

Our Lady of Calvary

11024 Knights Road · Philadelphia, PA 19154

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Like Christ, Helping To Bring People Closer To God And One Another



Founded February 25, 1958

Msgr. George S. Wierzalis

Founding Pastor

Parish Staff

Pastor

Rev. John F. Babowitch

Parochial Vicars

Rev. William Kirk

Rev. Ryan Nguyen,

Our Lady of Calvary/Christ the King

Deacon John P. Teson

Kathy Smith - **Administrative Assistant**

Marie McCullough - **Bookkeeper**

Debbi Podsiedlak - **Bulletin Coordinator**

Sara Volpe - **Director of Liturgy**

(Mtvstag@comcast.net)

Sheila Picinich - **Director of Parish Services**

Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday - 6:30, 8:00, 10:00 a.m., 12:00 Noon

Eve of Holydays - 5:00 p.m.

Holydays - 6:30 and 8:00 a.m.

12:00 Noon and 7:00 p.m.

Daily (Monday - Saturday) - 6:30 and 8:00 a.m.

Confession Schedule

Saturday 3:45 - 4:45 p.m. & by appointment in the Rectory

School

11023 Kipling Lane, Phila., PA 19154

Mrs. Jeanne Costello, Principal

Mrs. Sheila Picinich, Assistant Principal

215.637.1648

Office for Religious Education for Adults

Deacon John P. Teson

deaconjpteson@gmail.com

Our Lady of Calvary Convent

Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth

11027 Kipling Lane, Phila., PA 19154

215.637.3599



PRIEST MASS SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

5:00PM Fr. John
 6:30AM Fr. Kirk
 8:00AM Fr. Kirk
 10:00AM Fr. John
 12:00PM Fr. John

Monday March 2, 2026

6:30 Walter Reilly req. by Family
 8:00 Ed Kerr req. by Kathy Reilly

Tuesday March 3, 2026

6:30 Jim Francis req. by Lucy DiDonato
 8:00 Michael DiLauro req. By Denise Herens

Wednesday March 4, 2026

6:30 Geraldine Smith req. By Joanne & Dan Cistone
 8:00 Ron Mulray req. By Jim & Cathy Colombo

Thursday March 5, 2026

6:30 Srs of the Holy Family of Nazareth
 8:00 Sr. Marita Christi, IHM req. by Bonner Family

Friday March 6, 2026

6:30 Michael P. Leddy, Sr req. by Debbi Marenbach
 8:00 George Sullivan req. by Jim Palumbo
 9:00 Anne Marie Gorski req. by Kramer Family

Saturday March 7, 2026

8:00 Thomas Elmer req. by Mother
 5:00PM Irene McKeaney req. by Kramer Family

Sunday March 8, 2026

6:30 Robert O. Schmidt req. by Re & Tony
 8:00 Patricia Resnick req. by Gonzaga Family
 10:00 Souls in Purgatory req. by Trish Cullen
 12:00 Robert Daley req. by Family

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 8, 2026

<i>Mass</i>	<i>Communion</i>	<i>Lectors</i>
5:00PM	S. Michielli S. Wilson	V. Haggerty
6:30AM	L. Konopka	A.M. Coyle
8:00AM	R. Johnson J. Teson	J. Teson
10:00AM	T. Cullen N. Burnosky	N. Burnosky P. Cummings
12:00PM	B. Richmond D. Bores	D. Bores



On Sunday, February 22, 2026, one girl received the sacrament of Baptism by which she was incorporated into the Body of Christ:

Sophia Rose Grimmie- daughter of John Grimmie and Elizabeth Duncan



All sick parishioners, their relatives, and friends:

John Kubala- brother of Ed & Fran Kubala

All deceased parishioners, their relatives, and friend:

Gerardo LaGrosa- husband of Maria LaGrosa

Frances Sterthous- parishioner

For those in the armed forces: Jordan Olszewski-Army; Jack Coffey-Air Force; Jacob Gizzi-Marines; Joseph Pitts-Air Force; Brendan Vizza-Marines; Andrew Morrison, Marine Corp; Eric Charles Taylor-Navy; Emma Marks-Navy; Ryan Sylvester-Air Force; Justin T. Erbrick-Army; Sean Conroy-Navy; Joseph Erbrick, III-Marines; Joseph Costick-Coast Guard; Christopher Smith-Navy; Alex McAneney-Air Force; Brian McGinty-Marines; Dan O'Brien-Air Force; Ashley O'Brien-Air Force; Daniel Patty-Navy; Michael Sheppard-Air Force; Hoku Teson-Army; John McFillin-Navy; Trevor O'Malley-Army; Daniel Taylor-Air Force; Stephen Winther-Marines; Bobby Winther-Navy; Amanda Smith-Navy; Joseph Patty-Army; Christian Curtis-Marines; Thomas Campbell-Marines

Divine Mercy Prayers are on the third Sunday of each Month after the 10 AM Mass. All are welcome.

Hospital Visits - If you are in the hospital and would like a visit from a priest, please call the rectory office at 215-637-7515. Due to HIPPA laws we are unable to get information from the hospital - we must hear directly from the patient.





STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be on Fridays during Lent with Deacon John Teson. Stations will begin at 7:00PM.

LENTEN HOLY HOUR WITH BENEDICTION will be held at 7:00PM until 8:00PM on Wednesdays beginning:

- March 4
- March 18
- March 25

We begin with Evening Prayer, including Lectio Divina, have a talk, then end with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. This Lent our Focus is on the *Sacraments as Seeds of Grace*.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Don't Journey alone this Lent!

Walk with Jesus through the desert and be transformed by the Grace of Easter

- Tuesday March 3
- Tuesday March 10
- Tuesday March 17
- Tuesday March 24
- Monday March 30

At Our Lady of Calvary Parish Lower Church Meeting Room at 6:30PM.

