



# Saint Philip Catholic Parish

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

**WEEK OF JANUARY 3, 2021**

*Download the bulletin at [www.parishesonline.com](http://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.

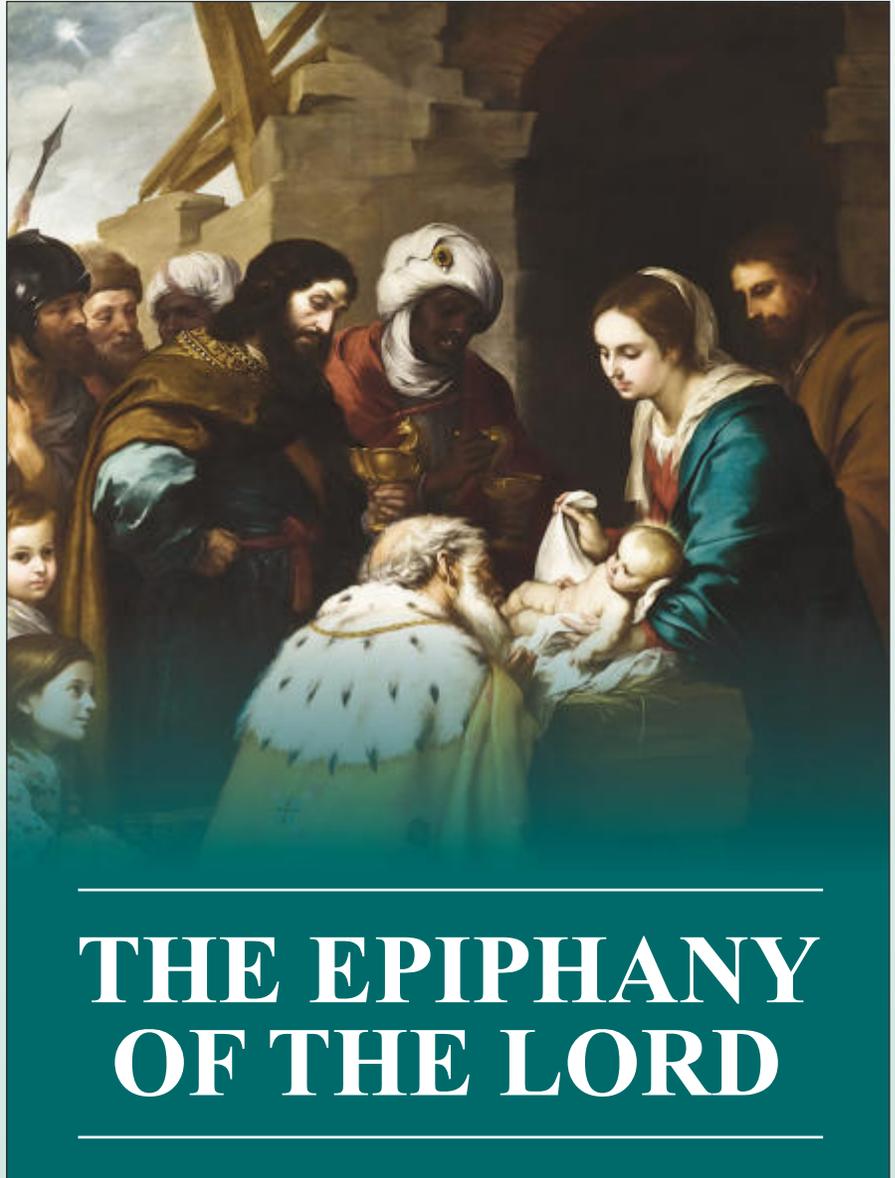
## PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

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

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205  
[parishoffice@saintphilipchurch.org](mailto: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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**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](http://www.spsangelway.org)

**BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS:** Should be submitted to [maureen@saintphilipchurch.org](mailto: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
<b>SATURDAY, JAN. 2 — SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT &amp; GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS AND DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH</b>			
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
<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 — EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>			
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
<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 4 — SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS</b>			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Lesley Ann Clark	Lynn Harris
<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 5 — SAINT JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	Rosemary Rynn	Joanne DiCesare
<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6 — CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY</b>			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
<b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 7 — CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	Mickie Flaherty & Nancy McAllister	Sister, Beth
<b>FRIDAY, JANUARY 8 — CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY</b>			
Saint Philip	8:00am	James M. O'Connor, Sr.	Cathy O'Connor
<b>SATURDAY, JANUARY 9 — CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	Rev. Walter Sobon	Joanne DiCesare
Saint Philip	4:00pm (V)	Bernard T. Tokarczyk	Friends
Ascension	5:30pm (V)	Stephen Caruso	Gorman Family
<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 — BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Margaret Wadowski	Michael A. Wadowski
Ascension	9:30am	Audrey Heigl	Debby Sullen & Peggy Baehr
Saint Philip	11:00am	Bernard Flynn & Joseph Wallace Families	Jim & Mary Flynn



