



Saint Philip Catholic Parish

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

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 28, 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 OF LENT

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, FEBRUARY 27 — LENTEN WEEKDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	David Tomcik	Nephew & Family
Saint Philip	4:00pm (V)	Dr. Joanne Oleck	Barekzai Family
Ascension	5:30pm (V)	Martha Schepner & Alfred Vorbach, Jr.	Estate
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28 — SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT			
Saint Philip	7:00am	James A. Snatchko, Jr.	James & Eileen Knapp
Ascension	9:30am	Harry Kaczmarek	Wife, Ann and Paul & Theresa
Saint Philip	11:00am	Hann F. Junsay	Family
MONDAY, MARCH 1 — LENTEN WEEKDAY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Marcie Williams	Debbie, Nicole, Sal, Melanie & Marc
TUESDAY, MARCH 2 — LENTEN WEEKDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3 — LENTEN WEEKDAY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Margaret Burlikowski	Husband, Al
THURSDAY, MARCH 4 — LENTEN WEEKDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	Mary Kendra	Rose
FRIDAY, MARCH 5 — LENTEN WEEKDAY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Joseph Flanigan	Eileen Walzer, Jack Riebel & Joanne Riebel
Saint Philip	8:30am	Stations of the Cross	
Ascension	6:00pm	Stations of the Cross	
SATURDAY, MARCH 6 — LENTEN WEEKDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	Maria Robson	Pat Rodgers
Saint Philip	2:00pm	Wedding - Michael P. Shelapinsky and Christina L. Wolbert	
Saint Philip	4:00pm (V)	Joan Crum	Roberta Clayton
Ascension	5:30pm (V)	Anthony & Mary Polus	Family
SUNDAY, MARCH 7 — THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Deceased of Shields & Englert Families	Mark
Ascension	9:30am	Raymond Best	Terry Best
Saint Philip	11:00am	Joe & Dorothy Chmiel	Chmiel Family
SUNDAY COLLECTION			
Last Sunday's Collection totaled: \$8,739.80			



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



Notes from the Pastor

Greetings once again, everyone, and best wishes for a good Season of Lent and a healthy week ahead!

Second Sunday of Lent - Along Jesus' way to the Cross

During Lent, an important aspect of these days is the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem and the cross on which he was crucified.

The Lord knew full well that he would sacrifice his life to accomplish the work of the Father in bringing about Jesus' Resurrection from the dead.

Knowing that the Apostles would be devastated by his crucifixion and death on the cross, Jesus chose to prepare Peter, James, and John for his death by showing to them his glory seen in the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor. Jesus wanted to assure these Apostles beforehand that he was indeed the divine Son of God who shared in the power and glory of Almighty God.

Jesus chose to accomplish this preparation of the Apostles in the event of the Transfiguration which is this Sunday's account from the Gospel according to Mark. Peter, James, and John witnessed Jesus speaking with Moses and Elijah - the two men who represent the Old Testament Law and Prophets. This showed the Apostles that Jesus was indeed the Messiah and the fulfillment of the Old Testament. The Apostles also saw Jesus' splendid appearance in the dazzling glory and power of God. Again, this was Jesus' way of preparing the Apostles for his own death and Resurrection.

As we walk with Jesus and make our way to Good Friday and our remembrance of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross, may we too be strengthened in our faith that Jesus was raised from the tomb, that Jesus is the first to be raised to new life and glory, and that we too are promised a share in the Lord's Resurrection to new life and glory. As the Transfiguration bolstered the faith of Peter, James, and John, may this glorious event also strengthen our faith in Jesus as the Son of God, and may we be renewed in our faith in the Lord's Resurrection and all that this miraculous event means for us and for our own eternal life. God bless!

Testing positive for Covid-19

Our parish office received news this past Tuesday that a parish member who participated in the 7:00pm February 17 Ash Wednesday Liturgy at Ascension Church as well as the 7:00am Sunday, February 21 Liturgy at Saint Philip Church received a positive test result for Covid-19 on February 23. This parish member did NOT have symptoms prior to the Covid test and, at this time, has a mild case of the virus. They WERE wearing a mask throughout each of those Liturgies. At Ascension Church, this parish member was seated in the rows on the right

as you enter the church. At Saint Philip Church, this parish member was seated (away from most other people) on the right side of the church under the choir loft. Both churches have been sanitized several times since then, and a thorough sanitizing took place this past Wednesday following this notice of a person having had Covid-19 when here at our churches.

If you were present at either of those Liturgies and were seated in those areas, please be mindful of any symptoms that you might experience, and contact your health care provider for a possible Covid-19 test or other recommendations.

Again, if you're feeling ill in ANY way, please remain at home and seek a medical evaluation and medical advice as soon as possible. Thank you!

