



Saint Philip Catholic Parish

The People of God in Pittsburgh, Thornburg, Ingram, and Crafton

WEEK OF DECEMBER 27, 2020

Download the bulletin at www.parishesonline.com

PASTORAL STAFF

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday Hours vary due to pandemic.

Rev. James R. Torquato, Pastor
Rev. John E. Forbidussi, Parochial Vicar
Dr. Brian Dougherty, Saint Philip School Principal
Ms. MaryAnn Garfold, Dir. of Religious Education
Ms. Mary Beth Barsh, Music Director
Ms. Dorothy Mancini, Assistant Organist
Ms. Dorothy Kraemer, Office Manager
Ms. Ursula Eberle, Business Coordinator
Ms. Maureen Takach, Administrative Assistant
& Safe Environment Coordinator
Ms. Linda Bey, Religious Education Secretary
Ms. Michele O'Toole, School Secretary
Ms. Chris Archacki, Maintenance
Mr. Richard Hufnagel, Maintenance
Mr. Brian Cox, Maintenance
Ms. Nancy Mehal, Housekeeping

PRIESTS IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Joseph Scheib, Saint Philip Rectory
Rev. Gary Oehmler, Saint Philip Rectory

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Robert Bertocchi, Frank Bey, Judi Cagley,
Patricia Cygrymus, Barbara Hendrick,
Joseph Hoover, Dolores Leone, Martin Matko,
Patricia McDermott (Co-Chair), Katie Phillips,
David Pilarski (Co-Chair), Mary Schubert
and Richard Schubert.

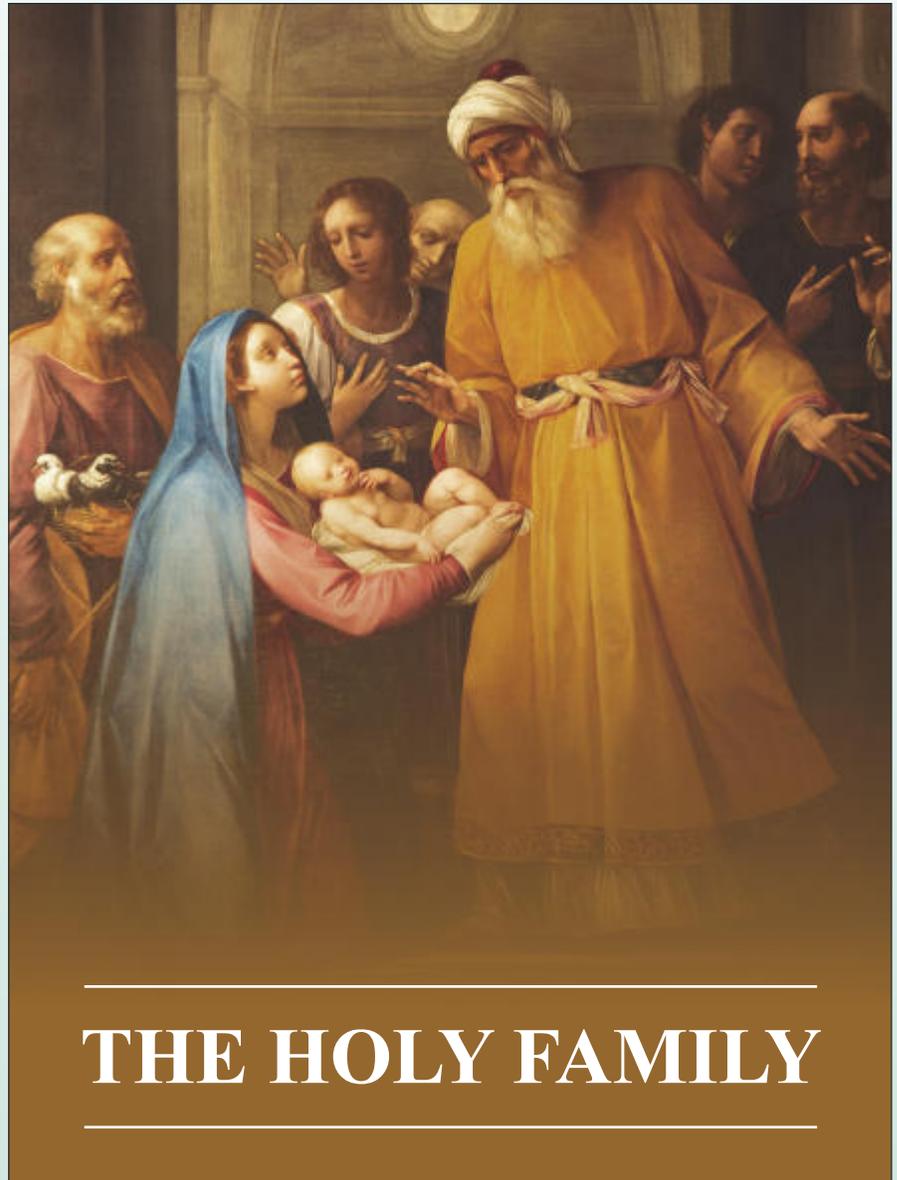
PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Benjamin Bannon, Thomas Hipkiss,
Joseph Hoover, Joseph Rynn, Gary Urbatis

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205
parishoffice@saintphilipchurch.org

Saint Philip Office (412) 922-6300
Saint Philip School (412) 928-2742
Saint Philip CCD Office (412) 922-6388
Society of SVdeP (412) 444-8140



THE HOLY FAMILY

Saint Philip Church
50 West Crafton Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Ascension Church
114 Berry Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Saint Philip School
52 West Crafton Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
www.spsangelway.org

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS: Should be submitted to maureen@saintphilipchurch.org
no later than 12:00pm on Friday to be included in the following week's bulletin.