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



# Notes from the Pastor

Happy New Year, everyone, and best wishes for a healthy, joyful, and peaceful 2021! As always, I hope you'll make use of this quiet time for prayer and for reflection on Jesus and all that he means to us as we celebrate the Christmas Season and today's Epiphany of the Lord!

## Celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord Jesus

**Everyone enjoys the story of the three wise men** who traveled from the East under the guidance of a spectacular nighttime phenomenon called the Star of Bethlehem. The account of the three visitors has captivated the imagination of countless people and has also inspired faith in many, many Christians throughout these past twenty centuries.

**This wonderful visit is what we celebrate as the Epiphany** - the "manifestation" in Greek - of Jesus as the Light of the World and as the Hope for all humanity. The Epiphany teaches us each year that Jesus was sent by God into the world - first for the People of God in Israel, and then as the Savior of all peoples and all nations throughout the world.

**This is an astounding message of our Catholic Christian faith** - that Jesus is the Redeemer and Savior of all people, and that Jesus is the Light of the World. He has come to bring the Kingdom of God to everyone who will accept Jesus and the life of the Kingdom. Jesus and his Church are NT exclusive. They wish to bring all people of all times to eternal salvation. Jesus wants all people to come to God through him.

**Jesus is also the Light of the World because:** 1.) Jesus clearly shows us who God is as our loving and generous Father and Creator; 2.) Jesus shows us who we are as the People, the children, the family of God; and 3.) Jesus shows us the best way of life and the way to everlasting life and glory in God. Please take some time to reflect on these ways in which Jesus truly is our Light, and give some thought to what Jesus means to you and to our world.

**May you have a blessed Epiphany Sunday and a safe and healthy 2021!** As we begin this new calendar year, may you and all in our parish continue to survive this Covid-19 pandemic, and may we all be blessed with the light and salvation of the Lord and of his holy Kingdom!

## Thank you for your financial support

As Saint Philip Parish makes our way through this pandemic year, your financial support is very much appreciated. At this time, 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 360 households. Yes, that's 15% of our households responding with a Pandemic 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 as well as 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 a possible \$250,000 school subsidy once again this year. Our parish truly needs your help to continue in 2021 and in the coming years.

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

## Still working on the future of our Catholic School

Since September 2020, 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 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.

**The SRCES Board and our school administration will be communicating with school parents and families as to plans and recommendations. I will continue to communicate with you, our parish community.** Meanwhile, 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!

#### Supporting our parish's Pandemic Appeal

In these months, we are asking your help to address the financial shortfall in donations that has been caused by the current worldwide pandemic. **Without your generous help, Saint Philip Parish will experience a \$384,000 financial deficit by the end of this 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. This will result in our exhausting ALL of our savings by July 1, 2021.**

**To remedy this pandemic situation, I'm asking every family and member to consider both a Pandemic Appeal donation of \$250, \$500, \$1000, or more** - as well as an increase in your weekly parish contribution. I am well aware of the hardship that this year's pandemic is causing for all of us, but if we want our Catholic parish to remain stable and alive, then your contribution is absolutely necessary in these months. In order to maintain our parish, two churches, two campuses, and a Catholic school, your help is truly needed now.

**If you still have your yellow Pandemic Appeal Reply Envelope, please use it this week to send a generous donation to Saint Philip Parish.** You're also encouraged to increase your weekly offering on a continuing basis. You may also visit our internet site at [www.saintphilipchurch.weshare-online.org](http://www.saintphilipchurch.weshare-online.org) to contribute an online donation. Again, your generosity toward our parish community is needed and is most appreciated!

So far, Pandemic Appeal letters have been sent to our 1050+ households who contribute weekly or monthly to our parish. To date, about 300 families and members have sent a donation. In December, we will send Pandemic Appeal letters to the 1,300+ families which don't contribute regularly, asking them for a special Christmas donation to Saint Philip Parish.

