



Saint Philip Catholic Parish

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

WEEK OF JANUARY 17, 2021

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



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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, JANUARY 16 — WEEKDAY | | | |
| Ascension | 8:00am | Paul Korol | Wife, Claudia Korol |
| Saint Philip | 4:00pm (V) | Alice Cummings | McDonald Family |
| Ascension | 5:30pm (V) | Kay & Jim Gorman | Gorman Family |
| SUNDAY, JANUARY 17 — SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | | | |
| Saint Philip | 7:00am | Rose Rynn | Pat & Bernice Gallagher |
| Ascension | 9:30am | Raymond Best | Terry Best |
| Saint Philip | 11:00am | Herb Lucot, Jr. | Craig Lucot & Family |
| MONDAY, JANUARY 18 — WEEKDAY | | | |
| St. Philip | 8:00am | Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish | |
| TUESDAY, JANUARY 19 — WEEKDAY | | | |
| Ascension | 8:00am | Theresa Jakiel | Kathleen Badish |
| WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20 — WEEKDAY | | | |
| St. Philip | 8:00am | Edward Wittmann | Gary & Barbara Hartman |
| THURSDAY, JANUARY 21 — SAINT AGNES, VIRGIN AND MARTYR | | | |
| Ascension | 8:00am | Alice Cummings | Joanne DiCesare |
| FRIDAY, JANUARY 22 — DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN | | | |
| St. Philip | 8:00am | Timothy Megyesy | Sharon Lach & Leann Jenkins |
| SATURDAY, JANUARY 23 — WEEKDAY | | | |
| Ascension | 8:00am | Earl & Ann Dunhoff | Joanne DiCesare |
| St. Philip | 4:00pm (V) | Kathy Lundell | Rosemary McDonald |
| Ascension | 5:30pm (V) | Rev. Walter Sobon | Diana Miller |
| SUNDAY, JANUARY 24 — THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | | | |
| St. Philip | 7:00am | Michael F. Wadowsky, Jr. | Michael A. Wadowsky |
| Ascension | 9:30am | Raymond Killmeyer, Sr. | Ray & Dianne Killmeyer |
| St. Philip | 11:00am | Barbara M. Hoff | Michael & Elvira Hoff and Family |



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



Notes from the Pastor

Greetings, everyone, and best wishes for a healthy and peaceful 2021! I hope that you're all doing well and continue to be healthy and safe, and I hope you'll make use of this quieter pandemic time for prayer and for reflection on Jesus and all that he means to us!

Helping Jesus to grow the Kingdom of God

As we begin this time following the Christmas Season, we begin January by reading about the start of Jesus' ministry. In the Gospel according to John, we hear Jesus' selection of Peter and Andrew to be his first Apostles chosen to assist Jesus in the proclamation and the establishment of God's Kingdom. Elsewhere, in the Gospel according to Mark, we hear Jesus say: "This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel." The Kingdom of God - the presence, life, and love of Almighty God - is truly all important, and Jesus needs us - his chosen people - to help with his proclamation and his ministry of making God and God's goodness known to and real for all people.

Proclaiming God's presence and goodness - and making God's presence and goodness real for others - is Jesus' divine mission, and the same proclamation and work is our Catholic Christian mission as well. Jesus brought God's Kingdom to the world. His apostles and disciples - our Christian ancestors - helped Jesus with this sacred work throughout the past 20 centuries, and the world has been greatly improved and transformed in so many wonderful ways.

Now it's our time - our turn - to assist Jesus as his many disciples and apostles to continue proclaiming God's presence and God's goodness within our families, in our community, and to all who will listen and receive the Gospel and the Kingdom of God. May we all walk closely with Jesus throughout our years, and may we bravely proclaim Jesus, his Good News, and the Kingdom - the presence and love - of God to all those with whom we

share this life!

