

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Beacon of Ambler—Where Faith and Family are One

Main and Poplar Sts. Ambler, PA 19002

CONTACT: 215-646-0494 EMAIL: stjoeambler@gmail.com www.stjoeambler.org

Rectory Address: 16 S. Spring Garden St. Ambler, PA 19002 FAX 215-643-6389

Father James T. Mc Guinn- *Parochial Administrator*

Father Michael J. Saban- *Parochial Vicar*

Father Charles J. Mc Elroy- *Retired Resident* Deacon Mark Kuhn (Spanish speaking contact - 484-746-3414)

Mrs. Lisa Gallagher- *Parish Secretary, Music Ministry*

Mrs. Suzanne Kuhn- *Director of Religious Education*

(stjosephamblerdre@gmail.com)



3rd Sunday of Easter

© Diocesan

April 14, 2024



MASS SCHEDULE!
DAILY: MONDAYS-COMMUNION SERVICE ONLY @ 6:30 AM

TUESDAY TO FRIDAYS MASS—
6:30 AM AND 12:05 PM. Miraculous Medal Novena Devotion takes place every Friday at the 6:30 AM mass and at the 12:05 Mass. The rectory chapel is also opened daily during business hours— 9AM TO 4 PM (Mon-Thurs.) for visitation.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturdays- 3:00 PM- 3:30 PM

WEEKEND MASSES—
SATURDAY VIGIL— 4PM
SUNDAY— 9 AM AND 11 AM

HOLYDAYS— 6:30 AM AND 12:05 PM
(NO EVENING MASS)
ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH— 7 pm mass

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS—
 MONDAY-THURSDAY 9:00AM-4:00PM
 (Closed for lunch from 12:30PM to 1:30PM)
 FRIDAY— 9:00AM TO 12:00PM
 OFFICE IS CLOSED ON ALL HOLYDAYS/ HOLIDAYS

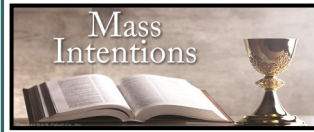
All those who are in need of our prayers, Victor Balten, Rachel Barboni, Jimmy Cowman, Anthony D’Acunto, Diane Camasso, Clare Di Donato, Kathleen Hart, Donna McMullan lives of the Unborn, all who have been killed by unnecessary violence, people of the Ukraine, people of Israel and all those in our hearts.

**Please continue to pray all who are ill or in need of prayers. Names of the sick will be removed at the end of the month unless notified. If you know anyone who would like to be on our prayer list, due to privacy issues, they or a family member must call the rectory. Let us know if they can be removed from the list. It is so good to know that prayers are answered!

Sunday collection:
 4/7- \$7,487.00
 (Easter offerings included)
 Candles total- \$900.00



Thank you for your Easter donation , candles and flower contributions. We are so appreciative for all you continue to do for St. Joseph’s.



St. Joseph Our Patron
Pray for Us!
April 13-14, 2024

Saturday Vigil

4:00 PM Mary/Joseph Piccarelli Family

Sunday

9:00 AM Nina Talese Pete/Pamela Derro
11:00 AM Father Eugene Tully St. Joseph Parish family
1:00 PM n/a

WEEKDAY

Monday COMMUNION SERVICE at 6:30 AM
(no intentions taken)

12:05 PM Hugh/Deborah Strong John Strong

Tuesday

6:30AM Daniel/Nora Grant John Strong
12:05 PM John Rambo/Sandy Joan/Peter Raiti

Wednesday

6:30 AM Nina Talese Michele/ Stephanie/ Taryn/ Becca/ Natalia
12:05 PM Young Hahm Marianna Yun

Thursday

6:30 AM Conversion of all Poor Sinners John Strong
12:05 PM Dr. Gary Carpenter Betty/Jim O’Brien

Friday

6:30 AM James D. Jeffries Joseph Beiland
12:05 PM Joseph Maguire Sheila Stieritz



Candle Memorials/Intentions
Remembering

The Sanctuary Candle
In Thanksgiving for Father Tully

The Mary Candle
Marilee and Greg Gorski



The St. Joseph Candle
Del Conte Family

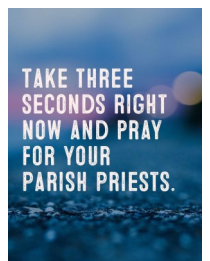
Liturgical Schedule for April 20-21

Celebrants: (subject to change)

