

# St. Hilary of Poitiers Parish

820 SUSQUEHANNA ROAD, RYDAL, PA 19046

215-884-3252 / sthilaryrydal@gmail.com / www.sthilarypoitiers.org

DECEMBER 15, 2024

*THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT*



I am baptizing you with water,  
but one mightier than I is coming.

Luke 3:16

## PASTOR'S CORNER

*"Rejoice always in the Lord."*

This third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as "Gaudete Sunday." It is a call to rejoice. The word rejoice appears over and over again in our Scripture readings today. In the Gospel, people are looking for something or someone to rejoice in. However, in light of the evil unleashed in places like in our cities, joy is certainly a distant emotion. Random acts of violence preyed on innocent victims. Evil is very much alive and lashes out no matter who is in its path.

We pray to God "to deliver us from every evil." God has answered that prayer in the birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus was a victim of evil's fury, yet in His Resurrection, He gave evil a death blow. In the end, good will always triumphs. Evil may have its day but God will have the final say and final judgment. "God is in our midst," Isaiah tells us, and he, too, sheds tears for all innocent victims. What are we to do, the gospel questions today. The best thing we can do is draw closer to the Lord. Allow His plan to develop in our lives. Allow random acts of kindness to unfold in all areas of our lives. Don't allow any type of evil get a foothold in our lives. Allow room and space for reconciliation with family and friends. As St. Paul says, "Let your kindness be known to all."

Advent is a joy-filled time to reflect again on the words of Pope Benedict, "Let us all develop a heart that sees, where love is needed, and to act accordingly."



Happy Advent,  
*Father Murray*

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Sunday, December 15, 2024

*Third Sunday of Advent*

5:00pm ~ Rose and Charles Eckardt

8:30am ~ John, Rose and Henry McErlean

10:30am ~ Timothy O'Connor

### Monday, December 16, 2024

8:00am ~ Clara Trappler

*(Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet are prayed after daily Mass.)*

8:30am-4:00pm ~ Adoration

\*\*\* Confessions 7:00-8:00pm

### Tuesday, December 17, 2024

8:00am ~ Jean and Jack Adair

### Wednesday, December 18, 2024

8:00am ~ Joseph Hartey

### Thursday, December 19, 2024

8:00am ~ Marie and James Wise

### Friday, December 20, 2024

8:00am ~ Anna Marie and Emil A. Maikner

### Saturday, December 21, 2024

5:00pm ~ Hopkins and Morley Families

### Sunday, December 22, 2024

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:30am ~ Gerry McCleary

10:30am ~ Robert Babcock



### ST. HILARY WEDNESDAY NIGHT ROSARY GROUP

Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm on the first floor of the Parish Center to pray the Rosary. All are welcome! For more information, contact Maria Greenberg at 215-603-3092 or [mariastell72@gmail.com](mailto:mariastell72@gmail.com)

### CHECK OUT THE ST. HILARY PARISH TWITTER ACCOUNT, INSTAGRAM, AND FACEBOOK PAGE!

[St. Hilary of Poitiers Online \(Rydal, PA\) \(@sthilary\\_rydal\) / Twitter](#)

[St Hilary of Poitiers - Rydal, PA \(@sthilary\\_rydal\) | Instagram](#)

[St Hilary of Poitiers Church - Rydal, PA | Abington PA | Facebook](#)



**STATEMENT OF ARCHBISHOP NELSON PÉREZ  
REGARDING THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED  
CARLO ACUTIS AND BLESSED PIER GIORGIO  
FRASSATI IN 2025**

My heart was filled with great joy to learn that Pope Francis will canonize Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati as saints next year! This news ushers in great celebration for the Universal Church and especially for young Catholics. Blessed Carlo will be the first saint from the Millennial Generation and Blessed Pier Giorgio is a model of Missionary Discipleship for young adults leading busy lives while searching for true fulfillment.

Blessed Carlo, who died in 2016 at age 15, is an inspiration for children and adolescents through his passion for using technology to evangelize and share his devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist. Blessed Pier Giorgio, who died in 1925 at age 24, is a model for young adults through his dedication to serving the poor in urban areas while balancing university studies, social activism, and daily prayer.

Both of these saintly young men reflect the call for today's youth and young adults to live out their Catholic faith with courage, compassion, and divine love. Blessed Carlo, in particular, holds a special place in the heart of our local Church. We were blessed to host his mother, Antonia Salvano Acutis last fall when she spoke about her son's love and devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist at our Eucharistic Congress. Her reflections filled us with wonder and awe. They still resonate as we strive to follow in the footsteps of her son.

