# St. Polycarp Church

## 55 Ransom Lane, Smyrna, Delaware 19977

## www.saintpolycarp.org

## 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Rev. James D. Hreha, Pastor**
**Deacon Frank Weber**

**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**
Saturday 4:00 pm &
Sunday 10:30 am

**WEEKDAY MASS**
Tuesday—Friday 8:30 am

**RECONCILIATION**
Saturday 2:30- 3:30 pm

**DHCI MASS**
Suspended until further notice.

**LIVE STREAM MASS**: All Masses are live streamed on our YouTube Channel:
www.youtube.com/c/StPolycarpSmyrnaDE

**PARISH OFFICE:**
Monday—Friday, 9 am to 3 pm
(302) 653-8279

Parish Secretary, Teresa Cariello
office@saintpolycarp.org

Business Manager, Lisa Titus
Lisa.titus@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

Pastoral Council – Angela Gibson
Finance Council – John Fcasni
St. Vincent de Paul Society — (302) 264-6630

Bulletin Submissions (10 days in advance)
submission@saintpolycarp.org

**Baptism**: Pre-Baptismal class is required. Arrangements are to be made in advance by contacting the parish office.

**Marriage**: Arrangements must be made at least one year prior to the date. Contact the parish office.

**Anointing of the Sick**: Contact the parish office.

**Vocations**: For Priestly and Religious vocations contact Rev. Norman Carroll at (302) 573 – 3113.

**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)**: RCIA is for adults who are in need of Baptism, who were baptized in another Christian tradition who desire to become Catholic, or who were baptized Catholic and desire First Eucharist and / or Confirmation. For more information contact Deacon Frank at (302) 653-8279 or DeaconFrank@saintpolycarp.org

***WELCOME VISITORS & NEW PARISHIONERS!***

*We're glad you're here!*

**Please contact the office or visit our website to register in our parish.**

# *The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*
# *September 5, 2021*

## ST. POLYCARP'S 2ND ANNUAL STEAK DINNER AND GOLF TOURNAMENT
## Sunday, September 12, 2021

LAST Call for reservations for our Parish Steak Dinner and Golf Event at the beautiful Maple Dale Country Club next Sunday, September 12th. We have lots of prizes and raffle items in addition to wonderful food and fellowship! We need your reservation by this Wednesday, September 8th. Tickets are NOT available after this date. The parish website www.saintpolycarp.org has details or contact Kathy Willes kdwilles@comcast.net (302)670-7330 or Larry Borgman lborgman007@gmail.com (302)389-6018. Please join us!

## ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC
## Sunday, September 19th.

Our annual parish picnic will take place on Sunday, September 19th. We invite all parishioners to join us after the 10:30 am Mass on that Sunday. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, French Fries, and bottled water will be provided. We ask that you bring your own sides and any additional beverages for you and your family. An inflatable obstacle course will be set up for you to enjoy. Hope to see you there.

## HAPPY RETIREMENT
## Sunday, September 26th.

Father Mast will be celebrating his last Mass at Saint Polycarp before he retires to Florida, on Sunday, September 26th, at 10:30 am.
Please join us after Mass in Mother Drexel Hall for food and fellowship. If you have any questions or would like to assist in the planning, please call Kathy Curlett at (302) 222 – 9326.

## LET US PRAY

### *WEEKLY INTENTIONS*

**Saturday, September 4** **Blessed Virgin Mary/First Saturday**
4 pm Parishioners
**Sunday, September 5** **23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
10:30 am BVM Sodality
**Monday, September 6** **Labor Day**
NO MASS
**Tuesday, September 7**
8:30 am Constancia Alday - William & Jessica Burke
**Wednesday, September 8** **The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
8:30 am Healing Intention- Laura Bauer - The Sloven Family
**Thursday, September 9** **St. Peter Claver**
8:30 am Eileen Benfer - Teresa & Angelo Cariello
**Friday, September 10**
8:30 am Florence Cantu - The DiMeo Family
**Saturday, September 11** **Blessed Virgin Mary/Patriot Day**
4 pm Parishioners
**Sunday, September 12** **24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
10:30 am In Memory of Monsignor Ralph Martin - Laverne Dykes

**Bread & Wine Offering** Saturday, September 11th, in memory of Deacon Charles Robinson, at the request of Judy Lamborn.
**Bread & Wine for the Eucharist** are given in prayer for the 20 year remembrance of 9/11
***Our Sanctuary Lamp in Church*** burns in memory of Frank Bleyer, at the request of Gerald & Linda Mood.

