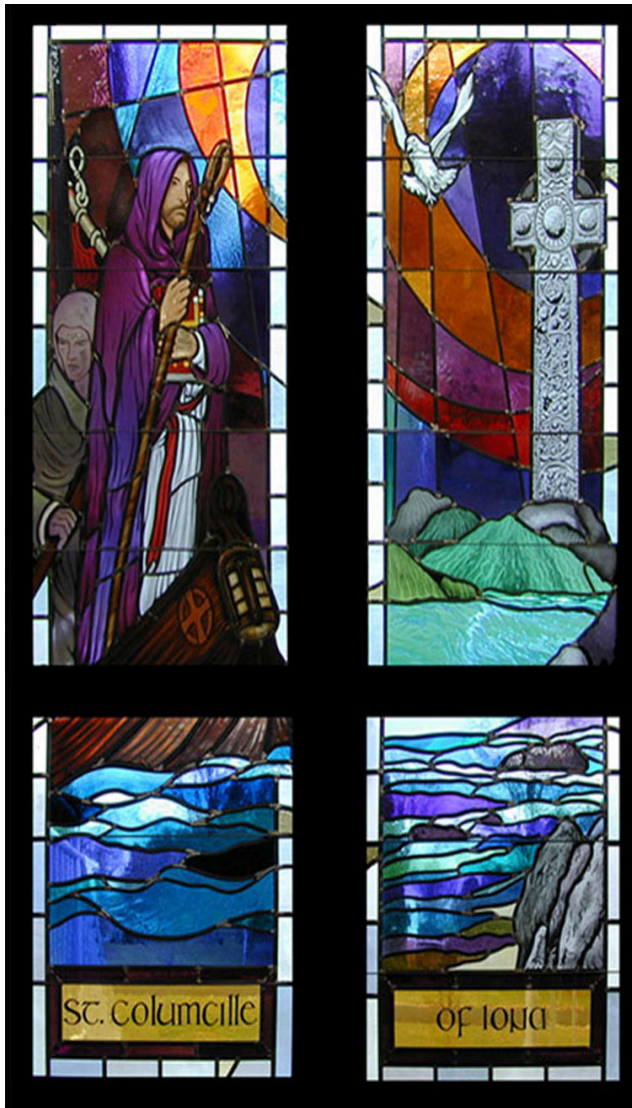


The Parish Family Of Saint Columbkil

BOYERTOWN, PA
Parish of the Allentown Diocese



PARISH OFFICES

200 Indian Spring Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512
610/367-2371 Fax: 610/369-0242
Web Site: www.stcolumbkil.com
e-mail: pastor@stcolumbkil.com
Office Hours: Mon. thru Fri. - 9am to 4pm

MASSES

Weekend Masses: Saturday - 5:00pm;
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 and 12 Noon.
Daily Mass: 9:00am

SERVED BY

Father Martin F. Kern, Pastor
Father Robert C. Quinn, Pastor Emeritus
Sister Nancy Kramer S.S.J., Pastoral Associate
Deacon Thomas J. Murphy, Headmaster, SFA
Deacon Michael V. Woodall
Connie J. Boyer, Director, Elementary Religious Education
Deborah Maskrey, Director of Music
Gayle Fontaine, Chief Financial Officer
Trudy Weller, Pastoral Counselor
Al & Judy Carey, Directors of Youth Ministry
Lisa DeSimone, Administrative Assistant
Debra Rohrbach, RN, Parish Health Ministry
Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mrs. Helen P. Kelleher,
L.S.W. Confidential Telephone 800-791-9209
Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator, Sr. Meg Cole, S.S.J.
Telephone 610-289-8900, Ext. 222

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confessions - Saturday, 4:00 to 5:00pm or any time by contacting the Parish office.

Sacrament of Baptism - 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 1:00pm. Baptism Prep Classes for parents and god-parents are held the 4th Saturday of the month at 7:00PM in the Ehst Room.

Sacrament of Matrimony - Arrangements must be made a minimum of 6 months in advance. All couples must participate in the Marriage Prep-Program.

