



**PRIEST MASS SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024**

5:00PM Fr. John  
 6:30AM Fr. Kirk  
 8:00AM Fr. Kirk  
 10:00AM Fr. John  
 12:00PM Fr. John

**Monday December 2, 2024**

6:30 Regina Feeney req. by Jerdan Family  
 8:00 James Knox req. by Family

**Tuesday December 3, 2024**

6:30 Melania Obst req. by DiCicco Family  
 8:00 Irene Murray req. by Ed & Maryann

**Wednesday December 4, 2024**

6:30 Elaine Ramirez req. by Cheryl & Mark Lampe  
 8:00 Henry Sobieski req. by Family

**Thursday December 5, 2024**

6:30 Deacon Dennis Paltech Warner  
 8:00 Kevin Nolan req. by Whoriskey Family

**Friday December 6, 2024, 2024**

6:30 Ted Smith req. by Marasheski Family  
 8:00 James Desher req. by M/M R. Gilbert  
 9:00 Jeanne Armstrong req. by Gail & Matt O'Brien

**Saturday December 7, 2024**

8:00 Leon Flanagan req. by Mom & Dad  
 5:00PM Carol Peglow req. by Family

**Sunday December 8, 2024**

6:30 Alice Ott req. by Marasheski Family  
 8:00 Thanksgiving- Blessed Mother req. by Teson Fam  
 10:00 Dec'd Mem of Cummings Fam req. by Family  
 12:00 Terry McCormick req. by Dee & Kevin Kaelin



On Sunday, November 24, 2024, one girl received the sacrament of Baptism by which she was incorporated into the Body of Christ:  
*Kinsley Rae Kirkegard* – daughter of M/M Conor Kirkegard



**All sick parishioners, their relatives, and friends:**

**All deceased parishioners, their relatives, and friends:**

Janet Witkowski – mother of Maryanne Balkir

**For those in the armed forces:** Joseph Pitts-Air Force; Brendan Vizza-Marines; Andrew Morrison, Marine Corp; Eric Charles Taylor-Navy; Emma Marks-Navy; Ryan Sylvester-Air Force; Kyle Higgins-Army; Justin T. Erbrick-Army; Sean Conroy-Navy; Joseph Erbrick, III-Marines; Joseph Costick-Coast Guard; Christopher Smith-Navy; Alex McAneney-Air Force; Brian McGinty-Marines; Dan O'Brien-Air Force; Ashley O'Brien-Air Force; Daniel Patty-Navy; Michael Sheppard-Air Force; Hoku Teson-Army; John McFillin-Navy; Trevor O'Malley-Army; Daniel Taylor-Air Force; Stephen Winther-Marines; Bobby Winther-Navy; Amanda Smith-Navy; Joseph Patty-Army; Christian Curtis-Marines; Thomas Campbell-Marines

**Divine Mercy Prayers** are on the third Sunday of each Month after the 10 AM Mass. All are welcome.

**Hospital Visits** - If you are in the hospital and would like a visit from a priest, please call the rectory office at 215-637-7515. Due to HIPPA laws we are unable to get information from the hospital - we must hear directly from the patient/family.



**LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 8, 2024**

<i>Mass</i>	<i>Communion</i>	<i>Lectors</i>
<b>5:00PM</b>	R. Gola C. Gola	C. Gola
<b>6:30AM</b>	S. Brown	J. Hopkins
<b>8:00AM</b>	J. Robbins M. Bloesch	M. Hatfield
<b>10:00AM</b>	M. Bateman J. Hopkins	D. Makowiecki P. Kolman
<b>12:00PM</b>	P. Cargan M. Hall	D. Bores



**Christmas Flowers** will be the second collection on the weekend of November 30/ December 1. This collection will help defray the cost of flowers for the altar during the Christmas season. Thank you for your generosity.



Home & School will be hosting **Our Annual Christmas Bazaar** on Friday, December 6, 2024 -7PM-10PM ADULTS ONLY and December 7, 2024 - 10AM-3PM.

**HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE** – Help TJ FLUEHR & his STAFF to fill the cupboard at Holy Redeemer Food Pantry this December. We will be collecting non-perishable food items to be distributed to families in need through December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The food pantry is in need of ready-made items such as, but not limited to, canned soups, canned raviolis, canned pasta and meatballs, pasta sauces in plastic jars, etc. Through your generosity, we hope to feed many families this holiday season. Please place items in the designated box at the back of church or reach out to us directly at 215-637-7373.

**St. John's Hospice Coat Drive** – Saint John's Hospice needs winter coats. The coat drive will take place from December 1<sup>st</sup> to December 15<sup>th</sup> and can be dropped off at the rectory office. We are accepting gently used men's and women's coats. Hats, gloves, and scarves are also needed. Thank you for your support.



OLC will be sponsoring a "giving tree" to help those less fortunate in the St. Martin of Tours Catholic community. If you wish to purchase a gift for a needy child, we ask that you take a tag from the tree. The trees will remain in the front and rear of church and will stay until all tags are gone.

**Please purchase the gift and return it UNWRAPPED**, with the tag, to the OLC GYM on December 7 – 4:30PM to 6:15PM or December 8- 8:30AM to 1:15PM. Gift cards may be purchased at the rectory or at the store. The gift cards can be returned to the rectory, with the yellow tag, anytime during rectory hours. Donations to purchase additional gifts are also accepted.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share our blessings with less fortunate members of the Catholic community during the Christmas Season. Thank you for your generosity.

