

ST. FRANCES CABRINI PARISH

Come and See

325 S. Oxford Valley Road, Fairless Hills, PA 19030

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Rev. Msgr. Michael P. McCormac
Pastor

Deacon Mace M. Mazzoni

Rev. Msgr. Michael K. Magee

Weekend Assistant

Miss Audrey Wilson

Director of Parish Services

Miss Jean E. Madden

Director of Music

Director of Religious Education

Director of Social Media

Mr. Henry J. Wajda, Jr.

Principal Organist

Mrs. Karen M. David

Parish Business Manager

Sr. MaryRose Mroz, SCC

Parish Secretary

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:

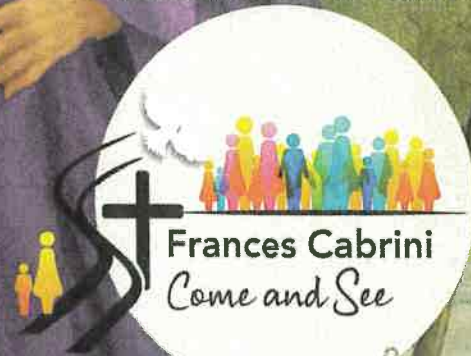
SATURDAY: 4:15-5:15 PM or by appointment

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 Number: 215-269-9609

Website: www.HFRCS.org;

Email: hfrcs@HFRCS.org

Principal: Mrs. Kara Haggerty

Advancement Director: Mrs. MaryAnn Conway

Enrollment Director: Ms. Brittany Konen

Business Manager: Mrs. Susan Weed

Secretary: Mrs. Michelle Mangapit

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

Fax Number: 215-943-1116

Email: jeanemadden@saintfrancescabrini.net

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.SAINTERFRANCESCABRINI.NET



Mass Intentions

Sunday December 22, 2024

The 11:00 AM Mass will be celebrated for the deceased members of Saint Frances Cabrini Parish.

Week of December 22, 2024

MONDAY

9:30 AM *Joseph J. Deery, Jr.*
His wife, Dolores

TUESDAY

9:30 AM *Patrick J. Cunningham*
Wife Rosemary & Cunningham Family

5:00 PM **Christmas Eve**

7:00 PM

Midnight

WEDNESDAY **Christmas**

7:30 AM

9:00 AM

11:00 AM

THURSDAY **St. Stephen**

9:30 AM *Marsicano Family*
Tom & Noreen Polcha

FRIDAY **St. John**

9:30 AM *Decesaed members of Kelly & Giardine Families*
Sharon & Steve

SATURDAY **The Holy Innocents**

9:30 AM *Betty Brooks*
Cathy Galloway

Saturday December 28, 2024

The 5:30 PM Mass will be celebrated for the deceased members of Saint Frances Cabrini Parish.



SANCTUARY LAMP MEMORIALS

Sanctuary Lamps are being provided this week for
Frank Koller—Carmella Koller
Lucy Olimpo—Her son

BREAD AND WINE MEMORIALS

The Bread and Wine is being provided this week for
Dominick Moratti, Sr.—Mom, Dad, & Family



Pray for the Sick

Please pray for all those listed in our White Intercessory Book. We also pray for the following people and those who care for them:

Barbara Balasco	Joseph Killian
Edward Baranoski	Hailey Knorr
Harriet Beatrice	Carol Mazzoni
Marie Breen	Barbara Milorey
Mike Caine	Michael Page
Peter Cellucci	Dennis Pierce
James Cook	Marie Ranniello
Josephine Dominick	Joe Tralies
Lorena Goodreau	Jane Trout
Betty Graham	Grayson Whittaker
Steve Harris	Mark Whittaker, Jr.
George Kasperitis	Jean Wilt

Please Note:

With regard to parishioners, relatives, and friends who are ill, we invite you to write their names in our White Intercessory Book. Your loved ones will be remembered in each of our weekend Masses.



Pray for Our Deceased

We pray for our own families, our Parish Family, and all those who have lost their lives through war and violence.

