

Roman Catholic High School Boy's Soccer  
301 N. Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19107



August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Dear Alumni:

It's that time of year again. As I begin my thirteenth season as head coach, I am excited to announce that we have officially opened training camp for the 2019 season. On behalf of all our hard working coaches, many who spend countless hours all year long working hard to ensure Roman Catholic remains atop the local high school soccer world, I trust that you and your family have had an amazing summer thus far!

Even though we are in the dog days of summer, our boys collectively rise to the challenges of what can be a very difficult time for them at camp. Team bonding and preparing for an upcoming school year can be quite intimidating while battling for roster spots and striving for personal betterment daily. Leaders and champions, on and off the field, are often bred from such demanding times.

As always, it's great to have my friend and Primary Assistant Coach, **Jerry Brindisi** back with us for his tenth season, Jerry is an exceptional soccer mind and always such a great influence on the young footballer. Additionally, our experienced staff of assistants and volunteers run deep, each bringing to the program varied talents and focus areas such as scouting, film study, player-coach-parent liaisons, media relations, strength and conditioning, mental fortitude and more. Among them, Coach **Tom Crossett** will return for his second year, along with coaching veterans **Mike Biddle** and **Mike Rector** to keep our JV boys at maximum preparedness for the ultimate call to varsity. Finally, we are excited to welcome back to Roman Catholic as our new Freshmen Coach, **Anthony Bottoms ('13)**. As a former, four year soccer veteran, he will guide our fabulous freshman with a take a step forward mentality. We are always happy when our alumnus return to the program and we look forward to great things from Anthony!

As we look to grow on the 2018 season, a campaign which included a pre-season tournament title, a fifth consecutive return to the PCL Finals, a City Championship, a first time appearance into the PIAA State Post Season Tournament, and oh yeah, a Regional High School All American, know that we all appreciate the support and the purple pride put forth by our extended Roman Catholic Soccer family! There is nothing like fan support while "painting the night purple". Students, faculty, administrators, former players, family and friends... and of course, our alumni! These have been truly special times for Roman Catholic Soccer but still, we need YOU to make it happen! So, as we always say, year after year, round up the troops, plaster yourself in purple and let us see and hear you at one of our matches or events below!

Our 2019 schedule is enclosed for your review. Note however that we utilize several locations for our home field(s):

***\*Lighthouse Soccer Club, Roosevelt Boulevard & Southampton Rd. (primary home field)***

### **IMPORTANT DATES TO CONSIDER**

As you know, we have started off our past seasons by participating in the annual SEPA High School Tournament at UGH. The date this year is Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> with the first match tapping off at 9am.

**Labor Day Weekend Season Openers** - Sun! Sand! Soccer! Now two matches over the weekend to kick off the season in grand style at **Maxwell Field in Wildwood, NJ**. First on tap: **Friday, August 30, 5pm vs PACS**. Then after a quick turn around, we tap off again: **Saturday, August 31, 5pm vs ST. JOSEPH'S** from New Jersey.

**Senior Night** - **Saturday, September 28, 2019, 7pm vs Penn Charter at Lighthouse Soccer Club**.

**Roman Catholic vs Father Judge** - **Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at Father Judge Ramp play ground!**

All three teams play in classic PCL action.

**Beef and Bowl** - FUNdraising event on October 19, 2019 at Thunderbird Lanes. An amazing evening consisting of fabulous food, prizes and spent with parents and friends of our program. Any and all donations are welcomed. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year but, it's not fun if you're not there! Grab your BFF's, get a lane, have a ball!

**Alumni Game** - (odd vs even years) at Bridesburg Recreation Center. Saturday, November 2, 2019 at 2pm. Our post game huddle will be at the Bobby T's – Port Richmond Pub (3601 Almond St. Phila. PA 19134), just a few short blocks away. It's always a great time to strap on your shinnies, lace up your boots, relive the glory days and establish new friendships along the way!

**For further information:**

To learn more about our program or what's going on at **Roman Catholic HS**, visit: [www.romancatholichs.com](http://www.romancatholichs.com)

To access **Roman Catholic Soccer Program** directly, visit us at [www.romancatholicsoccer.com](http://www.romancatholicsoccer.com)

For **Roman Catholic Soccer Alumni** news and information (events, game results and standings) via email, please send me an email expressing your interest at: [soccer@temple.edu](mailto:soccer@temple.edu)

Thank you in advance for your support. We look forward to seeing you this fall and **GO ROMAN!**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond DeStephanis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'R' and 'D'.

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