## We Pray for Our Sick and 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 six weeks unless other arrangements have been requested.

Monsignor Rebman, C. Joseph Donofrio, Warren Burns, Kenny Leach, Lily Griffiths, Carol Donahue, Rob Miller, Gordon Hollander, Carol Hurst, Ed Stachow, Patty Moon, Christie Moon, Ben Walters, Michelle Dean, Austin & Dylan Dean, Kenny Bullins, Deirdre Moor, Linda Blow, Mariann Pierson, Ron Ivory, Ruth Staub, Pope Francis and all those suffering from Covid-19.

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## We Pray for our Deceased

**Reverend Philip P. Sheekey**

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 (302) 653 – 8064.

**Rosary by Telephone:** Tuesday mornings at 11 am. Contact Jill at (302) 653 - 3836 or jll_mercer@yahoo.com.

**Flame of Love Rosary:** Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the Church. Email Roxanne at roxsmb@gmail.com or leave a message or text (302) 242 - 6484 for details.

## LITURGY

### Blessings

The *Blessing of EMT'S and First Responders* will take place next week at the 4pm Mass on Saturday, September 11th.
The *Blessing of Grandparents* will take place at the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday, September 12th.

### BACK-UP LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULER

The Liturgy Committee is in need of back-up personnel for their various ministries. They need someone to fill-in for Frank Patton who schedules the Liturgical Ministers for the various Masses. The back-up would fill in if Frank were to get sick, etc. Frank is willing to teach that person how he does the scheduling. Scheduling is usually done on a monthly basis. If you are interested, please contact Kathy MacDonald at (302) 653 – 8976, Linda Mood at (302) 653 – 6852, or see Kathy and Linda after Mass.

## SOCIAL CONCERNS

### "Seasons of Hope" - Bereavement Support Group

Seasons of Hope bereavement support group is centered on Jesus Christ and grounded in his healing wisdom, traditions, and practices of our faith.

We look for Christ in our grief journey. "Seasons of Hope" explores mourning through scripture, prayer, reflection, activities, and faith sharing.

"Seasons of Hope" gives the bereaved an opportunity to come together to share God's love. It provides a safe place to share thoughts and feelings. It also offers the knowledge that others are on the same grief journey and mutual support is given to each other.

We encourage strengthening our relationship with God by reading scripture, reading good books, listening to EWTN, encourage time spent with the Blessed Sacrament, and lastly be attuned that God works through people, if we are opened to see God working in all things.

"Seasons of Hope" consists of 6 week sessions. **Our next session begins on Thursday, September 16th, at 10:00 am.** For more information and to register contact Diane Dellinger at ddellinger7377@outlook.com or Maureen Robinson (302) 423 – 6366. Registration is required.

The Parish Office will be closed on
Monday, September 6th, in observance of Labor Day.

## PARISH AND FAMILY LIFE

### *Make Note Cards With Us!*
### *An invitation from*
### *Brother Vincent Columbiettes*

The Brother Vincent Columbiettes would like to invite you to join them for a fun activity at 10 am, on Thursday, September 23rd, as they create Christmas note/greeting cards in the Hall. **You will have fun creating the most amazing cards.** The price is only $15.00 per kit, which includes all the supplies (paper card stock and embellishments as well as envelopes) necessary to make three Christmas note/greeting cards similar to the ones below. This event is open to anyone who would like to join us. Just contact Anna to reserve your spot and order your kit. All orders must be placed and paid for by Friday, September 10th. Make the checks payable to Brother Vincent Columbiettes. The kits will be available at the class. You will only need your enthusiasm. Come meet Phoebe Bird, our StampinUp Instructor extraordinaire. Be creative, make three cards, and have fun.

