

Third Sunday of Advent ~ December 15, 2024



**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

610-543-0848 (fax) 610-604-0283 [www.sfaparish.org](http://www.sfaparish.org) [contactsfaparish@sfaparish.org](mailto:contactsfaparish@sfaparish.org)  
**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL 610-543-0546**



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

**St. Francis of Assisi  
Memorial Fund**

*A Contribution can be made  
to the Memorial Fund in the  
Memory of a loved one.  
A Mass will be Offered on the  
First Friday of each month  
for the year for all Members  
of the Memorial Fund.  
Contribution of \$10 is requested  
and can be arranged at the  
Rectory Office.*

For Information regarding  
Upcoming Funerals & Services,  
Please visit our Parish Website at  
[www.sfaparish.org](http://www.sfaparish.org)  
and click on...



We invite all...men, women and teens  
to help decorate the Church for Christmas.  
Sunday, December 22nd following 11:30AM Mass  
*All are welcome & needed!!!*



**ADULT CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

*Adult Choirs of  
St. Francis of Assisi & St. Pius X  
will perform at St. Francis of Assisi Church  
Sunday, December 22nd 4:00 PM  
Everyone Welcome!*

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



**Sunday, December 15, 2024**

7:30AM Augustine and Thomas Smolik

9:30AM Janet Bollinger Doherty

11:30AM Joseph Baj (13<sup>th</sup> Ann.)

**Monday, December 16, 2024**

8:00AM Deacon Thomas Woods

**Tuesday, December 17, 2024**

8:00AM Maureen McGonigle

**7:00PM Christmas Tableau PREP**

**Wednesday, December 18, 2024**

8:00AM Robert Cacciatore

**NO ADORATION ~ ONLY 7PM HOLY HOUR**

**Thursday, December 19, 2024**

8:00AM Pamela Valentine (2<sup>nd</sup> Ann.)

**7:00PM Christmas Tableau**

**Friday, December 20, 2024**

8:00AM Chris Corey

**Saturday, December 21, 2024**

8:00AM Janet Bollinger Doherty

3:00PM Confessions

4:00PM For the People of the Parish

**Sunday, December 22, 2024**

7:30AM Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McCallum and

Mr. & Mrs. Max Girshick

9:30AM Nancy Curtis (7<sup>th</sup> Ann.)

11:30AM Chris Corey

**PRAYER REQUESTS**  
TOGETHER WE WILL PRAY

**Baby Daniel Ruszaj**

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
Jenine Amato	Joe Mastalski	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
Amy Travers	Patti Frost Sinco	Frank Riehl

*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](mailto:sfabulletin@hotmail.com) or call the Rectory at 610-543-0848. Thank you for your prayers.

*St. Francis of Assisi*

*"2024 Christmas Tableau"*

St. Francis of Assisi Church

Thursday, December 19th ~ 7:00 ~ 9:00 PM

*Live Performance by the St. Francis of Assisi School Students*

*All Are Welcome!!*



**WEEKLY DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET**

Please join us Wednesday mornings immediately following the 8AM Mass in front of the Sacred Heart statue in Church for the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

†REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DIED†  
*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 15th**, the candle will burn in loving memory of **Kelly and Jacki Allen** as requested by their **Mom and Dad, Nancy and Albert Allen**.

**Breaking Open the Word**  
**4th Sunday of Advent ~ December 22nd, 2024**



**Micah 5:1-4a**

Which Centuries before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Micah foretold that the tiny town of Bethlehem would be host to the birth of the long-awaited Savior. The readings this week provide a reminder that small things often have great consequence in God's eyes, but only those attentive to the will of God notice them. Have you ever noticed the divine in a place other people overlook?

**Hebrews 10:5-10**

Jesus fulfills the will of God. In what ways are you fulfilling God's will for you? As you celebrate the paschal sacrifice, the Mass, can you match your attitude to that of Christ?

**Luke 1:39-45**

This Sunday's Gospel offers us the narrative of Mary's visitation to Elizabeth. The Spirit arrived not with flash and fanfare but with Mary's voice. When Elizabeth heard it, her child stirred, and in that sudden motion, she received insight from the Spirit. Her simple words of blessing still resound through our prayers today. How do you respond when you notice God's presence?

**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.



To Host the Pilgrim Queen Statue in your home for one week, (Sunday to Sunday), visit the Parish website at [sfaparish.org](http://sfaparish.org) and click on the link to **Sign Up** to reserve your week and Be Blessed by Our Lady and Our Lord. For more information, call Roseann Squitiere at 610-328-0635.



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.

**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.



**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.

**MARY MOTHER OF CAPTIVES**

A Support Group for those coping with a loved one in prison. Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at St. Charles Borromeo Church Hall, 3422 Dennison Avenue, Drexel Hill, Pa 19026. **Attendees remain confidential.** For more information, please call John or Sue at 610-259-3178 or email: [marymotherofcaptives@augustinian.org](mailto:marymotherofcaptives@augustinian.org).