May the Lord Jesus bring all our loved ones into His Kingdom especially
Steve Gazak, Sr. • Mary-Jo Jenigen
Sister Margaret Maura Kirby



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve
5:00 PM
7:30 PM
Midnight

Christmas Day
7:00 AM
9:00 AM
11:00 AM

Coping with Grief

Audrey Wilson

I am grateful to Monsignor McCormac and Jean Madden for the blessing of providing this week's message. It may come as no shock to many of you that I was utterly filled with joy last weekend when Monsignor McCormac, Monsignor Magee, and Deacon Mace Mazzoni were vested in their rose-colored vestments, as well as looking into the sanctuary and seeing the rose-colored candle of our Advent wreath glowing with a bright flame. As Christmas draws near, each candle which is lighted reminds us that Jesus is the light coming into the darkness. Jesus said to those who followed Him, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Personally, this year's Third week of Advent is like none I have ever experienced before in my life. What is looming over this is the physical absence of my Mom in my life. I feel a struggle in my heart between joy and sadness, while at the same time, I feel deep compassion and empathy for all those who are also experiencing such a loss especially within our faith community. The loss is very profound regardless of whether it is recent, a few years ago, or many years ago. I would also like to acknowledge and address those who are experiencing other losses in their lives at this time. It could be the loss of a job, the loss of a home, the loss of good health, or the loss of one's physical independence. The list is endless, but a loss is a loss and never felt more deeply than now as we approach the Christmas season.

What words can I speak to this sorrow, this loss and emptiness especially present at this time. The only words that can bring us true Christian peace and joy are the words we find in Sacred Scripture. The scripture readings proclaimed at all our Masses during these Advent days are filled with "good news" of hope, joyful expectancy, restoration, promise, salvation and an assurance that our God, Emmanuel, is God with us. I strongly encourage you to pray with these readings especially the Gospel each day looking for a word, phrase, or message to take into your minds and hearts. Give God's word the power to become real and relevant in your lives. God's word can transform our lives from the inside out.

Another question and challenge for me while experiencing loss in my life, and for those of you experiencing loss, is how we enter and stay within the season of our Church allowing the Church's season to impact and effect the season we experience in the world. The very words we hear of comfort and joy, peace, and hope may be hard to take in at times. First, we must expect the pain and memory of the loss, especially of our loved one to continue to occur for the rest of our lives. With God's grace, we are assured that it will ease in time but never go away until we are reunited with them in heaven. We will experience moments when we think we are getting along better regarding our loss, and then the memory of our loved one will come rolling upon us like the crash of an ocean wave seemingly to knock us over. How do we recover when this happens? Is there a way to brace ourselves for this? I have found that the answer is allowing gratitude to pull me up and brace me to carry on. There is a quote from Martha Hickman's book entitled *Healing After Loss* which states, "The greatest tribute to the dead is not grief but gratitude." Gratitude can move us from the place within ourselves where the focus is on what we lost, and where we lose focus on why we were created, why we are still here and what is our purpose? We were created in love by Almighty God

and created for love. We are our best selves when we love God with our entire being and love our neighbor as ourselves. Love is what makes our hearts ache and long for our loved ones, but when love is enabled to come out from within us, it has the power to transform our pain and suffering and heal us. Our act of loving also makes real and present the person we are mourning.

Our greatest enemy in our grief is to be alone all the time and to stay in mourning. It can have detrimental effects upon our hearts, minds and bodies. God did not create us to be alone or journey through life alone. I implore you to be with the community here at Saint Frances Cabrini. First and foremost, be with us in the celebration of Mass. Nothing compares to being here in person. While praying the Mass may be difficult for some who are experiencing loss, it is necessary, if you are physically able, to go beyond the feelings and be at Mass with the worshipping community. Mass is where we profoundly receive the Living God, the substance our souls need and long for. The Mass is where heaven and earth are joined in a timeless and profound way. We cannot experience this anywhere else. It is during the celebration of the Mass that we are closest to those we love who are now with the Lord. Do not worry about crying when you are here. I am always reminding folks especially those at our Bereavement sessions, "in this church we all cry together." We are greatly blessed here at Saint Frances Cabrini to continue to provide the live streaming of the Mass on Sunday morning at 11:00 AM for those not able to join us in person. We continue to be very grateful to those who provide this ministry. Also, for our Homebound, our Music Director, Jean Madden just did a beautiful video message, and provided a wonderful pastoral column in our Parish Bulletin last week inviting you to call the rectory or visit the website if you would like to have our Christmas carolers stop by your home during their caroling journey on Thursday, December 26th. Jean also invited you to join the carolers and participate with them in their caroling journey. Again, please call the rectory or visit the Parish website. There are many ways at Saint Frances Cabrini to be in community with others. No one needs to be alone. Just ask someone on our Parish Staff or call the rectory and we can contact you.