This important week of unity, healing, and peace

This week, our nation will observe very important days during which we'll all hopefully remember the unity and peace that we expect to find and live in the United States. This week, we will observe the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which continues until January 25. This Monday, our nation will again honor the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and on Wednesday, the United States of America will mark the inauguration of our new president and vice-president, Joseph Biden and Kamala Harris. These important events remind us that as the People of God, we are meant to show respect to all people and to live in peace and solidarity with one another.

Of course, we all know of the dissension and division that have sadly marked our national and our human history - even in recent weeks. In response to the forces of anger and hatred that would divide us, may we dedicate ourselves to unity, healing, and peace within our own families, in our community, and in our commonwealth and nation this week and throughout the year to come. May God continue to bless America, and may we all live in peace and with respect toward one another and all people.

A Day of Prayer and Adoration for our Nation

This Tuesday, January 19, from 8:30am until 4:00pm at Ascension Church, our parish will hold a Time of Prayer for our Nation during the day before Inauguration Day. We will have time for silent prayer and Eucharistic Adoration in the church. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come and pray for the United States and for peace in our land.

Thank you for your financial support

Yes, I'm repeating this article often so that every parish member receives this important news. Once again, as Saint Philip Parish continues to make 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 390 households. Yes,

that's 16% 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 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. As has been announced, our parish is looking at a (\$384,000) deficit for this fiscal year, and that could leave us with no parish savings beginning July 2021. That would leave the parish in a most difficult situation.

Thank you so very much once again to the 16% of our members and families who have contributed to this Appeal. 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!

Still working on the future of our Catholic School

And yes, I'm also repeating this article often so that every parish member receives this important news. 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 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 deci-

sion 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!

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

Best wishes, once again, for this week and for a very good 2021! May you receive the goodness of Lord every day, and may we all continue to share goodness and generosity with one another, with our parish community, and with those in need.

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

Yours,

Father Jim Torquato

MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR SANITIZING VOLUNTEERS

Every Sunday and every day of the week, we have a number of dedicated parish members who help us all by sanitizing our two churches after our various Liturgies. Many thanks and much gratitude is extended to all of these generous and helpful volunteers. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Without this volunteer work, we would NOT be able to gather for the Liturgy in Saint Philip Church or in Ascension Church. Please join me in thanking our sanitizing volunteers as often as you see them working, and please consider assisting in this necessary sanitizing effort yourself from time to time.

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 January 12, 2021)



6 Anonymous Donors

and

Mary G. Shaner

Greg & Jeannie Shumovich

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.

JANUARY 19 DAY OF PRAYER FOR AMERICA



*Saint Philip Parish will host a
Day of Prayer*

*for the United States of America
this **Tuesday, January 19,**
at **Ascension Church***

*from **8:30am until 4:00pm.***

*Please join us for silent prayer
and Eucharistic Adoration
as we pray for our nation before the
inauguration of our new President
and Vice-President on January 20.*

*Everyone is welcome and encouraged
to come and to pray for America!*



Every child is a gift from God!

January 16-17

is the Parish Share

Special Collection

to benefit the students of
St. Anthony School Programs
and **DePaul School**
for Hearing and Speech





Parish News

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

LECTORS - January 23 & 24

- 4:00pm at St. Philip - Gregory Healy
- 5:30pm at Ascension - Richard Schubert
- 7:00am at St. Philip - B. J. Gamble
- 9:30am at Ascension - Linda Barone
- 11:00am at St. Philip - Jessica Rea

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - January 23 & 24

- 4:00pm at St. Philip - Art Bannon
- 5:30pm at Ascension - Katie Phillips
- 7:00am at St. Philip - Dian Perkins
- 9:30am at Ascension - Joe Allen
- 11:00am at St. Philip - Susan Kelly

TODAY'S SPECIAL COLLECTION

This weekend has been designated for the special collection to benefit **St. Anthony School Programs and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech**. A new year is upon us and we are so grateful to have the opportunity to share a bit about our programs and to work together once again. On behalf of our students and staff, we can't thank you enough for supporting these invaluable programs that benefit many members of our Diocese.