CONFESSION

Offered Saturdays from 12:15pm to 1:15pm at *Ascension Church*.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: A seminar is required for first-time parents. Baptisms are celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month at 12:15pm at *Saint Philip Church* or at the *Ascension Church*. Please call the Religious Education Office at 412-922-6388 for more information.

Matrimony: Priest is to be contacted six months in advance of wedding. Participation in Pre-Cana Program required. Please contact the Parish Priests for more information.

Anointing of the Sick: Following a weekend Mass and on the last Saturday of the month at 8:30am at *Ascension Church*.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Call the Office of Religious Education for more information.

Priesthood/Religious Life: Contact the Parish Priests for more information.

Victim's Assistance Hot-Line: If you are a person who has been hurt by abuse from clergy or others associated with the Church, the Diocese of Pittsburgh offers assistance with counseling, spiritual direction and referrals to other supportive services.

For information, contact our Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at 412-456-3093.

Protecting God's Children — VICTIM HOTLINE: 1-888-808-1235

CHILDLINE: 1-888-932-0313 to report child abuse
Call 911 if a child is in imminent danger.

MASS SCHEDULE

Masses are held at Saint Philip Church and Ascension Church

LOCATION	TIME	MASS INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26 — SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR			
Ascension	8:00am	Francis A. Leone	Angie Drger Hayes
Saint Philip	4:00pm (V)	Frances Murrmann	Family
Ascension	5:30pm (V)	Dorothy, Andrew & Marcia Triscila	Graysay Family
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27 — THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Tim Puccetti	Wife & Son
Ascension	9:30am	Linda M. Battista	Wittman Family
Saint Philip	11:00am	Edward & Robert Dulick	David & Family
MONDAY, DECEMBER 28 — THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS			
Saint Philip	8:00am	John C. Sebesta	Family
TUESDAY, DEC. 29 — FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD			
Ascension	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30 — SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Italo Dimeo Family	Mary Ann Dimeo
THURSDAY, DEC. 31 — SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD			
Ascension	8:00am	William & Marion Lugaila & Shane Phillips	Family
VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD			
Saint Philip	4:00pm (V)	Alice M. "Sally" Brown	Friends & Family
FRIDAY, JAN. 1 — OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
Ascension	9:30am	Louise Miller	Family
Saint Philip	11:00am	Kathleen M. Mortell	Family
SATURDAY, JAN. 2 — SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS AND DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH			
Ascension	8:00am	Members of the DeRocco Family	Chuck & Lindy
Saint Philip	4:00pm (V)	William Kocyan	Wife & Children
Ascension	5:30pm (V)	Mary Karen Trango	McDonald Family
SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 — EPIPHANY OF THE LORD			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Bernard William McDermott	Family
Ascension	9:30am	Deceased Members of the Heigl & Shepherd Families	Debby Sullen & Peggy Baehr
Saint Philip	11:00am	Rosemary Rynn	Colleen P. Rodgers



Saint Philip Parish is on Facebook! Follow us today to learn about upcoming events and happenings.



Notes from the Pastor

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, everyone, and best wishes for a healthy, joyful, and peaceful Christmas Season! I also hope you'll remain healthy and safe as we enter into the New Year 2021! It's a shame that 2020 was very much a lost year for all of us. The hardship of this pandemic continues even after ten months. The world and our society have changed in so many ways.

Despite our difficulties and challenges in 2020, I hope that we'll all remain hopeful for a better year ahead, and I trust that we'll remain faithful to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as we all pray for a new beginning this week and a better year in 2021! May the good Lord bless, keep, and protect you and your family in the New Year and always!

Celebrating the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Two days after celebrating Jesus' wondrous birth at Christmas, **we are now celebrating our annual Holy Family Sunday when we honor Jesus, Mary, and Joseph and their holy life together.** It's good to know that Jesus had such loving and dedicated parents who gave their lives to the Son of God and who protected him and raised him so well in our human living. Mary and Joseph were perfect parents for our Messiah and Lord.

It's also good for us to know that we too are part of the Holy Family. As you know, Jesus assures us in his preaching that all who are his disciples and who live by the will of God are part of his family as well. We are true members of the Holy Family along with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. What a wonderful promise and belief this is for all of us!

This Holy Family Sunday also reminds us of the importance of our own family - as well as the importance of our church family too! Our personal family should always be very significant to us, and we do well to spend as much time as possible with our family members - especially in prayer and in our Liturgy! The family we've been given is the community that is closest to us - and the community in which I hope we find love and support and life.

Every day, it's good for us to tell your spouse, children, grandchildren, family, and relatives that you love them and appreciate them. Every day, it's good to share ourselves in a caring

**OUR NEW YEAR'S EVE AND
JANUARY 1 LITURGY SCHEDULE**

Saint Philip Parish will celebrate our January 1 Liturgies to honor Mary, the Mother of God - and to observe the Day of Prayer for World Peace - at these times:

New Year's Eve, December 31:
4:00pm at Saint Philip Church (300 person limit)

New Year's Day, January 1:
8:00am at Saint Philip Church (300 person limit)
9:30am at Ascension Church (200 person limit)
11:00am at Saint Philip Church (300 person limit)

Please visit www.saintphilipchurch.org to reserve your seats now, or call the parish office (412-922-6300). Thank you!

and generous way with all our family members. While this may not be common in many families, it's a practice which should become regular because loving our family members does so much good for all family members.