I pray that the inspiration flowing from Blessed Carlo and Blessed Pier Giorgio will fuel the zealous hearts of our young people to serve others with Christ as their model. All Catholics should rejoice, as I do, in the canonization of saints for our time and for those who will inherit the Church on earth. Blessed Carlo and Blessed Pier Giorgio pray for us!

*Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia*

**Editor's Note:** Blessed Carlo Acutis will be canonized on April 27, 2025 during the Jubilee for Adolescents in Rome April 25 to 27, and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati during the Jubilee of Young People in Rome July 28 to August 3, 2025.

**GOT SIN? GET MERCY!**

Prepare well for Christmas and let Jesus be your Lord and Redeemer!

**There will be confessions  
this Monday, Dec. 16 at 7:00-8:00pm.  
We will have several priests to assist  
with confessions.**

**ST. HILARY OF POITIERS SCHOOL**  
**PreK Kindergarten Grades 1-8**

**Website:** [www.sainthilaryschool.com](http://www.sainthilaryschool.com)  
**Phone:** 215-887-4520  
**Principal:** Mrs. Eileen Fagan  
**Email:** [efagan@sainthilaryschool.com](mailto:efagan@sainthilaryschool.com)



**ST. HILARY  
CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL  
THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14  
6:00 to 8:00pm**

**PLEASE JOIN US TO HELP CELEBRATE  
THE START OF CHRISTMAS SEASON!  
ALL ARE WELCOME!  
FUN FOR ALL AGES!**

**Food Games Tree Lighting**  
**Live Nativity Music Secret Santa Shop**  
**Gingerbread House Competition Display**  
**Santa and the Firetruck Bake Sale**  
**Pictures with Santa...and more!**

**ST. HILARY OF POITIERS  
ANNUAL GIVING TREE!**

*This year, the gifts will benefit 3 organizations:*

- \* **Birthright** which aids women in crisis pregnancy and after child-birth
- \* **Cradle of Hope** which provides warmth and shelter for single mothers
- \* **St. Francis Inn** which meets the immediate needs of the destitute



*The Giving Tree is placed at the main entrance to the Church with tags listing the needed items. Also, inside the Church, a basket with tags can be found by both of the side exit doors, and you can pick up a tag from there as well. We ask that all gifts please be **UNWRAPPED** and placed under the tree at the entrance to Church **by THIS Sunday, Dec. 15**. Thanks to your kind generosity, this drive has always been a great success and a wonderful way to begin the season of giving!*



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AT WORK RECENTLY**

*Members of the Knights of Columbus placed fences around our 18 saucer magnolia trees to protect them from deer that were breaking off the limbs. Many thanks to the Knights for their time and hard work!!*



**MORE SAFETY FOR ST. HILARY SCHOOL!**

St. Hilary of Poitiers School has been awarded the 2024-25 School Safety Grant through the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency for \$61,500! We anticipate that these grant funds will be allocated for a new front door, new signage on the property, and blue band radios for all buildings. We extend our gratitude to the Montgomery County Dept. of Public Safety, The School Safety Specialist and School Safety Coordinator, Abington Management Team, Rep. Ben Sanchez, and Abington Police Depts. for their assistance. The new side door and hallway door from the previous grant will be installed soon. More info on exciting improvements as we receive further info from the state!

**ANGELUS**



The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, and she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord, Be it done unto me according to your Word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word was made flesh, And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts: that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