St. Anthony's and DePaul both fill a necessary role for special education with the Diocese of Pittsburgh. St. Anthony School Programs offer an inclusive education to children ages 5-21 years with special needs and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech teaches children, birth to 14 years, who are deaf or hard of hearing to listen, speak, and learn. Both programs empower students to become active and contributing members of their respective communities.

Any help you can give is deeply appreciated and makes a tremendous impact on the students we serve, as well as their families. Our fundraising efforts have been greatly impacted by the pandemic, so again, any support you are able to give means so much. Thank you for your generosity and God bless.

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).



2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

If you would like a Statement of your Contributions to St. Philip Parish for 2020, please fill out the form below and forward it to us along with a **self-addressed stamped letter-size envelope** and a list of your contributions will be mailed to you as quickly as possible. If we do not receive a return envelope, we will hold the statement for you to pick up at the Parish Office. Please mark "IRS" on the envelope addressed to the Parish Office. **We thank you for your cooperation.**

2020 IRS Contribution Statement

Envelope #: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____

DAY OF PRAYER AND EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Saint Philip Parish will observe a day of prayer for our country and take part in Eucharistic Adoration on **Tuesday, January 19 following the 8:00am Mass until 4:00pm at Ascension Church.** In addition, a **Rosary to Our Lady of the Americas will be prayed at 12:00 noon.**

This Day of Prayer will afford us the opportunity to ask Our Lady's blessing on the United States as we move forward during this critical time in our history. All parishioners are invited to sign up for adoration. If you are able to spend 30 minutes to an hour before the Blessed Sacrament, please contact the Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388.



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.

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.

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.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

As Christian adults, we have a moral and legal responsibility to protect the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of children as they participate in activities sponsored by our diocese, our parish and our school. We must ensure that these children, in the care of the Church, be provided with an environment which is safe and nurturing and that they not be placed in any danger. To this end, it is the Diocese of Pittsburgh's policy that no one may volunteer or minister at a parish until a volunteer application is submitted and all background checks are completed and results received.

Even though parish activities and events have been temporarily halted, we must continue to keep current the information of those ministering and volunteering in the parish in the diocesan database. (For instance, the PA Child Abuse History Clearance and waivers or fingerprints must be renewed every 5 years.)

If you receive a renewal application or any other documents, please complete and return the paperwork to Maureen Takach, Safe Environment Coordinator as soon as possible. We know that these requirements are an inconvenience but we must remain compliant with diocesan and state policy. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Rest in Peace

We offer our sympathy to the family of **Joan M. Crum** who entered into eternal life. Please keep her 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 the Deceased of St. Philip Parish*

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at **Ascension** burns *In Loving Memory of Gary & Helen Tomcik*
Offered by Son & Family



**SCHEPNER-McDERMOTT
FUNERAL HOME, INC.**

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



St. Philip School News

GRACE PROGRAM

Deadline for February/March enrollments is February 20. 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.



YOUR INVITED!

VIRTUAL PUB TRIVIA NIGHT II: WINTER EDITION

Join us for “Virtual Pub Trivia Night II: Winter Edition” on **Thursday, January 28 at 8:00pm on Zoom** sponsored by Lu Ryan and Howard Hanna Real Estate Services. The game will again be presented by Buzz Worthy Pub Trivia. Participants will be placed onto teams at random, and compete with prizes and bragging rights on the line. Don’t worry, this isn’t “serious” trivia. Instead, it’s really all about that “useless knowledge” we all possess. Topics range from movies to candy bars to music and more.

REGISTER ONLINE AT SHOPSPS.ORG. Cost is \$10 per device. It is preferred that participants play individually (the game works better this way), but two people playing together from one device is permitted. Questions? Contact event organizers Stacey Knavish at staceypknavish@gmail.com or Brian Knavish at brianknavish@yahoo.com.

