

First Sunday of Advent ~ December 1, 2024



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

610-543-0848 (fax) 610-604-0283 www.sfaparish.org contactsfaparish@sfaparish.org

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL 610-543-0546

Rev. Matthew J. Tralies ~ Pastor
Deacon W. Timothy Baxter

Rev. Henry J. McKee ~ In Residence
Deacon James J. McGonigal



Interested in having your child
Baptized here at St. Francis?
Please contact Joan Curtis at the
Rectorry 610-543-0848 or email us
at: BaptismsSFA@gmail.com



To inquire about scheduling
your Wedding Ceremony here
at St. Francis, please contact
our Parish Wedding Assistant,
Joan Kane at
SFAWeddings@gmail.com

Fundraiser for St. Vincent de Paul Society

**Celtic
Christmas
Concert**

Thursday, December 5th
7PM-9PM ~ Church
(Tickets \$10)
Tickets can be purchased
in advance at the Rectorry,
or at the door the
night of the event.

For Information regarding
Upcoming Funerals & Services,
Please visit our Parish Website at
www.sfaparish.org
and click on...



Parish Giving

The Parish Giving Program offered to all
parishioners is a simple, secure, and
convenient way to make your contributions
and special offerings.

To get started, visit our Parish Website at
www.sfaparish.org

click on the Parish Giving Logo
and follow the easy steps to register.
(If you are not sure of your Parish ID#,
contact the Rectorry Office)

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Sunday, December 1, 2024

7:30AM Chris Corey

9:30AM Marion McCorrison

11:30AM Keli and Jay Stuckert

Monday, December 2, 2024

8:00AM Marie O'Brien

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

8:00AM Martin and Shirley Schwarzman

50th Anniversary

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

8:00AM Marion McCorrison

NO ADORATION ~ ONLY 7PM HOLY HOUR

Thursday, December 5, 2024

8:00AM Marion McCorrison

Friday, December 6, 2024

8:00AM Gene Hoey

9:00AM School Mass

Saturday, December 7, 2024

8:00AM Marion McCorrison

3:00PM Confessions

4:00PM For the People of the Parish

Sunday, December 8, 2024

7:30AM Deceased Members of Alessi and

Salladino Families

9:30AM Kelly and Jacki Allen

11:30AM Marie and Armand DiClemente

†REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DIED†

Especially Vince Kelly

May they rest in God's peace and may their families be comforted.



MEMORIAL FOR DECEMBER

Bread and Wine

Hoagland and Debany Families

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE



This candle burns to remind us of the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ. For the week of **December 1st**, the candle will burn in loving memory of **Marion McCorrison** as requested by her **family, John, Jean, Jerry and Donna Gallagher.**

PRAYER REQUESTS

TOGETHER WE WILL PRAY

Baby Margot Steindl	Emily Belfie	Evan Farrington
Baby DeSantis	Arthur LeTourneau	Michael Farley
Dominic Rosini	Lucretia Murphy	Bill Seavey
Colin Murray	Lou DeSantis	Dolores Govannicci
Monique Carpenter	Brian Marandola	Ethel LeVasseur
Anne McGlone	Carmen Salerno	Michael Costa
Maria DiGiacinto	Amy Faulls	Joanne Marks
David Clemmer	Mary Benedetti	Veronica Suppa
Catherine Lindsey	Shealyn Mencil	Caroline Donovan
Danny Hynes	Kathy Fritz	Fran Donnelly
Robert W. Bollinger	Jeannie Brattini	Emily Meakim
Leslie Dougherty	Joanne DeSantis	Paula Bazela
Margaret Binetsky	Ron Fraatz	Cathy Kenney
Jack Braconnier, Sr.	Denise DeAngelis	Joe Calabrese
Maryann McCauley	Marie Martin	Beverly Scarani
Bob Buchanan	Greg Schmidt	Madelyn O'Keefe
Alicia Bona	Susan Lower	Hank McElwee
Ray Kenney, Sr.	Mary Jean Grandizio	Inger Sexton
Natalie Berry	Gerald Berry	Eileen Bowdren
Carolina Longmore	Ann Farren	Brian Griffin
Maryann Murphy	Dan Bruno	Marsha Four
Cathy Baj	Malcolm Wills	Patricia Lafferty
Francine Piccone	Robert Ranieri	Jack Schultz
Deacon Joe Gousie	Michelle Rodger	Ambrose Hummel
Sandy Keller	Sadie Keller	Patricia Lindsey
Chris Touchton	Mark McKinsey	Ian Regino
Tim Corlies	Paul Ansaldo	Peggy Burke
Susan Aljets	Scott Aljets	Franny Devlin
Fox Family	Merkle Family	Dobbs Family
Jenine Amato	Joe Mastalski	Amy Travers