Likewise, I hope that we'll all find our parish community to be our family of faith as well. It's good for all of us in Saint Philip Parish to pray for and support one another - and to support and participate in our parish community every week and every year!

May you have a very good New Year celebration as we begin 2021 and as we honor Mary, the Mother of God on January 1 - along with our Day of Prayer for World Peace. May you have a joyful Christmas Season. May you have a very good 2021, too, and God continue to bless you and your family now and always!

Thank you for your financial support

As Saint Philip Parish makes our way through this continuing time of pandemic, your financial support is very much appreciated. By this Sunday, every one of our nearly 2500 households has received a Pandemic Appeal Letter from me. Some have just now received their third letter. So far, we've received donations from 335 households. Yes, that's 12% of our households responding with a donation, but my hope is that, in the coming days and weeks, more families and members will see the importance and necessity of supporting the parish during this national and worldwide crisis.

As you saw in the December 6 bulletin, our parish had a (\$156,341) spending deficit in the last fiscal year because of the decreased contributions due to the pandemic. Last year, the parish also gave a total \$255,000 subsidy to our parish school. This year, as you know from my Appeal letter, we will be entirely out of reserve



funds by June 30 because of lower contributions -- and another possible \$250,000 school subsidy once again this year.

To all our members and families who have contributed to this Pandemic Appeal, thank you so very much once again. To all who have been waiting to respond, please help your parish community now so that we can remain alive in 2021. Thank you all very much!

Still working on the future of our Catholic School

Since late September, Saint Philip Parish and Saint Margaret of Scotland Parish in Greentree have been discussing the future of our two elementary schools. (A similar discussion is also taking place between Saint Elizabeth School in Pleasant Hills and Saint Gabriel School in Whitehall.) This discussion has been requested by officials of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh as well as SRCES, the South Region Catholic Elementary Schools, Inc., which oversees the nine parish elementary schools in the south and west of Allegheny County as well as Washington County. In the coming days and weeks, the SRCES Board and officials of our Diocese will be sharing communications with each school community and each parish community.

These discussions will continue as everyone involved tries to find an agreeable solution to retain Catholic elementary education here in our local area. In the end, please know that any final arrangement is NOT the decision of the Saint Philip Parish pastor or principal. In the end, a recommendation will be given to the Bishop by the SRCES Board, and then, the final decision will be made by Bishop David Zubik in consultation with his senior diocesan officials.

One additional note is that, as these discussions continue, we have all realized that this pandemic year - and its effect on the financial situations of both parishes and both schools - must also be considered seriously. As our Pandemic Appeal has made clear, Saint Philip Parish (and School) - and, in fact, Catholic parishes and schools across the Diocese and across the United States (like every person, family, community, business, and government) - have found this pandemic year to be very, very difficult. School fundraising and parish contributions have certainly been effected during this difficult year. All the current factors of 2020 must be considered in the deliberation and the forecasting needed to plan and ensure Catholic schools now and in the future.

As always, the Saint Philip School community and I are all very grateful for your support of the school and for your interest in this important ministry of Saint Philip Parish and of the entire Church. We're all doing our very best to continue the work and the future of Catholic schools in our local area!

Best wishes for a good New Year's Day and a blessed and healthy 2021!

Best wishes for this week, for a good New Year's Day, and for a very good 2021! Thank you for your goodness and your generosity to our parish community, to one another, and to those in need.

Until next Sunday, may you and our parish and school communities receive goodness, health, and divine grace from God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. May the good Lord bless you and your family and our parish community in 2021 and always!

Yours,
Father Jim Torquato

Our Parish's Pandemic Appeal

Please help Saint Philip Parish
in this very difficult pandemic year.

Your special monetary donation now and your
increased weekly donation will help us to
remedy the decline in donations this year.

Our sincere thanks are extended to
these recent parish donors:
(as of December 18, 2020)



24 Anonymous Donors
and
Carol and Michael Anderson
Karen and Kevin Dadey
Doreen and Guerino DiNello
Bob and Ellen Fogle
Christine Graham and Scott Graham
James O'Brien
Mike Oleck
Philip Rectenwald and Teresa Jurich
Mary Lou Reynolds
Marie Straub
Wayne and Pat Willy

DONATE ONLINE

Make donating easy!

Your regular online contributions
to Saint Philip Parish are
encouraged and always welcome!

You can send your weekly donations
through our *We Share!* internet service at
www.saintphilipchurch.weshareonline.org.



'Tis the Season to Rejoice

The 12 Days of Christmas: As the familiar 18th century English Christmas carol reminds us, the Christmas Season, also known as Christmastide, extends far longer than just the day of Christmas. In the Church year, Christmas day is the first of the 12 days of Christmas. The last night, twelfth night, is January 5, the eve of the feast of Epiphany, celebrated on January 6. The final Sunday of the Christmas Season celebrates the Baptism of Jesus. Clearly, Christmas is meant to be not just a celebration of the baby Jesus on Jesus' birthday but a summary of our lives in relation to God's intimate, incarnate presence with us today.

