

ST. POLYCARP CHURCH

In
The Silver Lake Deanery
Of
The Diocese of Wilmington

Rev. James D. Hreha, Pastor

Deacon Frank Weber



Pastoral Council—Kathy Curlett

Finance Council—Kevin Titus



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:00 pm & Sunday 10:30 am

Tuesday & Wednesday 8:30 am

LIVE STREAM MASS: Saturdays at 4pm,

Tuesday & Wednesday at 8:30 am.

www.youtube.com/c/StPolycarpSmyrnaDE

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 2:30–3:30 pm or by appointment

PARISH OFFICE:

Monday—Friday, 9 am to 3 pm

(302) 653-8279

55 Ransom Lane Smyrna, DE 19977

www.saintpolycarp.org

Parish Secretary, Kathy Watts

office@saintpolycarp.org

Financial Manager, Laura Pajerowski

financialmanager@saintpolycarp.org

Facilities Manager, George Hutchinson

facilitiesmanager@saintpolycarp.org

Communications Director, Judy Lamborn

communications@saintpolycarp.org

CHRISTIAN FORMATION OFFICE:

(302) 653-4101

Coordinator of Religious Education, Erica Taylor

dre@saintpolycarp.org

Assistant to CRE, Judy Lamborn

assistdre@saintpolycarp.org

For those in need—St. Vincent de Paul Society

(302) 264-6630



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME

We're glad you joined us today. If you are new to the parish, please consider registering. Forms can be found at the Church doors or online at www.saintpolycarp.org.

THE SACRAMENTS OF OUR CHURCH

Baptism: Catechesis is provided for parents and godparents. Contact the Parish Secretary to register.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, or completing the Sacraments of Initiation (Eucharist and Confirmation), contact Deacon Frank at the Parish Office or email DeaconFrank@saintpolycarp.org.

Marriage: Formation is provided for couples. Arrangements must be made at least one year in advance. Contact the Parish Office.

Vocations: Contact Rev. Norman Carroll at (302) 573 – 3113

Anointing of the Sick: Contact the Parish Office.

Nursing Home Communion Services: DHCI, 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:30 am. Pinnacle, 1st Wednesday of the month at 1:15 pm.

For Funerals: Contact the Funeral Home of your choice. They will then coordinate with the Parish Office.

*Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday - Rejoice!
December 17, 2023*



LET US PRAY

Intentions

Saturday, December 16
4:00 pm Jack & Jared Grove - Carol Grove
Catherine Corso - Judy Lamborn
Sunday, December 17 3rd Sunday of Advent
10:30 am Jack & Jared Grove - Carol Grove
Luigina & Preston Pendarvis - The Pendarvis Family
Monday, December 18
NO MASS
Tuesday, December 19
8:30 am Jason Cavett -Maureen Robinson
Living Intention for Diane Harman - Barbara Kaczorowski
Living Intention for Bridget O'Connell - Barbara Kaczorowski
Wednesday, December 20
8:30 am Katherine Pamela Pillet - Jim & Toni Hewes
Charles Franklin Leverage - Kathryn Duncan
Lucy Sumaraga - Dee Lim
Thursday, December 21
NO MASS
Friday, December 22
NO MASS
Saturday, December 23 St. John of Kanty
4:00 pm Robert H. Smith - Mike & Diane Dellinger
Sylvia Vessels DuRoss - Jim DuRoss
Judy Reynolds - Mary Grace & George Hutchinson
Sunday, December 24 4th Sunday of Advent
10:30 am Novena

The Nativity of the Lord
Sunday, December 24
4:00 pm & 9:00 pm Christmas Novena
Monday, December 25
10 am Christmas Novena

Week of December 17th:

Our Sanctuary Lamp in Church burns in memory of Anna Elizabeth Leverage Gefre at the request of Kathryn Duncan
Our Sanctuary Lamp in Saint Ann's Chapel burns for an increase in vocations.

Please Pray for Our Sick & Those in Need of Our Prayers

To have someone's name added to the Bulletin for prayers, please email submission@saintpolycarp.org or call the office and leave a message. Names will remain on the prayer list for two months (eight weeks) unless other arrangements have been requested.

