Manager: Mrs. Susan Weed

Secretary: Mrs. Michelle Mangapit

SAINT FRANCES CABRINI PARISH PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Purpose of Saint Frances Cabrini Parish is to be reverently and passionately committed to the Liturgy and celebration of the Eucharist. Our Parish Community is a Catholic family ignited by the love of Christ, embracing compassion, love, and mutual respect for each other. We encourage and welcome everyone to share our life journey bearing witness to the teachings of Jesus Christ and joyfully praising God in our everyday lives.

Please visit our website: www.saintfrancescabrini.net

Christmas TRADITIONS

Why do we.....? A Word to the “Why’s” of Some Christmas Traditions

~ by Mariann McCormick

Over the centuries and across many nations and cultures, the Feast of Christmas is celebrated with joy and profound thanks for God’s greatest gift, His Son. Here are a few reasons behind some of those traditions.

Why do we call it Christmas?

From the Old English “Cristes Mæsse” ~ meaning the “mass of Christ.” It was common to refer to any feast as the “Mass of...,” for example, the feast of St. Michael was called Michaelmas. The practice dates back to the 11th century.

Why do some call it Xmas?

This is a Greek abbreviation. The word for Christ in Greek is Xristos. In the 16th century, Europeans used the first initial of Christ's name, "X" in place of the word Christ in Christmas. It was just a shortened form of the word. These Christians understood that X stood for Christ's name. Later, others who did not understand the Greek language, including many Christians, assumed it was a secular title and mistook "Xmas" as a sign of disrespect. Unfortunately, this may have happened.

Why are there Twelve Days of Christmas?

During the Middle Ages [c. 400-1400], Christmas was a festival of feasting and merrymaking that lasted from Christmas Eve until the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, twelve days later. Epiphany is from the Greek meaning “to show,” marking the time that Jesus was revealed to the world. As late as the 19th century, Epiphany was as big a celebration as Christmas Day.

Why do we send Christmas cards?

Sir Henry Cole of England is credited with creating the first real Christmas card. He was so busy in December 1843 that he had no time to compose individual letters for his friends. He commissioned an artist to design a card with three panels. The center panel showed a family enjoying Christmas with the message "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You."

Why do we hang Christmas stockings?

This comes from a famous legend about St. Nicholas. The story is told of a kindly nobleman who grew despondent over the death of his beloved wife and squandered his fortune. This left his three young daughters without dowries and facing a life of spinsterhood or worse.

Generous St. Nicholas, hearing of the girls' plight, wanted to help, but knew the father would not accept money from him. Wishing to remain anonymous, he rode by the man's house and threw three small pouches of gold coins down the chimney. The pouches fell into the girls' stockings that had been hung on the mantelpiece to dry.

The story about St. Nicholas' generosity spread throughout the land. Since then, it has been a tradition to hang stockings on Christmas in the hope of receiving a gift from St. Nicholas.

What about Rudolph?

Sorry, but there is no legend, no custom, no long history. This was a 20th century advertising campaign. In 1939, a retailer called Montgomery Ward asked one of their copywriters to come up with a Christmas story; it was given to customers during the holiday shopping season as a store promotion. In 1947, the story was published commercially as a book. At the same time, a song was written and recorded. The story and song have grown beyond their commercial origins to become a beloved part of the holiday.

This is only a sampling of the many, many traditions that have grown up with our understanding of Christ's birth all those years ago. What traditions do you celebrate? As Christians, we all come together to celebrate this great feast of God's love.

*May the coming of the Christ Child
bring you the gift of love,
the blessings of hope, and
the promise of peace
whatever your family traditions!*



Scripture Readings: Fourth Sunday of Advent



First Reading ~ Isaiah 7:10-14

In today's passage, the prophet Isaiah announces that the wife of Ahaz will soon have a son who will be a better king than his father. Christians have seen in this passage a deeper meaning, namely, Mary giving birth to Jesus.