**ST. HILARY'S EAGLES FOOTBALL BLOCK POOL**



**Week 12 Winners**

**Pool #1:** Debbie Shute

**Pool #2:** Alaina DiCiaccio

**Week 11 Winners**

**Pool #1:** Lattanzi Fam.

**Pool #2:** Owens Family

**Week 10 Winners**

**Pool #1:** Yaegel Family

**Pool #2:** Foley Family

**Week 09 Winners**

**Pool #1:** Big Ed Bongard

**Pool #2:** Dan Cifuni

**Week 08 Winners**

**Pool #1:** Nina Skoczylas

**Pool #2:** Brenner Fam.

**Week 07 Winners**

**Pool #1:** Mary McCallister

**Pool #2:** Vito Family

**Week 06 Winners**

**Pool #1:** Alex Muttreja

**Pool #2:** Egan Family

**Week 05 Winners**

**Pool #1:** Hartey Family

**Pool #2:** John Tyszka

**Week 04 Winners**

**Pool #1:** Ed Bongard

**Pool #2:** Valentino Fam

**Week 03 Winners**

**Pool #1:** Debbie Shute

**Pool #2:** Alaina DiCiaccio

**Week 02 Winners**

**Pool #1:** Connie Fennell

**Pool #2:** Fenstermakers

**Week 01 Winners**

**Pool #1:** Debbie Shute

**Pool #2:** Alaina DiCiaccio



Thank you for supporting the St. Charles Borromeo Annual Seminary Appeal. Your generosity does more than just support our seminarians. Your gift also provides for the future of our faith. If you haven't made your gift yet, it's not too late; please prayerfully consider a donation. There are extra envelopes available at Church. Thanks!

**ST. HILARY ANNUAL BLOCK COLLECTION**

Thanks to all those who have already contributed to our annual St. Hilary Block Collection! To date, **\$25,510** has been collected to-date. Your loyalty and care for the needs of the parish have been an inspiration. Thanks & God bless you. -Fr. Murray





## THE LEGEND OF THE CANDY CANE



The **hard candy** reminds us that *Jesus is our rock.* (Psalm 61:2)

The **cane shape** reminds us of a *shepherd's staff* and the shepherd that came to worship Jesus. It also reminds us of how Jesus came into the world to be a shepherd of his people. (Luke 2:8-15 and John 10:11)

The upside-down candy cane forms the **letter "J"** and reminds us of the name of *Jesus* which means "God saves." (Matthew 1:21)

The **peppermint flavor** reminds us of the *gift of spices* from the Wise Men. (Matthew 2:11)

The **white candy** reminds us of *purity and holiness.* It recalls the virgin birth of Christ, the sinless life of Christ and the holy life that Jesus wants his people to live. (Matthew 1:23 and 1 Peter 1:15)

The **color red** reminds us that *Jesus became a real flesh and blood man* and spilled his blood to save his people. (Hebrews 2:14)

The **stripes** remind us of the *lashes Jesus received* when he suffered for us and ultimately bore our sins that we might be healed. (1 Peter 2:24-25)

**Please take a moment to read this quote of Pope Francis. It's fitting for believers & non-believers alike.**

"You can have flaws, be anxious and even be angry, but do not forget that your life is the greatest enterprise in the world. Only you can stop it from failing. You are appreciated, admired, and loved by so many. Remember that being happy is not having a sky without a storm, a road without accidents, a job without effort, a relationship without disappointments. To be happy is to stop feeling like a victim and become the author of your own fate. It's walking through deserts, but being able to find an oasis deep in the soul. It is thanking God every morning for the miracle of life. It's kissing your children, cuddling your parents, having poetic moments with your friends, even when they hurt us. Being happy is letting the creature that lives in each of us live free, joyful and simple. You have the maturity to be able to say, 'I've made mistakes' and it's having the courage to say you're sorry. It's having the sense to say, 'I need you' and having the ability to say, 'I love you'. May your life become a garden of opportunities for happiness. And when you make a mistake, start over. Because only then will you be in love with life. You'll discover that being happy isn't having a perfect life. But use tears to irrigate tolerance. Use your defeats to train your patience. Above all, never give up on the people that love you. Never give up on being happy, because life is an incredible spectacle."  
-- Pope Francis



## ADVENT SEASON

*"Come, Lord Jesus"*

**DAILY MASS** Monday to Friday at 8:00am

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Mondays 8:30am to 4:00pm;  
private visits encouraged



**SCRIPTURE STUDY GROUPS** are on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays; four weekly sessions which started the week of November 18<sup>th</sup>

**CONFESSIONS** are **every** Saturday 4-4:45pm; the Sundays in Advent after the 10:30am Mass; and on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
4:00pm  
and  
Wednesday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>  
8:30am & 10:30am

### MASSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>  
4:00pm  
and  
Wednesday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>  
8:30am & 10:30am



### Some reflections for this 3rd Week of Advent in preparing for the Lord:

**Sunday** ~ "Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem." (Pope Francis)

**Monday** ~ "Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord." (Henri Nouwen)

**Tuesday** ~ This will be a sign for you; you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. (Luke 2:12)

**Wednesday** ~ And the Word became flesh, and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

**Thursday** ~ The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:2)

**Friday** ~ For a child has been born for us...and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

**Saturday** ~ You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. (Luke 1:14-15)

**Updated St. Hilary 55+ Spirit Club News:**

The St. Hilary 55+ Spirit Club next meeting will be on **Wed., December 18**. This will be a special meeting that will include lunch and entertainment by the Saint Hilary School Choir. There is a rumor that we may be joined by “the jolly man in the red suit.” New members are always welcome - we are a very fun and welcoming group! You do not have to be a parish member to join. If you have any questions, feel free to call Ro Schell at 215-206-5313, Mike Schell at 215-206-4530, or Rosesylvia McDonald 215-219-0651. Looking forward to seeing you Dec. 18 - doors open at 9am and the meeting starts at 10am. Thanks!