Questions? Contact Anna Skinner at (302) 508 – 5369 or by anna.skinz@gmail.com.
Make the check payable to: Brother Vincent Columbiettes Mail the check to: Rosemary Battistoni, Financial Secretary 1515 Bon Ayre Circle, Smyrna, De 19977

# St. Joseph, a Just & Merciful Man

Our minds are tied to the rules, restrictions, and guides established for us by society. If we listen to our minds, we try to shape our decisions around other's expectations. But it is our hearts that often tug us in different directions. It is never clearer than what has transpired not only in our country, but throughout the world, in how we have handled the COVID-19 crisis.

Did our leaders respond to the crisis quickly enough? Were they and science telling us the truth about the effects of the virus and the pandemic on world populations? The millions of people who lost their lives or were greatly sickened because of COVID-19 bears out that indeed it was real and devastating.

And yet conspiracy theories abound as to the effects of the virus in comparison to other diseases. Were people's personal and spiritual freedom being challenged and infringed upon? Was the cost of life and severe sickness pitted against the economic effects felt by many affected by this terrible virus?

Even today, a year and a half into the COVID-19 crisis, our country is confronted with the reality of those who are vaccinated and those who are not! The very real struggles most of us face when confronting choices is whether to follow our mind or our heart. The struggle then becomes what someone said, **"Life is what happens between heart and mind."**

The situation for Joseph when confronted with Mary's pregnancy was very troubling. The Gospel pays Joseph the highest compliment by saying he was a **"righteous man, a just man"** *(Mt 1:19)*. This meant he was a devout follower of the Law and completely open to all that God wanted to do for him. This made him a devout and holy Jew. He knew under Mosaic law, if he exposed Mary, her punishment would be death.

Instead, he chose to follow his heart and choose mercy. He decided not to expose her and exact vengeance for her betrayal, which would have been justified under Jewish law. Instead, he chose to divorce her "quietly" and not bring shame upon her and her family. Of course, the **angel from God** intervened and Joseph did indeed marry her, protected her, and welcomed with "open arms," her son, the Savior of the world.

In the process of discernment between justice and mercy, the struggle between mind and heart, Joseph listened to his heart and embraced an act of mercy and not just ordinary mercy, but unmerited mercy.

For us, life is what happens between the *"heart and mind"* and is driven by what God desires for us and what our Church has taught throughout the years about justice, mercy, and love. Often, it is contrary to the way modern society thinks. Indeed, Joseph's decision regarding our Blessed Mother, was contrary to his Jewish upbringing, but his decision demonstrated his understanding of the God he loved, and his decision was divinely justified.

Joseph, the **"just and merciful man"** was simply, joyfully, wholeheartedly obedient to God in marrying Mary, in welcoming Jesus into the world, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, and for caring for and protecting them with quiet faith and courage.

Returning from my recent travels in Europe, it became clear, our world is indeed a *"small place,"* and despite our cultural differences and language barriers, we all aspire for the same thing: happiness for ourselves and our loved ones and a world that lives in peace.

It may be a *"pipe dream,"* but it is certainly worthwhile to work towards achieving. St. Joseph teaches us that we must rely on our heart in our choices and relationships, seeking to understand others, and becoming like him, a model of mercy.

Blessings & peace,
*Deacon Frank*

**The Blessed Virgin Mary's Birthday (aka The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary) is on Wednesday, September 8th. Consider coming to the 8:30 am Mass to celebrate her birthday!**

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Faith Pass It On!

**Our PSR family is ready to welcome you to our team!! Our team is dedicated to creating a loving and caring environment for our young children so that their faith grows stronger and stronger each week. We can ALL make a difference if we just say YES!!**

**Our PSR is in need of**
**1st Grade Assistant on Sunday Morning**
**8th Grade Catechist**

**Contact Erica Taylor, CRE at (302) 653 - 4101 or dre@saintpolycarp.org if you want to be a part of our PSR team!**

## PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR)

**Our PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR)** offers religious education classes for Grades PK – Grade 9. Registration forms are available in the black drop box outside the office/chapel doors, at the parish office and online at saintpolycarp.org/religious-education/. Students must be registered before the first class. For more information, contact Mrs. Erica Taylor, Coordinator of Religious Education at **dre@saintpolycarp.org** or (302) 653 - 4101.

