

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

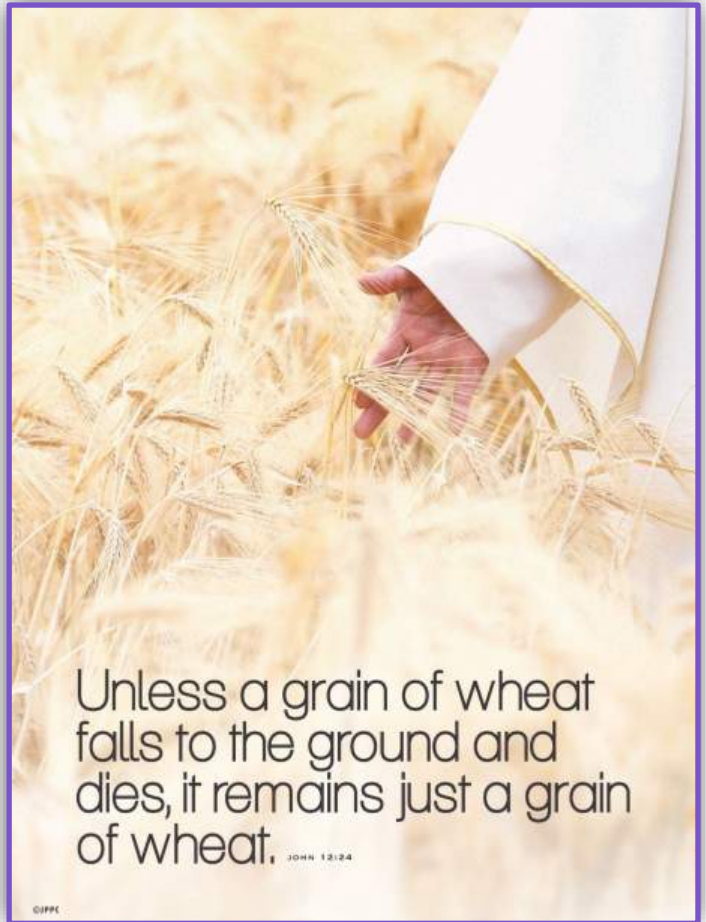
dre@saintpolycarp.org

Assistant to CRE, Judy Lamborn

assistdre@saintpolycarp.org

For those in need—St. Vincent de Paul Society

(302) 264-6630



Unless a grain of wheat
falls to the ground and
dies, it remains just a grain
of wheat. JOHN 12:24

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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 god-parents. Contact the Parish Secretary to register.

OCIA (Order 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: 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.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 17, 2024

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE - QUESTIONS TO PONDER

~Jeremiah speaks of a time when all will come to know God. What does it mean to you to know the Lord?

~What does obedience to Christ look like in your life?

~Is there anything you're being invited to let go of to follow Christ more deeply?

Next Sunday, March 24th
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
 Palm Sunday is the start of Holy Week, the holiest week in the Church's calendar.



RECONCILIATION

The Deanery Penance Service will take place this Thursday, March 21st at 7 pm at Holy Cross Church in Dover.

Several Priests will be available to hear confessions.

Saturdays, 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm at St. Polycarp
 Sundays, following the 10:30 am Mass at St. Polycarp on March 17th, and 24th.

Sundays, 7:00 am – 7:30 am at St. Dennis

Reconciliation Monday, March 25th -
 Monday of Holy Week

3 pm – 5 pm at St. Polycarp
 6 pm – 8 pm at St. Polycarp

3 pm – 5 pm at St. Dennis
 6 pm – 8 pm at St. Dennis (Fr. Oscar – Bilingual)



STATIONS of the CROSS

& Benediction

St. Polycarp - 7 pm on Fridays in Lent

St. Dennis - 5 pm and 7 pm (Hispanic) on Fridays in Lent.