In the early Eastern Church, the Epiphany was the primary celebration of both Jesus' birth and his manifestation to the world. It was associated with the winter solstice when the sun's light began to be renewed for another year. In the Roman West in the 3rd century, the celebration of Jesus' birth was shifted to December 25 to compete with the pagan festival of the "unconquered sun" (natalis solis invicti) and the time until Epiphany became the Christmas Season.

From the 4th century on, Christmas, with its focus on Christ's incarnation as a truly human person like ourselves, grew in popularity until today it often surpasses Easter in the popular imagination. During this blessed season, then, we are constantly reminded of God's love and desire to be with us and for us to share in the divine life. (2019 by All Saints Press)

**Thank you for your
generous financial contributions
to SAINT PHILIP PARISH!**

*Your goodness and participation
help to keep our parish alive!*



Parish News

A PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

Loving Father, keep our families within the embrace of Your loving providence. In times of crisis and tension, bless our families with the hope of your consolation and forgiveness; in times of joy and growth, bless us with a spirit of thankfulness. Amen.



It is our hope that 2021 will be a year filled with countless blessings and graces from God. And may it be a healthy and happy one for you and your family.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

On Friday, New Year's Day, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. We honor Mary for her willingness to enter into a unique relationship with God's Son - a relationship that enables all of us to name Jesus as our brother and savior.

Masses for the Holy Day will be celebrated on **Thursday evening, December 31 at 4:00pm** (SP) and on **Friday, January 1 at 8:00am** (SP), **9:30am** (A) and **11:00am** (SP). Please plan to join us in prayer on this coming Holy Day.

PARISH OFFICES

The Parish Offices are closed until further notice for all in-person business. The offices may be contacted by phone Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

PARISH SUPPORT

We are grateful for your continued support! If you are unable to attend Mass, you may mail your weekly offering to the Parish Office at 114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh 15205 or drop it off in the mail box located outside the main office door. St. Philip Parish also offers the option for ONLINE GIVING.

JUST A REMINDER. . .

Sunday Masses

- **50%** Occupancy: **300 (SP) & 200 (A)** may gather at each Mass as per the directives of the Diocese.

Attendees at every Mass should:

- Enter church no earlier than 30 minutes before Mass through the Courtyard Door (St. Philip) and Main Doors (Ascension).
- Ushers will moderate entry.
- Use hand sanitizer when entering church.
- Remain 6 feet apart from other individuals (families may sit together).
- Wear a face mask, except for Holy Communion.
- Proceed immediately to vehicles at the end of Mass. (The church will be sanitized after each Mass).

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND MASS

www.Signup.com/go/FGmSpoq. Reservations accepted by phone from those **without internet access** on Tuesday & Wednesday from 10:00am to 12:00 noon. Call the parish office at 412-922-6300, x 5.

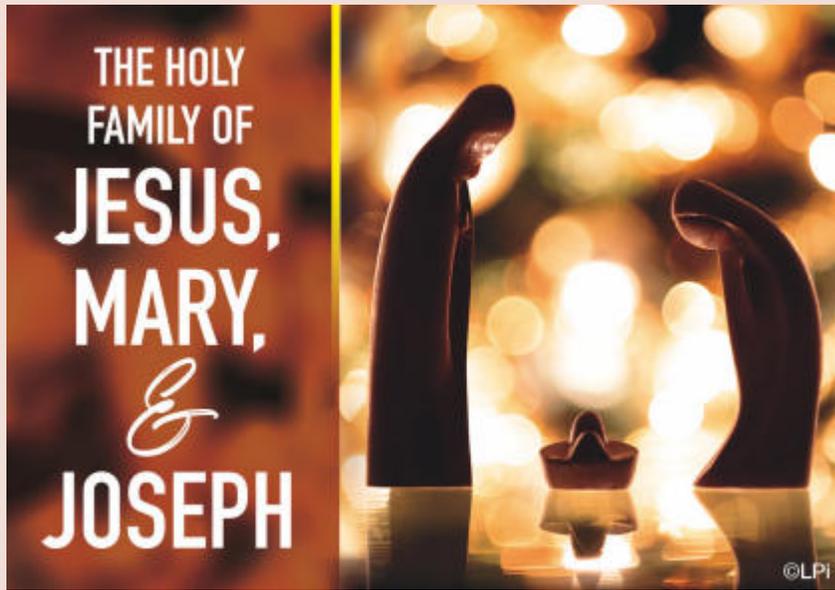
SAINT POPE JOHN PAUL II ON THE FAMILY

Our late Holy Father, John Paul II, was one of the most prolific Catholic writers on the family. As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, we should reflect on some of his wisdom regarding the Catholic Family:

1. *"If we are to bring healing to a world so deeply loved by the Father, we cannot neglect to care for the family, the foundation of society."*
2. *"Society must strongly reaffirm the right of the child to grow up in a family where, as far as possible, both parents are present. Children need not only material support from their parents, but more importantly, a secure, affectionate, and morally correct family environment."*
3. *"Christian families exist to form a communion of persons in love. As such, the Church and the family are each in its own way living representations in human history of the eternal loving communion of the three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity."*

4. "Catholic parents must learn to form their family as a domestic Church, a Church in the home where God is honored, His law is respected, prayer is a normal event, virtue is transmitted by word and example, and everyone shares the hopes, the problems, and sufferings of everyone else. All of this is not to advocate a return to some outdated style of living; it is rather a return to the roots of human development and human happiness."
5. "Every effort should be made so that the family will be recognized as the primordial and, in a certain sense, sovereign society. The sovereignty of the family is essential for the good of society. A truly sovereign and spiritually vigorous nation is always made up of strong families who are aware of their vocation and mission in history."