AROUND SPS THIS WEEK

3rd grade learned about communities in social studies class and had to create either a Google slideshow or a book about their own community. They had to include places where people live, work and play as well as some

historical facts about their community. We were surprised to find the many different neighborhoods that our classmates lived in. They were: Crafton, Carnegie, Westwood, Oakwood, Kennedy, Mt. Washington, Rosslyn Farms, Ingram, Sheraden and Oakdale. St. Philip School definitely serves many communities!

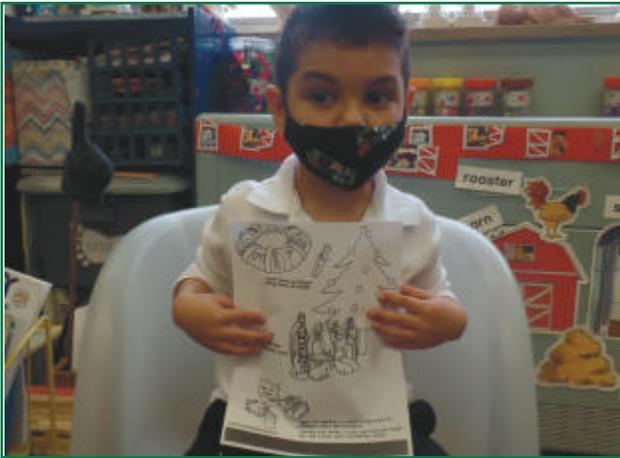
1st, 2nd and 3rd graders learned how to make an observational drawing of our school’s Angel in their brand new sketchbooks. Virtual students also participated by creating the drawing over Zoom.

Miss Esperanza, mother of Kindergartener, **Robert Drew** came in to share the story of the Mexican tradition of the Three Kings. She read *The Story of the Three Wise Kings* by Tomie dePaola. She also made a coloring page that explained some of the traditions of this celebration.

On January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany or Three Kings, Mexican children write letters to the Three Kings asking for gifts because the Three Kings brought gifts to the Baby Jesus. A large part of the celebration is leaving your shoes and a note and food and water by the nativity scene for the camels and eating rosca de reyes, a special bread.

The bread is in the shape of a circle showing God’s never ending love and is covered with slices of fruit representing the jewels in the crown of King Herod who sought to kill the Baby Jesus. Inside the bread are baked small figures of the Baby Jesus which are hiding from Herod protected by Joseph and Mary. Whoever cuts into the cake and finds a Baby Jesus figure must host a party on February 2 to celebrate the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. Robert’s mom brought in rosca de reyes for the children to see.







Religious Education

Ms. MaryAnn Garfold, Director of Religious Education
412-922-6388 stphilipreligioused@gmail.com

A NOTE FROM MARYANN: There is quite a bit to reflect upon from this Sunday's reading. From our first reading we hear the words, "Speak, Lord for your servant is listening." What does "listening" involve? First, it involves the idea of "being still." This world surrounds us with so many noises and images that it is sometimes difficult to quiet our hearts and minds. We may wish to just take a breath while repeating the words, "be still." Second, it involves "being attentive." How many of us are really attentive? Could we describe with any detail the Manger Scene from our Christmas Celebration? Next, listening involves expectation. We are ready to hear. We know we will hear something we have never heard before. Finally, listening involves a response. We must make a decision about what we hear. Our prayer life this week can call us to say, "Speak, Lord for your servant is listening."

COME AND YOU WILL SEE: These words from Sunday's second reading were the reflection from our series, "Encountering Christ" and "Forming Intentional Disciples." It seems that COVID has limited the opportunities for us to gather, pray and grow as the people of St. Philip's Catholic Community and the People of God. However, there are still opportunities to pray and grow. We continue to celebrate Mass each day and on Sunday. Our Religious Education Program continues. We will begin a new family ministry this Spring. Beginning in Lent, we will sponsor "Words for the Weary: Embracing the Lenten Season after a Challenging Pandemic Year." These reflections will appear each week in the bulletin. We also hope to hold "Around the Lenten Circle Faith Sharing" via Zoom. Look for these and additional opportunities in Sunday bulletins.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS: Beginning next Sunday, our Faith Formation Program will be live-streamed on our Facebook Page. Pre-K through 3rd Grade will be live-streamed at 10:45am. 4th through 6th Grade will be live-streamed at 11:15am. These programs are for all the children of the parish and may be seen on St. Philip Crafton Facebook Page throughout the week. Our live-streaming will be January 24, February 14 and February 28.