Wally Wargo, Diane Bullins, Bridget O'Connell, Ava P, Robin Husman, Milli Burris Alvarez, Jack Barnas, Margaret Sevellina, Lyllie Deter, Leon Walczak, John Ruane, Dottie Patterson, Laverne Dykes, Janet Alexander, Bob Gallihar, Kay Gallihar, Grace Wagner, Patricia Capobianco, Barbara Hynson, Charlotte Konesky, Tina Kelley, Cathy Connell, Joe Donofrio, April Doyle, Beth Kelly, Andrea Laws, Kaysie Borgman, Angie & Al Grasso, Erica White, James Dean, Violet Farkas, Greg Kujala, Teresa Tier, Holly Powell, Rob Tuxward, Billy Killen, Andrew Cella, Jr., Lily Griffiths, Rob Miller, Patty Moon, Deirdre Moor, Linda Blow, Mariann Pierson, Ruth Staub, Jaci Stokes, and residents of Pinnacle and DHCI.

We Pray for our Deceased

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE - QUESTIONS TO PONDER
~How can you cultivate an attitude of thanksgiving, no matter the circumstance?
~Who needs you to bring them glad tidings?
~ As Christmas beckons, consider how you can join your heart to Mary's and make the Magnificat part of your daily prayer.

Oh Come, All Ye Faithful



Christmas Mass Schedule

St. Polycarp:

Sunday, December 24th, at 4 pm
(Children's Nativity Pageant to Follow)

Sunday, December 24th, at 9 pm

Monday, December 25th, at 10 am

St. Dennis:

Sunday, December 24th, at 4 pm

Sunday, December 24th at 6 pm -

Hispanic

Monday, December 25th, at 10 am

You are cordially invited to join us at the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass to watch our 1st graders bring to life our Nativity Pageant.



The reenactment of the First Christmas will take place immediately following the Mass. This performance will surely put you into the Christmas Spirit.

From all of us involved in the PSR Ministry, we wish you a safe, peaceful, and joy filled Christmas. Thank you for all your support and prayers throughout the year. You are truly appreciated! May God bless.

Erica Taylor, CRE

Prayer Chain: To request prayers or to be part of our Prayer Chain, contact Laverne at laverne427@icloud.com or call (302) 653 – 8064.

Rosary by Telephone: Tuesdays at 11 am. The dial in number is: 1-701-802-5254/PIN: 1747300#.

Eucharistic Adoration –Tuesdays, 9 am – 8 pm – Chapel, At the end of the 4 pm Vigil Mass, before the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Flame of Love Rosary: Thursdays at 6:30 pm - Chapel

Divine Mercy: Fridays at 3 pm – Chapel.

LITURGY

Reconciliation Monday

Monday, December 18th, 3 pm - 5 pm and 6 pm - 8 pm
St. Polycarp Church* and St. Dennis Church
*Two priests will be present during each session.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Christmas is a time to reflect on the blessings of family and shared togetherness. We exchange gifts as an act of love and appreciation, but there is no greater gift we can give than the gift of the Holy Mass. Although a loved one may no longer be present to share this time with us, let us remember that, now more than ever, they rely upon us for their spiritual well-being. Take a moment to show your affection by praying on their behalf. Living or deceased, the best gift you can give is the gift of the Mass. Please use the Christmas Novena envelope to show your loved ones they have not been forgotten.



Advent is a time of preparation. Just like parents in every time and every location prepare for the birth of their child, Mary and Joseph did their best to welcome the Holy Child in the

humble surroundings where our Lord entered the world. Wouldn't this be the ideal time to proclaim the birth of our Savior by decorating our Church with all the splendor befitting the birth of the King of Kings? During this Advent season, please consider using the Christmas flower envelope to help us proclaim our joy as we rejoice in the birth of our Lord.

NOTICE ANYTHING NEW?

We hope that you have noticed the new candle stands in the back of the Church. They are electric candles, which are safer and do not create soot. The aqua candles are the \$3 votive candles. After you put your money in the slot, you just need to press the button in front of that candle. You must press & hold the button until it lights. The white candles are memorial candles. There will be a fee to have the church light them, which will enable that candle to be lit for an entire year. We will have a memorial name plate placed in front of that candle. We will post that fee soon. We hope you enjoy them.