(Taken from Go in Peace: A Gift of Enduring Love, John Paul II, Loyola Press, 2003)



IS YOUR FAMILY HOLY?

When the Bible says 'holy' it means 'separate' or 'different.' The word implies being healthy and whole in a world where much is un-healthy and fragmented. The English phrase 'hale and hearty' sums up true holiness. Holiness includes such concepts as humor and laughter, compassion and understanding, and the capacity to forgive and be forgiven, to love and to be loved. That's holiness. Holy families are not free from conflict, nor do they never hurt one another. Holiness in families, rather, comes from learning to forgive and to be reconciled, and learning to face our problems and do something about them. In family life, holy means striving to surrender to God's light within us when the darkness around us seems overwhelming. It means struggling day after day to bring creative order - if only a bit of it - to the chaos in our lives. When we work at cultivating forgiveness, reconciliation, and community, we embody God's holy will in the context of family life. A family embodies holiness by striving to be 'hale and hearty,' not by trying to be 'perfect' according to a set of other worldly standards.

(Mitch Finley, Catholic Digest)

Rest in Peace

We offer our sympathy to the families of **Ana Mae Beshenich**, **Ruth A. Holzapfel** and **James Arthur Snatchko** who entered into eternal life. Please keep them in your prayers.

HOLY MATRIMONY

CONGRATULATIONS AND BLESSINGS

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to **Michael Charles Paliani** and **Rachael Ann Callen** who were married at St. Philip Church on December 12. We ask that God bless them as they begin their married life.



Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at **St. Philip** burns

In Loving Memory of Willis O'Neil

Offered by Goyke Family

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at **Ascension**

burns *In Loving Memory of O'Connor*

☎ *McElligott Families*

Offered by Cathy O'Connor



BRUNI PLUMBING, INC.

Thank you for helping to underwrite the production of our weekly Parish Bulletin.



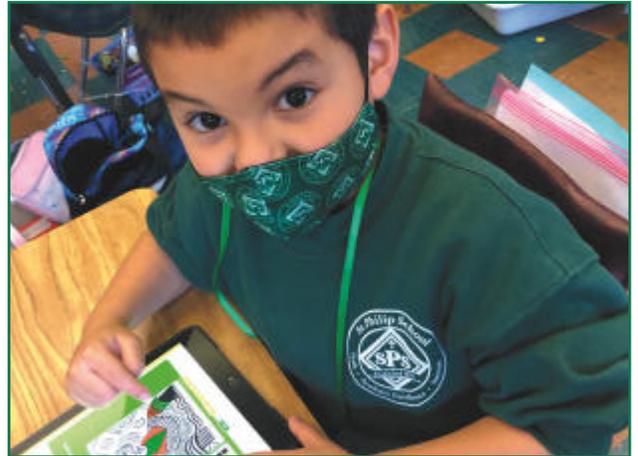
St. Philip School News

GRACE PROGRAM

Deadline for January enrollments is January 15. Requests for enrollment may be made by visiting www.spsangelway.org/support-sps or may be placed in the collection basket or sent to the school office at 52 West Crafton Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205. Any donation is gratefully accepted and directly benefits the school. Thank you to all for your support of the GRACE Program.

SPS THIS WEEK

- 2B and 5B went on walking field trips for GYM class - one class going to the park and another on a scavenger hunt around St. Philip School
- KB worked on Christmas wreath crafts. Students in KA worked on coloring in famous artworks, digitally
- Miss McGaughey took 4A and 4B to the Crafton Library for ART class to look at and talk about the mural painted on the side.
- 7A religion class made Advent ornaments for our school Christmas tree.





Spotlight on our TEACHERS

Mr. Patrick Baker, Spanish and STEAM (Seventh Grade Homeroom)

"I'm very excited to join the faculty at SPS. SPS has a remarkable reputation and I'm honored to be here."



Education / Certifications

- Master's in International Education, Universidad de Alcalá, Class of 2015
- Certificate in Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin, and Serbian languages from the University of Pittsburgh
- Bachelor of Arts, Slippery Rock University, Class of 2014,
- Majors: Spanish with Business Administration with International Emphasis, and Political Science

- Minors: International Relations & Comparative Politics, and Asian Studies with a focus on China and Chinese language

Teaching Experience:

- 1 year teaching ESL in Spain
- 1 year teaching ESL in China
- Permanent Substitute as the Bishop Canevin STEAM teacher
- STEAM Teacher with What About STEAM

Mr. Patrick Baker is originally from Washington, PA. He attended John F. Kennedy Catholic School and then Bishop Canevin. He completed his undergraduate work at Slippery Rock University and his Master's at the Universidad de Alcalá in Alcalá de Henares, Spain. Since then he has worked and studied in Spain, China, and Montenegro. He has a passion for traveling and studying foreign languages.

Mr. Baker began exploring STEAM fields after returning from working in China and has been teaching Lego Robotics, 3D Design and Printing, computer programming, graphic design, along with other exciting STEAM areas. He is continuing to learn and loves sharing what he knows with students.