BAPTISMS: Baptism requests continue to be accepted. As information is provided by the family and requests forms are completed, you will be informed of a baptismal date once safety precautions are in place and it is safe to resume baptisms. For information, contact MaryAnn at 412-922-6388.

Our Lady of Hope: Today, January 17, is the feast day of Our Lady of Hope. This is one of the oldest Marian devotions dating back to the first shrine dedicated to Our Lady in France in 1870. In an apparition in Pontmain, France our Lady advised, "Pray my children, God will soon answer." We need our Lady's guidance even more today. Perhaps, we can begin each day with "Lord, Hear my Prayer and Answer."



CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE TOGETHER *New Ministry Program*

- Help your family love and cherish each other more deeply.
- Help you family create rituals that strengthen their ability to work, play, talk and pray together.
- Help you family live the "Catholic Difference" in the way they relate to one another, solve problems and communicate.

If you would like to join this pilot program with other families of St. Philip Parish and the Diocese of Pittsburgh in empowering families to experience Christ more meaningfully in their day to day activities, call the Saint Philip Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388.

*Sponsored by the Catholic Diocese
of Pittsburgh.*



Family Faith Formation

This is a new page with ideas and information for the family to share.

WINTER: Try saying this prayer at mealtime. Children can then draw pictures of Winter Scenes.

God of Winter and Summer, of cold and of sunshine, help us to remember that life is seasonal. We need a quiet, cold time to bring forth fruit and all good things. Teach us patience as we wait for Spring and warmer days. Amen.

COME FOLLOW ME: Color the picture below of Jesus calling His Disciples.



RICE CEREAL TREATS FOR WINTER

(with parent supervision)



3 tablespoons butter or margarine

4 cups miniature marshmallows

6 cups crisp rice cereal

Grease a cookie sheet or coat it with cooking spray. In a large saucepan melt butter over low heat. Add marshmallows and stir until completely melted. Remove from heat. Add crisp rice cereal. Stir until well coated. Press mixture into cookie sheet. Cool. Use star shaped or snowflake cookie cutters or make your own snowflakes shaped with a spoon. Decorate with frosting or sprinkles if you like. Eat while you watch a Winter themed family movie. You can also make these to share.



Ministries & Societies

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

The Emergency Coronavirus Relief Act (ECRA) was recently passed into law. The ECRA provides additional assistance to individuals, businesses and communities that have been affected by the pandemic as many of the provisions of the CARES Act are expiring. The ECRA provides for a second round of stimulus payments. Individuals with income of up to \$75,000.00 a year, and married couples filing joint tax returns with income of up to \$150,000.00 a year, are eligible for stimulus payments of \$600.00 per person as well as an additional \$600.00 for each dependent child. To check on the status of your payment, please go to www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment.

Under the ECRA, people who are receiving unemployment will receive an additional \$300.00 per week in unemployment benefits until March 14. Self-employed individuals and 'gig' workers, who normally do not qualify for unemployment, will have their Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits extended from 39 weeks to 50 weeks. For those who have already used all of their unemployment benefit weeks, the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program was extended from 13 weeks to 24 weeks. For more information regarding unemployment benefits, please visit uc.pa.gov.