In closing, Christmas brings us home. Mary, Joseph, and the Child Jesus had to change their homes from time to time. Our physical homes are temporary but our forever home while here on earth is the Catholic Church. It is the place where the family of God both on earth and in heaven are united in love, gathered to praise and thank God. We profoundly experience and receive God's unconditional love in Word and Sacrament. Come home here to Saint Frances Cabrini for Christmas. May the blessings of God be upon you and your families, filling you with His peace and joy.

God's ways are different from ours.

The Lord God is always faithful to his promises. As our celebration of Christmas draws near, we prepare for the coming of Christ by rejoicing with Mary and her cousin Elizabeth as they witness to the mysterious fulfillment of those divine promises in their lives.

Micah 5:1-4a
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

The prophet Micah foretells that the one who is to rule over Israel shall come forth from Bethlehem-Ephrathah. In the second reading, the author writes that Christ came to do God's will and by that will we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. In the Gospel, Mary travels to visit her cousin Elizabeth and at the sound of Mary's voice, the infant in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy.

Little Church is open on Christmas!

Your little ones from ages 2 to 5 are welcome to attend Little Church on Christmas Day, December 25 during 9:00 a.m. Mass. Little Church is located upstairs in the Parish Center. Follow the music! While family members celebrate Christmas at Mass, your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc. will celebrate Jesus' Birthday with joyous activities, prayer, snacks, and songs! Reservations are not required. Little Church is available every Sunday. Beginning February 2, 2025, Little Church will change from 9:00 a.m. Mass to 11:00 a.m. Mass. Children two to five years old can be dropped off any Sunday to participate at Little Church.



Men of Harmony
Christmas Concert
December 22
3:00 PM

Martha's Cupboard

Thank you for your continued support of the Martha's Cupboard Ministry!

The next collection will be January 18 and 19.

Our Parish Community's Martha's Cupboard Ministry thanks you for your generosity in helping those in need within our civic community.

The Martha's Cupboard Ministry wishes you, your family, and friends a Merry Christmas and blessed holiday season!



Christmas Caroling for the Homebound

On Thursday, December 26th, our carolers will gather in the Parish Center at 6:00 PM. Song sheets and maps of the caroling route will be distributed. Those who offer to drive will be paired with carolers who prefer not to drive. The caravan will line up on Gobel Court and will head out to our first home at 6:30 PM. Our goal is to visit every home on the list by 8:30 PM. The carolers end the evening with light refreshments in the Parish Center, taking a few minutes to savor the profound joy of the evening over a cup of hot chocolate, coffee or tea.



Let's go
Caroling

To add a name to the list of homes on our caroling route (by end of day on Dec. 23) or to the list of carolers please call the rectory at 215-946-4040 or visit our Parish website at saintfrancescabrini.net You can also visit our Facebook page to see the details and to sign up to participate.

This festive tradition is a beautiful way to share the true spirit of Christmas: love, compassion, and generosity. By joining in this meaningful activity, you are helping to brighten someone's holiday and offering them a sense of inclusion, joy, and hope.



Whether you're a seasoned caroler or someone new to the practice, your participation will bring a much-needed smile and moment of peace to someone's life. We invite everyone to come together, spread holiday cheer, and make this season extra special for those who need it most. Your voice and kindness can make all the difference this Christmas! I hope to see you in the Parish Center at

6:00 PM on Thursday, December 26th, for our annual Christmas Caroling for the Homebound.