**Contributions have been good,** and we will share the total of the 2020-2021 Pandemic Appeal in the summer months once this Appeal has been completed. Thank you for your help and for contributing to keep Saint Philip Parish alive in this very difficult time. God bless!

Best wishes for a very good, blessed, and healthy New Year 2021!

Best wishes, once again, for this week and for a very good New Year of 2021! May you and our community continue to be safe and healthy during this Pandemic. Once again, thank you very much 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 community receive goodness, health, and divine grace from God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. May the good Lord bless you, 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 26, 2020)



**43 Anonymous Donors**

and

**Mary and Tom Gerlowski**

**Mary Haney**

**John M. Harding**

**John J. Luke**

**Sally McAlister**

**Valarie Nania**

**Paul Naughton**

**Judith Rembert**

**David Remy**

**M/M James Schneider**

**Jim and Mary Beth Veri**

**Helen M. Witt**

## 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](http://www.saintphilipchurch.weshareonline.org).

## Thanks to all our Christmas Volunteers and Staff!

Our Christmas celebrations this year were very special and truly memorable thanks to our parish volunteers and parish staff members. Many thanks go to our decorators at both Saint Philip Church and Ascension Church, to our Music Director, to our musicians and vocalists, to our maintenance staff and office staff, to our parish ushers, our collection counters, our lectors, our sacristans, our Communion ministers, and all our dedicated parish members and parish volunteers! Your love of the Lord and of our parish community are so evident as you participate in our parish life and make our celebration of the Christmas Season memorable, joyful, and prayerful. Thank you all so very much! May you be all blessed by God in 2021!



## Thank you for our new parish calendars!

Our parish community extends our grateful thanks to the Schepner-McDermott Funeral Home and to Wolbert Auto Body for providing our 2021 Catholic Parish Calendars from J.S. Paluch, Inc. These annual calendars have an important place in every Catholic home. If you still need a 2021 Saint Philip Parish calendar, they are in the church entrances, or contact the parish office (412-922-6300) to schedule a pickup day and time. **Thanks again to the Schepner-McDermott Funeral Home and to Wolbert Auto Body for your generosity and your support of our parish community!**



# Parish News

## 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/FGmSpog](http://www.Signup.com/go/FGmSpog). 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.

## GUIDELINES FOR CATHOLIC GODPARENTS / SPONSORS

When choosing godparents or sponsors for Baptism or Confirmation, please keep in mind the following: Godparents/Sponsors must be at least 16 years of age,

and be a baptized and confirmed Roman Catholic. They must lead a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith (including valid Catholic marriage). The mother or father cannot be the godparent/sponsor. For the Sacrament of Baptism: A baptized person who belongs to another Christian community (Lutheran, Episcopal, Presbyterian, etc.) may be admitted only as a Christian Witness (not a godparent) provided there is at least one Roman Catholic godparent who fulfills the above criteria. A non-baptized person cannot be a witness (Code of Canon Law, cc.872-874).

## WEDDINGS AT ST. PHILIP PARISH

Are you seeking to be married in the Catholic Church? Would you like to have your wedding at St. Philip Parish? Please remember that engaged couples are required to meet with one of our parish priests for an Intake Meeting prior to scheduling a wedding date. Diocesan policy also asks that a six-month period of preparation take place prior to any wedding. Couples are also asked to complete an approved Pre-Cana experience. We strongly recommend waiting to book your reception venue until you have met with the priest. This will ensure that there are no impediments preventing a wedding in the Catholic Church and enable you to secure a wedding date. Please contact Maureen Takach in the Parish Office at 412-922-6300 ext. 6 for additional information.

## Did You Know?

While the Catholic Church allows for cremation, it still guards against situations where cremains are not given proper respect. As the Rite states, "the cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come." This respect includes a proper burial. As the Rite continues, "The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires." Reverence for the body, therefore, is the underlying reason why the Church opposes the above practices, which would also include distributing cremains to be worn in jewelry. Our bodies, and the remains of our bodies, are not mere objects or commodities; rather, they have dignity that demand respect and reverence.