FASTING & ABSTINENCE



Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence from meat. Good Friday is an obligatory day of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. The norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

LET US PRAY

Intentions

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Saturday, March 16 | |
| 4:00 pm Rita Fcasni | - John & Michele Fcasni |
| Stephanie Johnson | - Judy Lamborn |
| Eddie Maycen | - Chuck & Erica Taylor |
| Sunday, March 17 | |
| 5th Sunday of Lent | |
| 10:30 am Linda Montuori | - The Watts Family |
| Imelda McQuaid | - The Terrence McCormick Family |
| John Giest | - Angela Gibson & Tim Vanauken |
| Monday, March 18 | |
| St. Cyril of Jerusalem | |
| NO MASS | |
| Tuesday, March 19 | |
| St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary | |
| 8:30 am Parishioners | |
| Wednesday, March 20 | |
| 8:30 am Leoncio Duran, Sr. | - Marie & Epi Aboyme |
| Ben Walters | - Greg & Monica Haven |
| Thursday, March 21 | |
| NO MASS | |
| Friday, March 22 | |
| NO MASS | |
| Saturday, March 23 | St. Turbius of Mogrovejo |
| 4:00 pm Esther Elizabeth LaSana | - Neda Biggs |
| Linda Montuori | - The Taylor Family |
| Sylvia Vessels DuRoss | - Jim DuRoss |
| Sunday, March 24 | |
| Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord | |
| 10:30 am Vito Mastro | - John & Michele Fcasni |
| Makayla Nicole Sexton | - The Sloven Family |
| Ponnampalam Sabandyagam | - Erlinda Sabanayagam |

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 eight weeks unless other arrangements have been requested.

J. R. Peck, Josefina Ocasio, Diana Bullins, Kenny Bullins, Bobby Bullins, Shirley Bullins, Teresa Tier, Bridget O'Connell, Maureen Robinson, Diane Kravitz, Robin Husman, Milli Burris Alvarez, Lyllie Deter, Dottie Patterson, Laverne Dykes, Janet Alexander, Bob Gallihar, Kay Gallihar, Grace Wagner, Cathy Connell, Joe Donofrio, April Doyle, Andrea Laws, Kaysie Borgman, Angel Grasso, James Dean, Violet Farkas, Greg Kujala, Holly Powell, Lily Griffiths, 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

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 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.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Use this QR code or visit

<https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading>

LITURGY



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – March 23/24

Saturday, March 23rd at 4pm &

Sunday, March 24th at 10:30am – St. Polycarp

Reconciliation Monday – Monday, March 25th

Confessions from 3pm – 5pm & 6pm – 8pm

St. Polycarp & St. Dennis

Chrim Mass -Tuesday, March 26th

at Holy Cross Church, Dover DE – 7pm

Holy Thursday – Thursday, March 28th

Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Dennis – 7pm

(No Mass at St. Polycarp)

Good Friday – Friday, March 29th

Passion of the Lord at St. Polycarp – 3pm

Holy Saturday – Saturday, March 30th

No Confessions either Parish

Easter Vigil at St. Polycarp – 7:30pm

Easter Sunday – Sunday, March 31st

St. Polycarp at 8am and 10am

St. Dennis at 8am, 9:30am and 11am (Spanish)



EASTER REMEMBRANCE

Easter is the greatest celebration in the Catholic Church because it is the completion of the Holy week that ends with the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus was raised from the dead, and by that He

conquered sin and death. Living or deceased, the best gift you can give a loved one is the gift of the Mass. Please use the Easter Mass Remembrance envelope to enjoin your friends and family in our most holy celebration.

EASTER FLOWERS



Easter flowers, particularly the white lilies with their large white trumpet flowers, proclaim that spring is upon us and they symbolize hope and new life.

Add to the beauty of our church during the upcoming Easter season by using your Easter flower envelope to help us proclaim that Jesus has risen!

Holy Communion to the Sick & Homebound

Do you know someone who is sick or homebound and not able to make it to Mass? We would love to give them the opportunity to receive Holy Communion in their homes. Please contact April Corrales at (302) 220 – 9616 or Lori Ostrowski at (302) 540 – 6522

FEBRUARY 2024 LITURGY COMMITTEE NEWS

Here are several items discussed at our last meeting:

- Formation began on our next Liturgy Document – Ecclesia de Eucharistia
- Eucharist under both species began the 1st Sunday of Lent
- The liturgies for Palm Sunday and Holy Week were discussed.
- There are no Blessings in March.
- We have a new Ministry Scheduler, John Barton, who will assume his duties starting in April.
- Everyone was asked to think about their ministries' needs for our Liturgy budget.

On Tuesday, March 19th, the Church celebrates one of the few solemnities during the Lenten Season: **Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. St. Joseph heard the words of God in his dreams and acted on the words of God. He trusted God and God's plan. He followed where God led him and cooperated with God!

SODALITY'S RAFFLE AT PALM SUNDAY'S AGAPE

Sodality is having a raffle on Palm Sunday, March 24th, at the AGAPE after the 10:30 am Mass.



