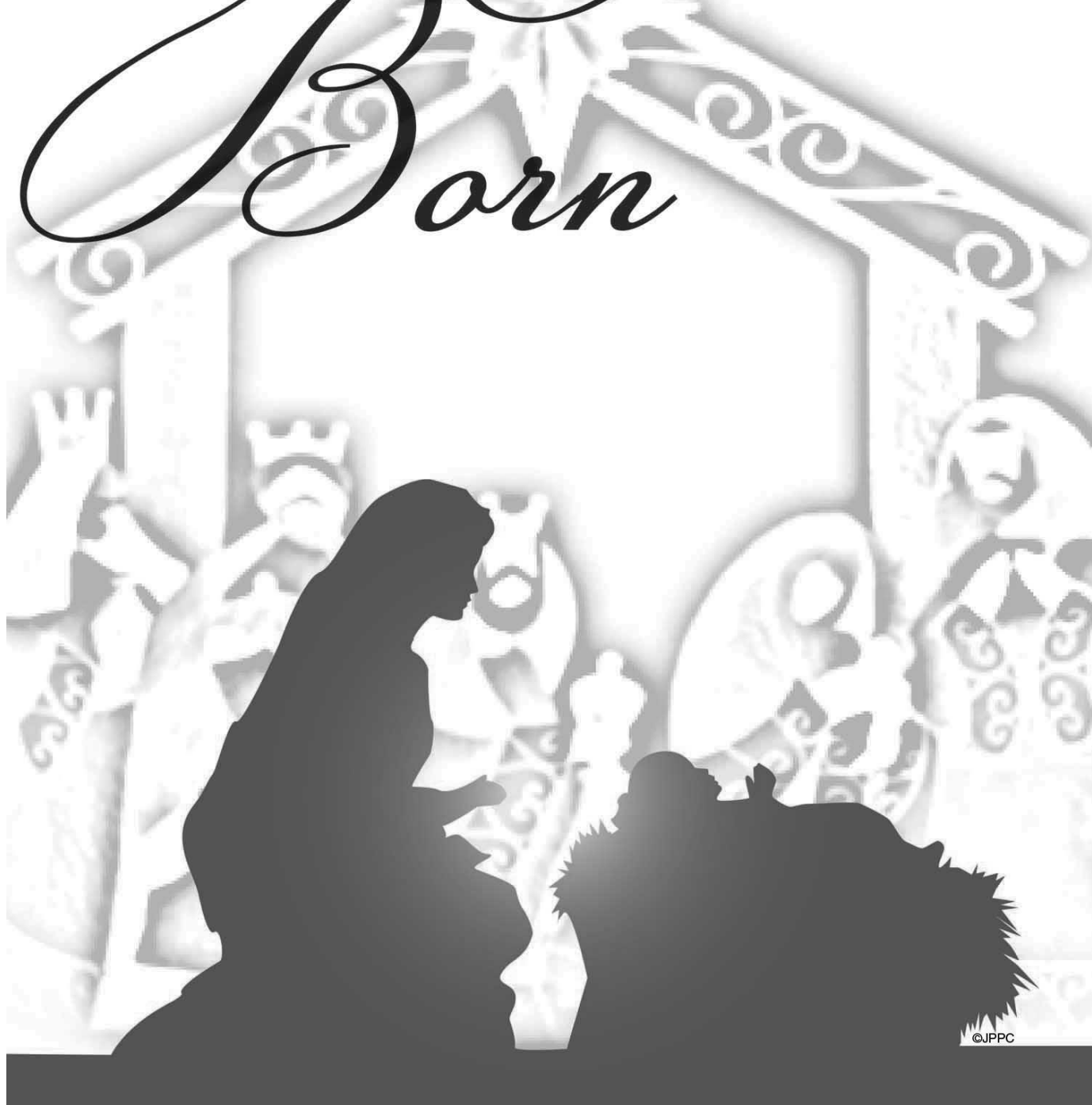


Unto us a Child  
is Born



# MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE CHURCH

East Thompson and Cambria Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19134

**Rev. James Olson**  
*Parochial Administrator*

**Rev. Walter J. Benn**  
*Pastor Emeritus*

**Dcn. Ralph Shirley**  
*Deacon/Parish Ministry*

**Ms. Nellie Hohenstein**  
*Parish Secretary*

**Mrs. Clare Briscella**  
*School Tuition Secretary*

**Mrs. Jane Lockhart**  
*Principal*

**Mrs. Frances Harrigan**  
*School Secretary*



**Rectory**  
2918 E. Thompson St.  
Phone: 215-739-0353  
Fax: 215-739-9910  
E-Mail: [rectory@motherdivinegrace.com](mailto:rectory@motherdivinegrace.com)  
Web Site: [www.motherdivinegrace.com](http://www.motherdivinegrace.com)

**School**  
2612 E. Monmouth St.  
Phone: 215-426-7325  
Fax: 215-426-0753  
Web Site: [www.motherdivinegrace.com](http://www.motherdivinegrace.com)