The coming merger of Saint Philip School and Saint Margaret of Scotland School

This article is being printed again so that everyone in our community has this information shared with and available to you. Please read this article carefully if you haven't already, and please know that this explanation provides the reasons why this school merger and the campus decision were the final arrangements recommended by the SRCES Board of Directors and then accepted by Bishop David Zubik.

As you know, on February 12, the South Regional Catholic Elementary Schools Board of Directors announced the decision of Bishop David Zubik to accept the proposal of the SRCES Board to merge both Saint Philip School and Saint Margaret of Scotland School - and to locate the school campus in Green Tree. Because of the very significant impact of this global pandemic crisis, parish funding of our school is being severely impacted. Simply put, our much lower Liturgy attendance and our lower contributions during the past 12 months - along with the very high subsidies given by the parish to the school in recent years - have depleted our parish's financial reserves. Last year, Saint Philip Parish members contributed an incredible \$255,000 subsidy to our elementary school. A similar subsidy is being projected by diocesan officials for this school year as well, and as I've been told, these enormous subsidies can no longer be continued if the parish itself is to continue.

Unfortunately, Saint Philip Parish is now very much limited in terms of the financial support which we can share with the school. Even with the response of the parish's pandemic appeal (which received donations from 18% of our parish members), our regular contributions have declined significantly over the past 12 months. In fact, our contributions have declined each year since 2016 when Saint Philip Parish was consolidated into one parish community. Even now, our own parish staff is working very limited hours to reduce parish spending in this very difficult time which will continue through at least three fiscal years.

This catastrophic Covid-19 pandemic has created the same situation in so many diocesan parishes including our neighboring Catholic parish communities. If NO change were to occur with these two parish schools, then BOTH of these schools would quite possibly face a critical situation come June. However, Saint Margaret of Scotland Parish merged in January with Saints Simon and Jude Parish in Green Tree as well

as Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Carnegie. As such, the school subsidy which all three of those former parishes had in their budgets can be combined and shared with the local merged school which all three of those newly consolidated parishes will now help subsidize together along with Saint Philip Parish.

To sustain a Catholic elementary school in our area, Saint Philip School and Saint Margaret School will merge this summer. From a review of the two school campuses, the SRCES Board considers the St. Margaret campus to be more accessible to students and families - with all the classrooms being on one level. The school campus in Greentree also provides a large gymnasium, a large cafeteria, a larger campus for outdoor activities, as well as considerable parking on site. There are also parish owned athletic fields located in Green Tree. These are the reasons why (in addition to our Saint Philip financial situation) the SRCES Board of Directors recommended that the Green Tree campus be chosen for the merged school. For our part, Saint Philip Parish will definitely be part of (and will promote) the merged school. Our parish is committed to contributing at least 10% of our annual operating budget to the new school (even if the usual 25+% which this parish has given to school operations for many years is no longer possible).

I know this has caused shock and great sadness among Saint Philip School students, parents, and parish members, but in the end, Saint Philip Parish no longer has the financial reserves or the annual parish contributions that would allow the parish alone to generously sustain Saint Philip School. Simply put, as I've been telling everyone for months now "We no longer have the money we once had", and the parish just cannot provide the tremendous financial support which every parish school requires.

To dispel some of the mistaken rumors and comments that have circulated, please remember that student tuition funds about 60% of a school budget. Catholic schools require significant funds from other parish members as well as tremendous fundraising every year. This can no longer be taken for granted or guaranteed in any parish. Also, some have asked how can this happen to a school which has a more than 100 year existence and history. Indeed, it's great to have such a heritage, but few, if any, parish members and school alumni give significant contributions to an elementary school - even with its heritage and history. Many people simply presume that parish communities should provide all the funding that's needed. However, more and more parishes simply cannot afford and fund their school subsidies as in past generations. In the end, anyone and everyone who wants to see the continued existence of a Catholic school needs to contribute the funding that's needed to do so.

Like all of you, I feel very, very badly about this situation. I have supported Catholic schools since I entered First Grade in my own parish school in 1969, but our parish is now facing a serious pandemic financial crisis - and that means the school is also facing a financial crisis. As I've written above, if this new merger arrangement was not accepted, then there was a real possibility that BOTH of these schools would have ceased to operate. Instead, we're all hoping to establish a merged regional school which will be sustainable for years to come.

SRCES officials and our two parish communities will make every effort to create an excellent merged school. The principal selected for the merged school will work diligently to hire faculty and staff. Hopefully, all of our current students and families will become part of the new school. As our school becomes a merged regional school, I hope that you and our entire community will be glad to support the new school knowing that it's your regional elementary school providing a quality Catholic education for your children and grandchildren. God bless!