For Our St. Francis of Assisi Parish Community

If you have someone you would like prayed for, OR have **REMOVED** from prayer list, please email Joan Curtis at sfabulletin@hotmail.com or call the Rectory at 610-543-0848. Thank you for your prayers.

THE GREAT GAELIC GETAWAY



With Fr. Matt Tralies & Fr. Jim DeGrassa

May 4-13, 2025 ~ 10 Days!

Kilkenny...Killarney...Leenane...Knock...Dublin

Pricing: \$4895/p & Air Transportation: \$1100/p

For Complete itinerary, details, and registration,

Visit: www.cloverdaletravel.org or call 215-469-1505

(Trip flyer is available at the Church entrances).

HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES:

The following dates are **DEADLINES** for the upcoming Holiday Bulletins. Thank you for your cooperation!

Bulletin 12/8: Due Monday, 12/2 by 12N

Bulletin 12/15: Due Monday, 12/9 by 12N

Bulletin 12/22: Due Friday, 12/13 by 3PM

Bulletin 12/29: Due Thursday, 12/19 by 12N

Bulletin 1/5/25: Due Monday 12/23 by 12N

SFA CYO is the recipient of the United Way under the Honor Option Plan. Your donation supports our activities for the youth of our parish. If you wish to support the CYO, please indicate:

CYO/ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI/SPRINGFIELD #7046 SFA CYO

Breaking Open the Word
2nd Sunday of Advent ~ December 8th, 2024



Baruch 5:1-9

Advent is underway. The first reading and the Psalm point to themes of exile, return/deliverance, and the power of the Mighty God. These themes mirror the Church's call for repentance during Advent to welcome the Mighty God to enter into our situation and restore our lives. How do you plan to prepare your heart for Christmas through repentance?

Philippians 1:4-6, 8 – 11

The 2nd reading, the letter from Saint Paul, inspires us to remember the work God is doing within us and through us; by God's grace this work of holiness will continue to grow. What work of God is he doing within you and through you at this time? If you are not aware, ask him to lead you to follow one of the Spiritual or Corporal Works of Mercy. He will answer you!

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist was chosen to prepare the people of his time for Christ. If you had to prepare the world for Christ, what would your message be?



“Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous deeds.” (Psalm 98) Come sing to the lord and join the Saint Francis of Assisi Choir!

We are looking for men and women of all ages and levels of experience. If the Lord is calling you to minister in song, expand your musical skills, and feel like part of a family, then the choir is just the right group for you. We practice once a week and typically sing at the 9:30am Sunday Mass. We also sing on some Holy Days and for special Masses. We are currently working toward a combined Christmas Concert with the St. Pius X Choir on December 22nd. There's much to look forward to! So, if you're looking for a ministry that accepts you for who you are, and shares your desire to glorify God, then look no further than the choir. Contact our music director, Eric Longo at ericjlongo@gmail.com for inquiries.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY



If anyone is in need of assistance with utility bills, or other bills, or in need of food, or, if you know of someone who needs help, **call 610-212-4932** and someone from the St. Vincent will call you.

RIDE FOR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

If you are in need of a ride to a doctor or test appointment, please call the Rectory 610-543-0848 and someone from the St. Vincent de Paul Society will call you back to coordinate a ride for you.