FORMED

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O Holy Night
The acclaimed classical crossover, Annie Moses Band, performs stunning arrangements of holiday favorites.

The Story of Christmas
Benjamin Cello and his friends travel to Pennywhistle Park for a spectacular shadow puppet retelling of "The Story of Christmas"



For these topics and more register for a free account at: Formed.org

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, marking the beginning of the Catholic Church's celebration of the Jubilee Year in 2025. For information and ideas of how you can use this opportunity to grow in faith, see [The Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope – Archdiocese of Philadelphia](https://archphila.org/holyyear/) at: <https://archphila.org/holyyear/>



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SAINT FRANCES CABRINI PARISH COMMUNITY POT OF GOLD WEEKLY LOTTERY PROGRAM



December 16, 2024

6 - 13 - 21 - 27 - 33

Jackpot Prize Winner
(NONE)

CONSOLATION PRIZE WINNERS
4 @ \$250

WINNER
DENISE SABATINI
LISA A.
RALPH
UNKNOWN

SELLER
GARNEAU
WENDY BANNON
RALPH
UNKNOWN

NEXT WEEK'S JACKPOT PRIZE
\$52,000

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.

WE ARE A TITHING COMMUNITY

Sunday Collection—December 15, 2024	\$12,617.00
Parish Giving EFT	\$5,634.00
Total	\$18,251.00
Prior Year's Collection	\$14,469.00

*Thank you for
your financial support!*



To enroll in the St. Frances Cabrini online giving program, please log into: SaintFrancesCabrini.net & click on the Parish Giving Logo.

For fee free electronic giving use your banking institution's Bill Pay option to setup recurring or one-time contributions.

For more information about electronic giving, contact Karen David at 215-946-4040 or Parish@SaintFrancesCabrini.net



**CHURCH
DECORATING**

**Sunday December 22
12:30 pm**

Help prepare the way of the Lord!
Share your time and talent to
decorate our Church for the
coming of Christ this Christmas!



**Are you looking for
fulfillment in your career?**

The Legacy of Life Foundation, a organization dedicated to helping women and strengthening families has fulfilling career opportunities. If you are interested in making an impact to help women and families, we would love to hear from you. We have the following full-time opportunities available:

Director of Development
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Client Services Advocate
This is a key role in our organization in working directly with clients to help women and transform families.

Excellent total compensation package such as competitive salary, a 401K with an employer contribution, free health benefits, generous PTO, and more! If you are interested, please submit your resume, salary requirements, and a cover letter to the attention of Denis Gallagher, Human Resources Manager at denis@legacyoflifefoundation.org.

Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center,
Stone Harbor, NJ, has posted its schedule of programs for the winter and spring of 2025. For more information or to register, visit www.VMbytheSea.com.

Below are our January offerings.

**Wednesday, January 22
10:00 am—4:00 pm \$25**

Private Day of Prayer—On the Day of Prayer for Legal Protection of the Unborn, spend a quiet day praying for the intention of the right to life from conception until natural death. Throughout the day, there will be periods of communal prayer for this very special intention. Lunch and Mass is provided.

**Friday, January 31
8:45 am—2:15 pm \$60***

**Arise and Call her Blessed
Presented by Sr. Sheila Galligan, IHM**

Come to celebrate God's gift of his Mother – whom we usually refer to as the Blessed Virgin Mary. Let's "push pause" and take some time to slowly squeeze the juice out of the descriptive "Blessed" as well as our everyday "go to" prayer: the Hail Mary. Let's come to appreciate the role the Blessed Mother plays in keeping us close to Jesus. Coffee and check-in begins at 8:45 am. The day includes Mass and lunch.

*You may opt to stay overnight the evening before this event for an additional \$95.



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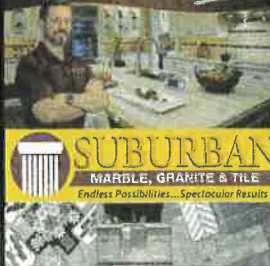


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