Second Reading ~ Romans 1:1-7

In the opening words of the letter to the Romans, Paul first identifies himself, extends a greeting, gives some helpful information about himself, and highlights the fact that Jesus was descended from the Royal House of David.

Gospel ~ Matthew 1:18-24

Joseph trusted God and believed in the message of the angel. Even though he was afraid, he was open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit in his life, which ultimately led to the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God is with us. Let us pray for a deeper openness to the spirit in our lives this Advent.



CHURCH DECORATING

As we anticipate the celebration of the birth of Christ, we will begin decorating our church for the Christmas season **TODAY, Sunday, December 18th at 12:30 PM**. All parishioners are welcome to share their time and talent as we bring the joy of Christmas to St. Frances Cabrini Parish. With much work to be done, much help is needed, and your participation would be greatly appreciated.

Open Secretary/Receptionist Position ~ St. Frances Cabrini Parish

Saint Frances Cabrini Parish is looking for a candidate to fill an open Secretary/Receptionist position in the Parish rectory. This position provides clerical and administrative support for the Pastor and Pastoral Staff. Requirements include familiarity with office organization techniques, excellent written and verbal communication skills, proficiency in MS Office with a strong aptitude for learning new software programs and transferring knowledge of one program to another, as well as time management capability.

Interested candidates can send their resume and contact information to bkdavid2@verizon.net.

Save the Date



Scan the QR Code to Register!

Holy Family Regional
Catholic School Open House

Sunday, January 29, 2023
11:00AM-1:00PM



Contact Regan Downey at
regan.downey@hfrcs.org for more details

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM LESSONS and CAROLING

All **PREP students** will gather for *Lessons and Caroling* in church on **Monday, December 19th**. The students are asked to report to their classrooms when arriving. Parents are cordially invited to join us in Church. The service will begin at **6:45 PM**. **Students will return to their classrooms after the service and be dismissed from their classrooms at 7:45 PM.**



On behalf of our brothers and sisters in Christ, we thank our parishioners for providing so many gifts over the last couple of weeks in support of our annual **Christmas Giving Tree Program**. We also thank all those who brought or sent other gifts directly to the rectory. Everyone's thoughtfulness and generosity are certainly allowing many people to have a more joyous Christmas. Be assured that our goodness is greatly appreciated by those who have been the beneficiaries of our care and generosity!

THIS WEEK ON
FORMED

Week of December 18, 2022



**Christmas in Rome:
A Celebration of the Nativity**
Nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like Rome. This Christmas, marvel at the Holy City's festive celebration of the coming of the child Jesus.



The Story of the Nativity: The Truth of Christmas
Enjoy this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity as we enter into the joyful season of Advent. Christmas is so much more than a humdrum story we've heard since childhood. Join top scholars, speakers, and authors as they explain the gravity of Christ's miraculous birth.



The True Meaning of Christmas by Fulton Sheen
This presentation combines recordings of Fulton Sheen's timeless reflections on the meaning of Christmas, mixed with Gregorian chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite!

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

An offering from the ALGENI INSTITUTE and CATHOLIC MEDIA PROJECT

**Christmas Caroling
for the Homebound**



On **Thursday, December 29th**, between **6:00 PM and 8:30 PM**, our parish will continue our tradition of **Christmas Caroling for the Homebound**. Members of the Saint Frances Cabrini Music Ministry will take the lead in singing a variety of Christmas songs and hymns on the doorsteps of our homebound parishioners. All are welcome to participate and share in the joy of the Christmas season.

To add a name to either the list of carolers or to the list of homes on our caroling route, or for additional information, please call Jean Madden at 215-946-4040 or send an email to Jean Madden <music@saintfrancescabrini.net>

**2022
CHRISTMAS
MASS
SCHEDULE**



CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, December 24, 2022

Vigil Masses 5:00 PM and 7:30 PM
Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25, 2022

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

Saturday, December 31, 2022

Vigil Mass 5:30 PM

Sunday, January 1, 2023

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

The 11:00 AM Christmas Day Mass will be live-streamed.