Once again, we have adopted 30 families from St. Martin de Porres parish in North Philadelphia for our parish Christmas giving. Please take a tag from the tree which is located near the St. Joseph statue and purchase a gift for the name specified on the ornament.

Wrap the gift and tape the tag securely on the package. Tags are also included for gift certificates to supermarkets, Kohl's, Target and Walmart.

Place wrapped gifts under the tree after any Mass.

The last day to return your gift(s) is Friday, December 13th.



Individuals, couples and families are asked to **call Madelyn McBride at the rectory to sign up** if they wish to be part of the delivery of the gifts on **Sunday, December 15th.**

We will leave from the Parish Library on **8:30AM** to deliver the gifts and join St. Martin de Porres for their 10AM Mass. (Participants are asked to bring a gallon of orange/apple juice and a dozen donuts).

(To sign up/or for questions, call Madelyn at 610-543-0848 ext. 118)

Fundraiser for St. Vincent de Paul Society

CELTIC CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 5, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

Tickets: \$10.00

Can be purchased in advance at the Rectory or at the doors of the Church

Music by **Charlie Zahn**

St. Francis of Assisi Church
 136 Saxer Avenue
 Springfield, PA 19064
 Questions: call 610 328-9831

ST. FRANCIS IN ACTION!!

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Springfield PA seeks to emulate our patron saint in service to others. We seek to encounter people in need through a variety of offerings that provide us with the opportunity to be Christ like and to meet Christ in those we serve.



UPCOMING CITY TEAM EVENTS

St. Francis in Action (SFA) will be assisting City Team in Chester with packing Christmas food and gift boxes for families in need. We will have 2 dates available for parishioners and friends to choose. As always, we will offer car-pooling from St. Francis for those interested.

Shifts will be:

Wednesday, December 4- 10AM-12PM

Thursday, December 5- 1PM-3PM

To Volunteer please Sign-In to the website:

<https://cityteam.volunteerhub.com>

If you have volunteered with them before your account will come up. If not you will Create an Account, which is fairly simple to do. Children are welcome to help along with their parents and must be signed in also.

If you prefer to work another shift, many are available, feel free to do so! Any assistance needed please contact

Helen Golden at: Helengolden1@gmail.com

Thank you for your willingness to serve!

CARING FOR FRIENDS (CFF)

Until further notice, please drop off meals at St. Kevin's parish in the foyer in the Parish Life Center. Meal tins are located in the SFA rectory (during regular business hours) and the vestibule of the church. The meals will go to the elderly, homebound, and veterans. The CFF program is also looking for volunteers to deliver meals to people in Clifton Heights, Drexel Hill, Media, and Broomall. If you are interested in this ministry or have any questions, please contact Cheryl Monkman (610)574-5541 or Jill Hoffner (610)733-1593.

SAINT FRANCIS OVER 50 CLUB

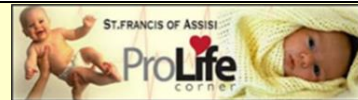
There is no meeting on December 12th. Tickets are required for the "Christmas Luncheon", December 12th at the Oaks Ballroom in Glenolden. Bobby Jones, D.J.

Casino Trips: 12/11, 1/8, 2/12, & 3/12. Cost is \$30 with return of \$15 in slot play. Bus leaves at 10am from the St. Kevin parking lot (200 W. Sproul Road). Park in spaces adjacent to the Springfield Country Club. **Call Joe Gowen at 610-739-8146.**

Membership to our Club is open to the entire community. Anyone who is 50 years of age or older may join the Club regardless of sex, religion, or race. For Membership information, call Cathy Randazzo at 610-328-0408.



To inquire about scheduling your Wedding Ceremony here at St. Francis, please contact our Parish Wedding Assistant, Joan Kane at ParishWeddingsSFA@gmail.com



PRO-LIFE DIAPERS

Every baby is a miracle from God who deserves to be loved, protected and supported. This is the mission of **Every Life** diapers through the sale of their diapers. Popular brands, Pampers, Huggies and others, have voiced and given their support to the abortion agenda. **Every Life** brand does not support this agenda and supports pro-life resources. You can order diapers and wipes for your baby or "buy for a cause" to be donated to a pregnancy resource center. Go to EveryLife.com. A bundle is a perfect baby shower gift!