## FALL IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER. TIME TO THINK ABOUT ORDERING YOUR MEMORIAL BRICK?!

Before you know it, the leaves will begin falling the kaleidoscope of colors will be here, and then, in no time at all, Winter will arrive. Now is a perfect time to add your **MEMORIAL BRICK** to the walkway of our outdoor Blessed Mother Shrine. We are truly blessed to have the opportunity to have our Blessed Mother looking down upon a memory of our loved one, a special occasion or just your family name.

You can order through Faith Direct at **https://membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/5644, (you do not need to sign up for Faith Direct),** or return your form with payment to St. Polycarp Church in an envelope labeled "Memorial Brick". Please place the completed order form and a check for $80.00, made payable to St. Polycarp Church, in the envelope. You can place it in the Offertory collection, deliver it to the Parish Office (place in black box), or mail it to:

**St Polycarp Church**
**55 Ransom Lane**
**Smyrna, DE 19977-1617**

The Memorial Brick Forms can be found on our parish website and at all entrances into the Church.

## COLLECTIONS

Next week, September 11th and 12th, the Second Collection will be for our Parish Utilities. Your generosity toward helping our parish with its utilities is greatly appreciated. Thank You!

| August 29 | Offertory | Poor Box |
|---|---|---|
| Collection | $4,429 | $230 |

Note: eGiving figures are reported twice a month.

| Offertory | Received | Budgeted | Over/(Under) |
|---|---|---|---|
| August Total | $30,753 | $30,533 | $220 |
| Fiscal Year to Date | $52,791 | $55,787 | ($2,996) |

Please consider signing up for eGiving to ensure your contributions are received even when you are not here for Mass. Recurring, catch up, or one-time gifts (please indicate your intention) can be made.
Visit faith. direct/DE831.

*Thank you for your generosity and continued stewardship.*

## 50/50 RAFFLE - PROCEEDS BENEFIT OUR PSR!

**Winner pulled monthly!**
**August Winner – $48.00**
***Congratulations* to Kathy MacDonald!**

Simply place $1 in an envelope and mark 50/50 on the envelope along with your NAME and phone number. Place the envelope in the collection basket or drop off in the drop box. Winner gets half; PSR gets half! If you want to play more often, just put in whatever amount you like and we will enter you once a week for each dollar you send in! Thank you for supporting our PSR! Good luck!

**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**
For the most up-to-date information, visit
https://saintpolycarp.org/calendar/
Parish Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 am to 3:00pm

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|---|---|
| Saturday, September 4 | |
| 2:30 pm Confession (Church) | |
| 3:25 pm 1st Saturday Rosary- Columbiettes (Church) | |
| Sunday, September 5 | |
| Monday, September 6 | OFFICE CLOSED |
| Tuesday, September 7 | |
| 11 am Columbiettes Rosary (Telephone) | |
| 7:30 pm K of C 4th Degree | |
| Wednesday, September 8 | |
| 9:30 am Professional Staff (Library) | |
| 7 pm Pastoral Council Meeting (Library) | |
| Thursday, September 9 | |
| 6:30 pm Flame of Love Rosary (Church) | |
| 6:30 pm Building & Maintenance Committee (Room 7) | |
| Friday, September 10 | |
| 11 am Connected in Christ Zoom Meeting (Virtual) | |
| Saturday, September 11 | |
| 2:30 pm Confession (Church) | |
| 4 pm MASS (Blessings of EMT's and First Responders) | |

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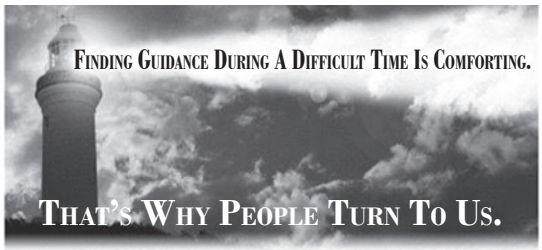


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