4:00 PM VIGIL
FATHER McGuinn

9:00 AM FATHER McGuinn *D
11:00 AM FATHER McGuinn

1:00 PM Mass in Spanish



Third Sunday of Easter

Reading 1 **Acts 3:13-15, 17-19**

Peter said to the people:

"The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and denied in Pilate's presence when he had decided to release him. You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from the dead; of this we are witnesses.

Now I know, brothers, that you acted out of ignorance, just as your leaders did; but God has thus brought to fulfillment what he had announced beforehand through the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer.

Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away."

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9**

R. *Lord, let your face shine on us.*

When I call, answer me, O my just God, you who relieve me when I am in distress; have pity on me, and hear my prayer!

R. *Lord, let your face shine on us.*

Know that the LORD does wonders for his faithful one; the LORD will hear me when I call upon him.

R. *Lord, let your face shine on us.*

O LORD, let the light of your countenance shine upon us! You put gladness into my heart.

R. *Lord, let your face shine on us.*

As soon as I lie down, I fall peacefully asleep, for you alone, O LORD, bring security to my dwelling.

R. *Lord, let your face shine on us.*



Reading 2 **1 Jn 2:1-5a**

My children, I am writing this to you so that you may not commit sin.

But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father,

Jesus Christ the righteous one.

He is expiation for our sins,

and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world.

The way we may be sure that we know him is to keep his commandments.

Those who say, "I know him," but do not keep his commandments

are liars, and the truth is not in them.

But whoever keeps his word,

the love of God is truly perfected in him.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel **Lk 24:35-48**

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way, and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts?"

Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself.

Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have."

And as he said this,

he showed them his hands and his feet.

While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?"

They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them.

He said to them,

"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

And he said to them,

"Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

Week 3 of Easter – Week 3 of Easter

In the Gospel today, Jesus entrusts his disciples with a mission and the Church continues that mission in the world today. The mission of the Church is summarized in making disciples and maturing disciples and the Church calls this two-step process of making and maturing disciples the mission of evangelization. While every institution in the Catholic Church is entrusted with the mission of evangelization, the local Church, the parish, has a unique role to play. The local Church is the hope of the world, and it is through the parish that the vast majority of the world's people come to know God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Like the universal Church, the mission of the parish is to evangelize, and every parish has a short mission statement that summarizes its unique mission. This week, memorize and understand the mission statement of your parish. **Father Jim**

Fault or Fate?

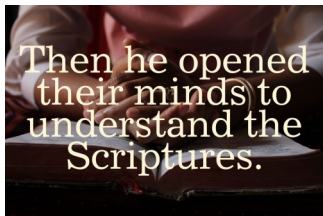
Peter seems to be pretty tough with his listeners in the first reading. He says they handed Jesus over, denied him before Pilate, asked for a murderer to be released in his place, and put Jesus to death. They must have thought they were doomed. Suddenly, he tells them they were just ignorant. And that God had planned all this long ago. So is he saying Jesus' death is their fault, or just fate?

The answer of course is that it's everyone's fault. Our sins are the reason for Jesus' death. We deny Jesus when we choose to be selfish instead of loving. We hand him over when we tell ourselves we are too busy to take time to pray. We ask for Barabbas to be freed instead of Jesus when we insist on doing things our own way rather than God's way. We crucify Jesus when we follow the crowd instead of following the Lord.

It is only "fate" in the sense that our sins needed to be forgiven and God plan's for salvation was through Jesus' death and resurrection. Does that mean our sins cause something in the past to happen? There were sinners long before Jesus' time and God knew there would be sinners after that. God also planned to forgive anyone who repented their sins. In one sense, Jesus died for those who deserved to be punished for sin, and also for those who would deserve punishment in the future. He rose from the dead to show that God's forgiveness raises us up from guilt to a new life.

