

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve



The Old Testament Book of Samuel reminds us that King David (about one thousand years before Christ) decided to build a house for God- the Temple. But God told him through the prophet, Nathan, that David would not build a house for God; no, God would give David a house: a dynasty. His descendants would always be the shepherd Kings of God’s People. In the Gospel story of the Annunciation, the angel of God tells Mary that God will give her child “the throne of David his father.... and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Jesus is the long awaited Messiah, “the Son of David. God keeps and more than fulfills His promises to us!

FROM MONSIGNOR RUSSELL

How are you voting every Sunday? When a Diocese is forced to close a parish because of the shortage of priests, one of the things they look at is the number of people coming to Sunday Mass. We thank all who are participating in Sunday Mass. In effect, you are voting to keep your parish church open. Catholics who do not come to Sunday Mass are, in effect, voting to close their church.

Keep in touch with us via email or text on Flocknotes. Text **SAINTHELENA** to **84576**, connect online at **STHELENA4.flocknote.com**, or scan the QR code below.


Please visit and “like” our Facebook page!



Christmas Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE
5:00 pm & 7:30 pm
NO Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS MORNING
7:00 am & 10:00 am



New Years Mass Schedule

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

NEW YEARS EVE
5:00 pm

NEW YEARS DAY
9:00 & 11:00 am

WEEKLY INTENTION

Saturday, December 23rd

5:00 pm (SR) William & Eloise Hart

Sunday, December 24th - 4th SUNDAY/ADVENT

7:00 am (DV) People of the Parish

9:00 am (SR) Albert Minuti, Sr.

11:00 am (SP) Sharen Muldowney

Sunday, December 24th - CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 pm (GR) People of the Parish

7:30 pm (SR) People of the Parish

Monday, December 25th - CHRISTMAS

7:00 am (SR) People of the Parish

10:00 am (RB) People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 26th

7:00 am Mamie Connolly

9:00 am (SR) Deceased Members of
The Sullivan-Russell Family

Wednesday, December 27th

9:00 am (SR) Lisa Waterfield

Thursday, December 28th

7:00 am John Schmidt

9:00 am (SR) Paul & Viola Delfino

Friday, December 29th

7:00 am Elizabeth Ann "Betty Ann" Dougherty
Francis "Doc" Dougherty

9:00 am (SR) Mary Kate Geaghan

Saturday, December 30th

9:00 am (SR) Robert Laprade

5:00 pm (SR) Sharen Muldowney

Sunday, December 31st - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

7:00 am People of the Parish

9:00 am (SP) Mark Bader, Jr.

11:00 am (SR) Edward Rich, Sr.

Sunday, December 31st - NEW YEARS EVE

5:00 pm (SR) People of the Parish

Please Pray for Our Sick Parishioners

Dolly Albanese, Ruth Bower, Geri Crockett, Julia Davis, Toni Di Lezio, Sr., Susan Denis, Carly Fedena, Jim Fedena Sr., Paul Farren, Sr., Mary Gabel, Regina Gemignani, Michael Giberson, Patti Grimes, Felicia Hallahan, Sarah Hess, Ella Kirksey, Charlie Lafferty, James Lafferty, Leila Lahan, Thomas Leo, Joseph Lichota, Aliyah Miller, Sara Murphy, Alex Newton, Dave Pacitti, Jane Parsons, Fr. Roy Pollard, Dorothy Rich, Bridget Robinson, Helen Rupnicki, Kathleen Schaubert, Irma & Wally Schock, Eva Smith, Frank Sullivan, Janet Szubieolski, Mary Tabler, Catherine Thomson, Rose Marie Turcol, Catalina Weddle, Vaughn Whisker, Ann Wilson, Cindy Zych, Kathy Hope, Denise Lopes, Donna Dougherty, Gerri Fedena & our friends at the Kutz Home.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 24th - CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 pm Choir Concert

7:30 pm Traditional Christmas Music

NO MIDNIGHT MASS

Monday, December 25th - CHRISTMAS RECTORY CLOSED

Tuesday, December 26th

RECTORY CLOSED

Thursday, December 28th

5:30 pm Bingo (Masci Hall)

6:30 pm Rosary (Church)

Saturday, December 30th

6:30 pm Youth Group Movie Night (Masci Hall)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Ms. Hummy Pennell:

hpennell@sainthelenas.org

Youth Group is having a **MOVIE NIGHT** on Saturday, December 30th at 6:30 pm in Masci Hall. This is **FREE** to all. Please email Ms. Hummy at hpennell@sainthelenas.org to sign up.

December Church Chuckle



"Two of every known creature on the planet and you forgot the pooper-scooper?"

