



PRIEST MASS SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025

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

Monday February 24, 2025

6:30 Elsie Maguire req. by Family
 8:00 John & Lucy Olimpo req. by Son John

Tuesday February 25, 2025

6:30 Mary Ellen Bonner req. by Family
 8:00 Babowitch Family req. by OLC Parish Family

Wednesday February 26, 2025

6:30 Frank Velardi req. by Family
 8:00 Daniel DiSalvio req. by Kloepfer Family

Thursday February 27, 2025

6:30 Tiffanie Polidoro req. by Susan Vass
 8:00 Rose Campiglio req. by Tom & Susan Wilson

Friday February 28, 2025

6:30 Mario & Katherine DiStansislao req. by Family
 8:00 Marc Tomiselli req. by Kevin & Nancy Jersan

Saturday March 1, 2025

8:00 Jerry Primerano req. by Paccianelli Family
 5:00PM Anne Jolly req. by Jennifer Hannigan

Sunday March 2, 2025

6:30 Walter Reilly req. by Family
 8:00 Nancy Danielwicz req. by Fran & Ed Kubala
 10:00 Francis White req. by Donna & Leon Makowiecki
 12:00 Mario, Lois, Stephen Pagano req. by Family

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2, 2025

<i>Mass</i>	<i>Communion</i>	<i>Lectors</i>
5:00PM	H. Conway M. Derbyshire	C. Gola
6:30AM	L. Konopka	K. McNabb
8:00AM	R. Johnson J. Sweeten	R. Johnson
10:00AM	M. Ciampoli B. Wagner	N. Burnosky J. Lynch
12:00PM	M. Stanish G. O'Brien	D. Bores

P R A Y E R
for the infirm of our parish

All sick parishioners, their relatives, and friends:

Maryann Zegarski - mother of Karen Zegarski

All deceased parishioners, their relatives, and friends:

Dolores Deabler - mother of Theresa Bradley

For those in the armed forces: Jacob Gizzi-Marines; 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.

MEMORIAL FUND

Thank you to the Palumbo Family for their donation in memory of *Pamela Maucieri and Maria Scicchitino.*





Solidarity Fund for the Church in Latin America is the second collection on the weekend of March 8 /9, 2025. This fund helps countless poor and marginalized communities experience God's love and share it with others. Your contribution strengthens the faith of our brothers and sisters across these regions, making a lasting impact.

PALM – if you have any palm from last year that you would like burned for Ash Wednesday, please bring it to the rectory.

Cub Pack 460 is holding their annual ICE CREAM SOCIAL on February 28, 2025 in the school gym from 6:30PM-8P. All are invited and the cost is \$8.00 per person. Children 4 and under are free. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

ALL AGES COMEDY SHOW featuring Steve Simeone on Sunday, March 2nd at Regina Coeli Hall – 9617 James Street at 1:30PM. Must register to attend. **Event sponsored by TJ Fluehr.** Please call Korinne at 215-637-7373 by February 21st to register.

TEMPORARY ENVELOPES – Please remember before placing a temporary envelope in the Offertory basket at Mass to write your name and address on the front of the envelope. Temporary envelopes are located right inside the front doors of the Church. Thank you for your continued support of Our Lady of Calvary Parish.

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 starts at 10:30.

Archbishop Ryan 2025 Winter Social Party with a Purpose! Saturday, March 29, 2025 (7PM to 12AM), 2014 Hornig Road, Phila., PA 19116. Tickets include live entertainment, top shelf open bar, dinner buffet and desserts – www.arhs.me/wintersocial email friendsofryan.team@gmail.com for questions.

QUIZZO NIGHT at Archbishops Ryan Lacrosse Team on Friday, March 7, 2025 – doors open at 6:30PM – Quizzo begins at 7:30PM in the north Café - \$10 Advance ticket - \$15 at the door – BYOB/Snacks, 50/50, Raffle Baskets, Mulligans', Extra Cash round, cash prizes. For tickets contact ARCHRYANLAX2GMAIL.COM

St. John Cantius Parish presents CASH BINGO on Sunday, March 16, 2025 in the school hall, 4435 Almond St. Doors open at 12 Noon/First game starts at 1PM – Tickets \$30 in advance; \$35 at the door. BYOB. Order tickets online at www.ticketleap.events/tickets/stjohncantiusparish/cash-bingo

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

Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat – below are March offerings –
March 6 – 8:45AM-2:30PM \$60 – H.O.P.E. Hope offered Prayerfully for Everyone – presented by Sr. Anne Phillip Buehler, IHM – Spend the day learning into compassion for ourselves and others who are mourning/grieving in times of loss. The day includes Mass and lunch.
March 12 – 8:45AM-2:30PM \$60 – The Shroud of Turin: Revealing God's Plentiful Redemption presented by Sr. Rose Mulligan, IHM – a silent glimpse of Jesus's passion, death, and resurrection. The Day includes Mass and Lunch Register at www.VMbytheSea.com

Rachel's Vineyard – If you or someone you love has been suffering from the emotional and spiritual pains of an abortion, - Rachel's Vineyard retreats bring healing and God's forgiveness to the trauma and darkness - April 4 – 6, 2025 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown – to register or for more information, please call Evelyn at 215-317-5752.