Miss Margaret McGaughey, Art, Music, and Library

"I love to explore new ideas and materials with my students. Their enthusiasm and creativity inspire me every single day."



Education / Certifications:

- Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Art Education from West Virginia University
- K-12 Art Certification in the state of West Virginia

Experience:

Second Year Working at SPS and 5 years teaching at the following facilities:

- Sweetwater Center for the Arts - Class Instructor
- Interlochen Arts Academy - Middle School Arts Counselor
- Painting with a Twist - Painting Teacher
- Fern Hollow Nature Center - Homeschool (Elementary) Arts Teacher
- BOPARC Arts Camps - Paper Arts and Ceramics Teacher

Classroom +:

- Diocesan Art Show, Square One Art Fundraiser, K-5 Christmas Concert, Middle School Stations of the Cross, Afterschool Program



December 18, 2020: *O Adonai*

Dear SRCES school families,

As parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh adapt to be more *On Mission for The Church Alive!*, the nine South Regional Catholic Elementary Schools (SRCES) are also adapting to the process of regionalization. Regionalization involves a great deal of consultation and study with clergy and lay leaders.

I recently sent you a letter describing the commitment of the SRCES board to affordable, accessible Catholic elementary education in our region. We've been exploring ways to combine institutions to achieve that goal. At our most recent monthly meeting, the SRCES board discussed two school pairings: (1) St. Elizabeth of Hungary and St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin, and (2) St. Margaret of Scotland and St. Phillip. At that meeting, pastors from each of the four spoke on behalf of their school and parish communities, relaying to us the ways in which you value your schools. The SRCES board noted the many qualities of your schools to which you have called our attention and we appreciate your love for them.

At the same time, demographic and financial trends make it clear that very few, if any, of our parish schools are sustainable on their own. Our question is not *whether* to change, but *how*. Now that the director board has deliberated, our next step is to refine our recommendations and pass them on for review and approval by Bishop David Zubik.

At each level—pastor and school community, SRCES board, and Bishop Zubik—we make our decisions out of a deep commitment to our Catholic schools and parishes, with a primary concern for what is best for our students in the long term, ensuring that families who desire a Catholic education for their children will have a school that is affordable, geographically accessible and financially stable within the south region.

Catholic education is at the heart of the Catholic mission. Through Catholic schools, the Church helps parents bring their children and youth into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Together with our regional administrator, Sharon Loughran Brown, and our entire leadership team, I thank you for your vital role in supporting Catholic education and building a vibrant faith community. As this process unfolds, we will keep you informed.

May God grant you a merry Christmas season of new joy and hope!

Yours in Christ,

(Rev.) Dave Poeking
President, South Regional Catholic Elementary Schools



Gifts Re-Affirming A Catholic Education | December 20

Our December program was held in late December in school and highlighted the religious meaning of our Christmas decorations. Deadline for January enrollments is January 15. Requests for enrollment may be made by visiting www.spsangelway.org/support-sps or may be placed in the collection basket or sent to the school office at 52 West Crafton Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205. Any donation is gratefully accepted and directly benefits the school. Thank you to all for your support of the GRACE Program.

<i>ENROLLED</i>	<i>DONOR</i>	<i>ENROLLED</i>	<i>DONOR</i>
DECEASED - PERPETUAL		DECEASED - PERPETUAL	
Charles H. Spires	A Friend	Bill & Thelma Seaman	Family & Friends
Jack & Bernice Sigh	Bernice Sigh	Kim Harbaugh	St. Philip School Family
Mary Collins Klemmer	Mary Pat Collins	Mr. & Mrs. Jack McGinley	Family
Harry Collins	Mary Pat Collins	Albert Dzurichko	Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Hagg
Byron & Pat Collins	Family & Friends	Joseph & Margaret Tracy	Family & Friends
Mary Jo Dowds	Family & Friends	Jim Reilly	Family
Sr. Jane Catherine	Bernice Sigh	Sister Annina Fox	Friends
Vincent Rea, Jr.	Vincent Rea Family	John Sebesta	Virginia Sebesta
Vincent Rea, Sr.	Italia Rea	Robert M. & Sara K. Chamberlin	Chamberlin Family
Vincent & Italia Rea	Vincent & Italia Rea Family	Tom Petrone	Family & Friends
Marie Renvers	Joe Renvers	William & Gen Kennedy	Family & Friends
Ken & Audrey Werner	Werner & Wrabley Family	Edward Witt	Family & Friends
Helen Hennessey	Pete, Matt & Amanda	Don Mixon	Family & Friends
Drew & Florence Starr	Friends & Family	DECEASED	
Barrett Family	Family	Smith & Colosimo Families	Mr. & Mrs. Jay Smith
Boden Family	Family	Marilyn Seitz	Bob Seitz
Sam Hicks	Peter Hennessey	Terry & Delys Keeley	Pat Keeley
William Ley	Family & Friends	Catherine Kletter	Elaine Koller & Karen Kletter
Mary Adelaide & Christopher Sprows	Family & Friends	Margaret Mary McWilliams	Katie Sheridan
Thomas Sworski, PhD	Stanley Sworski	Bruno Scuglia	St. Philip School Family
Mary & Edward Stewart	Eileen Cox	Florence Hall	
Tom Leskanic	Anthony S. Michalski	Jeremy Dentel	
Tim Megyesy	Family & Friends	Karen Werner	
Thomas & Angela Witt	Family & Friends	Rose Givvin	
Msgr. Robert Garland	The Chamberlin Family	John & Betty Bodnar	Donna Bodnar
Daniel Brannan	St. Philip Children	Kathleen Gallagher	Katie Sheridan
Ignatius Laux	Family and Friends	Michele Colosimo	Gail Gilles
Don Mixon	Family and Friends	Alice Kaminsky	Marge Reilly
Ed Leithauser	Family and Friends	Karen Werner	Heather Ravenstahl
Alice Bryson Shock	John Shock	James D'Itri	
Edward Huith	Family and Friends	Michael Diven	
Joseph Hayes	Family and Friends	Bernie Gamble-Anniversary	
THINKING OF YOU		DECEASED	
Fr. Walter Dworak	Dorothy Kraemer & Family	Margaret Todd	St. Philip School Family
	St. Philip School Family	Rose Rynn	
Fr. George Wilt	Dorothy Kraemer & Family	Dan Clayton	
	St. Philip School Family	Harry C Suehr II	
Blanche Bednar	Marge Reilly	Sr. Mary Lou Lisowski, SC	
Penny Bruder	Bob, CeCe, Neal, Ashley	Bill Lukach	Anita Macklin & Family
HAPPY BIRTHDAY		Nicole Moselein	
Fr. Jack	Anita Macklin & Family	Joseph Streppa	
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY		Donna Howard	Marge Reilly
Mr. & Mrs. John Sullivan	Anita Macklin & Family		