Our 2021 Parish Share Campaign

Each Lent, the parishes of our Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh hold **our annual Parish Share Campaign** to raise the funds which we contribute to the work of Bishop David Zubik and the operations of the Diocese.

Our goal this year will, once again, be close to \$90,000, and the Appeal Letter will be sent to all our households in the coming days. This year, we will be using the mailing and processing services of Our Sunday Visitor, Inc. as do all the other parishes of the Diocese. Thankfully, Parish Share mailings are now being received in all of our parish households. *While the return envelopes are (for some unknown reason) addressed to the parish rectory on West Crafton Avenue, you can be sure that we will deliver all donations and pledges to the parish offices on Berry Street as soon as they arrive.*

As in past years, I encourage all our households to contribute (or pledge) **\$250 or more** for this important annual effort. Last year, our donors were generous in helping Saint Philip Parish to meet and surpass the parish goal. All funds received above this year's goal will stay with our parish to fund the budget and operations of Saint Philip Parish. Please be generous this year as we begin the very important 2021 Parish Share Campaign! Thank you all very much!

Best wishes for a blessed Season of Lent!

Best wishes for this week and for a holy Season of Lent! I pray this will be a season of renewal, reconciliation, and divine life. As always, thank you very much for your continued goodness and generosity to our parish community, to one another, and to those in need.

Until next Sunday, may you and all in 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 now and always!

Yours,
Father Jim Torquato

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



Your goodness and participation
help to keep our parish alive!

An Examination of Conscience

Before celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession, it's important to conduct a personal examination of conscience in order to offer a complete confession.

“You shall love the Lord with all your heart, all your mind, and all your soul!”

- Is God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit of greatest importance in your life?
- Do you spend time in prayer each day?
- Do you offer thanks and praise to God each day?
- Do you give higher priority to your work, recreation, or possessions?
- Do you speak respectfully of the Lord at all times?
- Do you respect the name of God, and especially of Jesus, at all times?
- Have you missed church worship on any Sunday or any Holy Day?
- Do you keep Sunday as the day of the Lord and a day of prayer?

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

- Are you a person of love as Jesus commands us to be?
- Do you treat your parents, other adults, and all people with respect?
- Do you speak of family members, friends, neighbors, and strangers with charity?
- Have you taken the life of a human person or harmed someone?
- Have you ended or helped to end the life of a pre-born child?
- Have you mistreated or harmed other life?
- Have you broken your marriage commitment or intruded on another's marriage?
- Have you engaged in marital relations before or outside of married life?
- Have you used pharmaceuticals, prophylactics, or surgery to prevent conception?
- Have you made use of pornography or engaged in self-abuse?
- Have you engaged in theft of another's property or money?
- Have you damaged the property of someone else?
- Have you abused or damaged the natural resources of the earth?
- Have you told lies about other people? Have you lied about other matters?
- Have you spoken poorly of others or treated others with little or no respect?
- Have you spoken profanity or curses or sacrilege or blasphemy?
- Are you judgmental or critical of others without cause?
- Do you hold grudges and refuse to forgive family members or others?
- Are you envious and jealous of others, their families, or their possessions?
- Do you appreciate and give thanks for your own blessings?
- Do you share your blessings and possessions with others? With the Church?

An Act of Contrition – Lord God, I am sorry for all my sins. In choosing to do wrong, and failing to do good, I have offended you, whom I should love above all else. With the help of your grace, I promise to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, suffered and died for our sins. In his name, my God, have mercy. **Amen.**



Parish News

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

LECTORS - March 6 & 7

- 4:00pm at St. Philip - Gregory Healy
- 5:30pm at Ascension - Robert Okraszewski
- 7:00am at St. Philip - Beth Ayres
- 9:30am at Ascension - Francis Sullen
- 11:00am at St. Philip - Jessica Rea

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - March 6 & 7

- 4:00pm at St. Philip - Art Bannon
- 5:30pm at Ascension - Annette Marlinga
- 7:00am at St. Philip - Karen Rozeck
- 9:30am at Ascension - Debby Sullen
- 11:00am at St. Philip - Susan Kelly

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.

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.



Lent: Giving Up

CLP

Self-denial is about making a sacrifice that makes a difference, focusing on the Cross and reminding ourselves what Christ gave up for us. Here are some suggestions for our Lenten journey:

GIVE UP grumbling! Instead, "In everything give thanks." Constructive criticism is ok, but "moaning, groaning, and complaining" are not Christian disciplines.

GIVE UP 10 to 15 minutes in bed! Instead, use that time in prayer, reading the Scriptures or personal devotion. A few minutes in prayer will keep you focused.

