



The first of several newsletters to help keep you informed of the events surrounding the opening of the Philadelphia Pennsylvania Temple



“Those who understand the eternal blessings which come from the temple know that no sacrifice is too great, no price too heavy, no struggle too difficult in order to receive those blessings. There are never too many miles to travel, too many obstacles to overcome, or too much discomfort to endure. They understand that the saving ordinances received in the temple that permit us someday to return to our Heavenly Father in an eternal family relationship and to be endowed with blessings and power from on high are worth every sacrifice.” President Thomas S. Monson, April 2011

**Come and See: Temple Open House / Come, Follow Me: Temple and Family History Work**

**Come and See:** The day after John the Baptist declared Jesus to be the Lamb of God, Jesus found Philip and extended the invitation to follow Him. Philip accepted that invitation. He then went looking for his friend, Nathaniel, to share with him the joy he now had. Finding Nathaniel, he testified that he had found Him of whom the prophets had testified would come – Jesus of Nazareth. We all know of Nathaniel’s next question, “Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip’s kind response was warmly inviting. He simply said, “Come and see.” Nathaniel accepted that invitation and had an experience that increased his faith and changed his life.

We who have the good news of the restored gospel and experience the joy it brings into our lives all have friends like Nathaniel. No matter their beliefs, a simple invitation from us to Come and See the temple, if accepted, can provide our friends an experience that will also increase their faith and change their lives. They will learn what we know about our Savior and hear of the doctrines of eternal families as they walk the halls and see the rooms of our beautiful temple.

**Come, Follow Me:** The ultimate invitation from the Savior to all of us is to “Come, follow me”. One of the most fulfilling ways to respond to that invitation is to make sacred covenants with Him in the temple. In the temple, we are taught of Him and how we can more fully follow Him. We then go forth with greater power to be His disciples.

We can then bring these blessings to our ancestors who live on the other side of the veil. As we search for them and find them and their loved ones, we can perform these sacred ordinances on their behalf. In this way, we follow Him by becoming as saviors on Mount Zion by bringing them these precious ordinances of salvation that the Savior has made available to all who will follow Him. We then gain the further blessing of being able to unite them – and us - as an eternal family.

As the opening of the Philadelphia Pennsylvania Temple approaches, we would do well to think about extending the invitation to “Come and See” and accepting His invitation to “Come, Follow Me”. Help from the Savior is available and our blessings can be extended to others.

**Dates of Events Surrounding the Temple Dedication Announced**

Public Open House	Friday, August 5 <sup>th</sup> through Saturday, September 3 <sup>rd</sup> (except Sundays)
Cultural Celebration	Saturday, September 17 <sup>th</sup> , Liacouras Center at Temple University, 7:00 p.m
Dedication	September 18 <sup>th</sup> , Sessions at 9am, 12pm, and 3pm, broadcast to stake centers
Open for Ordinance Work	Tuesday, September 20 <sup>th</sup>



---

### Public Open House

---

Mark your calendars to come to the Temple Open House. Bring your families. Bring your friends. Imagine how hearts will be touched as they walk through the sacred halls of the temple, see the beauty of the rooms, and feel the spirit of the Savior.

The tours will begin in the new stake center next to the temple with a brief video providing an explanation of the purpose of temples. Small groups will then enter the temple and be guided through the rooms on all four floors. At the end of the guided tour, there will be sister missionaries available in a reception area to answer questions anyone may have. Visitors are welcome to fill out a comment card, if they wish. There is also an area where they can take pictures with the temple behind them. They will learn of our faith in Christ and eternal nature of families. This will be a remarkable experience that will remain with them always.

Begin now to reflect about who you can invite. Prayerfully consider your friends, family members, co-workers, and those you home and visit teach.

Invitation cards that you can use to invite your friends will become available sometime in May. The website to be used for you, your family, and friends to reserve free tickets for a specific tour will open soon thereafter.

---

### Cultural Celebration

---

The Youth Cultural Celebration, to be held on September 17<sup>th</sup>, will be an opportunity for the youth to join together with the 1,800 other youth in our temple district and celebrate the opening of the temple in song and dance, performing before Church Authorities, as well as some of the family members of these youth. The celebration will be broadcast to meetinghouses throughout the temple district, as requested. More information on the Youth Cultural Celebration will follow. Non-member friends of our youth are encouraged to participate.

---

### Temple Dedication

---

The next day, Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, the temple will be dedicated to the Lord. Dedicatory sessions will be held at 9:00am, 12:00pm, and 3:00pm. They will be broadcast to stake centers in the temple district as well as to all other stake centers throughout Pennsylvania. These stake centers, during those broadcasts, will become an extension of the temple. Thus, only those baptized members who are temple-worthy and have a Temple Dedication Recommend from their bishop will be privileged to attend. Prepare yourself to attend this spiritual feast.

---

### Temple Ordinances Begin

---

On Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, the temple will be open for all who are worthy and prepared to perform sacred ordinances of salvation for themselves and for their ancestors living on the other side of the veil. Do all you can to be able to bring names of your ancestors to the temple when it opens.

---

### Temple Websites

---

There are several online resources where you can learn more and to where you can point your friends:

Main Philadelphia Temple Website: <http://www.philadelphiamormontemple.org>  
Philadelphia Temple Site at lds.org: <https://www.lds.org/church/temples/philadelphia-pennsylvania>  
Philadelphia Temple Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/philadelphiamormontemple>

---

### INVITATIONS

---

- Prepare yourself in all ways to enter the temple. See your bishop if you have any questions.
- Invite your family history consultant to visit you or your family, or visit your Family History Center, and get help on either starting to identify your ancestors or adding more ancestors to your family tree.