Peter wasn't laying a guilt trip on the listeners. After all, this is good news. God planned all this to show how much he loved us. Our response should be one of joy that we are forgiven because of that love. All we have to do is tell God we are sorry, mean it, and start living our response of love. Sins may be our fault, but Love is our fate.

Tom Schmidt



Living God's Word

The Eucharist is meant to energize us to take Christ's presence out into the world. It may be easy to see ourselves in today's scriptures as the weak sinners, but we should also envision ourselves in the roles of Peter, John, and Luke. In the Eucharist Jesus feeds us and sends us to "preach in his name to all the nations" (Luke 24:47). We are his witnesses.

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Reflecting on God's Word

Some vaccinations only last so long. After a predictable amount of time the immunity wears off and people are susceptible to the same old disease again. That's when it's time for a booster shot. It seems that we also need booster shots for faith. Baptism alone is not enough. The joy and peace that filled our communities two weeks ago are probably starting to flag and our old selves may be starting to re-emerge. We need a weekly dose of Resurrection appearances, in the Eucharist we share.

All three of this week's readings as well as the psalm point out the weakness of our human faith. Yet they emphasize the forgiveness and blessing that are always available to those who turn to "Jesus Christ the righteous one." Can we recognize ourselves in Luke's Gospel today? Do we realize how deeply we depend on our weekly "booster shot" of the Eucharist to remember and reclaim the saving presence of the risen Lord? —Virginia Stillwell

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Living Stewardship Now

Pause and review how you are loving and serving the Lord in daily life. What do you need to do differently? Are there things you need to do less, or to do more? Are you being called in a new direction?

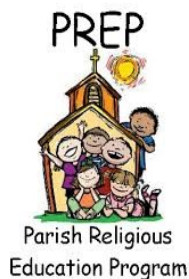
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NOTHING COMPARES to Being There



We are always happy to welcome new parishioners! If you are interested in joining our wonderful Parish family, please register after any of the masses or:

- register online at stjoeambler@gmail.com
- visit our website at stjoeambler.org or
- contact the rectory office at 215-646-0494.



Many thanks to all who contributed to our Lenten canned meal drive to benefit Nutritional Development Services. Your blessed efforts yielded **325 cans** of nutritious food, and NDS was most impressed and grateful. Your gifts will go a long way toward alleviating the food insecurity experienced by our less fortunate brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ. May God bless you for your generosity!

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The month of May has not only good weather, but an interesting pedigree. It is named after the Roman goddess Maia, said to be the mother of Hermes, or Mercury. The Romans saw it as “love’s month,” while in England, more practical farmers called it “Three Milks,” since the cows grazing on springtime’s bounty could produce at a phenomenal rate. Old customs die hard, and Christians have never made peace with Maytime frolics. No wonder that popular tradition dedicated the month’s prayers and devotions to Mary, although we cannot lose sight of the fact that the liturgy always has Easter at the center of celebration. Recent developments have enriched Mary’s place in a cycle of feast days woven through the whole year, dedicated Saturday as a weekly day for devotion, and highlighted Mary’s role in the Advent story. In fact, every day of the year Evening Prayer centers on the singing of Mary’s Canticle of Praise. The fifty days of Easter culminate on Pentecost with Mary, present of course for Christ’s birth, waiting in the upper room for the birth of the church. —Rev. James Field



Scripture Readings For the Week of April 14, 2024

Sunday Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48

Monday Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday Acts 7:51—8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab; Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a; Jn 6:35-40

Thursday Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:51; Jn 6:44-51

Friday Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59

Saturday Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Jn 6:60-69

SAINT BERNADETTE SOUBIROUS (1844-1879) April 16

With Immaculate Mary’s “Ave Maria” for its refrain, Andy Williams’ “Village of Saint Bernadette” peaked at #7 on *Billboard’s Top 40* at Christmas 1959, airing on radio stations all over America.