"PRO-LIFE" LINES

Crisis Pregnancy Resource hotline: 610-626-4006.

Rachel's Vineyard Post-Abortion healing: 877-HOPE-4-ME

www.rachelsvineyard.org.

A Baby's Breath 24-hour hotline: 484-571-5540.

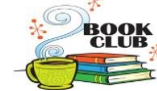
www.ababysbreath.org.

Delaware County Pregnancy Center: 610-872-2229, www.depcchester.org

Mother's Home: 610-583-HOME, www.mothershome.org .

Pro-Life Union of Delaware County: 610-789-LIFE.

THE THREE PARISH BOOK CLUB



The Book Club will hold its November meeting in the Family Life Center at Holy Cross on **Wednesday, December 4th at 7PM**. If you would like to join the meeting or if you would like more information, please contact Terry Price at [610-506-6449](tel:610-506-6449) or via email at termprice@verizon.net.

November: The Rocking Chair Prophet, by Matthew Kelly



Join us as we pray the Novena of the Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary **Wednesdays at 1:30PM** in the Church.

HOLY SPIRIT GROUP RETREAT

January 24-26th.

To register, visit: <http://www.malvernretreat.com>

It is a Traditional Men's retreat, including daily Mass, conferences, all meals and overnight accommodations, at a cost of \$275.00. Our weekend begins 5:00PM on Friday, January 24 through Sunday 26th. I'd like you to consider coming out for this retreat. During this time, you will experience prayer, meditation, reconciliation, group discussions, Eucharistic liturgies and special speakers.

* This years' Retreat Director is Father William Cocco of St Edmonds Parish Rehoboth Beach DE.

* Our speakers are Deacon Tom McGovern of St Joseph Paris High bridge N.J.

* Mary Bea with the Carlo Acutis Shrine at Malvern retreat House.

* Finally, our special event is Mr. Eustace Wolfington, Executive Producer, of Angel Studio's presenting a private viewing of the acclaimed movie "Cabrinì".

Email me with any questions. Carlo Borgia

cqb58@verizon.net

GOD BLESS ALL WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY



Michael Armellini	Cale Amador	John Michael Bartivic
Christopher Baxter	Colin Butler	Jonathan Butterfield
Davidson Cox	Thomas Cresta	Anthony DelVecchio
Timothy Drabyak	Mike Froeter	Owen Galligan
Kevin Geiger	Jon Hylton	Jacob Johnson
Aidan Jones	Matthew Jones	Matthew Kauffman
Connor Lyons	Dan Marchini	Timothy McCanns
Shawn McConaghy	Bill McDermott	Emma McDonald
James McDonald	Nicholas McDonald	Michael McGarvey
Francis McGrail	Daniel McLee	Nicholas Peranteau
Stephen Peranteau	Ronan Plummer	Peter Quinn
Katherine Reider	Patrick J. Ryan, Jr.	Joseph Spence
Chase Stewart	Jesse Stewart	Sean Sweeney
	Skip Turner	

Let us pray for those who SERVE and PROTECT...
 Dear Heavenly Father, we lift our sailors, soldiers, marines, airmen, coast guard and families into Your loving care. Protect our Nation from all that is evil. Guide our way through these difficult times. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

ST. FRANCIS PARISH MEN'S GROUP



Parish Men's Group meets every Saturday morning virtually from 6:45~8:00AM to share the desire to follow Jesus more closely by being better husbands, fathers, grandfathers, leaders, followers, sons, and friends. All are welcome to join us! Please call in at 6:45AM at 646-558-8656 **Meeting ID:** 738 611 2876 **Passcode:** 111501.



All women are invited to join us in fellowship, aimed at strengthening our faith and journeying closer to the heart of God. This year, we will be using Walking with Purpose's "Touching the Divine" bible study. <https://walkingwithpurpose.com/bible-study/> for more info and to order the book. Meetings will take place in SFA's Library on select Saturday mornings at 8:30am, beginning September 14th. If you have questions or want more info, please reach out to: Jen Lorenz 610-333-3011.

