



**PRIEST MASS SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024**

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

**Monday December 9, 2024**

6:30 Danny Blann, Sr req. by David Gunn  
 8:00 Ruth Daukas req. by Peggy & James Knox

**Tuesday December 10, 2024**

6:30 Francis Brady req. by Caroline & David Gunn  
 8:00 Harry Perez req. by Bonnie Jean Quiring

**Wednesday December 11, 2024**

6:30 Bridget Higgins req. by Mom, Dad, John  
 8:00 James & Edd McGuckin req. by Joan

**Thursday December 12, 2024**

6:30 Barbara Campagna req. by Cistone Family  
 8:00 Richard Garrow req. by M/M Ray Gilbert

**Friday December 13, 2024**

6:30 Melina Obst req. by John & Pat Wisniewski  
 8:00 Edward Murray req. by Ed & Maryann

**Saturday December 14, 2024**

8:00 Ryan Alburger req. by Family  
 5:00PM Carol Peglow req. by Family

**Sunday December 15, 2024**

6:30 Melania Obst req. by O'Donnell Family  
 8:00 Maryann McFadden req. by Miller Family  
 10:00 Margaret Hatch req. by Pat Jacob  
 12:00 Dec'd Mem of Carman Fam req. by Kaelin Fam



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

Michael Morris – brother of Jim Morris

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

Carolyn DeSautel – wife of Raymond DeSautel

Wayne Braddock – husband of Daria Braddock

Mark Burgmann – husband of Maryanne Burgmann

**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 15, 2024**

<i>Mass</i>	<i>Communion</i>	<i>Lectors</i>
<b>5:00PM</b>	D. Haggerty V. Haggerty	H. Conway
<b>6:30AM</b>	L. Konopka	M. Konopka
<b>8:00AM</b>	A. Lozada R. Johnson	R. Rysak
<b>10:00AM</b>	T. Cullen N. Burnosky	P. Cullen C. Comly
<b>12:00PM</b>	M. Stanis G. O'Brien	B. Gibbons



**Christmas Flowers** will be the second collection on the weekend of December 7 and 8. This collection will help defray the cost of flowers for the altar during the Christmas season. Thank you for your generosity.

**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.

Please support the VISCONTO FAMILY'S 20<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ST. FRANCIS INN BLANKET DRIVE. With the help of our family, friends and neighbors we have been able to spread warmth around the Philadelphia area and we sincerely thank you. You may drop off all blankets to the Visconto Funeral Home, 2031 Vista Street or to 3908 Fairdale Road. You are also welcome to call us at 215-637-8184 and we will be happy to pick your blankets up. Drop off date and times are: December 8 and December 15 from 1-3PM. THANK YOU!

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

\*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)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ASH BASH** supporting the Superhero Project Inc. – February 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-11:00 PM at The Heroes Ballroom – Formal Dress – dinner – open bar – raffle baskets – 50/50s. \$100/per – purchase a table with friends of 10. Call 215-622-4268. If you are interested in donating, making a basket or want to honor your superhero, please reach out!

**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.

**Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center** is offer the following programs:

Wednesday, January 22 – 10AM-4PM \$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 is provided.

Friday, January 31 – 8:45AM-2:15PM - \$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 Mothers plays in keeping us close to Jesus. Coffee and check-in begin at 8:45AM. The day includes Mass and lunch. \*You may opt to stay overnight the evening before this event for an additional \$95. For more information or to register, visit [www.VMbytheSea.com](http://www.VMbytheSea.com)

## Questions and Answers on Stem Cell Research

By Pennsylvania Catholic Bishops (Part 2 of 3)

### Why is the extraction of embryonic stem cells immoral?

At the heart of the moral issue involving embryonic stem cell research is the fact that **the embryo is killed so that the stem cells can be used for research** – for the potential benefit of someone else. Embryos are human and at the very beginning of the process of life-long human development. Even though the human embryo is tiny at this point, as human beings and in solidarity with that life, we are not free to allow its use simply as a commodity for our convenience or benefit. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, “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.” (CCC 2258).

There are those who argue that, since hundreds of thousands of embryos frozen in fertility clinics are just going to be thrown away, it should be permissible to use them for research purposes. Such an argument ignores the truth that such embryos are human and should not be regarded as disposable in the first place. It is like saying that since one is going to die it is permissible to kill him or her. *What makes this experimentation immoral is that in each case a human embryo in the process of human development would be intentionally destroyed for the sake of scientific experimentation. Immoral means can never be used even in achieving a good and noble end.*

### What about the use of government funding for embryonic stem cell research?

Government funding would further encourage researchers to destroy human embryos. We must oppose the use of our tax dollars for research that involves the destruction of human life. When we enter the realm of public policy, each of us has an obligation to speak up and to take a stand for human life. We cannot proceed down the road of scientific development without sufficient moral reflection and ethical judgment.

### What is the role of the Church in this debate?

The Church, the voice of Christ applying his gospel to the world today, speaks out of 2000 years of human experience and its reflection on that experience in the light of God’s word and guided by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. It is the constant task of the Church, as it is of all members of society, to be alert to the wisdom of God and the natural law as it offers ethical and moral reflection on what we are capable of doing technologically and scientifically. It is a question not of what we can do but of what we must do or not do in conformity to God’s intended plan for us.

Many in our society maintain that scientific advances should not be restrained by moral compunction. We hear repeatedly that much good will come from embryonic stem cell research. This good end, we are told, certainly justifies any means needed

to achieve it. However, to abandon the long-standing moral imperative that **the end does not justify the use of immoral means** places us on the course of moral anarchy.

The issue of embryonic stem cell research brings us face to face with a fundamental human moral principle and decision. **We cannot allow scientific knowledge and technological advances to extend beyond needed moral and ethical guidance. The two must move forward together, always striving to embrace the natural moral order of human life as God intended.**

### MORAL AND ETHICAL GUIDANCE

In his encyclical letter “The Gospel of Life,” Pope John Paul II praised the efforts of researchers and practitioners of medical science. At the same time, however, **“The Gospel of Life” reminds those engaged in medical research and healthcare services of their “unique responsibility” to preserve the dignity and integrity of human life (n.89).** This responsibility is of increasing importance in our modern society with its growing embrace of the “culture of death,” a culture that endorses the destruction of human life in the womb and promotes the creation of human life in order to destroy it for the sole purpose of harvesting parts.

What we are witnessing is the conflict of two completely different sets of ethical norms for human living. On the one hand, the traditional Judeo-Christian ethic teaches that all human life is sacred and should never be considered a commodity not destroyed simply for the benefit of others. On the other hand, an expanding culture of death professes that human life, in its most vulnerable forms, can be killed for the benefit of the more powerful.

In concluding his encyclical, “The Gospel of Life,” Pope John Paul II called on all members of society to build a culture of life. “What is urgently called for is a general mobilization of consciences and a united ethical effort to activate a great campaign in support of life. Altogether, we must build a new culture of life; new because it will be able to confront and solve today’s unprecedented problems affecting human life.” (n. 95)

Even more urgently, we are reminded by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith that **“No objective, even though noble in itself, such as a foreseeable advantage to science, to other human beings, or to 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.** (The Instruction on Respect for Human Life in its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation).

The Catholic Church brings a living ethical tradition to this critical issue of embryonic stem cell research. May God continue to enlighten our minds and strengthen our resolve to speak out in support of human life and to help build a society that respects, defends and protects the gift of human life.