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the people of Saint Columbkil Parish of the Diocese of Allentown, are a Roman Catholic faith community. As people of God we come together to celebrate the Eucharist and the sacramental life of the Church. We encourage members of our community to participate in all aspects of our parish and to renew ourselves continuously in our faith..Therefore, we recognize that receiving the sacraments, participating in prayer and worship, pursuing lifelong religious education while loving and serving one another are essential to this renewal. Our parish family is gifted with many diverse talents and all are called upon to share these talents by responding to the changing needs of our community and society. We pledge to utilize our talents to their greatest potential in the service and work of God through prayer, action, outreach, hospitality and stewardship. By the grace of God the Father, the examples of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit we dedicate ourselves to accomplish our mission within and beyond our community



***The Nativity of the Lord
December 25, 2011***

The Gift of God's Word

On this day of gifts and gift-giving, it seems appropriate that we take a moment to reflect on the great gift of God's Word. Because it is creative, God's Word always points to its author, always calls us to respond. Because it is powerful, God's Word can link the sublime with the ridiculous, the transcendent with the immanent, the divine with the human. Because it is graceful, God's Word establishes a relationship of deep intimacy between us and God.

At the heart of God's Word lies a tantalizing tension between the mysterious and the mundane. In our liturgical celebration, this unresolved tension both reveals the meaning of life for us and calls us to respond, to act upon that meaning.

Once accepted and opened, the gift of God's Word is a gift that keeps on giving and keeps on calling us to give in return. It dares us to be like the gift-giver and to become gifts for others, not only at Christmas, but at every moment of life.

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Mass Intentions

| | |
|--|---|
| Monday 9:00 AM | December 26, 2011 NO MASS |
| Tuesday 9:00 AM | December 27, 2011 George Ondo on 1 st anniversary of his death |
| Wednesday 9:00 AM | December 28, 2011 Irene Smith |
| Thursday 9:00 AM | December 29, 2011 Mary Lou Giordano |
| Friday 9:00 AM | December 30, 2011 Patricia Wood |
| Saturday 5:00 PM | December 31, 2011 Deceased Members of Curley & Speck Families |
| Sunday 7:30 AM 9:00 AM 10:30 AM 12:00 PM | January 1, 2011 Those Enrolled in Iona Memorial Fund Marie Goodolf Living & Deceased of St. Columbkil Parish Kevin & Mary Lawlor for their health & welfare |

There will not be Rosary on Monday, December 26, 2011 or Monday, January 2, 2012.

Next Sunday's Readings:

First Reading: Numbers 5:22-27
Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

**Weekly Ministries Schedule for
December 31, 2011 & January 1, 2012**

5:00PM.....

Greeters: 2 Needed
Lectors: David Szymanski, Helen Thomas
Eucharistic Ministers: Jerry Theisen, Al Recke, **4 Needed**
Servers: Ryan Holzman, **3 Needed**

7:30AM.....

Greeters: 2 Needed
Lectors: 2 Needed
Eucharistic Ministers: Ralph Vitelli, **5 Needed**
Servers: 4 Needed

9:00 AM.....

Greeters: 2 Needed
Lectors: 2 Needed
Eucharistic Ministers Patti Kemp, **5 Needed**
Servers: 4 Needed

10:30AM.....

Greeters: 2 Needed
Lectors: 2 Needed
Eucharistic Ministers: Sue Fryer, Jen Kershner, **4 Needed**
Servers: Denton Weingard, Hope Fryer, **2 Needed**

12 NOON.....

Greeters: 2 Needed
Lectors: Melissa Abramczyk, Kathy Toth
Eucharistic Ministers: Paul Molchanow, **5 Needed**
Servers: Erik Abramczyk, Cassandra Abramczyk, David Rohrbach, **1 Needed**

Thank you for your faithful service!

What we allow, we teach. – Author Unknown

Some two thousand years ago, Aesop told this story:

One bright, sunny morning an old man and his grandson were going to market in a large town in the valley to sell a donkey. The donkey was beautifully groomed, brushed, and cleaned, and made to look attractive to any prospective buyer. Happily they set off down the steep path, leading the donkey. People they met along the way started making remarks about the old man and his grandson. "Look at that silly pair, scrambling and stumbling down that path when they could be riding comfortably on that donkey." So both of them got on the donkey.