Enhance your Easter Season celebration with a beautifully sculpted piece of art depicting the time from Palm Sunday thru the Ascension of Jesus (the 40th day after the Resurrection). The statue can be viewed on the table in the hallway near the Sacristy. Tickets are 3 for \$5.00 and will be sold only on Palm Sunday, March

24th, at the Agape in Mother Drexel Hall. Please take a chance on this very special religious work of art.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Submissions for the March 31st Easter Bulletin are due by the end-of-day **this Monday, March 18th**.

Email all submissions to

submission@saintpolycarp.org.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION



Next Weekend
CALLING ALL CHOCOLATE LOVERS!!!
March 23rd & 24th are your lucky days!!!

We have a "Limited Supply" of bars we will be selling after both Masses next weekend. Look for us at all the doors. Bars are \$1 each. Don't miss out!!! Once they are gone...they are GONE. All proceeds benefit PSR.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION UPDATES FEBRUARY 2024

~ **Our Confirmation students** will have their Retreat in Wilmington at St. Elizabeth's Parish on Saturday, March 23rd, and will participate in the Diocesan Pilgrimage with several parishes in the diocese to help carry the Pilgrimage Cross through the streets of Wilmington. They will stop along the way at area churches and St. Francis Hospital for prayer, Adoration, confessions, Stations of the Cross, and much more!

~ **The PSR "World's Finest Chocolate" Fundraiser** was a success. Candy was ordered, delivered, and available for pick up on Sunday, February 10th.

~ **Catechetical Day** is on Saturday, March 16th, at Holy Cross with Bishop Koenig. We have 8 people signed up to attend so far. Anyone involved in catechetical ministry is invited to attend.

~ **Our Girl Scouts** have a new Daisy troop (K-1) and a new Brownie troop (2-3). Four troops meet here at St. Polycarp on Thursday evenings: Daisy, Brownie, Junior, and Senior/Ambassador. The current number of girls participating is around 40. It is never too late to join.

Now Available on **FORMED**:

A Catholic Art Show for Kids

Looking for a new family activity this Lent? Help your children's faith and artistic gifts grow through this series from the Augustine Institute: **Drawing Closer to God: A Catholic Art Show for Kids**. Join art teacher Ms. Kim as she teaches your family how to draw different scenes from the gospel story. Your children will also gain insights into Scripture as she shares the rich biblical background of each image they create. Scan this QR code to learn more and access the show!

You can also visit www.formed.org. Type in our Parish zip code (19977) and follow the steps to sign up. Or sign-up using this QR code. Take advantage of your free subscription to **FORMED**.



Looking for information about St. Dennis Church?
(410) 648 – 5145 www.stdennischurch.org

ST. PATRICK'S DAY



The Knights of Columbus regret that the **St. Patrick's Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner on Saturday, March 16th, is cancelled.**



St. Patrick's Day Parade
Sunday, March 17th at 2 pm
Come cheer for St. Polycarp Church as we walk through the streets of Smyrna in the St. Patrick's Day Parade! Better yet, come walk with us and represent St. Polycarp in the parade.
Line-up at 1 pm in our Church parking lot!

PARISH AND FAMILY LIFE

NEXT SUNDAY! EASTER EGG HUNT & AGAPE PALM SUNDAY, March 24th.

Brother Vincent Knights of Columbus will be hosting an **Easter Egg Hunt for our youngsters and the March Agape**, on Sunday, March 24th, following the 10:30 am Mass. All children are invited to participate in the egg hunt. There will be prizes!



Children are asked to bring their own baskets!

SOCIAL CONCERNS

THE RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

is collecting items for Easter Baskets for patients at DHCI. A box/bin is outside Mother Drexel Hall and will be available through Sunday, March 17th.



We were asked to go very easy on candy due to dietary issues. The patients cannot do actual jigsaw puzzles. Items we can supply are puzzle Books (Sudoku, Find a Word, etc.), stuffed animals, cookies, crackers, hand lotions, books, socks, and handmade crafts. If you have any questions or concerns, please email eckard.margie@gmail.com. Thanking everyone in advance for their help.