Imagine! In some dioceses, today marks the feast of Bernadette Soubirous, the teenager who, combing a refuse heap for firewood, saw a “beautiful lady” who identified herself in words Bernadette faithfully reported to the bishop, though she did not understand their meaning: “I am the Immaculate Conception.” Relentlessly interrogated, she never wavered in her story or sweetness. Chronically ill all her life and dead at thirty-five, Bernadette left behind the shrine at Lourdes where healing waters still flow from the spring that her “beautiful lady” pointed out to her. —Peter Scagnelli



Living God’s Word

The Eucharist is meant to energize us to take Christ’s presence out into the world. It may be easy to see ourselves in today’s scriptures as the weak sinners, but we should also envision ourselves in the roles of Peter, John, and Luke. In the Eucharist Jesus feeds us and sends us to “preach in his name to all the nations” (Luke 24:47). We are his witnesses.

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AROUND TOWN.....

Father Judge High School Class of 1974 50 Year Reunion
Saturday, April 27th from 6 - 10 PM at Father Judge
Cost is \$80 per person Please
contact khuckel@fatherjudge.com for more information.

Hallahan - Class of '74 - 50th Reunion - Sunday, May 19,2024 - 12:00 pm - Brunch at Panache - for more Details email: HallahanClassof1974@gmail.com

Cardinal O'Hara High School is planning a 50th Reunion for the **Class of 1974**. The reunion is October 19, 2024 at Llanerch Country Club. For more information or to update your email and mailing address, contact John Caramanico at jcaramanico56@gmail.com or 610.633.0783.

St. Mary Polish American Society is accepting applications for the second annual Felicia Jemionek Rzeznik Memorial Scholarship, a \$1,500 scholarship to a qualified student of Polish ancestry residing within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia pursuing full-time undergraduate studies at an accredited college or university in the United States. For any questions, please call Dorothy Swedkowski at 610-630-0861.

OVER 50'S CLUB

We welcome **all seniors** to the meetings of St Luke Over 50's Club, held at 11:30am on the second Tuesday of most months, at the VFW Post 676, 2519 Jenkintown Road, Glenside. Lunch is available for purchase from the VFW at these meetings, or you may bring your own. Desserts are provided and members are encouraged to sign the circulated sheet for a turn to bring desserts during the year. All meetings except for the Christmas and May luncheons, take place at the Glenside VFW.

Next Tuesday, April 9th, we welcome Corinne O'Connell, CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Philadelphia, who will enlighten us on the many works of the Habitat organization. Next month, on Tuesday May 14, all are invited as we celebrate Spring with a luncheon at Sandy Run Country Club. Tickets (\$35.00) for the May luncheon will be available at the April 9 meeting. There will not be a regular meeting at the VFW in May. Good food in a beautiful setting, and wonderful friendly socialization. Gifts and prizes as well- who could ask for more? June 14 will have our unique Mardi Gras event- something totally different!! We can guarantee that no other club in town will be having their Mardi Gras on June 14!! Please call with any questions or concerns: Sheila Stieritz 267-468-5353

Bishop McDevitt Class of 1974 - 50th High School Reunion

We are looking for classmates for our **50th class reunion on October 19, 2024 at Sandy Run Country Club**. If interested, please contact either Rita Cassidy Stapf (rcstapf@verizon.net) or Barb Mullen Butynskiyi b.butynskiyi@comcast.net).

MASS BOOK FOR JULY 1ST TO DEC. 31ST, 2024 WILL OPEN UP ON MONDAY APRIL 22ND AT 9 AM.



AS OF APRIL 22ND, ALL MASS OFFERINGS WILL BE \$15 FOR BOTH WEEKDAY AND WEEKENDS. CANDLE OFFERINGS WILL REMAIN \$10

For your convenience, slips will be available on all the church tables for you to fill out.

****You may also submit your masses online to stjoecambler@gmail.com. Please note that these will be received after the opening day.**



Saturday, April 20 2024 from 8:30am-4:00pm, followed by Saturday Vigil Mass
St. Helena's Church, 1489 Dekalb Pike, Blue Bell
Come with your spouse or fiancé and listen to nationally acclaimed Catholic speakers who will inspire you to live out your marriage with greater fervor, love and joy.

For more information visit www.phillycatholiclife.org and to register, visit bit.ly/Marriages Grace 2024

Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School: Get on Campus

Interested in learning more about Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School? Girls in 6th and 7th grades are invited to register for tours, our practice test, and summer camps! Learn more and register at gmahs.org/admissions.