## A Post-Christmas Prayer

Long after the angels disappear into the heavens, the shepherds return to their flocks, the magi journey home and the great star sets, Jesus remains. The Child in whom we rediscover God's great love for humanity becomes the adult Redeemer who challenges us to imitate his selflessness and compassion in order that we might transform our world in love. May we allow the miracle of Christmas to continue long after the holiday trappings have been packed away. May we welcome the adult Messiah and his challenging Gospel to recreate our lives, making the peace, justice and hope of this holy season a reality in every season of the New Year. Amen.

### LIGHT OF THE EPIPHANY

"The twelve days of Christmas come to an end on January 6, and the season of the Epiphany begins. But Epiphany not only ends Christmas, it also fulfills it by celebrating the revelation of the Christ to the whole world. The coming of Incarnate God to all people, especially to those of us who are Gentiles, is the bridge from birth into life, the event that makes Easter possible for most of us. The light of the Epiphany illuminates the church's year as it illuminates the human race from whom the kings came." -Phyllis A. Tickle, "What the Heart Already Knows" A Book of Christmas, Nashville: Upper Rooms, 1988, p. 13

### WHAT WILL YOU BRING TO CHRIST?

On this feast day we cannot go to Jesus empty-handed. He does not need our gifts since He is the Creator of all things. But He wants us to be generous so that we may receive more graces and gifts from him. Today we put at his disposal the gold of our charity. This is our desire to love him more, to treat others with more love. We will present him with the frankincense of our prayers and good works. We will give him the myrrh of our sacrifices united to the Sacrifice of the Cross, as renewed in the Mass. What gift will you bring to the Holy Altar this day and every day of the year?

### WHO WERE THE MAGI?

The story of the Magi traveling from the East to see the Christ child appears only in Matthew's Gospel. The word Magi (Greek "magoi") means a learned scholar or sage. The Magi (possibly Zoroastrian astrologers from Persia) interpreted a bright star in the Eastern skies as a sign that a great king was to be born. According to St. Ignatius of Antioch (who lived in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD), "A star shone forth in heaven above all the other stars, the light of which was inexpressible, while its novelty struck people with astonishment." (Letter to the Ephesians, 19). The Wise Men followed this star to Bethlehem of Judea, and upon arriving they worshipped the infant Jesus and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Numerous traditions not directly based on Matthew's Gospel have developed about the Magi. Typically we think of there being three Wise Men because of the number of gifts, but Matthew does not disclose the exact number. Since the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, Christian writers have referred to them as kings, even though Matthew doesn't specifically tell us that they were royalty. Their names, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar date to the 6<sup>th</sup> century and are generally thought to represent kings from India, Persia and Arabia respectively. (All Saints Press, 2015)

## Rest in Peace

We offer our sympathy to the families of **Mary Patricia Kennedy** and **Mary Louise Dzadony** who entered into eternal life. Please keep them in your prayers.



### SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ADVERTISERS

*Our advertisers need your help during these difficult times!*

Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn't be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them, and right now they need your help more than ever. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local during these hard times!

## Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at **St. Philip** burns  
*In Loving Memory of Dorothy McDermott*  
Offered by Children

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at **Ascension**  
burns *In Loving Memory of the Deceased*  
of St. Philip Parish

## ADVERTISER of the Week

**WILLIAM F. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, 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](http://www.spsangelway.org/support-sps) or may be placed in the collection basket or sent to the school office at 52 West Crafton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15205. Any donation is gratefully accepted and directly benefits the school. Thank you to all for your support of the GRACE Program.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

### SCHOLAR /ATHLETE, EVERETT SARGENT

8<sup>th</sup> grader, **Everett Sargent** has been a student at St. Philip since preschool. He has always worked hard at his studies and his extracurricular activities and achieved success in both areas. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, he was inducted into St. Philip's chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. Everett is a highest honor roll student and has received the Principal's Award for all A's every quarter of his academic career at St. Philip. He is a member of Thinking Caps and was a member of the America Bowl, the Science Bowl, the Quiz Bowl, the History Bowl and the Design Lives Here teams for St. Philip. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Everett spearheaded an alternative energy project for Powering Pittsburgh, and his team received first place in the Middle School Division, with one of the prizes received being a donation to SPS's STEM program. Everett is also actively involved in St. Philip's Forensics team, and its Newspaper, Robotics, and K'nex clubs. Everett volunteers at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall, and he is a frequent student reader during Mass. He enjoys reading, running and hanging out with his friends during his free time.