LIVE VERTICAL



ALL ARE INVITED!!! Come let your heart be soothed and experience the peace and serenity of our Parish Holy Hour on Wednesdays at 7pm in the Church. If you have questions or wish to volunteer and help reach out, please contact Rob Longo (Rob@LiveVertical.org) or Luke LeTourneau (Luke@LiveVertical.org) or call 610-986-6660. For more info, visit: www.livevertical.org

**STUDENTS EXCELLING AT
 CARDINAL O'HARA HIGH SCHOOL**



Our parish recently received notification of the performance of our high school students on the end of the 1st quarter report. We are particularly proud of those who demonstrated academic excellence.

Students who have achieved first honors include:

Sophia Gower '25, Nathan Kutufaris '25, Michael Reardon '25, Allison Lorenz '26, Leah Hudak '27, Michael McGowan '28, Jack Travea '28,

Students who have achieved second honors include:

Colin Culp '25, Michael Ferraiolo '25, Brianna Johnson '25, Edward Scullin '25, Kayleigh McGowan '26, Ryan Boehmke '27, Jack Coleman '27, Charles McCallen '27.



Babysitting on Sundays, during the 9:30AM Masses...

For ages 12 months to 5 years old. The babysitting will take place in the SFA Upper School Building. Enter through the door to the LEFT of the Gym and go in the first classroom on the right. Doors will open starting at 9:15AM. To register your child(ren), or to volunteer to sit, contact: Rebecca Donovan at 607-351-8381 or Katie Birkhead at 484-995-9941.

CLEARANCES NECESSARY FOR BABYSITTERS.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace Praesidium Legion of Mary



The Saint Francis Chapter of the Legion of Mary (Our Lady, Queen of Peace Praesidium) invites you to become an active or auxiliary member of Mary's Legion. Active members attend a weekly meeting and commit to doing two hours of work each week for Mary and her Son. Auxiliary members pray the Legion prayers daily for the intentions of our Blessed Mother. **Our Legion meets on Monday afternoons at 1:30 P.M. in the Rectory Chapel.** We invite you to join us to learn more about our work. For more information, call Gus McClay at 610 544-7223.

PRAYER WARRIORS



Our prayer line needs to be revised. If you wish to join us in praying for the needs of others OR if you are already part of this mission and cannot continue, Please call 610-328-0741.

The Corner

Brought to you by your Evangelization Team

Today is the first day of Advent! Let's reflect: "Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us. Namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the Star of Hope."---Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

BE ENCOURAGED: CATHOLIC SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH WEBSITE

www.archphila.org/support.

Resources to assist with healing, accompaniment and flourishing. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has launched a website with resources to support those who are experiencing mental health struggles and those who love them. The website offers links to find Catholic clinicians, local crisis response phone numbers and ministries that can assist with recovery and healing. In addition, there are tools to help parishes, schools and institutions cultivate a deeper awareness of and responsiveness to these realities, suffered by so many. Visit the Be Encouraged website at www.archphila.org/support

ROSARY RALLY TO KEEP "CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS"



America Needs Fatima Please join us as we pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary and Sing Christmas Carols. **Saturday, December 14, 11AM to 12N.** Where: *Sidewalk outside McDonald's, 1891 South State Road in the Bond Shopping Center State and Lansdowne Avenue Drexel Hill PA 19026.* Upper Darby Township granted permission for this event. Rain or shine, prepare for the weather! Questions? Catherine 610-299-5107 Please text first.

MASS & HEALING PRAYER SERVICE AT OUR LADY OF FATIMA All are invited to Our Lady of Fatima's Quarterly First Friday Mass and Healing Prayer Service on **December 6, 2024.** Praise and Worship begins at 6:45pm followed by the Mass and Healing Service. Location: Our Lady of Fatima, 1 Fatima Drive, Secane, PA 19018.