They met another group who said, "Look at that lazy pair, breaking the back of that poor donkey." The old man, being heavier, got off and the boy continued to ride.

Further down the path they met others who said, "Look at that disrespectful child. He rides while the old man has to walk." So, the boy got off, and the old man rode.

"What a mean old man riding while the poor child walks," others complained.

By this time the man and boy were becoming increasingly bewildered. Finally, they met a group who criticized them for wearing out the donkey. A tired-looking donkey would be hard to sell.

After resting the donkey, they continued the journey. Thus, in late afternoon, gasping for breath, they entered the marketplace. Slung on a pole between them, tied by his feet, was the donkey.

The conclusion would appear to be this. If you try to please everyone, you will lose yourself.

Parish Office will be Closed

Monday, December 26, 2011
Thursday, December 29, 2011
Friday, December 30, 2011

AOH Calendars

Call Al Recke 610-367-5576

Cost is \$40.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS



Spc. Jeremy Larson, Jonathan Taylor, Staff Sgt. Robert Preston, Spc Gregory White, USN Petty Officer Joseph Scarberry Jr., Lance Corporal David Vogler, Sgt. Brian Weber, Sergeant Jason Emerich, Airman David O'Brien, Sgt. Daniel N. Vasko, Jr., Lt. Brian Blair, Sgt. Steve Lafond, Spc Matthew J. Bolli, USN Petty Officer Jennifer McBride, Captain Frank Furman., Lt. Steve Rohe , Lt. Cailyn Furman, Sgt. Jesse Miele, PFC Casey T O'Donnell **Prayer:** "Lord, hold our troops in Your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts that they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord & Savior. Amen."

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MINISTRY

The angel told the shepherds that the Savior was born and where to find him. How and when are we told? God reveals divine presence in someone's generous offer, in a plea for help, in the cry of the poor and the oppressed, in the child needing reassurance, in the aged needing a listening ear, in the sick needing a consoling hand. Today we see not a Baby in a manger, but a saving God working through and among us.

This Christmas through your gifts the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring Christ to the hearts of those in need by providing food, utility bills and rent bills. Thanks!

Please pray for the following priests:

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Monday | Rev. Msgr. Albert J. Byrne |
| Tuesday | Rev. Floyd Caesar, Jr. |
| Wednesday | Rev. Msgr. Aloysius R. Callaghan |
| Thursday | Very Rev. E. Michael Camilli |
| Friday | Rev. Msgr. John S. Campbell |
| Saturday | His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI |
| Sunday | The Most Reverend John O. Barres |

Join Fr. Marty on the March for Life!

Fr. Marty will be leading our bus trip to Washington, D. C. for the March for Life on **Monday, January 23, 2012**. The day begins with Mass for the unborn at 6:30am before boarding the bus. We arrive in DC before lunchtime and attend the Rally on the Mall, then walk to the Supreme Court building in *peaceful witness to God's precious gift of life*.

Cost for the trip is \$41 which includes transportation and dinner at Cactus Willie's Steak Buffet on the return trip. Participants are asked to bring a bag lunch. To reserve a seat, please contact the church office at 610-367-2371. Questions may be directed to Candee Holzman at 610-369-9887.



Shawl Ministry

The Shawl Ministry did not meet in December. We will resume our regular meetings on January 17, 2012 after the 9:00A.M. mass. We will meet in the office conference room.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year! If you need a shawl, please contact the church office.

Marriage Help



Retrouvaille is a Catholic based program to help marriages that are stressed or in trouble. Retrouvaille has helped countless married couples in all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. Retrouvaille can help you marriage too. The next program will be held at St. Joseph in the Hills Malvern Retreat Center, Malvern, PA on February 10-12, 2012. All calls are confidential. For more information call 1-800-470-2230 or 302-832-68044 or visit the website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com

ANSWERED PRAYERS JULY - DEC 2011

We praise and thank the Lord for the following answered prayer requests through the intercession of St. Columbkil Wednesday night Prayer Meeting and the Mass Prayer Team Ministry in 2011:

- After difficult pregnancy, granddaughter born healthy and doing well
- Son finally entered treatment facility for addiction, looking forward to new lease on life
- Sister's Lymphoma diagnosis was negative, condition was result of spider bite
- Cousin who contracted deadly virus while on vacation now home from hospital doing well
- No additional cancer cells found after removal of breast tumor
- Friend's baby born healthy after troubled pregnancy
- Prayed for promotion on job to support family - promotion was granted
- Good news after prayer - biopsy taken was negative
- Daughter offered the job she wanted
- Son doing well after chemo and radiation treatments - no signs of cancer
- Husband finally found employment, turned out to be the perfect job
- Sister-in-law's breast biopsy showed no cancer
- Able to obtain mortgage and keep possession of home
- Finally healed from continuous bad memories
- After difficult pregnancy, baby born with heart defect had immediate surgery - doing well

Please feel free to come forward to the **Prayer Teams** after the Sat. 5:00 PM or Sunday 9:00, 10:30, 12:00 AM Masses. All requests are strictly **confidential**. You can also write your prayer petitions in the **Book of Intercession** on the table in the Narthex. They are included in the Prayer of The Faithful at all weekend and daily Masses and interceded for at the 7:30 PM, Wednesday night Prayer Meeting - all are welcome! **Please let us know when your prayers are answered so together we can praise and thank the Lord!** Please call Sue T. at 610-367-4711 or leave a note at the parish office.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Parish Council meets the 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 pm. All Parishioners are welcome to attend.

Holy Name Men's Society meets the 2nd Monday at 7:30 pm.

Parish Youth Groups meet the 2nd Sunday of every month (Sr. high) 1-3 pm; and (Jr. High) 5 -7 pm.

St. Columbkil Seniors meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm.

Pastoral Counseling – Trudy Weller, a licensed counselor, is available for individual or family counseling. There is a sliding fee scale for counseling services and some insurances are accepted.

People of Praise Prayer Meeting – Charismatic Prayer Group meets each Wednesday at 7:30 pm in the Chapel.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

St. Francis Academy, Bally is our Parish Grade School. Headmaster is Deacon Thomas Murphy, 610-845-7364.

Sunday Pre-School and Kindergarten is held during our 10:30 am Masses.

Elementary Religious Education (Grades 1-6) – Wed. and Thurs. 4-5:30 pm and 6-7:30 pm.

High School Religious Education (Grades 7-12) Sundays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in two semesters.

Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 9:00 & 10:30 am Masses – Children ages 6 & up.

Weekday Preschool for 3 and 4 year olds – Helene Keenan, Director – 610-367-2371

The **Patriotic Rosary** was created to reach out to our Father to head our nation, a nation now far away from God and in great need of a return to the Christian Values it was founded with. Join in the praying of this beautiful rosary every 2nd, 3rd & 4th Saturdays at 9 AM in the chapel. Call Sue Fryer, 610-367-6717 with questions.

2012 Yoga Fund-Raiser

Start off the New Year with the health benefits of a weekly yoga class offered here at St. Columbkil! This therapeutic exercise class can help to ease neck & back pain associated with muscular tension, increase joint mobility and a range of motion, build core strength, improve balance, relieve stress, and much more. Class will be gentle enough for participants of all fitness levels. You will be making an investment in your health **and your church** since **50%** of all proceeds will be donated directly to St. Columbkil. Purchase of 5 classes for \$50 or 10 classes for \$80. Drop-ins also welcome at \$11/class. Classes will be held in the upstairs classroom area on **Tuesdays from 6:30 – 7:30 PM beginning January 10th**. Contact Maryanne for more information at maryannfitzmyer@yahoo.com.



GROWING IN FAITH

STOP BY THE CD RACK IN THE NARTHEX! THE EVANGLIZATION COMMITTEE HAS ADDED FOUR (4) NEW TITLES. CHECK-OUT "THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS" WITH BISHOP FULTON SHEEN!

Widow and Widowers Grief Support

Subsequent dates will be January 8th and 22nd 2012. We ask for all to pray for the families who are searching for the meaning of Holidays without their loved ones. Our "Reach Out" sessions can help by bringing the tools needed to meet the challenges ahead. For more information and for **anyone** who has suffered a loss of **any one** close to them, please call Dn. Mike Boyle at 610-367-1602.