In addition to his academic achievements, Everett is a multi-sport athlete and part of St. Philip's Varsity Cross Country, Soccer, Basketball, Track and Boys' Volleyball teams. Outside of St. Philip, Everett swims for the Carlynton Barracudas during the winter, and the Crafton Crocodiles in the summer. While he loves all the sports he plays, running is his favorite. Everett has been a member of St. Philip's Cross Country team since 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Everett began placing among the top 10 finishers at area meets and took 17<sup>th</sup> place at the Diocesan Cross



Country Championships. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Everett continued to improve, placing in the top 5 at area meets, and led St. Philip's varsity boys to a successful season. He finished 5<sup>th</sup> at Cross Country Championships that year.

This year, as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader in his final season as a member of St. Philip's Cross Country team, Everett was undefeated and won every regular season meet that he ran. He set a new course record on St. Philip's home course, twice, at each of St. Philip's home meets. Mid-season, he won the South Hills Invitational, running only 20 seconds off the course record. At the Diocesan Cross Country Championships this year, Everett took first place in the Varsity Boys Division, running 9 seconds off the course record.

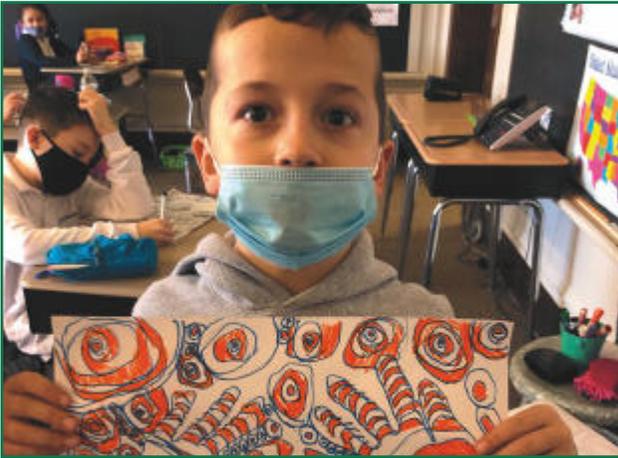
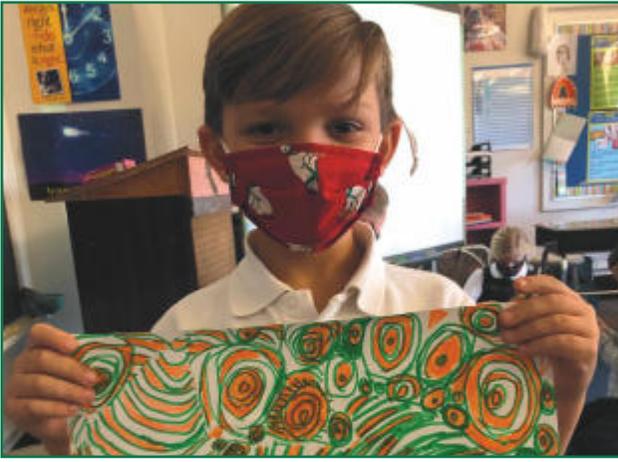
Everett also ran post-season cross country, endeavoring to qualify for the Junior Olympics. He qualified at the Regional Finals on November 14, 2020, winning the race and putting himself in contention to compete at the Junior Olympics. On December 13, 2020 wearing his St. Philip Cross Country jersey for the last time, Everett placed 15<sup>th</sup> at the U.S. Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships in Lexington, Kentucky, in his national running debut, finishing 15<sup>th</sup> in a crowded and competitive field against the fastest runners in his age group from across the United States.

Everett will represent St. Philip on its track team this spring and wants to continue to run in high school and college. He is grateful to his Cross Country teammates and families for all of their support this year, and his coaches, teachers, and Principal Dougherty for giving him the resources and opportunity to compete, both academically and at sports. He would especially like to thank Mrs. Cathy Huth for her advice and support for Forensics and Thinking Caps. Everett would like to study materials science/chemical engineering in college.

## SPS THIS WEEK

- December GRACE Program - Our December Grace Program took the form of a Novena. The children learned that a Novena is a nine day prayer that asks God to grant us special favors. The theme of our Novena focused on the religious significance of the decorations we use on Christmas such as angels, candy canes, lights, candles, and evergreens. Each day during our novena, we learned about a Christmas symbol and its special meaning as a sign of Jesus. The names of all those enrolled in the December GRACE Program were read daily during our Christmas Novena held the nine school days before Christmas.
- Grade 4 sponsored a Christmas Hat Day.
- We had two "Snow Days" this week. Because of our technology improvements, we no longer cancel school for bad weather. We just switch over to virtual learning! We even had music class during our snow days.
- While we were in school, 1A went on a walking field trip.
- All classes have been working hard on Art projects before the beginning of Christmas vacation.