More Information: Visit: <https://www.archphilaccr.org>

"MAIN LINE SINGLES DINNER CLUB (AGES 52-68)

Catholic men & women are cordially invited to join "The Main Line Singles Dinner Club" to share common interests & dine together twice a month or once every 3 weeks. Our next scheduled event is on **(Sun) December 8, 2024 @ 5:15 P.M.,** a restaurant event @ "Masami Japanese Hibachi Restaurant" located @ 1260 Township Line Rd., Drexel Hill, PA. 19026. More info call Barb (610) 896-6542. Memo: I do not TEXT! Catholic men are encouraged to participate.

We enjoy restaurant events, house parties & special events.

ANNUAL CEMETERY BLANKET/DOOR WREATH SALE ...The Holy Cross Knights of Columbus #15482 are holding their Annual Cemetery Blanket/Door Wreath Sale beginning **Sunday, 11/24 and ending on Sunday, 12/8.** The price is still \$35 per Blanket and/or Door Wreath. To order call/text Andy Grajek at 610-761-9020 and leave your name, phone number and the amount you are ordering. You can also contact us by e-mail at andygra44@yahoo.com and we can send you a form. Make checks payable to "Holy Cross K.O.C. #15482". Mail checks to : Andy Grajek, 492 Indian Rock Dr, Springfield, Pa 19064. *They will be available for pick up at the Holy Cross School Parking Lot located on North Bishop Ave on Saturday, 12/14, from 8:30am until 11:00am.*

CHRISTMAS MARKET & ADVENT TAIZÉ

Wednesday, December 11 from 4pm-7:30pm (Taizé is 7:30-8:30pm). Join us at St. Raphael Center for a wonderful evening of creativity, community, and seasonal cheer! We welcome old and new friends to walk through our decorated home, enjoy soups and sweets from our chef, browse handmade gifts from visiting artist vendors, connect with neighbors and friends, and encounter God's love through an Advent prayer service from 6:00-6:30pm in the chapel. Website: www.st.raphaelacenter.org, Phone: 610-642-5715 or Email: info@straphaelacenter.org.

HOLY CROSS PARISH AND CHOIR Welcomes

everyone to its 3rd Annual "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols." To be celebrated in the Church **Sunday, December 8 at 4 pm.** 651 E Springfield Road, Springfield PA 19064. Light refreshments courtesy of the Knights of Columbus will follow in the school gym. Admission is FREE!

THE CALIX SOCIETY "A.A. restores your health and keeps you from an early grave. Calix saves your soul and puts you on the road to heaven." - William J. Montroy, a founder of the Calix Society. Are you in a 12-step recovery program? Do you have family or friends in recovery? Tell them about The Calix Society! **We meet the last Saturday of every month at St. Francis of Assisi after the 4:00pm Mass in the Church Library/basement.** For more information about the Calix Society please visit www.calixsociety.org. You can also contact Ken Johnston at 215-327-3236 or ken@notsaintsyet.org. For more info about our meeting at SFA: please contact Luke LeTourneau at 610-986-6660.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

We salute the advertisers in our bulletin. This week we thank

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PRAYER FOR THOSE LIVING ALONE

I live alone, dear Lord, stay by my side. In my daily life, be always my guide. Grant me good health, for this I pray, so I may live to the fullest every day. Help me stay positive in thought and in deed. As I strive to be kind and help my neighbor in need. Protect me from threats such as theft and fire; shield me from hatred and others' ire. If an illness or accident should befall me, then humbly I pray, Lord, that You hear my call. And when I am feeling low or in despair, lift up my heart and help me in my prayer. I live alone, dear Lord, yet I have no fear, because I feel Your presence ever near. Amen.

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Text **MALLORYSARMY** to 22828 to get started.

Message and data rates may apply.

WINTER OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday
January 29, 2025
9:00 - 11:00 am



St. Aloysius Academy is the only private, Catholic, K-8 school for boys in the five county Philadelphia metro area committed to the spiritual, moral, and academic development of each student.

To register, please call us at 610-525-1670 or admissions@staloyusiacademy.org
www.staloyusiacademy.org

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON

S A M I

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Broomall: 610-353-2700

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