Merry Christmas



The Rectory Offices will be **CLOSED** on December 26th and January 2nd.

WE ARE A TITHING COMMUNITY

Sunday Collection – December 11, 2022	\$ 9,955
Parish Giving Electronic Fund	\$ 4,141
TOTAL	\$ 14,096
Prior Year's Collection	\$ 15,060

CASH BINGO

Knights of Columbus Council # 4215 is hosting our 2nd Annual **CASH BINGO** Fundraiser on Saturday 1/28/2023 in Monsignor Woods Hall. Proceeds support our charitable activities including Veteran's, Senior Citizens and families who struggle around the holidays. Tickets are \$30.00 and offer more than ninety-five chances to win cash and prizes. Additional game boards and raffle tickets will also be available for purchase. There will be twelve games of Bingo, Raffle Baskets, Door Prizes, snacks, and drinks. This is a BYOB event. Doors open at 5:30 pm and the games start at 7:00 pm.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit our website at www.kofc4215.com or email us at kofc4215bingo@gmail.com.

Tickets may also be purchased at the Rectory.



March for Life
January 20, 2023
Washington, DC

The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country. Every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge on the National Mall and march on Capital Hill. It is the largest human rights demonstration in the world. But this is not just a protect ... TOGETHER, WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE LIFE! We celebrate each and every life, from the moment of conception. We envision a world where every life is celebrated, valued, and protected.

Monday Evening Prayers

Every Monday via Zoom, 6:30PM

All are invited to pray vespers with the AFIRE community (via Zoom) Monday evenings at 6:30pm (ET).

SAINT FRANCES CABRINI PARISH COMMUNITY

POT OF GOLD WEEKLY LOTTERY PROGRAM



December 12, 2022
4 - 14 - 15 - 17 - 27

JACKPOT PRIZE WINNER
(NONE)

CONSOLATION PRIZE WINNERS
3 @ \$334

WINNER

Heather Risko
Madden Sisters
Perry Orloski

SELLER

Allie Kerner
Jean Madden
Cecelia

NEXT WEEK'S JACKPOT PRIZE

\$6,000

Thank you for participating in the Pot of Gold Program.
For more information, contact the Rectory at 215-946-4040.

We are not responsible for typographical errors.

The Hope in Christ: Spiritual Support for Addiction

You are not alone! The Church desires to be close to her children who are struggling with addiction and to bring them the healing power of Jesus Christ's love. The Hope in Christ: Spiritual Support for Addiction webpage provides a central location for Catholic resources, ongoing support, testimonies, and events that are happening throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to spiritually support you in your journey towards recovery. Visit archphila.org/hope for details and new postings.

Advent:
A Season
of Hope
and
Anticipation



Living Nativity

St. Ephrem Parish, 5400 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem, will host a **Living Nativity** this Tuesday, December 20th at 7:00 PM in St. Ephrem Church. A cast of over thirty parishioners will offer a dramatic presentation of the birth of Our Lord with song and Scripture. All are welcome to the presentation as we begin to celebrate with great joy the birth of our Lord Jesus!



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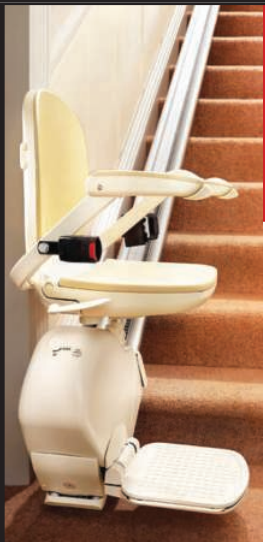
*Valid thru December 31, 2022. Valid on advance planning cemetery space purchases only in specific areas of the cemetery. See location manager for details. Monthly payment is subject to down payment, interest rate and term. Minimum of 5% down payment required. Cannot be combined with other offers. Excludes prior purchases. Vault and Opening and Closing required for Burial. Limit 10 cemetery spaces per family.

www.PhiladelphiaCatholicCemeteries.com

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