Religious Education

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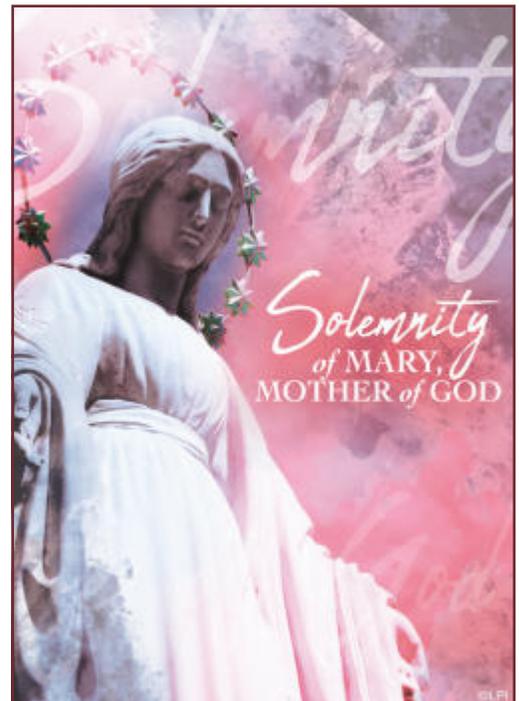
A NOTE FROM MARYANN: Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. I wanted to take a few moments to share with you some ideas from Fr. Boniface Hicks during his reflection titled, “*A Journey with the Holy Family*” which was livestreamed via the Diocesan website on December 13. He identified three ways in which Joseph felt close to God. He first recognized the hope given by the angel in a dream which told him to “*Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt and stay there until I tell you.*” He could recognize the angel’s message because he remembered another angel’s message. We can become closer to God by remembering God’s presence in our lives. Joseph also felt close to God when he looked upon the Christ Child and realized God has a plan for all of us. When he looked upon the face of Jesus, Joseph must have realized how much Jesus trusted Joseph to care for Him. Jesus trusts us to carry out His plan for all people. Finally, Joseph felt close to God by bringing God’s plan to Mary. Mary had to trust Joseph since she did not receive that particular message from the angel. Sometimes we, too, have to trust. An answer to a problem or situation may not be coming to us but it may be coming to another person. Just as Mary trusted Joseph, we must trust that sometimes another is the answer to a prayer. Let us pray to the Holy Family as we prepare to begin this New Year.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS: A thank you to all parents and students who picked up their Religious Education Learning Packets. More information will be given in late January regarding in-person family sessions.

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES: *Loving God, during this holy season of Christmas, we ask for your blessing on all families. Let Mary’s openness to your wondrous ways be an inspiration to place all trust in You. Let Joseph’s courage provide hope during times of anxiety and uncertainty. Let Jesus’ life ignite all families with a spirit of light and love. May the grace that encircled the Holy Family widen to embrace all families. For this we pray. Amen.*

BLESSING PRAYER FOR HEALING BY JOYCE RUPP

*May you desire to be healed.
May what is wounded in your life be restored to good health.
May you be patient with the time it takes to heal.
May you rest in the prayers of others.
May you know little moments of beauty and joy.
May you hope in your heart.
May you experience the love of God today.
May you find strength in the Word of God.*



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD:

On January 1, we honor Mary, the Mother of God. Let us take a moment this week to pray the Memorare.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you, O virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

REJOICE, MOTHER OF GOD

Rejoice, Mother of God. Rejoice, you who received joy from the Angel. Rejoice, you who conceived the brightness of eternal Light. Rejoice, Mother. Rejoice Holy Mother of God and Virgin. All creation extols you. Mother of Light, pray for us.

Last year the people of St. Philip Parish celebrated the First Encounter Christ Series on our road to being a Parish of Intentional Disciples. We continue our journey as we remind ourselves of A Disciples Prayer by Sister Joyce Rupp.



