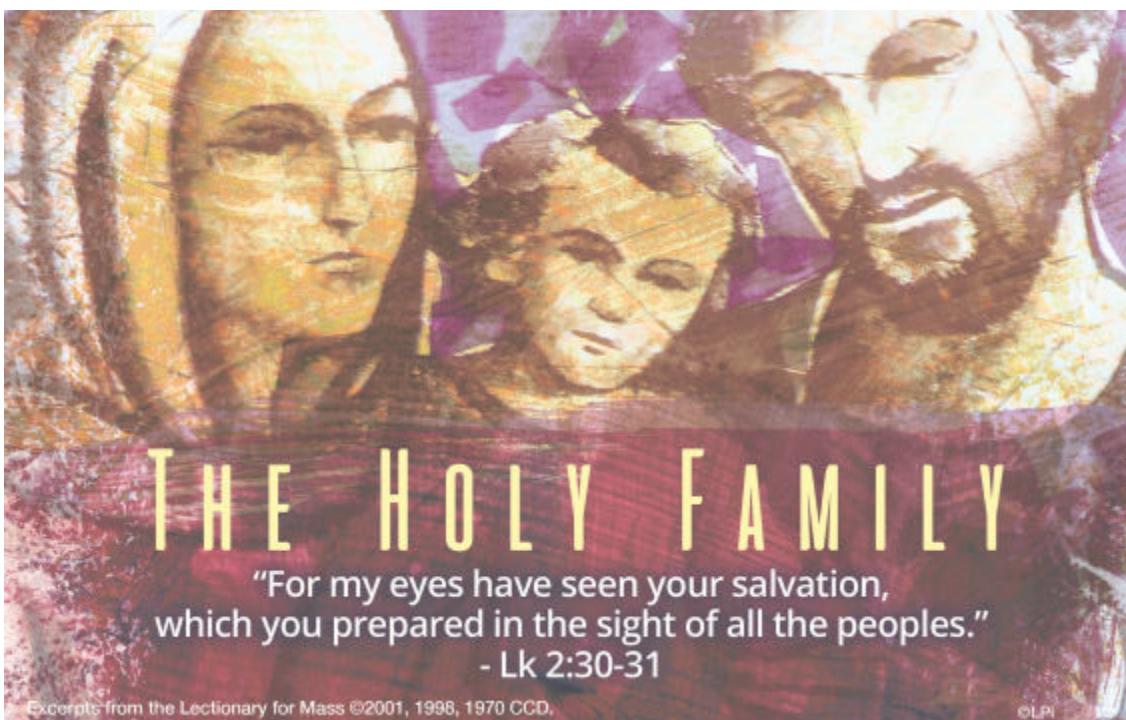


*Serving as
Christ taught*
THROUGH
FAITH, HOPE, & LOVE.



*Christmas
&
December
27,
2020*



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spaparish.org

Pastor: Rev. Jerome E. Kopec

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RECTORY

Office Hours

9:00 am - Noon
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Phone: 716-668-8370

Parish Secretary x 211
Carol (Bookkeeper) x 210

Fax: 716-668-3824

Email: loaves@spaparish.org

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Due by Friday at Noon
one week before the
published Sunday.
Please email to:
lauren@spaparish.org

OUTREACH

Coordinator: Jim Calamita
Phone: 668-8370 x 220
Email:
outreachspa@spaparish.org

MUSIC MINISTRY

Director: Don Jenczka
Call/Text: 716-335-1570
Email: jenczka@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Bigos & Janczak Families
- Larry & Veronica Bigos
4:15 pm Miller & Cymerman Families
- Rich & Linda Cymerman
7:00 pm Alfred Jud - Daughter, Hedy
10:30 pm Parishioners of St. Philip's

Friday, December 25 Christmas Day

8:30 am Deceased Members of the Juzdowski &
Kuciel Families - Ed & Diane Kuciel
10:30 am Joseph Clunie - Family
Noon Keith Caldwell - Sister, Karen & Mom

Saturday, December 26 St. Stephen

4:30 pm David Wdzieczny - Sister & Godchild
*6:30 pm Joseph Stoczynski - Rita Lynn Stoczynsli

Sunday, December 27 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

8:30 am Florence Burghardt
- Mr. & Mrs. John Brombos
*10:30 am Rose Venticinque - Carol & Jim Calamita
Noon Alexandra Makowski Andrews - Family

Monday, December 28 The Holy Innocents

9:00 am James Kasprzak - Family

Tuesday, December 29 St. Thomas Becket

9:00 am Patricia Nowak - Family

Wednesday, December 30

9:00 am Marge Fudala - Mary Ann Woods

Thursday, December 31 St. Sylvester I

4:30 pm In Thanksgiving
- Chuck & Carol Monkelbaan

Friday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

9:00 am Frank Carosa - Don & Deb Bartus & Family

Saturday, January 2 St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen

Confessions every Saturday from 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm
4:30 pm Jim Jacks - Wife, Elaine & Children
*6:30 pm Michael Prestia - Pat & Chuck Okonczak

Sunday, January 3 The Epiphany of the Lord

8:30 am Frank Trawinski - Donna Smock
*10:30 am Anthony Ferraro - Ferraro Family
Noon Charlotte Millerski - Family

* Denotes Mass is in our Parish Center. All other Masses are in Church.