June 1, 2024: NUN RUN - A 5K Run / 3K Walk. Early bird registration April 1-15th. Register by May 10th to be assured a t-shirt. Sponsored by the [Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary](#) at Camilla Hall, 100 Maxis Drive, Malvern, PA 19355. Proceeds benefit [Camilla Hall](#), the convent home and health care center for the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. For information or to register go to:

[www. www.ihmnunrun.org](http://www.ihmnunrun.org). A fun family day and great opportunity for youth, young adults and all those who like to run or walk



****Donut Sunday** will take place on Sunday, April 28th. After the 11:00 AM mass. Please join us in the Heritage Room for some light refreshments. This will be our last hospitality until the Fall.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM and CONFIRMATION
ROLE OF SPONSORS**



A baptismal preparation evening class is mandatory for all parents who are requesting Baptism. The class is usually provided on the **third Thursday** of each month.

Baptisms are scheduled with the

Deacon. Please contact the rectory office for more information.

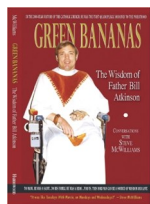
Godparent or Sponsor Requirement- You must be a **practicing Catholic**, in good standing, and **attend mass regularly**, (married validly if married), at least 16 years of age, and have received the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist). Eligibility Certificates for another Parish- ***We cannot issue certificates of eligibility to any parish if a person is not regularly attending Sunday mass and/or isn't properly registered in St. Joseph Parish.**



SACRAMENT OF THE SICK In case of serious illness, please contact the Rectory or call the emergency number if after office hours.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Parishioners planning wedding dates must make an appointment to set a wedding date at least six months or more prior to that wedding date. They must also arrange for Marriage Preparation Class by contacting www.philamarriageprep.com or call **610-873-2017**. Saturday weddings cannot be scheduled any later than 2PM. Non-parishioner weddings are up to the Pastor's discretion. If a couple is not a member of this parish, they should request a letter of permission from their 'home' parish.



Father Bill Atkinson's Cause for Canonization: Please continue to pray for his intercession.. **For favors received or for more information, write Fr. Bill's Cause -Augustinian Provincial Offices PO Box 340- Villanova, PA 19085 610-527-3330 www.augustinian.org**

As you know we continue to remember and pray for Father William Atkinson's 'call to Sainthood". Father Atkinson has a beautiful story of his journey of faith and carrying his cross. Please continue to pray for Father Atkinson and all those whose lives were touched because of him.



Please continue to patronize all our advertisers who we recognize weekly and who supply our bulletins. Through their generosity we receive our paper and digital bulletin. Don't forget to also patronize all our local community stores and restaurants.



Is God calling you to 'step out of your comfort zone'?

NOW IS THE TIME

TO ASK YOURSELF... HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED AND HELP OUR CHURCH GROW? STEP UP AND CONSIDER BEING AN USHER, LECTOR, EUCHARISTIC MINISTER, ADULT SERVER, OR CHURCH SACRISTAN? SING WITH YOUR HEART AND BECOME A LEADER OF SONG.

The work is easy, but the benefits are out of this world! Please contact the rectory office if you hear the call.



Our country, our military, police and first responders all need our prayers now! Please continue to pray for all in harms way who help protect us and our country. God bless and protect them all. Many have returned home and need both physical and emotional care. They cannot be forgotten. Pray for all those who have unselfishly given up their lives for our freedom. Jesus has said, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for a friend". May God give them strength and courage to continue to fight the battles they struggle with abroad and here at home!

Universal Prayers for Peace in the Middle East

We offer these special Universal Prayers for those affected by the violence in the Middle East: For an end to the tensions escalating in the Middle East, may they be transformed by the peace that comes from God; the peace that surpasses all human understanding, let us pray to the Lord. For those who have died in the violence in the Middle East, may they find perpetual peace and rest in the comforting arms of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. For those who are mourning the deaths of friends or family members, and those whose loved ones are missing, may God console them in their pain and grief and grant them strength, let us pray to the Lord. For all innocent people in the Middle East harmed by violence or instability, may God's grace sustain and strengthen them and keep them from harm, let us pray to the Lord. Amen.



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