All are Welcome

Bring your Bible (optional)

No sign-up necessary

Let this Lent transform your heart

See you there! *Fr. Ryan*

Annual Palm Making at Our Lady of Consolation on Monday, March 23rd thru Friday, March 27 from 8PM-8PM.

We'll teach you what to do Lots of fun & camaraderie. To volunteer, please call Tony 215-837-7666 or email tonyvolpe22@hotmail.com

Palm sale on Saturday, Mar 28 and Sunday, Mar 29.

FUEL COLLECTION will be the second collections on the weekend of March 14 and 15, 2026.

The three recent snowstorms and cold weather have wreaked havoc on our expenses at the Church and School. Aside from the very costly heat, snow removal and salting expenses, the decline in our Mass attendance and the related weekly offerings have put us in a vulnerable position with regard to meeting our expenses. I implore you to be a generous as possible in your offerings and make up any you may have missed. Our Church and School budget depend on your generous commitment to your parish.

Following is the expenses we have incurred since December, 2025 until February, 2026 (not including the last snowstorm).

Church Heat	\$1,972.75
School Heat	\$24,926.70
Snow Removal/Salting	\$12,500.00

May God bless all of you and keep you safe and warm until the joy of Spring is upon us.

St. Matthew Parish is having a TRIVIA NIGHT on Saturday, March 14th! This is a TEAM event, so gather friends and family to assemble a team of 8-10 people. Each table is \$250. There can be NO MORE than 10 People on a team. Email rectory@stmmaryfair.org to arrange to purchase your table before March 4th.

CALVARY SENIORS – Meetings are held on Tuesday at Regina Coeli Hall (across from Torresdale train station), 9617 James Street. Doors open at 9:30AM and meetings begin at 10:30AM.

TEMPORARY ENVELOPES – Please remember before placing a temporary envelope in the Offertory basket at Mass to write your name and address on the front of the envelope. Temporary envelopes are located right inside the front doors of the Church. Thank you for your continued support of Our Lady of Calvary Parish.

All Anon meeting at 7:00PM on Sundays (in person) in the lower church meeting room.

**BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK
FREEDOM CARE**

Can We Pay Others to Donate a Kidney?

Making Sense of Bioethics Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

Often we envision donating our organs after we are dead, but we can also choose to become an organ donor while we are alive if we share part of our liver or donate one of our kidneys. The proposal to give one of our two kidneys away, though, does raise some ethical and safety concerns. There can be long-term risks for the donor. Donating a kidney, moreover, would not be therapeutic for us – only for someone else – and in fact might slightly increase our own risk for experiencing renal failure in the future

Clearly we have a general duty to respect the integrity of our body. This means we shouldn't cause injury to it, or damage it, for example, through surgeries or treatments that are not necessary to preserve our health or save our life. In light of these considerations, donating one of our kidneys would seem to run counter to our responsibility to maintain bodily integrity.

Yet the notion of integrity can also be understood in a broader sense, namely, as functional integrity, so that if one of our kidneys were removed without imposing undue risk, and without a significant loss of blood filtering function, then we could say that the functional integrity of our renal system was preserved. In that case, the removal of one of our kidneys, as or improving another person's life, could be justified. This is what the Church affirms.

A further ethical concern, however, centers on the fact that the decision to donate must be made freely by the donor, and consent should be given without any undue pressure. This means that offering payments for organs is fundamentally coercive and unethical.

We face a serious shortage of available kidneys for transplant in the U.S. Average wait times for a kidney are approaching five years, and about 15-20 people die each day while waiting for an organ – the majority for a kidney. In August of 2018, I participated in a conversation with some of the health policy team at the White House as they considered possible strategies for increasing the supply of live donor kidneys. We discussed the ethical, legal, economic and health implications of some proposed solution, including the proposal to reward organ donation by providing various non-cash benefits.

During the White House meetings, some parties to the discussion offered recommendations that the government provide lifetime guaranteed coverage of all future medical expenses, or lifetime health insurance, to every person who becomes a living kidney donor. I emphasized that we should not be “encouraging” donation by offering a sacrificial act and for a proportionate reason, such as saving “incentives” to donors as a direct benefit at all. Offering lifetime health insurance or similar proposals would, in my view, constitute a form of payment “valuable consideration” offered to the donor, and would again raise the problem of improperly incentivizing the donation of organs, pressuring someone to consider donating as a way to secure lifetime health insurance coverages.

When congress passed the National Organ Transplant Act in 1984, this concern about incentivizing donations was directly addressed. This law prohibits the purchase of organs or any exchange of “valuable consideration”. This same law, however, clearly permits reimbursement of various expenses associated with the transplant, such as travel costs to get to the hospital in order to have the kidney removed, temporary housing at the time of surgery, lost wages incurred in connection with the donation of the organ, etc.

Providing reimbursement of expenses should not be viewed as encouraging or incentivizing the donation itself, but rather as “eliminating disincentives,” or “removing hindrances or roadblocks”. An organ donor should not have to assume extra person expense or take on other heavy burdens to be able freely to help out another patient who would benefit from receiving his or her kidney.

From the ethical point of view, our ultimate goal should be not so much to “incentive donation,” as to “support or encourage personal generosity” on the part of those individuals who may desire to donate freely one of their kidneys. The distinction is an important one. At the end of the day, we want people to become organ donors, not organ vendors. Human organs and tissues, because of their close proximity and connection to our human identity, cannot be reduced to commodities to be acquired or sold on an open market. We must do what we can, legally and otherwise, to safeguard the generosity of the organ donors freely chose act and prevent others, especially the poor and disadvantaged, from being exploited because they need money, health care, or other “incentives”.

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