**Visit the Imprisoned. Become a Pen Pal...** In prison, sometimes the only contact with the outside world is in the form of letters. Pen Pal writers are needed to write to the poorest of the poor. For more info, call John or Sue at 610-259-3178 or email: [marymotherofcaptives@augustinian.org](mailto:marymotherofcaptives@augustinian.org).



**Add Your Voice**

"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](mailto:ericjlongo@gmail.com) for inquires.



SCRIP sales are held in the gym from 9:30-11am every Sunday (except holidays). If you have any questions, please contact Deb Peterson or Amy Foran at [sfascrripsales@gmail.com](mailto:sfascrripsales@gmail.com) or call **484-432-1472**, or visit <http://www.sfaschool.com/scrrip/>

## SAINT FRANCIS OVER 50 CLUB



There is **NO MEETING** on December 26<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting is January 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be entertained by "Massimo Brutto."

**"IRISH CELEBRATION"** Join St. Francis Over 50 Club at the Shore Club in Springton Lake, NJ on **March 6<sup>th</sup>**. For more information, contact **Cathy Randazzo at 610-389-5225**.

**Casino Trips: 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.



### **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](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org).

A Baby's Breath 24-hour hotline: 484-571-5540.  
[www.ababysbreath.org](http://www.ababysbreath.org).

Delaware County Pregnancy Center: 610-872-2229,  
[www.dpcchester.org](http://www.dpcchester.org)

Mother's Home: 610-583-HOME, [www.mothershome.org](http://www.mothershome.org).

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

## **THE THREE PARISH BOOK CLUB**



The Book Club will hold its December and January meeting in the Family Life Center at Holy Cross on **Wednesday, January 22nd 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 or via email at [termprice@verizon.net](mailto:termprice@verizon.net).

**December book** – Waiting for Christ – St. John Henry Newman

**January book** – Walking with God in the Unimpressive Seasons of Life – Fr. Mike Schmitz

## Our Lady, Queen of Peace Praesidium Legion of Mary



*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.

## **HOLY SPIRIT GROUP MEN'S 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 year's 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 "Cabrini".

Email me with any questions. Carlo Borgia – [cgb58@verizon.net](mailto:cgb58@verizon.net)

## **THE GREAT GAELIC GETAWAY**



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Visit: [www.cloverdaletravel.org](http://www.cloverdaletravel.org) or call 215-469-1505

**(Trip flyer is available at the Church entrances).**

## **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.

## Women's Bible Study

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](mailto:Rob@LiveVertical.org)) or Luke LeTourneau ([Luke@LiveVertical.org](mailto:Luke@LiveVertical.org)) or call 610-986-6660. For more info, visit: [www.livevertical.org](http://www.livevertical.org)

### The Corner

#### Brought to you by your Evangelization Team

Let's remember the silent person of the Holy Family, Blessed Saint Joseph. He said "yes" to God by adopting Jesus, the Incarnate Son of God, as his own Child. Joseph's "yes" is very similar to the "yes" of Mary; just as it demonstrated her humility and obedience, so it also demonstrates his.



#### 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.**



#### Calling all Knitters & Crocheters

Are you looking for a way to serve the Lord using your God given talent? "PROJECT LINUS" is a nationwide project where knitters or crocheters donate their handmade blankets for hospitalized children from Premies to Teens. For more info, call 610-328-0741.

#### ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

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



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### 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.

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



#### IN NEED OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTION? Spiritual

Direction is a way to grow a personal relationship with your God through learning to discern, notice and savor the movements of the Spirit as expressed in everyday life, prayer, meditation, and relationships. It requires attentiveness to the moment and listening with the heart to the gentle stirrings deep within. If interested in finding out more, contact Mary Powers at 610-299-7222 or [marykenneypowers@gmail.com](mailto:marykenneypowers@gmail.com). We can meet on ZOOM, FaceTime, or in person. A donation is requested: \$20-\$50. Open for discussion if a hardship. (Checks or Venmo). Confidentiality is maintained within the spiritual direction session.

#### WOMEN OF HOPE (formerly known as Dominican

Women) Retreat: **March 14-16, 2025.** Come to Malvern Retreat House to renew and strengthen your relationship with our Lord. Take time to deepen your faith, in the company of other women who seek more from their faith lives. The theme is "The Eucharist- Food for the Journey." Speakers include: Jeannine Peters, Sr. Shiela Galligan, IHM, and Nicky Verna. Visit and learn about the first Archdiocesan Shrine dedicated to Blessed, soon to be Saint, Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint of the youth. Mary Bea Damico will speak about him in the shrine and a first-class relic can be venerated. Please consider the gift of this weekend retreat for yourself and other women in your lives. The cost is \$275 and a \$75 deposit minimum is requested to secure your spot. To register, call 610 644-0400 or visit [www.malvernretreat.com](http://www.malvernretreat.com)

**FOOD ADDICTS IN RECOVERY** Are you having a hard time controlling the way you eat? Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous, FA is a recovery program for people who suffer from food obsession, overeating, bulimia and under-eating. The program is based on the Twelve Steps of AA. Everyone is welcome to this free meeting, including those who think they may have a food problem or those who are concerned about someone who may. FA is FREE and open to all women, men, and teens who want to stop eating addictively. **Meetings are held every Wednesday at 1:30 PM at St. Kevin School, 2nd Floor.** For more information, please call Joanne at 484-848-6301 or visit [www.foodaddicts.org](http://www.foodaddicts.org).

**INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES AND AUTISM**

**HELP-LINE:** Do you need help accessing services and support for someone with an intellectual disability or Autism? A collaboration of Catholic Social Services-Developmental Programs, The Office for Persons with Disabilities and the Schools of Special Education of the Archdiocese is offering this convenient helpline to assist families connect to disabilities services provided by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and other agencies. **To reach the Help-Line call: 484-472-5041 or email: [IDDhelp@chs-adphila.org](mailto:IDDhelp@chs-adphila.org).**

**BE ENCOURAGED: CATHOLIC SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH WEBSITE**

[www.archphila.org/support](http://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](http://www.archphila.org/support)

**HOPE IN CHRIST:**

**SPIRITUAL SUPPORT FOR ADDICTIONS**

Seeking solace and spiritual support in the journey towards recovery? Many local parishes are offering ways to experience Christ's extended hand of love and mercy in your time of need. Find Catholic resources for addiction for you or your loved one at [www.archphila.org/hope](http://www.archphila.org/hope)  
Also available for support is Faith-based drug rehab website: [www.AddictionCenter.com/Treatment/Faith-Based-Drug-and-Alcohol-Rehab](http://www.AddictionCenter.com/Treatment/Faith-Based-Drug-and-Alcohol-Rehab)

**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](http://www.calixsociety.org). You can also contact Ken Johnston at 215-327-3236 or [ken@notsaintsyet.org](mailto:ken@notsaintsyet.org). For more info about our meeting at SFA: please contact Luke LeTourneau at 610-986-6660.



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

**PRAYER WARRIORS**



Join our Prayer Network and become a Prayer Warrior. A "Prayer Network" is the work of a silent, unobtrusive group of people who offer to "stand in the breach" and intercede for the serious needs of fellow parishioners and their families and friends.

Since **prayer is its only purpose**, a parish prayer network can become a spiritual community builder unlike any other Church group. There is no organization to it. There are NO MEETINGS, NO OFFICERS, and NO ACTIVITIES! The "pray-ers" who volunteer can choose whatever kind of prayer they are led to use, for as long as they feel the Lord desires them to do so.

A phone call comes...needs are expressed and a prayer (usually a Hail Mary and Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust in You) are prayed with the caller. The recipient calls the next person on the line and repeats the process. A prayer or two may be said during the day for those intentions...whatever prayer you are most comfortable with. Family members can be included in these prayers for the needs of others.

No one should ever have to feel alone in their suffering or time of crisis.

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.

**PRAYER FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Dear Jesus,  
It's halfway through Advent and I'm not sure what happened. I really wanted to make this a reflective and calm season, preparing for Your birth and pondering how You came into this world in such a stunningly humble way. But it's so busy and I'm distracted and sometimes even short-tempered with those I love the most. Where are You in THAT?

I am discouraged and wish I could start over. But as I sit here in the rare moment of silence, I contemplate Your birth. In a bed of straw, with the smell of manure everywhere. It's a mess in that stable ... and come to think of it, my life is a little messy, too. I suddenly see that it is not just into the mess of the stable but into my mess that You enter the world. You came into a humble place and that humility is often where I live my life - feeling guilty or distracted and wishing I were a better person. But if I stop thinking of myself and focus on You, I realize that there You are, waiting to love me, even though I have so many unfulfilled good intentions about prayer, so many desires of how to change this fleeting Advent season.

I can begin Advent today and make this season deeper by making room in my heart for You. I can take just a moment before I get out of bed in the morning and feel the empty place in my life I so often fill with my busy-ness. It is there I need You the most. Come, Lord Jesus. Come into that dark and lonely spot in my heart. You know what my needs are more than I do. Let me feel Your love. If I only carry that thought with me each day, it will prepare me for Christmas.

Thank You, Jesus. It's not too late. You are waiting to enter my life today, wherever I let You in. Help me to open my heart in these remaining days. Amen.

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## Mallory's Army Foundation

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*It's easy to join our mailing list!  
 Just send your email address by text message:  
 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](mailto:admissions@staloyusiacademy.org)  
[www.staloyusiacademy.org](http://www.staloyusiacademy.org)

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON

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