GIVE UP looking at other people's worst attributes. Instead concentrate on their best points. We all have faults. It is a lot easier to have people overlook our shortcomings when we overlook theirs first.

GIVE UP speaking unkindly. Instead, let your speech be generous and understanding. It costs so little to say something kind and uplifting or to offer a smile. Why not check that sharp tongue at the door?

GIVE UP your hatred of anyone or anything! Instead, learn the discipline of love. "Love covers a multitude of sins."

GIVE UP your worries and anxieties! They are too heavy for you to carry anyway. Instead, trust God with them. Anxiety is spending emotional energy on something we can do nothing about: like tomorrow! Live today and let God's grace be sufficient.

GIVE UP television one evening a week! Instead, call someone who is lonely or sick. There are those who are isolated by illness or age. Why isolate yourself in front of the "tube?" Give someone a precious gift of your time!

GIVE UP buying anything but essentials for yourself! Instead, give the money to God. The money you would spend on the luxuries could help someone meet basic needs. We are called to be stewards of God's riches, not consumers.

GIVE UP judging others by appearances and by the standard of the world! Instead, learn to give up yourself to God. There is only one who has the right to judge, Jesus Christ. (Fr. Craig Gates)

SUPERBOWL POOL WINNERS

- 1st Quarter: **Chantal Leduc** (numbers 3 & 7)
- 2nd quarter: **Murphy** (numbers 6 & 1)
- 3rd Quarter: **CeCe Bruder** (numbers 9 & 1)
- Final: **CeCe Bruder** (numbers 9 & 1)

Thanks to everyone who played and supported our parish.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed **each Friday during Lent at 8:30am at St. Philip Church and at 6:00pm at Ascension Church.** All are invited to join us for this traditional Lenten devotion.

LENTEN EVENING PRAYER

Each **Wednesday evening during Lent**, we will have **Adoration at 6:00pm** with the opportunity for Confession followed by **Benediction at 6:45pm.** We will have **Evening Prayer** with music, witness talks, Scripture and reflections from **7:00pm to 8:00pm.** Please try to join us as we pray together as a Parish Community.

we  love
HAVING YOU AS PART OF OUR FLOCK

.....

 Keep in touch with us via email and text!

TEXT
STPHILIPPA 
TO 84576

..... OR

 CONNECT WITH US ONLINE AT:
stphilipchurch1.flocknote.com

Text STOP to 84576 to stop txt notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View full privacy policy & terms at flocknote.com/txt.



Bishop David Zubik and our Saint Philip Parish community are most grateful for your donation to and support of the 2021 Parish Share Campaign. Our Diocesan Church needs the support of all our parish members and families. God bless!

Rest in Peace

We offer our sympathy to the families of **Mary Filippelli Carroll, Stephen J. Costantino, Martha Stevans and Jean Damits** who entered into eternal life. Please keep them in your prayers.

SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS

We still have many weeks available for Sanctuary Lamp Memorials. If you would like to schedule your intention, please contact Maureen at the Parish Office.

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.

Sanctuary Lamp

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

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at **Ascension** burns
In Loving Memory of Jean Damits
Offered by Rose and Chris

ADVERTISER of the Week

SCHULER'S SERVICE CENTER, INC.

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



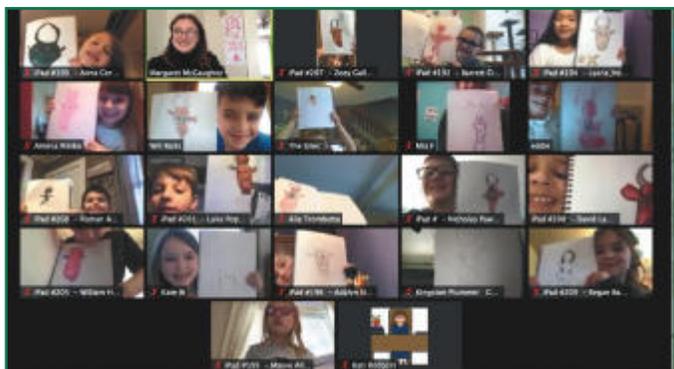
St. Philip School News

GRACE PROGRAM

Deadline for March/April enrollments is March 10. 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 Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15205. Any donation is gratefully accepted and directly benefits the school. Thank you to all who support the GRACE Program.

THIS WEEK AT SPS

- When we had 3 snow days last week, normal school instruction continued! KA, KB, and 1A learned about the Chinese New Year in Art class and learned how to draw 2021's animal: The Year of the Ox. They took home their new sketch books so they were able to work asynchronously whether we are at home or at school.
- Kindergarten made books about Ash Wednesday in which they will keep track of their good deeds.
- 4B held a Valentine's Day party
- Mrs. Matko, Mrs. Sites, and Mrs. Havrilla were guest readers for 1A.



NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

St. Philip was proud to induct its newest members into the National Junior Honor Society on February 8, 2021. While only in its second year, the St. Philip chapter of NJHS has been working hard to bring the accomplishments of outstanding students to the attention of parents, teachers, peers, and the community. Our chapter, and the more than 7,500 other chapters in schools across the nation, strive to give practical meaning to the Honor Society's standards of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. In order to be considered for candidacy, the student must first meet the following prerequisites:

- Students must be enrolled in St. Philip School for at least one semester.
- Students must be in the 6th, 7th, or 8th grades.
- Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.75.
- Students must participate in at least 2 after school activities.

A high academic average in itself does not earn membership into the National Junior Honor Society. St. Philip and the National Junior Honor Society strive to recognize the total student, one who excels in all of these areas: scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. These values should be demonstrated by in

school and out of school activities and verified by teacher observation. Our newest members include:

6th Grade: **Lienna Bassano, Samuel Hall, Hannah Hayes, Colby Lane, Salvador Lozano, Riley Sanders, Dashiell Sargent, Frankie Schlatterer, Anna Stickman, Averie Strohm, Shae Trombetta**

7th Grade: **Cooper Anselm, Giulia Marino**

8th Grade: **Kelsey Adamski, Ryan Jameson, Alise Och**

Returning members:

7th Grade: **Hope Avery, Caroline Hall, Katelyn Miller, Sophia Muoio, Angelina Och, Luke Wrabley**

8th Grade: **Rachel Boehm, Natalie Kirsch, Tavon Lane, Rachel McDevitt, Everett Sargent**

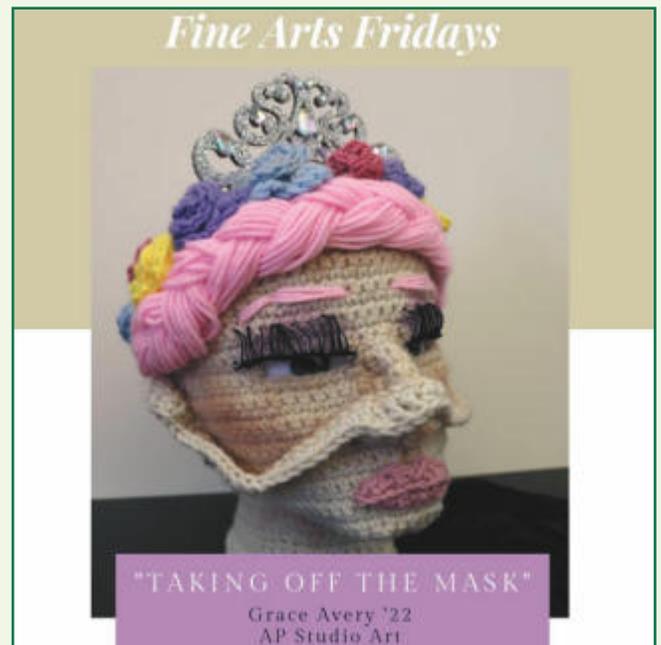


Spotlight on our ALUMNI

OLSH is celebrating the amazing talents of our students with our new **#FineArtsFridays** series!

St. Philip alumna, **Grace Avery '22** has been exploring art for as long as she can remember. At OLSH, she has taken Studio Art 1, 2 and 3, Ceramics 1 and 2, and is currently in AP Studio Art with a focus in 3D Art and Design. Grace loves working with different yarns and fibers as well as painting with acrylic paints. *"Taking Off the Mask"* was inspired by a child's imagination versus reality and uses light and dark colors of crocheted yarn to create this theme.

Grace's favorite part of creating art is seeing people's reactions to the pieces she makes. *"I love to see the joy in their faces when they see my art. I really enjoy making little dolls and play foods for kids because it is so cool when they realize that some of the things I make, they can actually play*



with and touch. Seeing little kids playing with and genuinely enjoying it makes me so happy! That joy is what motivates me to create more of my art."



Religious Education

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

A NOTE FROM MARYANN: Our Lenten Theme this year at St. Philip is “*Create in me a clean heart, O God*” from Psalm 51. I share this reflection from Out of the Ordinary by Joyce Rupp. ***Create in me a clean heart***, open and receptive, so that I may embrace the many ways you choose to visit my life. ***Create in me a clean heart***, cleared of the refuse of old battles with others and opposition with myself. ***Create in me a clean heart***, purified through the daily disruptions and the life encounters that take me beyond my need for control. Create in me a clean heart, clear of harsh thoughts, shame, and perfectionistic tendencies, warmly welcoming others with the embrace of nonjudgment. Create in me a clean heart, washed with your mercy and strengthened by your love, helping me move beyond whatever keeps me from union with you.