CCD NEWS

There will no elementary CCD classes held on December 28/29. Classes will resume on January 4/5, 2012 at the usual times.



The flowers on the altar for the weekend of December 10/11 were in memory of Peter and Margaret (Breck) Geracci.



JUST SOME FYI'S FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED:

We have ten (10) large print Missalettes in the cabinet outside the Confessional. Ask an Usher to assist you. All books must be returned after Mass. We also have about 16 Hymnals and Missalettes that still need to be 'dedicated'. Stop by the Parish Office for more information.

Catholic Charities

Diocese of Allentown is offering a new initiative for older adults, ages 55 and older, in Berks and Southern Schuylkill Counties. Neighbors Helping Neighbors provides non-medical, in-home volunteer assistance. If you are an older adult in need of services of a volunteer who might like to be a friendly visitor, provide transportation, or help with household chores, please contact Catholic Charities in Berks County at 610-376-7144 or lfavinger@allentowndiocese.org.

Life Ad

Sign up for Life AD will be held in the Narthex after all masses on the weekends of 12/17 and 12/31. This anti-abortion/pro-life ad will be published in the Reading Eagle on Sunday, January 22, 2012, the 39th anniversary of the legalization of abortion in the United States. Sponsors will be asked to contribute \$6 for individuals or \$12 for couples or families. Your names will be displayed in the ad under our parish name. Proceeds from the Life Ad support Mary's Shelter/Home an alternative to abortion for pregnant women in need of housing and care. Last year, Life Ad raised \$11,800 for Mary's Shelter/Home. A sponsorship form is included below for anyone who is unable to sign-up after the Masses. The deadline for donations is Monday, January 9, 2012. Contact Sandra Eidle at 610-689-4273 for questions. Thank you for taking a public stand against abortion.

The Life AD Committee extends an invitation to anyone interested in helping organize and design for Life Ad. Contact The St. Ignatius Rectory at 610-678-3767.

Life Ad Donation Coupon

Be counted when we publish this anti-abortion/pro-life ad in the Reading Eagle on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2012. The suggested donation is \$6/person, \$12/couple or family. Deadline for the donation is Monday, January 9, 2012. Place this coupon with your donation (check payable to "Life Ad") into your Sunday Mass Collection or mail to:

**Life Ad
St. Ignatius Rectory
2810 St., Albans Dr.
Sinking Spring, PA 19608**

"A nation that kills its own children is a nation without hope" Pope John Paul II

Parish Name _____

Your Name _____

Tel# _____ Amt \$ _____



“COME, LORD JESUS!”

“Tell me a story!” The season of Advent lends itself to story-telling as witnessed by the special readings and symbolism all around us. My earliest memory of Advent was the beautiful Advent Wreath my German grandmother would create from the evergreens and berries we gathered on our walks through the park. As she worked with each piece weaving a perfect circle, she would relate the story of each green bough symbolizing eternal life purchased for us by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Eternal Word of the Father. As the candle flames danced on the purple and pink candles, each week of Advent, she revealed more of the beautiful story of the birth of the King of Kings at Christmas.

Each one of us has a special memory to share. Make that your special mission this Advent to share your faith experiences with the children.....when they see ‘faith alive’ in the adults around them they see the Christmas story come alive...and that memory remains with them for a lifetime! Many blessings!



This Christmas.....

Let’s give a little Jesus, a thoughtful word or deed, an act of generosity for someone who is in need.

Let’s give a little Jesus to everyone we meet, the salesclerk or the server, the person on the street.

Let’s give a little Jesus, that’s what really counts, not what is spent or bought, for whom whatever the amount.

Let’s give a little Jesus to everyone, large and small, for Jesus, the Messiah, is the greatest gift of all!

Many blessings!



COME IN FROM THE COLD!

*“Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me!*

Come home! Come home!

*You who are weary, come home,
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Come home, my dear child, come home!”*

(Excerpted from an old hymn)

No matter how long it has been, no matter how serious the sin, let’s talk about it!

The door is always open! Call the Parish Office for an appointment....no strings attached! God loves you.....!



LET THE BELLS RING OUT!

LIFT YOUR VOICES!

**LET YOUR SONG REACH THE
HEAVENS!**

**JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR, OUR
KING HAS COME!**