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week in loving memory of:

SEAN JUBULIS

Requested By: Grandpa & Grandma

Dear Friends,

A recent cover of Time magazine boldly proclaimed 2020 to be the worst year ever. The first thing that came to my mind how decades ago Time's cover was asking the question "Is God dead?" It seems that in every age there is the temptation to surrender to the drama of hyperbolic reactive thought.

I don't pretend that the Covid-19 pandemic is neither serious nor tragic. The loss of lives has been overwhelming. However how do you tell your children that the year they were born is the worst year ever? How do you tell the thousands of students who graduated this year (with alternative fanfare) that the year of their significant accomplishment and going forth into the world is the worst year ever? How can we say this is the worst year ever when in the face of the devastating pandemic the scientific community has amazingly (miraculously?) developed vaccines in less than a year's time?

I wonder if people in Judea thought that the year Jesus was born was the worst year ever when their homeland was cruelly annexed by Caesar and his Roman Empire?

I am not suggesting we glibly put on rose-colored glasses or simply propose that everything is relative. However, the feast of Christmas which joy we desperately grasp for this year proclaims that the Son of God is born as Emmanuel—God with us. That gift of God is precious because it forever widens and deepens our perception of life in this world, including this year. In particular, the fact that the Child of Bethlehem would leave by our brutal crucifixion of him makes us all the more filled with the awed understanding of how God so deeply desires to accompany us in all the years of His creation.

No doubt this year the world was given a cross. Look at how we have carried this cross. There are armies of devoted heroes who have poured out their lives to save others. We have rushed to develop others ways of being present to each other: not just through technology, but being more deliberately in our words, our affections and our awareness of others isolated by virus and prejudice. As we look at each other's face and see only our eyes, God's Spirit inspires our minds, hearts and souls to do what it takes so that the goodness and holiness of life is never lost. This year has been another Calvary, but also another Bethlehem and another Pentecost. Jesus is born today!

On a personal note, 2020 is the year that the Holy Spirit called me to new service in a new community here at Saint Philip's. In all the overturning, departing and moving physically and spiritually, God has been so deeply present to me. For this I shall forever be grateful in this new revelation of how God is with me.

Truly Jesus has been born this year!

Know that I am with you, always,

In prayer and Spirit,
~ Father Jerry



WEDDINGS

Arrangements are made with the Rectory & Pastor with at least 6 months notice.

BAPTISMS

Arrangements are made with the Rectory.

A Letter of Recommendation for the Godparent or each Godparent is required before scheduling a date. Attendance to a Baptismal preparation class is also required within the past 3 years at our Parish.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

For Parishioners:

These are issued to members of our Parish who are registered and practice the faith through Mass attendance and receiving the Sacraments.

For Sponsors not from Our Parish:

They should be Baptized, Confirmed, and a practicing Catholic. Out of town college students should receive a letter from their Campus Minister. Military personnel should receive the letter from their Chaplain.

FUNERALS

Scheduled through a Funeral Home or the Rectory. Normally scheduled every day but Sunday at 10:00 am, except Fridays which are at 9:30 am.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

To become a member of our Parish, please contact the Rectory to receive an application.

For current Parishioners, please remember to let us know if your change your information or if you will no longer be attending our Parish.

PRAYER SHAWLS

There are always blessed Prayer Shawls available in the Rectory for anyone suffering from any illness.

SICK LIST

Please contact the Rectory to add a Parishioner or remove them from our Sick List.

Permission from the person must be given.



Today marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. We have lighted four candles these past four weeks and asked God to help us be present to our neighbors and friends. Now in the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world.

Let us pray...

God, you became human through the obedience of a simple young woman named Mary.

Mary is our model of faith.

May we be faithful to your word as Mary was. Give us the courage to face each day with the yes that Mary gave to you.

We ask this through the incarnate God, who comes to us again during this Christmas season.
Amen.



FAITH FORMATION

Office Hours Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - Noon; Friday: Closed
Phone: 716-668-3344 Email: sparoled@spaparish.org
Directors - Grades 1-6: Ronald Szczerbiak Grades 7-10: Sharon Pikul

JR./SR. HIGH

Good Sunday Morning!

