



FEAST OF THE

*Holy Family*

# 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.  
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**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 31, 2017

### WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

#### 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 in Church  
9:30am Mass at St. George

#### Tuesday, January 2: Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

8:00am Laura Rusk  
by Mark & Donna McDonnell

#### Wednesday, January 3: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:00am Walter Paul  
by White Lockhart Family

#### Thursday, January 4: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:00am Shawn Gallagher  
by White Lockhart Family

#### Friday, January 5: St. John Neumann

8:30am Joe Porter  
by Terry Wahl

#### Saturday, January 6

4:00pm Joseph Shinn  
by Angie Clair

#### Sunday, January 7: The Epiphany of the Lord

11:15am Dolly Pandaleno  
by Family

**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 Taconelli, Colleen Powaserys, John 'Buddy' Savage, Tim Albert, William Vairo, 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!

- *New Year's Day mass will be at 8:00 am at MDG in Church and at 9:30 am at St. George*
- *The Tuesday through Thursday 8:00 am Masses this week will be in the Chapel. Friday 8:30 am Mass will be in Church.*
- *The Rectory will be closed on New Year's Day*
- *Home & School Board Meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm*
- *There will be an AA meeting in the School Hall on Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup>*

#### 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.

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.



### **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.



## GESTURES AND ACTIONS – THE PRIEST

### PROCESSING

One of the main actions that we see during the liturgy is processing, or moving towards or away from the sanctuary. The opening procession shows us who we are, the baptized People of God, as the Priest and other ministers pass through the assembly. As the Gospel Acclamation is sung the Book of the Gospels is brought in procession to the lectern or ambo. Jesus is present in the scriptures. We listen to God's Word. When the Mass is ended the altar servers and Priest process out of the church as the people stand and sing the final hymn.

### BOWING

To bow is a sign of reverence for persons and things. In Mass the Priest will bow when he comes to the altar at the beginning of Mass (unless the Tabernacle is in the sanctuary, in which case he will make a genuflection in honor of the Presence of Christ.) At other times during Mass the Priest will bow – during the Nicene Creed when mention is made of the incarnation (when the Holy Spirit came upon the Blessed Virgin Mary and she conceived Jesus); and during the Preparation of the Gifts when he says a quiet prayer.

### INCENSING

At some Masses the Priest will use incense which is burnt in a special brazier called a thurible. At the beginning of the Mass he will swing the thurible around the altar as a sign of reverence for the Table of Sacrifice. The Deacon will incense the Gospel Book as a sign of reverence for the Gospel to be proclaimed. At the Preparation of the Offerings, the Priest will incense the bread and wine and altar before the Eucharistic Prayer. The Deacon or thurifer (the minister who carries the thurible) will incense the Priest, other ministers and the assembly as a sign of reverence and acknowledging the dignity of the baptized and those called to Holy Orders in the Church.

### GREETING

The Priest will make the Sign of the Cross at the beginning of Mass (along with everyone else) and then extends his hands in greeting the assembly.

### SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER

Sometimes at Mass (and especially during Easter Time) the Priest might sprinkle the assembly with Holy Water as a reminder of baptism as part of the Introductory Rites. This water is sometimes blessed at the Mass or during Easter the water is that which was blest at the Easter Vigil.

### GESTURES WHEN PRAYING

When the Priest is leading the people in prayer he will often hold out his hands in a way that indicates he is praying this prayer for everyone present. This gesture has a special name – it is called the *orans* position.

### PREPARING THE GIFTS

The key part of the Mass is the offering of the Eucharist. The gifts of bread and wine are brought forward by members of the assembly. These gifts represent the life and labor of this assembly that has gathered. As the Priest prepares the gifts of bread and wine to be offered, we see many actions that remind us how important this time is. A lovely moment we see during the preparation for Consecration is when the Priest mixes water into the wine that has been brought to the altar. He says: *By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.* The mixing of the water and wine reminds us that we are all joined in Christ and he is one with us, both human and divine.

### THE CONSECRATION

As the Priest continues the Eucharistic Prayer he raises the bread, and says: *Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my Body, which will be given up for you.* An altar server rings the sanctuary bells as the Host is raised. The Priest then continues the prayers and raises the chalice and says: *Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.* The sanctuary bells are again rung. The actions of the Priest help us to understand that the bread and wine have changed, or been consecrated, to become the Body and Blood of Jesus.

### RECEIVING COMMUNION

The Priest then concludes the Eucharistic Prayer and after he has received Holy Communion he may be joined on the sanctuary by the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. They are given vessels containing the consecrated Hosts or sometimes a chalice containing the Precious Blood. The assembly forms a procession and they come to the altar to receive Holy Communion. As the people come forward to receive the Host they make a gesture of reverence i.e. they bow. The minister of Communion holds up the Host and says *The Body of Christ* and the person replies *Amen*. The Host is then placed in the palm of the hand of the person receiving Communion, or alternatively the person can receive Holy Communion on the tongue. They step to the side and carefully put the host into their mouth. The same actions are done with the Precious Blood when the minister says *The Blood of Christ*.

### BLESSING

The Priest at the end of Mass will bless the people in the name of the Holy Trinity. He does this by making the Sign of the Cross over the assembly, and the people themselves then make the Sign of the Cross.