LENT 2021: Each Wednesday in Lent we will have an opportunity for prayer. The schedule will be as follows: You may come for Adoration, Confession, Evening Prayer or a combination.

- 6:00pm - 6:45pm Adoration with the opportunity for Confession
- 6:45pm - 7:00pm Benediction
- 7:00pm - 8:00pm Lenten Evening Prayer with Music, Reflection, Witness Talks, Scripture

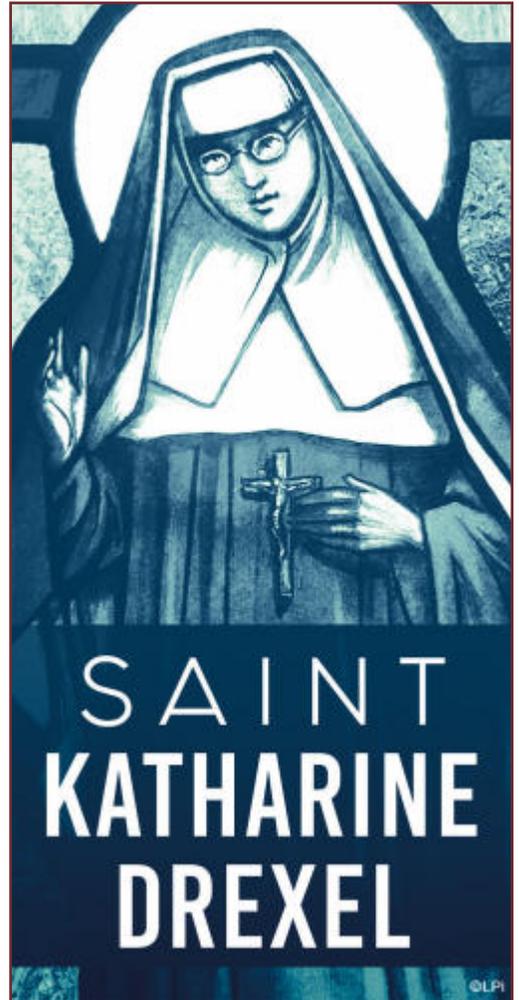
STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Each Friday at 8:30am in St. Philip Church and 6:00pm at Ascension Church.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Our 2nd grade students will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Philip Church in early March. Congratulations to each of them and their families.

RITE OF INTENTION: Our 8th grade Confirmation Students will take part in the Rite of Intention in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our Public School Students will participate in this Rite on March 1 and our St. Philip School Students will participate in this Rite on March 2.

BAPTISM: We are accepting requests for Baptism. If you would like to have your child baptized, please call the Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388.

FAITH FORMATION: This week our Public School Faith Formation students participated in the Stations of the Cross for Children and Families. This was live-streamed at 10:45am on St. Philip Crafton Facebook Page. It can be viewed and used for prayer throughout the week. Our next live-streamed faith formation session will be March 14 when we celebrate the Feasts of St. Patrick and St. Joseph along with continued Lenten Reflection.



BREADCRUMBS:

This week we celebrate the Feasts of St. Katherine Drexel (March 3) and St. Casmir (March 4).

Katherine was the second American Saint to be canonized and the first saint born in the United States. She is the founder of the Blessed Sacrament Sisters serving African American Catholics and Indian Catholics.

St. Casmir is the patron saint of Poland and Lithuania. He was known for his piety and generosity to the poor.

Lenten Reflection

As we begin this second week of Lent, we share Words for the Weary Daily Lenten Reflections by Ann Naffzinger. This will replace our Lenten Devotion Booklets.



February 28: Second Sunday of Lent

Listening to the Beloved

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Mark 9:7

In the Transfiguration story, God speaks to Jesus' apostles with words that are still directed to us today. God didn't threaten them with punishment or try to enforce obedience as to a military commander. God invited them to listen to one called the "Beloved." If you think of someone "beloved" in your life, aren't you more willing to listen to them, watch how they act, and try to live as they do than someone whom you fear?

FOR REFLECTION: What words of Jesus from the Gospels are you invited to listen to or pay attention to today? What words of Jesus come to mind today?

March 1: Monday, Second Week of Lent

Good Advice

Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Luke 6: 37-38

In this season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, today's Gospel gives us ideas of what we might fast from besides the traditional chocolate, coffee, or alcohol. We can fast from judging others. We can pray for the freedom to forgive others who have hurt our loved ones or us. Finally, we can take opportunities to give to others with more generosity and freedom. We might do it spontaneously or intentionally.