**WHY DO CATHOLICS DISPLAY NATIVITY SCENES?**

The tradition of displaying nativity scenes began with St. Francis of Assisi, who was awed that God humbled Himself to be born in humility and poverty. To illustrate, he displayed a manger scene in a cave near the Franciscans’ chapel, complete with donkey and ox. According to an eyewitness, the wax figure of the Christ Child came alive as he celebrated Christmas Mass. We are reminded that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

**PRAYER LINE**

*Help is needed for our Parish Prayer Line. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Line and be contacted to pray for the sick, please call Virginia at 215-663-1418.*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING SICK:**

Michael Dooley, Jack Avak, Michael Brown, Nicolas Lid-dy, Bob Kilcoyne, Mary Jane Namola, Elizabeth Dieckman, Sophia Southerling, TJ McDonald, Ahmed Abdul, Sal Sermania, Sue Masantonia, Angela Gavin, Wil-liam Hartner, Mary Jane Hummel, Pat Cass, Michele Kelly, Tina Savarino, Nicholas Esposito, Sarah Koehler, Paris Luckowski, Judy Sklar, Bernadette Redican, Gina Deva-ney, Bob Steele, Linda Smithson, Eileen Burger, Brian Bailie, Lionel Melly Wright, Cole Plachter, Mary Jo Reaby, Kevin Rosenbaum, Capt. Schaffr, Dan Webb, Rhodena Thompson, Bruce Thompson II, Linda Urie, Sonna Alamar, Sharon Fainelli, Donald Budrejko, Maura Murphy, Gregory Marrone, Jim Comet, Ian Reilly, Kira McKeever, Michael Lucas, John Rieth, Holly Judge, Greg Ziembe, Dilynn List-man, Anne Visco, Daniel Hare, Gloria Hannah, BJ Verdon, Fidelia Almerini, Liliana DeGrazia, Leila Koehler, Martha Serdner, Rolando Juarez, Theresa Williams, Bob Donnolly, Ilda Leal, Isaiah Walter, Regina Carberry, Scott Paris, Ben Paris, Michelle Hannah, Michael Keough, Donna Cunning-ham, Joanne McKee, Jamie Leal, Helen Toland

*Please pray for the souls  
of all of the deceased*

**ST. HILARY OF POITIERS CHURCH**

**WEEKEND MASSES**

Saturdays at 5:00pm  
Sundays at 8:30am and 10:30am,  
*(new schedule started in January 2024; this will be the permanent schedule all during the year, including the summer)*

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

8 AM on Monday thru Friday

**CONFESSIONS:**

Saturdays 4 – 4:45 PM; **Sundays in Advent after 10:30am Mass**

**HOLY DAYS**

7 PM Vigil; 8 AM and 10 AM on holy day

**Pastor ~ Rev. Kevin P. Murray**

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**In Residence ~ Rev. Jacob John**

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**Coordinator of Religious Education ~ Noreen Forkin**

sthilaryprep@gmail.com

**Business Manager ~ Maureen Maher**

**Parish Secretary ~ Marian Stengel 215-884-3252**

sthilaryrydal@gmail.com

**Music Director ~ Justin Jue Plant Manager ~ Hal Fagan**

**BAPTISM:** Sundays after the 10:30am Mass. Please email or call the Rectory for more information.

**MATRIMONY:** Couples planning to marry should contact the Rectory six months before the desired date.

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 4pm; closed for lunch 12-1  
Fridays 8:30am to noon

*Please note that church envelopes, as well as Tuition pay-ments and other school payments, can be dropped off in the secure **BLACK** lockbox outside the rectory during off-hours.*

*Thank you!*



**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**  
**TOTAL WEEKLY SUNDAY COLLECTION**

**December 8, 2024**

**December 10, 2023**

**Sunday Offering: \$4,362**

**Sunday Offering: \$5,420**

**Electronic Giving: \$3,771**

**Electronic Giving: \$2,630**

**Total: \$8,133**

**Total: \$8,050**

**Immaculate Conception: \$925**



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