Ministries & Societies

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE — At the end of November when we found out that the parish would not have a Giving Tree this year, we took a leap of faith and decided to have our own Christmas gift program. We asked for donations to pay for the gifts and asked our members to volunteer to shop and wrap for the kids. In the past, we submitted over 100 names per year for the *Giving Tree*, so we knew that the need was big and we would have our work cut out for us.

We are extremely grateful to be able to report that our leap of faith paid off. Our efforts to provide Christmas gifts to those we serve within the parish boundaries and through the Madonna Hope House in Tunnelton, WV was a rousing success. Ten adults will receive gift bags full of much-needed personal care items and... wait for it... 115 children will have gifts under their Christmas trees this Christmas morning!

Thank you to our volunteers who deal directly with our friends in need for collecting the names and wishlists and for delivering the gifts. Thank you to our donors who made it possible to pay for the gifts. Last, but definitely not least, thank you to the volunteers who spent considerable time and effort picking out the perfect gifts for the children. May God bless everyone involved for their generosity and kindness toward His children.

This week, your generous donations allowed us to assist a family of three with \$300 for rent and \$119.78 for gas service; a disabled man was given \$300 for rent; a single mother of three was given two beds and clothing vouchers; another single mother was given three beds, dressers and clothing vouchers; a single mother who is unemployed due to the pandemic was given \$300 for rent; a disabled woman was given various pieces of furniture; another disabled woman was given a bed and other pieces of furniture; and a couple was given \$196.81 for utility expenses and clothing vouchers. During busy times like these, please pray that our volunteers are given the strength to help all of our friends in need to the best of our ability.

If you would like to make a monetary donation or a donation of \$10 Giant Eagle gift cards, please place your donation in one of the poor boxes, mail them to the parish office at 114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205, or donate at <https://saintphilipchurch.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/SaintVincentDePaul>. If you would like to make a donation of furniture or household goods, please call or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email us at svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com. If you would like to donate clothing, shoes or accessories, please place your donation in the blue bins in front of the Hope House at St. Philip or in the rear parking lot at Ascension, or you can call, text or email us to arrange a pickup if you are unable to transport them yourself. Please do not place any other items in those bins or leave anything outside of them because they will be thrown away. Also, we are always looking for volunteers! Any donation of your time is extremely valuable to us. If you'd like to join us in helping our friends in need or want to learn more, call, text or email us for more information.

As always, if you, or someone you know, is in need of assistance, please call or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email us at svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com.

A Disciple's Prayer

How easy to believe that I am an instrument of Your love when my life is going well, O God. How difficult to believe this when my life seems to be going nowhere, or is filled with many concerns and activities that wear me out. Yet, You greatly desire to proclaim Your goodness through every part of my life, no matter what the situation.

I do not need to have good feelings in order to be an instrument of Your love. I do not need to always feel satisfied with what I am attempting to be and to do in order to be a disciple of Yours. It is the intention of my heart that makes the difference. Deep within I long for You and I give myself to Your cause. I place my heart in Yours and enter as fully as I can into Your loving embrace.

I am Your messenger, ready to tell of Your enormous kindness and mercy. I will trust in You. I believe that those with whom I live and work will see Your love shining through all I am and all I do. It is Your radiance within me that will transform the bits and pieces of my life into a tapestry of ardent devotion. Thank You for being present in my life and for calling to me with Your gracious voice of unconditional love.

THE COMPANIONS OF CHRIST

Over the centuries as the Christmas Season was celebrated, the Church gradually drew together a series of feasts following Christmas Day that by the Middle Ages were often referred to as the “**Companions of Christ**” (Comites Christi), a kind of royal entourage to accompany the newborn king. In their various ways, they represent different forms of witness to Christ or some aspect of our Christian faith.



Sunday between Christmas & Epiphany: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph who show how our own families might reflect a right relationship to God and one another.

December 29: St. Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury and head of the English Church, who was murdered by King Henry II's knights for opposing the king's attempt to control the Church.

December 31: Pope St. Sylvester, who oversaw the transition of the Church from an illegal to a legal religion under Roman emperor, Constantine and invited the world's bishops to the first Ecumenical Council at Nicea (325).



January 1: (the Octave Day of Christmas): Mary the Mother of God, whose “yes: to God models our willingness to bring Jesus to birth in ourselves and our world (Lk. 1:26-38).

January 6: the Epiphany, when God in the incarnate child Jesus is revealed to all the world in the persons of the Gentile Magi (Mt. 2:1-12).

The Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Jesus. This feast now ends the Christmas Season by celebrating Jesus' commitment to God's saving activity and God's commissioning him with the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish it. (2019 by All Saints Press)

SAINT PHILIP PARISH



We don't know who will play in this year's Super Bowl yet, but we do know the game is scheduled for **Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021** between the AFC and the NFC. We are having a Super Bowl Pool. The cost is \$50 per block. There are 100 blocks in the pool. We will have 4 payouts:

1st Quarter score — **\$375**
2nd Quarter score — **\$750**
3rd Quarter score — **\$375**
Final score — **\$1,000**

The names and numbers will be randomly drawn in advance. You will receive a copy of the completed pool prior to the Super Bowl. Don't be left out.
We already have blocks sold!!

Purchase a block for yourself or partner with a friend. Please fill out the form below and return to the parish office. **Thank you.**

SAINT PHILIP SUPER BOWL POOL

_____ Square(s) @ \$50 each

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I would like to name my block(s):

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