# Spotlight on our TEACHERS

**Mrs. Sara Cornetti**, Pre-K and Preschool

*“My children have learned so much more than academics at SPS. The teachers have provided them with gift of the ANGEL way. I am so blessed to be part of the SPS family, as a parent and now a faculty member.”*



**Education / Certifications:**

- Bachelor’s in Education (Clarion University)
- Certifications in Elementary and Special Education

**Experience:**

- 16 years of teaching
- 3 years at SPS

**SPS Legacy:**

- Son graduated from SPS.
- Daughter is currently attending.



# Religious Education

Ms. MaryAnn Garfold, Director of Religious Education  
412-922-6388 [stphilipreligioused@gmail.com](mailto:stphilipreligioused@gmail.com)

**A NOTE FROM MARYANN:** Happy Epiphany to each of you. When I was teaching, this was a very special time and each teacher would receive a gift on this day. I can not give each of you a gift in person but I give you the gift of prayer and blessing. You may want to start a new tradition and have a special dessert or surprise today. This week is also a special one in our Diocese as we congratulate our neighbors as they begin their journey as New Parish Communities. Finally, here at St. Philip we, along with the Sisters of Charity, begin a year of celebration for the 200th Anniversary of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's death. The Sisters will hold many events throughout the year. Here at St. Philip we join in the celebration as the Sisters served our school for over 100 years.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** We continue At-Home Learning. A special thank you for all the families who donated socks for the homeless. The St. Vincent de Paul Society was able to give away 300 pairs of socks.

**NEW YEAR PRAYER:** Below are two Prayers to begin the New Year.

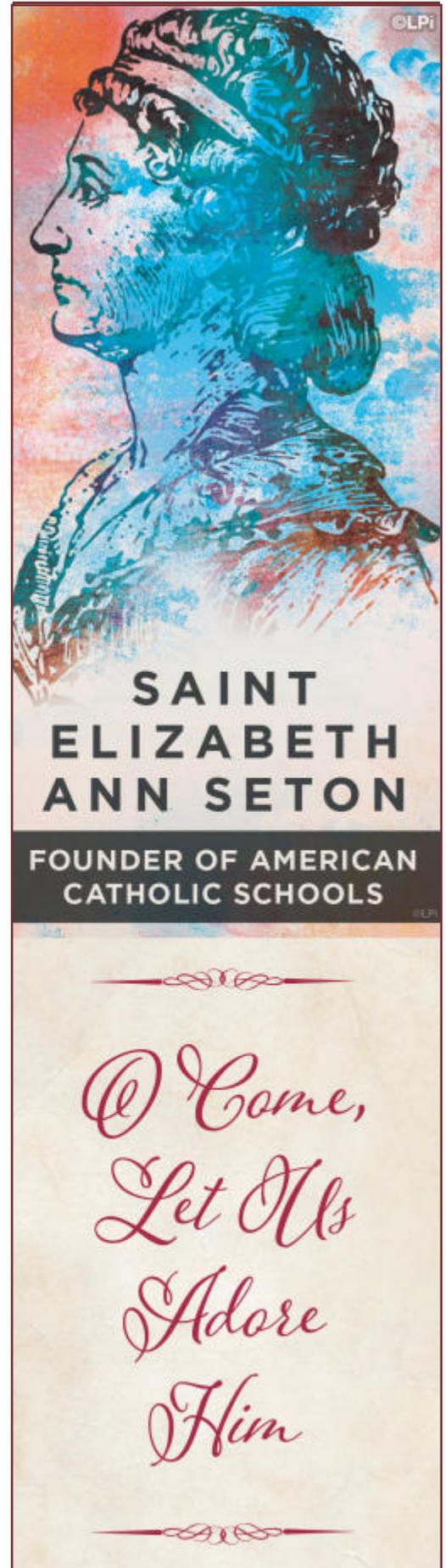
***The Work of Christmas Begins***  
by Michael Dougherty

*When the carols have been stilled,  
When the star-topped tree is taken down,  
When family and friends are gone home,  
When we are back to our schedules,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To welcome the needy,  
To heal a broken planet,  
To feed the hungry,  
To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear,  
To share our gifts,  
To seek justice and peace for all people,  
To bring Christ's light to the world.*