Here's a thought for the day from the journals of St. Mother Teresa:

**Every time you smile at someone,
it is an action of love and a gift to that person,
a beautiful thing!**

**Have a happy week...
and a blessed and holy New Year!**

*Peace,
Sharon Pikul*

Continue to check your email and the Parish website for information about future classes.



Rectory Closed

Open until Noon
New Years Eve,
Thursday, December 31

Closed on New Years Day,
Friday, January 1.

We will reopen at 9:00 am on
Monday, January 4.

**Congratulations to
Zachary LaMartina
on achieving First Honors for
the First Quarter of the
2019-2020 academic year at
St. Francis High School.**



Envelopes: \$7,219
Loose: \$103.55
Immaculate Conception: \$936
Religious Retirement: \$2,077
Online Giving: \$2,337
Total: \$9,659.55





Parish Council

January 2021
MONTHLY LOTTERY

This is your last week to purchase tickets for the

**JANUARY 2021
LOTTERY RAFFLE (#80)**
\$20 Donation

Tickets that you currently have, please either mail to the Rectory or drop them off in the Rectory drop box, along with your donation.

If you would like to purchase electronically, head on to our WeShare Online Giving Portal and look for the above logo!

You can access our WeShare Portal on our website.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...



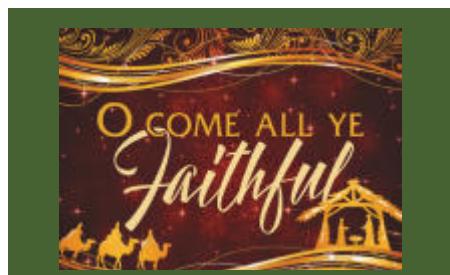
THOSE IN POOR HEALTH
Liz Appleman, Don Bartus,
Jack Cymerman, Mary Ann Ott,
Carol Monkelbaan, Ron & Karen
Strozyk, Delphine Wachowiak,
Daniel Lawicki Sr.
& Raymond Wachowiak.

We also pray for those in nursing homes, the home bound, and anyone with serious physical or mental illness.

GIVE VIA TEXT MESSAGE

A person's hand is shown holding a smartphone displaying a text message screen. The phone is held over a person wearing a denim jacket. In the bottom right corner, there is a red heart icon with the text "GIVE ONLINE AND WE SHARE".

- 1 Text Keyword "SPAGIVE" to 800-950-9952.
- 2 Click the link.
- 3 Complete your gift.



Our hearts are aglow with the joy of Christmas!

Our senses are alive with the season, from the rich smells of evergreen and gingerbread to the feel of crisp air on our skin and the warmth of a loved one's embrace.

At some point in the holiday hustle and bustle, take a few moments of quiet.

In the silence, reflect on the other senses of the season.

Imagine the cool damp of an animal stable, the earthy smell of hay and feed, and the crisp night air blowing in softly.

Imagine kneeling beside an exhausted, joyful mother and a relieved, protective father.

Imagine an infant wrapped in cloth scraps held out to your open arms. Imagine holding the infant Jesus. As his eyes meet yours, welcome into your heart the greatest gift of Christmas.





While families come in all shapes and sizes and no two are the same, they all need a common focus and grounding. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with a proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave.

In addition to all of these things, the axis of every family has to be centered on faith.

It is here that we can learn about the virtues and discover the windows to God Himself in His gifts of faith, hope, and love. We can learn, modeling our experience after the Holy Family, how to use these as anchors in our lives so that we can live out the other virtues with greater integrity.

Because our human families struggle with weakness and sin, we have to come back to the Holy Family often for inspiration and guidance.

In the bond of love that they shared, they clung to the anchor of God Himself and endured challenges far greater than many we will ever face.



November 24, 2020

Ms. Sharon Pikul
St. Philip the Apostle Parish
920 Llossen Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Dear Ms. Pikul,

On behalf of everyone associated with the Kids Escaping Drugs Renaissance Campus, I would like to extend our sincerest thanks to you for your extremely generous donation of various toiletry items for our patients. Thank you so much for thinking of our adolescents during these times of uncertainty. Our patients are always in need of personal care items. We are so grateful for your continued thoughtfulness. Thank you!

Know that with your donation, you are making a difference in the lives of the adolescents living on the Kids Escaping Drugs Renaissance Campus. We cannot thank you enough for your kindheartedness.

Thank you again for your unwavering commitment to the youth of our community and the Kids Escaping Drugs Renaissance Campus. We greatly appreciate and cherish your partnership, during these challenging times. It means more to us than you will ever know!

Please stay safe!

Warmest regards,

Robin A. Clouder
Executive Director

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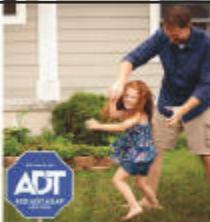
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