FOR REFLECTION: What can you commit to doing this week to heed Jesus' words in the passage from Luke?

March 2: Tuesday, Second Week of Lent

Changing for the Good

Cease to do evil, learn to do good. Isaiah 1: 16-17

As much as the coronavirus has caused tremendous disruptions to our lives, it has also given us the chance to take stock of how we live, as individuals and as a society. It may be easy to overlook or rationalize the damage that modern life is inflicting on our planet. When the coronavirus forced us to reconsider how we do things, we learned to do good in ways we might never have otherwise.

FOR REFLECTION: In what ways has the pandemic led to changes in my lifestyle that are good for me individually, as a society, or the earth?

March 3: Wednesday, Second Week of Lent

Surrendering

Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. Psalm 31:5

Americans in the year 2021 like to be in control; we are not people who naturally surrender our lives to God. It has not been easy to give up control over so many aspects of our lives this past year. Maybe we have been too worried about not being in control to surrender ourselves more freely to God and how God is working among us in this time. God IS redeeming us, God IS with us, even amidst the inconveniences and heartache of this past year.

FOR REFLECTION: Pray for a deeper freedom to commit your spirit fully to God, and look to see all the ways God is gracing you in your surrender.

March 4: Thursday, Second Week of Lent

Deeply Rooted

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. Jeremiah 17: 7-8

If ever there has been a time for us to focus on trusting and being deeply rooted in the Lord, it has been this past year. A tree needs to be deeply rooted to tap into a source of life-sustaining water if it is to survive storms or drought. The same can be said for all of God's faithful. How can we trust in the Lord?

FOR REFLECTION: Prepare a meal that includes root vegetables (carrots, potatoes, etc). Thank God for the rootedness that keeps you connected to our Creator.

March 5: Friday, Second Week of Lent

A Cornerstone

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes. Matthew 21:42

Scripture is filled with stories of God using someone or something ordinary to do great things: a boy with five loaves and two fish that fed a crowd or a persecutor of Christians named Paul who ended up spreading the Gospel far and wide.

FOR REFLECTION: What seemingly ordinary or insignificant thing in these past few months has God grown into something meaningful, amazing, or vital in your life now?



Ministries & Societies

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

During Lent, we are called to dedicate ourselves to fasting, prayer and almsgiving. For example, we have the obligation to abstain from eating meat on Fridays during Lent. We often do this without giving it too much thought. By increasing our time spent in prayer during Lent we are able to strengthen our relationship with the Lord while preparing our hearts for the great feast of Easter. Both fasting and prayer are things that can be done by oneself and with little to no advance planning.

On the other hand, almsgiving can perhaps be more challenging, as it requires us to step outside of ourselves in order to help those less fortunate than us in a more physical way (although we certainly can and should help them with our prayers as well). Opportunities to help others do not always find us; most of the time we have to seek out ways to assist our friends in need, especially if they are strangers to us. It may seem especially hard to find opportunities to help others during the pandemic.

If you are searching for ways to give alms this Lent, St. Vincent de Paul has almsgiving opportunities for you. Many parishioners may be familiar with our “Alms Program” in which we ask for donations of either \$10 Giant Eagle gift cards, which are distributed to the 70+ families to which we deliver food each month, or cash, which is used to purchase food, furniture, and assist with housing costs and basic living expenses for our friends in need. \$10 Giant Eagle gift cards and monetary donations can be placed in the poor boxes, mailed to the parish office to the attention of St. Vincent de Paul, or made online by visiting <https://saintphilipchurch.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/SaintVincentDePaul>.

If you are looking for a more hands-on almsgiving opportunity even during the pandemic, you can volunteer with our furniture ministry to pick up and deliver furniture donations; you can volunteer to load trucks of donations bound for the Madonna Hope House

in Tunnelton, WV; you can volunteer to deliver food to the needy in our community; or you can volunteer at one of the St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores, for example by helping to sort donations.

We all have a special opportunity this Lent to give glory to God through our fasting, prayer and almsgiving. The combined efforts of our parishioners, which individually may often be small gestures, could make a huge difference in our families, parish and community. In the words of St. Louise de Marillac, a contemporary of St. Vincent de Paul, “Divine Providence saw to it that alms were given for the sick and bashful poor in amounts for which no one had dared hope.”

(http://vincentians.com/en/quotes-collection/louise-marillac-quotes/?quotes_page=5)

This past week, your generous donations allowed us to provide a household with \$178 for propane used for cooking and hot water; and a single mother received \$750 for rent, clothing vouchers, and a \$100 PAT bus ConnectCard.

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. If you are looking to purchase new or gently-used clothing, housewares or furniture, please shop at the St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores and visit our online store at eshoppittsburgh.com. 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.