## **MASS SCHEDULE**

**SATURDAY:** 4:00 PM at MDG; 5:30 PM at St. George

**SUNDAY:** 9:30 AM at St. George; 11:15 AM at MDG

**WEEKDAYS:** Monday through Friday – 8:00 AM

**HOLY DAYS:** 4 PM Vigil and 8 AM at MDG; 11 AM and 7 PM at St. George

## **PARISH REGISTRATION**

Our parish community welcomes all to join us for worship. We invite everyone to be an active and participating member in every aspect of parish life. To be recognized as a member of the parish, one must be registered on the parish census. We cannot issue certificates of eligibility for sponsorship, nor give recommendation for character references if a person is not properly registered. Please register at the Rectory. Notify the Rectory, if you are moving from the parish, or if you have changed your address or telephone number.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

The members of the parish staff are most willing to be of service to all. You are asked, if possible, to arrange an appointment in advance with the person you wish to see.

## **RECTORY OFFICE HOURS**

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Parents must be registered members of our parish to have their children baptized. Parents also must participate in a Pre-Jordan Class. The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month immediately after the 11:15 AM mass.

Parents requesting Baptism for their child are required to make arrangements by appointment with the Pastor.

## **GODPARENTS/SPONSORS**

The role of Baptismal sponsor is primarily a spiritual role to help the newly baptized lead a Christian life. Therefore, a sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, in good standing (married validly), at least 16 years of age, and have received the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy

Eucharist).

## **CONFESSIONS**

**Saturday:** 3:00 to 3:30 pm, and always upon request

## **SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**

Couples wishing to be married here at MDG must contact the Pastor at their earliest convenience but no less than six months before the wedding.

Archdiocesan policy requires all couples preparing for marriage to attend the Pre-Cana Program. Information on the Pre-Cana Program can be obtained at [www.phillycatholicmarriageprep.com](http://www.phillycatholicmarriageprep.com).

## **CARE OF THE SICK**

Before entering the hospital feel free to contact the rectory to arrange for the Sacrament of the Sick.

Communion is brought to all of our shut-ins monthly. Call the rectory to arrange the monthly visits.

Medical Emergencies requiring the Sacrament of the Sick, call (215) 739-0353.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

For information, call the rectory.

## **DEVOTIONS**

Novena to the Sacred Heart at the First Friday Mass.  
Recitation of the Rosary - Monday through Thursday before 8 AM Mass.

## **PARISH ORGANIZATIONS**

Pastoral Council	Home & School
Finance Council	Parish Youth Group
Eucharistic Ministers	Alumni Association
Lectors	Home & School
Cantors	Festival Committee
Ushers	Parish Scripture Study
Technology Fund	RCIA
Family Prayer Group	Men's Prayer Group

For information on any of the above contact the rectory.

## December 24, 2017

### WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

#### Sunday, December 24

11:15am MDG Parishioners  
4:00pm Christmas Vigil at MDG  
5:30pm Christmas Vigil at St. George

#### Monday, December 25: Christmas

9:30am At St. George  
11:15am At MDG

#### Wednesday, December 27: St. John

8:00am Philomena Stendardo  
by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Hall  
and Family

#### Thursday, December 28: The Holy

Innocents  
8:00am Mark Stock  
by MDG School Community

#### Saturday, December 30

4:00pm Robert Weinman  
by Angie Clair

#### Sunday, December 31

11:15am Mr. & Mrs. Louis Lanza, Sr.  
by Louis Lanza, Jr. & Family  
4:00pm New Year's Vigil at MDG

#### Monday, January 1: New Year's Day

8:00am Mass at MDG  
9:30am Mass at St. George

Do you enjoy praying the Rosary with others while adoring the Blessed Sacrament? If so, please join us for the Flame of Love Rosary Devotion group at Mother of Mercy House located at 709 E Allegheny Ave every Tuesday at 7 PM.



**DUE TO PUBLISHERS DEADLINE, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> AND DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> COLLECTIONS WILL BE POSTED IN THE JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> BULLETIN**

#### Please pray for the sick

Especially Jonathan Joseph Devlin, Phyllis Kelly, Louise DiPietro, Gus Wildonger, Pat Grosso, Aidan Blakla, Denise Flores, Mary Thoma, Joan McCrea, Nancy Petaccio, Karen Schwab, Tom Marshall, Rita Savage, Joseph Falsetta, Patty Hart, Larry Farrell, Sister Mary Ripp, Patrick Tacconelli, Colleen Powaserys, John 'Buddy' Savage, Tim Albert, William Voiro, Mary Cataldi, Catherine Madden, William McCabe, Suzanne Baker, Lucy McDonnell, Teddy Hojnacki, Karen Zebrowski, William Boyle, Daniel R. Alfonso

#### This week in Mother of Divine Grace Parish!

- *Tuesday through Friday 8:00 am Masses this week will be in the Chapel*
- *The Rectory will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day*
- *There will be an AA meeting in the School Hall on Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>*

#### SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp burning in the Church the week of December 24, 2017 is for Briglio & Kelly Families by Tom & Phyllis Kelly & Family  
The Sanctuary Lamp burning in the Chapel the week of December 24, 2017 is for Daniel Milillo by Family

#### **A NOTE ABOUT FINANCES:**

As you know, the financial position of Mother of Divine Grace parish is fragile. In order to pay our bills and keep things running we must average \$3,300 per week in the collection for 52 weeks per year. This does not include special collections and assumes that all of the other fundraisers continue to bring in the support that they have in the past. Not long ago, the weekly collections at MDG were well above that level and had been for many years. We ask you to please support our parish in a way that allows us to meet our expenses and serve the people of our community.