***We Waited and Listened***

*In Advent, we waited and listened;  
At Christmas, we rejoiced and proclaimed.  
In this New Year, may we  
Accept Your work in us.  
Live Your message through us.  
Be gentle with each other among us.  
Speak Your word between us.  
Honor Your Name within us.*

**IT'S COMING:** Watch this space for our NEW Family Initiative Ministry.

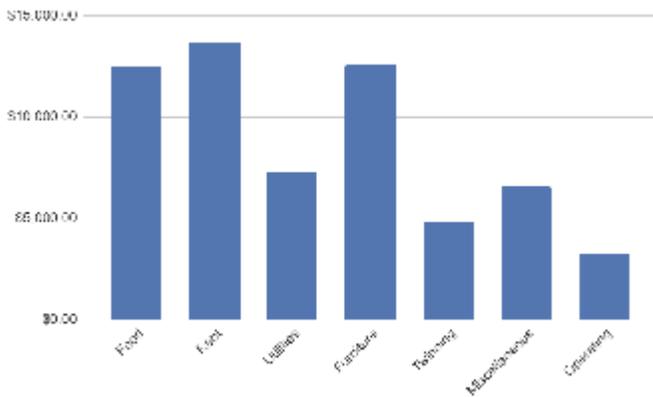




# Ministries & Societies

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

As we start a new year, we would like to take a look back at all of the good your donations did during our last fiscal year, which ended September 30, 2020. In the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the St. Philip Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul spent \$60,810.44 helping our friends in need and running our organization! The breakdown of how the funds were spent is as follows:



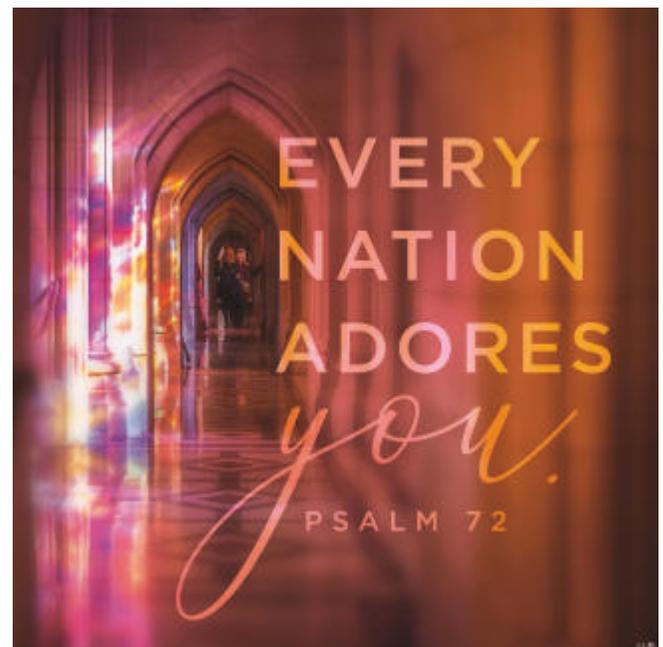
Spending in the miscellaneous category went to help our friends in need with less-common requests, such as bus passes, money to pay prescription co-pays, and assistance with funeral costs, as well as the cost of renting trucks and paying for gasoline for our trips to deliver donations to Tunnelton, WV. The operating expenses cover items such as electric bills for our food pantry and rental of our storage space for furniture donations. The furniture spending is for furniture purchased from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Central Council of Pittsburgh warehouse. The above figures do not include all of the friends in need that we were able to help through your generous donations of furniture, appliances, housewares, clothing and food!

We spent significantly less than in recent prior years due to the moratoriums against evictions, foreclosures, and utility shutoffs that were in place most of the year due to the pandemic. However, as these protections lift in the coming months, we expect to see a large increase in requests for assistance.

Even though the needs within our parish boundaries are large, we really have come together as a community to support our friends in need. Every \$5 donation or donation of a bag of gently used clothing makes an impact in someone's life. We pray that God will continue to bless us in order to be able to help those less fortunate, and that He will help us to always keep them in our hearts and prayers.

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, call or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email [svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com](mailto: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 just want to learn more, please call, text or email us for more information.

As always, if you, or someone you know, are in need of assistance, please call or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email us at [svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com](mailto:svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com).