**Philly Catholic S ingles 30-45: Upcoming Events** – Join other Catholic singles for fun events! We host friendly events for marriage-minded Catholics ages 30-45

\*Sat – Dec 7 @ 3PM-5PM – Speed Dating at St. Margaret of Antioch Church, Narberth. \$25 covers entry, wine, and appetizers. We will finish in time for 5:15 Vigil Mass – Join waitlist at

[www.PhillyCatholic.Singles](http://www.PhillyCatholic.Singles)

\*More events in 2025: wine tasting, nature hike, adoration & happy hour, board game night and more!

Email [PhillyCatholicSingles@Gmail.com](mailto:PhillyCatholicSingles@Gmail.com) to join our email list and get early access to our events. Our chaplain is Fr. DeLacy. Learn more at [www.PhillyCatholic.Singles](http://www.PhillyCatholic.Singles)

**CALVARY SENIORS** meet every Tuesday at Regina Coeli Hall (across from Torresdale train station), 9617 James Street. Doors open at 9:30 and the meeting start at 10:30.

**Al Anon** meeting at 7:00PM on Sundays (in person) in the lower church meeting room.

## Questions and Answers on Stem Cell Research

By Pennsylvania Catholic Bishops (Part 1 of 3)

*Pennsylvania's Catholic bishops' joint statement to clarify the Church's teaching on why embryonic stem cell research is morally unacceptable. The bishops note that the "Vatican Instruction on Respect for Human Life" says that "no objective, even though noble in itself, such as a foreseeable advantage to science, to other human beings, or society, can in any way justify experimentation on living human embryos or fetuses, whether viable or not, either inside or outside the mother's body."*

**"God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end; no one can under any circumstance claim the right directly to destroy an innocent human being."**

(Catechism of the Catholic Church 2258)

### Stem Cell Research

Medical science today holds out the promise of cures to diseases and medical advances far beyond anything imagined, even a generation ago. Much of what we hear, particularly in media accounts of this type of "medical miracle," has to do with a remarkable technology called stem cell research. This new medical research industry currently treats numerous illnesses and injuries and offers hope for more cures using adult stem cells.

We rejoice with these advances in medical science and the promise of relief to human suffering. *At the same time, we have an obligation to ensure that medical capabilities do not progress so rapidly that they lack an ethical and moral foundation. Whatever is accomplished, we must be sure that it is not just what we are able to do but what we should do.*

There is a definite and necessary moral context for medical development as well as an ethical content to decisions involving stem cell research. It is the moral dimension of medical science that we call to your attention.

As the Bishops of Pennsylvania, we have a responsibility to help people make an informed moral judgment about one of the most important issues that we, as a people, face today. We must examine carefully the facts to determine what exactly is at issue and why the moral prohibition against the use of evil means to achieve a good end is applicable.

### What is stem cell?

A stem cell is an unspecialized cell. Stem cells have the potential to develop into a full range of tissues that constitute the human body. This makes them so attractive to researchers. The science of cell therapy concentrates on ways to replace, repair or enhance the biological function of damaged tissues or organs in the body.

### What are embryonic stem cells?

At the very beginning of human life, the sperm and egg come together to form an embryo. After that embryo has grown for about 5-7 days, it contains embryonic stem cells which can be extracted. In this procedure, the embryo is killed. Similar embryonic-type stem cells can also be obtained from aborted fetuses. The extracted cells are then cultivated in a laboratory, replicating over and over again.

### What are adult stem cells and from where do they come?

Fortunately, embryos are not the only source of stem cells. Adult stem cells are found in the individual at any time after birth. *There are a number of ethical sources of stem cells that hold out realistic hope for cures and treatments of diseases.* Stem cells from adult tissues, which are committed to differentiating into a limited number of cell types such as liver, brain or blood, are called adult stem cells. These too have the capability of developing into specific tissues. Adult-type stem cells can also be derived from various pregnancy-related sources such as umbilical cords, placentas and amniotic fluid. Some scientists today assert that not only are adult stem cells more readily available but they are also more effective in treating diseases.

### Which of the types of stem cells are medically most successful?

Stem cells derived from placental or umbilical cord blood have proven to be remarkably effective, similar to other adult stem cells. Originally it was theorized that stem cells from these various sources would be ineffective because they are limited in their ability to become various types of cells. However, alternative sources of stem cells have been successfully differentiated into needed tissue and are already effective in healing human illnesses. More than 50 diseases have already been treated successfully in humans using adult and umbilical cord stem cells.

### What does the Church teach about adult stem cell research?

The Church does not oppose all stem cell research. In fact, the Church encourages and supports medical development and technological advancement. Adult stem cells are a solution. These cells exist in our bodies and provide a natural repair mechanism for many tissues of our bodies. There are methods available for obtaining human stem cells from adults. Furthermore, many therapies in humans have been successfully developed using adult stem cells. These include treatments for leukemia, Juvenile diabetes, spinal cord injury, immune deficiency and corneal damage. It is important to note that no therapies in humans have ever been successfully carried out using embryonic stem cells.