DIOCESAN UPDATE



A new video, produced by the Diocese of Wilmington, presents a montage of photographs of Nativity crèches from the Catholic churches of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore. The video, which also includes beautiful instrumental Christmas hymns as a background, debuted on the Diocese of Wilmington's YouTube channel - [YouTube.com/DioceaseofWilm](https://www.youtube.com/DioceaseofWilm). Families are invited to watch the 12 ½ minute video together, discuss which scene they like best and why, maybe try to be the first to identify the scene from our parish. Also, the video could be played in the background of Christmas gatherings so everyone can enjoy the holy music and images.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

The Offertory Collection for the weekend of December 3, 2023, was \$5,391.00 and the online collection was \$2,082.00 for a total of \$7,473.00.

Thank you!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SOCIAL MINISTRY

**Wishing a Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
from all of us at Social Ministry!**



The Rectory will be **closed** on Monday, Christmas Day and Tuesday, December 26th.

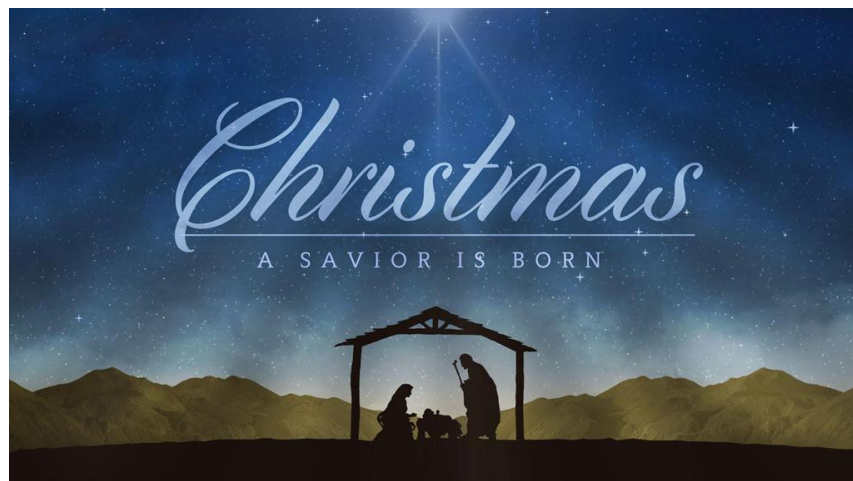
2023 FAITH AND CHARITY CATHOLIC APPEAL: SHINING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST



To date, **\$62,308.64** has been received representing **97.32%** of our Parish's **\$66,276.00** goal. **THANK YOU!** If you would like more information about the Annual Catholic Appeal:
www.cdow.org/annualcatholicappeal.
Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA'S VIA CRUCIS

This special presentation is a liturgical drama called the *Via Crucis*. The *Via Crucis* was first presented in St. Anthony of Padua Church in 1933. It was revived in 1961 and has been presented continuously from 1961 to the present. Your participation can be credited towards community service or other scholastic requirements. All grade-school age to college-age boys and girls are welcome. Community services given upon request. Virtual Sign-up is Sunday, December 17th - stanthony.viacrucis@gmail.com (Include: Name, Age, Grade & Contact Info.) In person Sign-ups are Sunday, January 7th and January 14th at 1:30 pm with rehearsal immediately following. Located at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 9th and DuPont Streets. For further details: stanthony.viacrucis@gmail.com



**Christmas Blessings and Best Wishes
from Monsignor Russell and the Parish Staff!
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



Christopher Council KofC #3182 is Celebrating our 75th Birthday !



As you know we have been serving this parish and community since our humble beginnings in 1948. Just look around, we have been an integral part of all carnivals, parish picnics, pancake/ buffet breakfasts, Fish Fry's and food distributions. We also make large annual donations to Coats for Kids, our food closets, Parish general fund and much, much more.....

We hope that you will be a part of our celebration by becoming a benefactor in our Ad Book. The proceeds will help fund our special anniversary projects as well as help defray costs for our celebration on January 20th, 2024.

Please consider becoming a benefactor in our Ad Book for a donation of \$10 or more by December 31, 2023. Supporting us has never been easier.

You can visit our Cheddar Up secured Credit Card Account at:
<https://christophercouncil75thanniversaryadbook.cheddarup.com>

Use your phone to scan
the following QR Code.



If you prefer, we still accept donations via cash or check by sending your donation along with your name to the below address.

Christopher Council #3182
135 Princeton Ave. Claymont, DE. 19703

Questions? Contact Dominc DiChristopher @ ddichristopher@verizon.net