HAPPENING AROUND THE DIOCESE & ELSEWHERE

SMYRNA-CLAYTON MINISTERIUM'S CROSS WALK

On Good Friday, March 29th, at 2 pm, the Ministerium is sponsoring a "Cross Walk" after their community service. This is a prayer pilgrimage through the town of Smyrna. It will begin at Smyrna Wesleyan Church, located at 433 W. Commerce St. Visit Bulletin Overflow for more information www.saintpolycarp.org/overflow

Don't forget to check out our Bulletin Overflow for things that just didn't fit in this weekend's bulletin!
www.saintpolycarp.org/overflow

FINANCE COUNCIL

ANNUAL OFFERTORY REFLECTION



Reminder- Intentions of offertory giving are due March 17th. Annual Offertory Reflection intentions are needed for the preparation of our Parish Budget, and we need everyone's participation. If you haven't returned yours, please be sure to do so **THIS WEEKEND**.

Thank you for your support!

Finance Council meets monthly to review the financial operations of our parish and related matters. Here are some topics from our February meeting:

- We received \$1,791.63 back from the Diocese for the 2023 Annual Appeal overage. This was used to repair the HVAC unit that recently broke in the hall.
- We reviewed the Annual Forum wish list.
- We're looking for individuals interested in building the financial success of St. Polycarp Parish. Parish Finance Council assists Father in making plans and policies regarding the financial status of the parish and generally looks after the financial well-being of the parish. If you have a sincere interest in helping to develop the financial success of our Parish, please reach out to Kevin Titus at (302) 659 – 3191.



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COLLECTIONS

OFFERTORY

| Date | Offertory | Children's Offertory | Total Offertory |
|----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------|
| March 10 | \$4372.86 | \$34 | \$4406.86 |

SECOND COLLECTIONS

| CRS & Latin America | Parish Maintenance | Rice Bowl | PSR | SVDP Poor Box |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------|---------------|
| \$62 | \$170 | \$862 | \$40 | \$102 |
| Holy Land Shrines | Easter Flowers | Easter Novena | Easter | Thank You! |
| \$35 | \$343 | \$490 | \$135 | |

SECOND COLLECTION this weekend, March 16th and 17th, is for our Parish Maintenance. Please be as generous as your means allow to help our parish with the upkeep, maintenance, and beauty of our parish buildings and grounds.

SECOND COLLECTION next weekend, March 23rd and 24th, is for our Parish School of Religion (PSR).

| Offertory | Received | Budgeted | Over/(Under) |
|----------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| February Total | \$26,348.74 | \$26,300 | \$48.74 |
| Fiscal YTD | \$239,144.05 | \$218,450 | \$20,694.05 |

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.

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, March 16</p> <p>10 am Altar Server Training (Church)</p> <p>2:30 pm Confession</p> <p>4 pm MASS</p> |
| <p>Sunday, March 17</p> <p>9 am PSR Grades P/K-4, PSR ONLINE</p> <p>10:30 am MASS</p> <p>10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word</p> <p>Following MASS - Confessions (Church)</p> <p>5:30 pm Confirmation Class (Hall)</p> |
| <p>Monday, March 18</p> <p>6:30 pm OCIA Session (Hall)</p> <p>6:30 pm Brother Vincent Columbiettes - Rosary (Library)</p> <p>7 pm Brother Vincent Columbiettes - Meeting (Library)</p> |
| <p>Tuesday, March 19</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 DHCI Communion Service (at DHCI)</p> <p>11 am Columbiettes Rosary (Telephone)</p> <p>1 pm CFC General Meeting & Executive Committee (Room 4)</p> <p>6:30 pm Finance Council (Library)</p> <p>7 pm PSR Grades 5-8 PSR ONLINE</p> |
| <p>Wednesday, March 20</p> <p>8:30 am MASS</p> <p>9:30 am Pastoral Staff Meeting (Library)</p> <p>6 pm Columbiette Board Meeting (Library)</p> <p>6:30 am Baptismal Class - Advance Registration Required (Rm 7)</p> <p>7 pm K of C Officers Meeting (Library)</p> |
| <p>Thursday, March 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 pm Digital Ministry (Library)</p> <p>6:30 pm Parish & Family Life (Room 7)</p> <p>7 pm Deanery Lenten Reconciliation Service at Holy Cross</p> |
| <p>Friday, March 22</p> <p>3 pm Divine Mercy (Chapel)</p> <p>7 pm Stations of the Cross (Church)</p> |
| <p>Saturday, March 23</p> <p>Confirmation Class attends Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage</p> <p>7:30 am OCIA Retreat (Hall/Kitchen)</p> <p>2:30 pm Confession</p> <p>4 pm MASS</p> <p>Following Mass - PSR Chocolate Bar Sale (Church Doors)</p> |

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