# WORSHIP & MEDITATION



## This Sunday's Bible Readings

### FIRST READING

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!  
Your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)



### PSALM

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.  
(Ps 72)



### SECOND READING

It was not made known to people  
in other generations  
as it has now been revealed  
to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:  
that the Gentiles are coheirs, members  
of the same body,  
and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus  
through the gospel. (Eph 2:5-6)



### GOSPEL

They were overjoyed at seeing the star,  
and on entering the house  
they saw the child with Mary his mother.  
They prostrated themselves and did him homage.  
(Mt 2:10-11)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,  
1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm  
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## USE THE Light of God

### GOSPEL MEDITATION

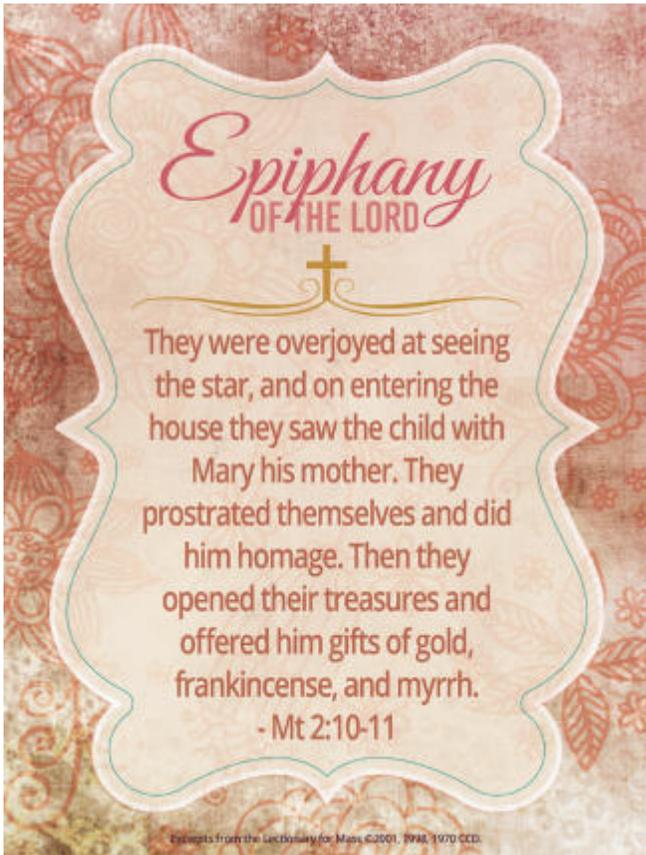
#### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"Where is that thing?" mumbled Bob as he searched frantically on his dimly lit desk for the current electric bill. "I know I put it right on top of these papers this morning!" Growing in frustration and bordering on anger, he flies stuff around, moves books and opines why simple tasks need to be so hard. Enter his wife, who calmly says, "Maybe it would help if you put the light on, dear." The desk light goes on and lo and behold, there is the electric bill right where Bob left it earlier. All it took was a little light!

We stubbornly refuse to turn on the lights! Either we are distracted, determined, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Or perhaps, we fail to do the obvious. We would rather live our lives with the dimmest of lights or even in total darkness. Why are we afraid to do something so that we can actually see? It might help us to find quicker and better answers to problems, the meaning of life, relationships, happiness, and what is ultimate truth. Yet, we stumble along, moving things from one side to the other, getting angry, feeling cheated, being unsettled, resigning ourselves to the agony of defeat once again.

"And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was." The light has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ! We no longer have to fumble in the darkness. We have been gifted with the illumination we need to see our way through things and find what we really are looking for. All these years later, however, so many are still reluctant to accept him. Perhaps they are unconvinced, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Everyone has their own reason for not wanting to turn on the switch.

But there are so many answers to so many of our problems in this humble Child of Nazareth. A simple birth teaches us about God's tender wedded relationship with humanity. It speaks to the expanse of God's salvation across the globe, and the incarnate Divine wonders and blessings that are a part of our life moment to moment. It calls us to understand the design of world order God intended as found in the Beatitudes, the sacredness of every human life and all of creation and the meaning of things we struggle with most, like suffering and death. We have a lot of Good News to share, not just with a privileged few but with all the world. All races and creeds can receive God's healing word. God continues to manifest himself even now! Use the light to find what you are really looking for!



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---

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**Thank You!**



# 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:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter score — **\$375**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter score — **\$750**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.**

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