This Sunday's Bible Readings

FIRST READING

God put Abraham to the test.
(Gn 22:1)



PSALM

I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.
(Ps 116)



SECOND READING

If God is for us, who can be against us?
(Rom 8:31)



GOSPEL

"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."
(Mk 9:7)

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— AROUND THE COMMUNITY —

CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUB

The Catholic Alumni Club is a non-profit organization providing a framework for single Catholics to meet and socialize with other singles. In addition to social activities, the CAC also provides programs of spiritual development and community service for its members.

Softball & tennis players wanted, co-ed: SINGLES, 21 AND OVER. Softball is played in Blawnox and Tennis at Moore Park in Brookline. The Catholic Singles Club of Pittsburgh is looking for players of all abilities. The group also offers dinners, spirituality events, trips, mini golf, hiking, volleyball, cultural and many other great events. For more information or an application, go to their website: www.cacpittsburgh.org, or contact cac.softball@yahoo.com or Gary at Gary.Urbatis@verizon.net or 412-427-8772.

BISHOP CANEVIN BINGO

Until regular bingo resumes, Bishop Canevin offers an **Instant Ticket event every Saturday night from 7:00pm to 9:30pm**. You can sit inside or outside. All CDC recommendations are followed including temperature checks at the door.

Also offered is a **ZOOM online bingo every Monday from 7:00pm to 8:30pm**. You can purchase bingo cards at the Saturday night ticket event on Monday from 5:00pm to 6:30pm. Prizes are based on amount sold. For more information, visit our website at bingo-at-bc.com.

SUPPORT BISHOP CANEVIN BASEBALL

The Bishop Canevin baseball team is holding an online 50/50 and basket raffle.

For more information, visit <https://go.rallyup.com/bcbaseball>.



WHY DO WE FAST IN LENT?

We often associate Lent with the triad of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. While prayer and almsgiving are part of our regular Catholic observances, many people tend to limit fasting to the season of Lent. In times gone by, people emptied the pantry on Fat Tuesday, which led to quite a bland diet for the next six weeks until Easter. These days, we keep the fast to Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and abstain from meat on each Friday of Lent.

Why fast? Fasting is a spiritual practice and discipline. Its aim is to help us focus on God. By limiting our intake of food, we exercise self-control and discipline over our bodies. Experiencing physical hunger reminds us of our utter dependence on God as well as puts us in solidarity with those for whom hunger is not a choice but a fact of life. Fasting doesn't have to be only about food; it can spill over to habits, practices, and things that distract us from our relationship with God and others, such as too much time spent at work or too much time on social media. (It is important to remind those over the age of 59 or those with any existing medical conditions that they are exempt from the Lenten fasting requirement.) Ask yourself the following questions: *From what do I need to fast this season? How can I make fasting an experience that is not about deprivation but about changing for the better?* (Our Sunday Visitor)

ST. PHILIP PARISH



St. Philip Parish is having a fundraiser which follows the 2021 NCAA Men's Division 1 Basketball Tournament — (March Madness).

HOW IT WORKS:

1. You purchase a square on a 10x10 grid for \$50.
2. Once the grid is filled, numbers 0-9 are drawn randomly and placed on the grid's axis.
3. The horizontal axis is labeled the "winning team." The vertical axis is labeled "losing team."
4. Your numbers represent the last digit of the winning team's score and last digit of the losing team's score per each game played throughout the entire tournament. For example, if your numbers are: winning team 1 and losing team 9 and Pitt beats WVU 71-59, you win! Every game played in the tournament (starting with round one) will generate a winner.

Because you keep your numbers throughout the tournament, you have a great chance of winning multiple times per round or in different rounds. You don't have to fill out a bracket or know anything about college basketball. Just know that your odds of winning are great, and the parish greatly appreciates your support.

THE PAYOUT SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

- Round 1**=\$25 Field of 64 - Friday, March 19 & Saturday, March 20
- Round 2**=\$50 Field of 32 - Sunday, March 21 & Monday, March 22
- Round 3**=\$75 Sweet Sixteen - Sat., March 27 & Sun., March 28
- Round 4**=\$100 Elite Eight - Mon., March 29 & Tue., March 30
- Round 5**=\$200 Final Four - Saturday, April 3, 2021
- Round 6**=\$500 Championship - Monday, April 5, 2021

**The two play-in games known as the "first four" are not included in this event.*

When we sell all 100 squares, we will be able to claim a \$1,500 profit. The event pays out a total of \$3,500 in winnings. **Act quickly because the grid will fill up fast!**

Please make checks payable to St. Philip Church (write March Madness in memo) and send to Parish Office.

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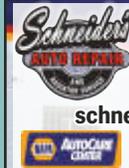


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