Pro-Life Union – Register Now! – Join us as we once again bring the area pro-life community together. At the Conference, you can learn how to be more effective in your pro-life activities, meet with great organizations that save lives and serve moms and children and get to network with friends and associates who are all committed to building a Culture of Life. The conference is free, but registration is required. To register, please send your name, address and phone number to lifconference@prolifeunion.org

The False Promises of Drugs: Joseph Ratzinger on True Human Excellence Part 2 of 2 By John F. Donerty

The Path to Self-Dominion

In moral effort one exercises the will and intellect such that, even in the presence of physical or emotional barriers, one can act with excellence. Drugs decrease self-dominion; moral exercise increases it, and therefore increases our freedom. By strengthening our person (our spirit) we become less dependent on changing material circumstances and more in touch with the inner truth of ourselves that does not change.

Drugs give short-term happiness, but leave the long-term cause of unhappiness—our defective love of the good, and our excessive love of comfort—untouched. True happiness requires “getting out of one’s comfort zone,” as we often hear, by changing oneself: the violence of drug use seeks happiness without self-discipline. Therefore, the apparently adventuresome drug user may in fact be a coward, seeking easy solutions for fear of what Ratzinger calls “[t]he patient and humble adventure of asceticism.”

One ought not to pass judgment on any particular person who has fallen into addiction; many people are drawn into it more or less unwittingly, or for understandable reasons, as we already noted. But whatever those reasons may have been, one’s freedom is always somehow engaged. Hence one cannot escape drug addiction by another quick-fix medication: one must always *want* to get better; one must learn again—perhaps through a long and arduous process—to live for the universal human vocation to truth and goodness, not merely one’s own pleasure.

There is of course a place for the controlled, therapeutic use of drugs. Even then, drugs are not a solution in themselves but an aid to the healing process. Some drugs help the body heal itself. Others give the soul a “leg up” in the process of healing itself through moral effort: they mitigate extraordinary psychological challenges so that the person can have “breathing room” to learn, or relearn, the virtues.

Recovering such a transcendent perspective of man is hard to imagine if we do not also recover authentic religion: the recognition that there must be a higher origin and purpose to this universe.

Recusing Man from the Oppression of “Facts”

Emphasizing the primacy of self-discipline may seem unfeeling and cold. After all, depression, sadness, and other pains of the heart or body, constantly pressing on us, can be very trying, especially if they seem to appear without our consent. If people are suffering, what could be wrong with stopping the pain? Why add the burden of moral demands that will bring suffering back?

These questions lead Ratzinger to emphasize the ultimate defense of an authentic moral life must be the higher meaning of human existence (as the most successful rehabilitation programs suppose). One reason why drug use has spread today, he thinks, is that contemporary Western culture has made answering the question of life’s meaning extraordinarily difficult by developing the theory of evolution “into a universal view of the world.” From childhood we are taught that there is no reality higher than precisely the “facts” that drug users find so oppressive. Positing that purely material animal species develop from each other is one thing; but philosophical evolutionism asserts that human personhood, too—our immaterial powers of intellect and will—has a “purely mechanical origin” from “chance and necessity.” Such a view effectively “abolishes” man himself, as C.S. Lewis said, and reduces all virtues to a blind drive toward “the survival and optimization of [our] species.” If the universe is so meaningless, and we have no real freedom, there is little reason to tell people not to use drugs, cross-breed humans with other animals, or take other bizarre “transhumanist” measures (as many tech CEOs propose) to evolve ourselves, until we have eliminated physical suffering. Real freedom—including freedom to overcome ourselves—is possible only if man’s life transcends his body.

Recovering such a transcendent perspective of man is hard to imagine if we do not also recover authentic religion: the recognition that there must be a higher origin and purpose to this universe—with all its order and beauty, often beyond our comprehension—that chance and necessity alone cannot explain. Only such a higher reality could account for our own transcendent, but finite, existence. It must be an infinitely transcendent being, at least as intelligent and real as we are: a Person, constantly beside us, ready to help us overcome evil and be our best selves, if only we seek His help.

The Liberation of Self-Discipline

AS Ratzinger concludes, the traditional Western moral perspective is not a “burden” but a “liberation.” It satisfies the hunger in souls that drug abuse can at best only mask temporarily. In drug use, “the ethical and religious path” that is natural to man “is replaced by technology” that artificially props man up without requiring him to change himself, perhaps for a whole lifetime. The drug user risks ending his days in despair, realizing that he has wasted his life because he has not grown into the person he was meant to be.

Drugs leave man’s person shrunken, but self-discipline expands the man’s horizons by expanding his inner possibilities. It pushes him to venture out and try things that seem impossible, saving him from the feeling of being a “prisoner of facts”. It gives him the strength to believe that on the other side of the pain of personal growth is a peace and joy to which no chemical high can compare.