BE BRAVE, ANSWER THE CALL!

On January 29, 1973, the instruction *Immensae caritatis* was issued by Pope Paul VI. With this instruction, the diocesan bishop was given permission to designate lay men and women to distribute the Eucharist as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Are you a Catholic living in harmony with the teachings of the Church? Are you at least 18 years old? Have you received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation? Are you sufficiently mature to perform the duties of Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at Mass or to the sick and homebound?

These are the qualifications needed to be considered for Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. If this is a ministry you feel God calling you to, please contact Cindy Kennedy at Kennedy-078@msn.com.

Formation and training will begin early January.

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

New Year's Day

Sunday, December 31st, at 4 pm
Monday, January 1st, at 10 am

The Blessing of Calendars will take place at the 4 pm Mass, on December 31st



THE VOCATION CHALICE

The Vocation Chalice encourages individuals and/or families to pray regularly for vocations to priesthood and consecrated life. The Chalice is taken home with a promise to pray for vocations during that week. Call or text Alice Gaston at (302) 670 –7924 if you can take home the vocation chalice for a week of prayer.

Family/Person	Weekend	Mass time
Stephanie Roch	December 24	4:00 pm



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Visit <https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading> or use this QR code.

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS: EARLY DEADLINES

BULLETIN DATE	SUBMISSIONS DUE
December 31	December 19, by end of day
January 7	December 26, by end of day

Email all submissions to:

submission@saintpolycarp.org

VISIT BULLETIN OVERFLOW

for details on events & for things that we just don't have room for in our bulletin.

<https://saintpolycarp.org/overflow/>

PARISH & FAMILY LIFE

COLUMBIETTES COOKIE WALK 2023 THIS WEEKEND AFTER MASSES



Purchase delicious homemade cookies lovingly baked by our Columbiettes after both Masses THIS weekend. Many varieties to choose from. Only \$1 per bag!



BREAKFAST WITH JESUS THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH FOLLOWING 10:30 MASS

ALL ARE INVITED!

Come join us this Sunday morning, December 17th, following 10:30 am Mass, for BREAKFAST WITH JESUS. Brother Vincent Knights of Columbus will be serving a delicious breakfast. Let us celebrate the upcoming birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. There is also a strong rumor that St. Nicholas (Santa) will show up to check on the children. Breakfast is free (donations accepted).

DEACON CHARLIE MEMORIAL ADVENT POSTER CONTEST

On December 1st, the family of Deacon Charlie Robinson judged 66 entries in the Deacon Charlie Memorial Advent Poster Contest. What a difficult job that was!! Below are the Second Place winners. See next weekend's bulletin for the First Place winners!

Sunday Morning, Grades PK/K - 4
2ND PLACE - BRISA PIZANA



Tuesday Evening, Grade 5 - 8
2ND PLACE - KIARA OKPARA



SOCIAL CONCERNS

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY ACTIVITIES JANUARY THROUGH NOVEMBER 2023

The Society is a worldwide Catholic Lay Organization in over 153 Countries with over 1 million members. In the United States, there are 100,00 members in 155 Dioceses. In the Wilmington Diocese, we have over 1,000 members. The vocation of the Society is to follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His Compassion and Love. Vincentians show

CELEBRATE!

Saturday January 13, 2024
5:30-9:00 P.M.



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their commitment through person-to-person service and seeing the face of Christ in the people we serve. For more information you may contact Chuck Miller (302) 270-4942 or any of our members. We meet monthly on the second Monday of the month in the Library at 12:00.

Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society assisted 135 families and individuals during January through November 2023. This help totaled \$41,140 and helped our parishioners and neighbors with rent, mortgage payments, utilities, medicine, transportation, and food. None of this would be possible without donations to the poor box and individual donations to St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Members attended the National Assembly in St. Louis, MO. The Diocesan Annual St. Vincent de Paul Society Mass and dinner was held at St. John The Beloved in Wilmington on September 24th. Bishop Koenig celebrated the Mass and joined us for the dinner where the guest speaker was the St. Vincent de Paul National Director of Formation, Tim Williams.