### **AMAZONSMILE**

Do you do your shopping at **Amazon.com**? Did you know that you could make a donation to your parish when you shop? All you have to do is sign in to AmazonSmile and shop Amazon as you normally would. **Amazon will donate .05% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Mother of Divine Grace Catholic Church whenever you shop at AmazonSmile.** Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). It may seem like pennies at first, but pennies turn to dollars, and the more people who use it, the more money adds up.

### **ONLINE GIVING**

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you probably do with other obligations? Mother of Divine Grace offers electronic giving for those of you who wish to have contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. Online Giving allows you to make contributions to our church without writing checks or worrying about cash donations. This site lets you set up automatic contributions and change the timing or the amount of your give at any time. You may make pledges and manage your contributions to the pledge amount, and you may make one-time donations to special causes. Please click on "Sign Up for Your New Account" and complete your initial account registration. Visit the parish website at [www.motherdivinegrace.com](http://www.motherdivinegrace.com) and click on **Online Giving**. Online Giving allows you to support your parish consistently, even if you are away from home, which is vital to parish financial stability. If you need more info, please call the rectory. Thank you!

### **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE LIVING**

In addition to our Mass cards for the deceased, the parish also has Mass cards for the living. We can, and should, have masses offered for ALL people, for their health, happiness, and salvation. The Mass is the most powerful prayer you can offer for a living person or deceased person. Consider a Mass intention for the celebration of a sacrament or your next special occasion, wedding, confirmation, birthday.

### **SANCTUARY LAMP**

The origin of the sanctuary lamp is linked to references in the Old Testament. God gave directions for the building of the tabernacle that included a lamp stand (Exodus 25:31-40) and told the Israelites to have oil burning lamps in the meeting tent "from evening to morning" as a perpetual ordinance (Exodus 27:20-21). Modern sanctuary lamps used in Christian worship spaces are linked more directly to the Roman Catholic practice of burning a light in front of the consecrated bread and wine left after a communion service, to signify and honor the presence of Christ in the elements of bread and wine. In Roman Catholic usage the light near the reserved sacrament is enclosed in glass and is placed near the tabernacle.

The sanctuary candle burns continually around the clock. Intentions for the Sanctuary candle last a full week. We have Sanctuary candles near the Blessed Sacrament in our church and in our chapel. The customary donation for the Sanctuary candle intention is \$10.00. Intentions can be made at the rectory.

# The color of the liturgical vestments changes from time to time. This is because the Church uses different colors to indicate the season or feast that is being celebrated.

The different colors are drawn from creation to remind those participating in a liturgy of the different blessings of God.

The colors used are *white* (or gold), *purple* (or violet), *green*, *red* and *rose pink*.

## WHITE

White (or gold), since it is a festive, joyful color, is used during the *Christmas* and *Easter seasons*, and on major feast days, such as, on the celebrations of the Lord other than of his Passion, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of the Holy Angels, and of Saints who were not martyrs, and on the Solemnities of All Saints. Because white symbolizes the Resurrection, it is also the color often used for *funerals*.

## PURPLE

Purple (or violet) symbolizes repentance and penance. Vestments of purple or violet are used during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

The color reminds us of the violet flower that bows its head and is a symbol of humility. Lent is the season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is a quiet season of reflection. The color of Advent is more of a rose-purple, like the sky just before sunrise. This is the time of year when the Church waits in joyful hope to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Purple or violet dye was very expensive. An early Christian, Lydia from Thyatira, made her living from the purple dye trade and was able to support St Paul in his missionary work (Acts 16: 14-15).

## GREEN

Green is a sign of life in nature and as such it represents growth, life and hope. Green is the color worn most often during liturgies in Ordinary Time. It symbolizes the graces that draw people into the life of God. Most of the Church's year is Ordinary Time.

## RED

Red symbolizes both blood and fire. It is the color that is used on *Passion (Palm) Sunday*, *Pentecost Sunday*, and for celebrations of the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is also the color that has traditionally been associated with martyrs – those who have shed their blood for their faith – and so it is worn on *the feast days of martyrs*.

## ROSE PINK

Rose pink is an optional color that may be used on the *Third Sunday of Advent* and the *Fourth Sunday of Lent*. On both of these days, the Entrance Antiphon calls us to rejoice, so the pink vestments mark a softening of the penitential tone of the season.