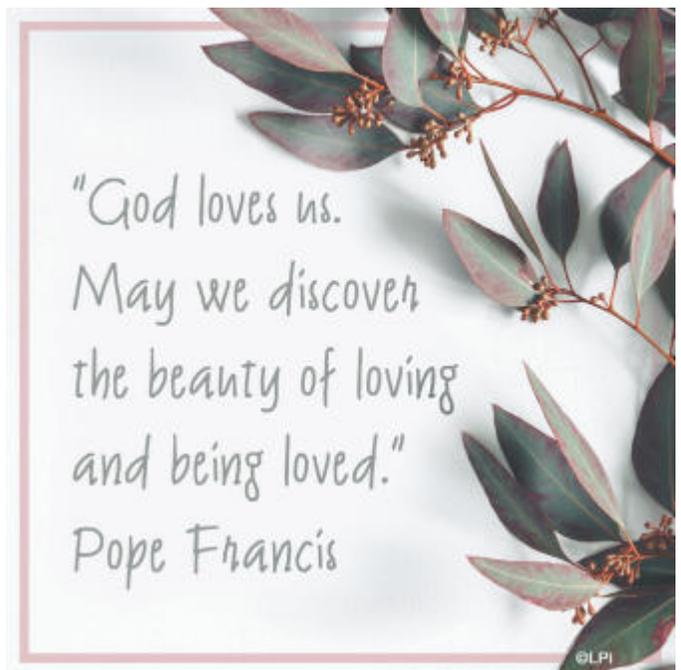
States will also receive funding for programs designed to assist with rent, utility bills and other housing expenses. No details have been released as to how much Pennsylvania will receive or specifically how those funds will be spent. Also, the CDC's moratorium on evictions for non-payment only has been extended from January 1 to January 31.

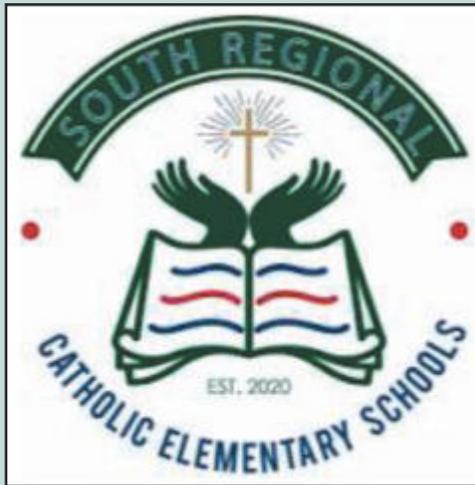
While the ECRA will provide some help to people still struggling with the financial impact of the pandemic, we know that it will not fully take care of everyone's needs and we are happy to be here to assist those who still need help during these difficult times.

This past week, your generous donations allowed us to provide a family with a stove. For those who are unaware, we take donations of stoves, refrigerators, washers and dryers as well as furniture. Next time you are looking to upgrade one of those appliances and rehome your gently used appliance, please keep us in mind!

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 online 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 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.





A MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL SCHOOLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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.

The SRCES Board of Directors is committed to providing affordable, accessible Catholic elementary education in our region. We have 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 the ways in which you value your schools. The SRCES board noted the many qualities of the schools and 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 Diocese—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.

Whether or not you have a child or grandchild in a Catholic school in our region, you support Catholic education through a portion of your offertory donations, and we thank you and appreciate you for the vital role you play in supporting Catholic education and building a vibrant faith community. We will keep you informed as the regionalization process continues.



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The 2021 Parish Share Campaign will begin in Saint Philip Parish and throughout the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh in February.

Thank you all for your generosity to Parish Share every year!

**A PRAYER TO ST. CORONA,
PATRONESS OF EPIDEMIC
VICTIMS**

Lord Jesus Christ, You came into this world for our salvation. Look kindly on us now, we pray, that we, and all those who serve You, might be kept safe from this epidemic. Heal those who are sick, comfort the suffering, bring back those who have gone astray, and above all, increase our faith, O Lord.

Give us the grace to follow You and, like the martyr, St. Corona, who gave her life for love of You, to take up our crosses daily without fear or hesitation.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us and on the whole world.



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