St Polycarp St. Vincent de Paul Society coordinated with the Knights of Columbus and the Columbiettes to collect turkeys and hams on Thursday evening, December 7, 2023, between 6:30PM and 7:30PM with a Saturday morning delivery, December 9th.

2023 FAITH AND CHARITY CATHOLIC APPEAL



Thank you to all those parishioners who contributed to the 2023 Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal. Our parish has achieved our goal in pledges and money collected for the appeal! Your generosity in supporting this year's appeal once again demonstrates that you understand the mission of our Church. Now that we have reached our goal in money collected, we will receive back half of the money collected above the goal for projects around our campus. We invite those who haven't yet had the opportunity to give to the Appeal to join us in spreading the spirit of gratitude. Envelopes can be found at the doors of the Church You can also support the appeal online at www.cdow.org

COLLECTIONS

Please consider signing up for eGiving. Visit faith.direct/DE831 or you can use Text-to-Give. Text "Enroll" to (302) 202-2251 or you can use this QR code for easy giving. *Thank you for your generosity.*



COLLECTIONS - DECEMBER 3

Offertory	Children's Offertory	Total Offertory		
\$4,945	\$18.25	\$4,963.25		
Christmas Flowers	Christmas Novena	Christmas Offering	Holy Days	SVDP/Poor Box
\$370	\$135	\$525	\$87	\$413
Religious Retirement				
\$1226				
Offertory	Received	Budgeted	Over/(Under)	
November Total	\$25,861	\$25,000	\$861	
Fiscal YTD	\$147,757.50	\$138,600	\$9,157.50	

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

For the most up-to-date information
Visit <https://saintpolycarp.org/calendar/>
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9 am to 3 pm

<p>Saturday, December 16</p> <p>10 am Girl Scout Holiday Meeting (Hall)</p> <p>12 pm Environment Committee (Church)</p> <p>2:30 pm Confession</p> <p>4 pm MASS</p> <p>Following Mass - Columbiettes Cookie Walk (Grounds/Hall)</p>
<p>Sunday, December 17</p> <p>9 am PSR Grades P/K-4, (Rooms 1-6, 8)</p> <p>10:30 am MASS (PSR Grade 5 Families attend Mass)</p> <p>10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word</p> <p>11:30 am Reconciliation (Reconciliation Room)</p> <p>Following Mass - Breakfast with Jesus (Hall)</p> <p>Following Mass - Columbiettes Cookie Walk (Grounds/Hall)</p> <p>5:30 pm - Confirmation Class (Hall)</p>
<p>Monday, December 18</p> <p>3 pm - 5 pm Reconciliation Monday</p> <p>6 pm - 8 pm Reconciliation Monday</p> <p>6:30 pm RCIA Session (Hall)</p>
<p>Tuesday, December 19 OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON</p> <p>8:30 am MASS</p> <p>9 am - 8 pm Eucharistic Adoration (Chapel)</p> <p>9 am Adult Faith Formation - Connected in Christ (Library)</p> <p>10:30 am Communion Service at DHCI</p> <p>11 am Columbiettes Rosary (Telephone)</p> <p>6:30 pm PSR Grades 5-8 (Rms. 3-6, 8, Hall)</p>
<p>Wednesday, December 20</p> <p>8:30 am MASS</p> <p>6 pm Columbiette Board Meeting (Library)</p> <p>7 pm KoC Officers Meeting (Library)</p>
<p>Thursday, December 21</p> <p>10 am Seasons of Hope (Library)</p> <p>6 pm Girl Scouts Meeting (Hall)</p> <p>6:30 pm Flame of Love Rosary (Chapel)</p> <p>6:30 Parish & Family Life (Room 7)</p>
<p>Friday, December 22</p> <p>3 pm Divine Mercy (Chapel)</p>
<p>Saturday, December 23</p> <p>12 pm Environment Committee (Church)</p> <p>2:30 pm Confession</p> <p>4 pm MASS</p>



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