



YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH
December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021

Saint Philip Catholic Parish

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

WEEK OF DECEMBER 5, 2021

Download the bulletin at www.parishesonline.com

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday: 10:00am to 2:00pm

PASTORAL STAFF

- Rev. James R. Torquato, Pastor
- Ms. MaryAnn Garfold, Faith Formation Director
- Ms. Mary Beth Barsh, Music Director
- Ms. Dorothy Mancini, Assistant Organist
- Ms. Dorothy Kraemer, Office Manager
- Ms. Ursula Eberle, Business Coordinator & Safe Environment Coordinator
- Ms. Maureen Takach, Administrative Assistant
- Ms. Linda Bey, Faith Formation Secretary
- Mr. Richard Hufnagel, Maintenance
- Mr. Brian Cox, Maintenance
- Ms. Chris Archacki, Maintenance

PRIESTS IN RESIDENCE

- Rev. Joseph Scheib, Saint Philip Rectory
- Rev. Lawrence Adams, Ascension Rectory

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

- Robert Bertocchi, Frank Bey,
- 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.

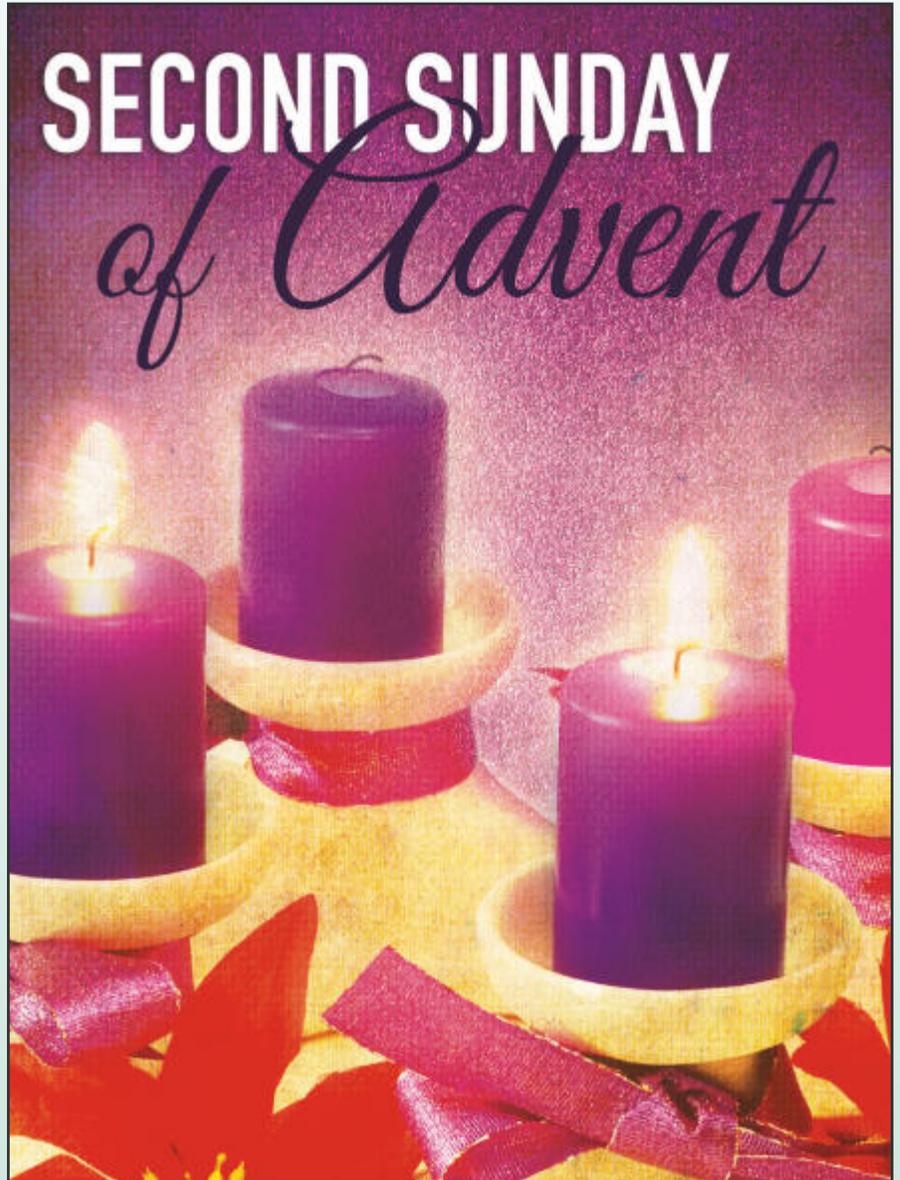
PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

- 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
- Faith Formation Office (412) 922-6388
- Society of SVdeP (412) 444-8140
- Guardian Angel Academy (412) 922-4765



Saint Philip Church

50 West Crafton Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Ascension Church

114 Berry Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Guardian Angel Academy

915 Alice Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
Mr. Robert Munz, Principal

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 12:00pm to 1:00pm 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 *Ascension Church*. Call the Faith Formation Office at 412-922-6388 for more information.

Matrimony: The Pastor is to be contacted 6-18 months in advance of the requested wedding date. Participation in a Pre-Marriage Program is required. Please contact the Parish Office 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 Faith Formation Office at 412-922-6388 for more information.

Priesthood/Religious Life: Contact the Pastor 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

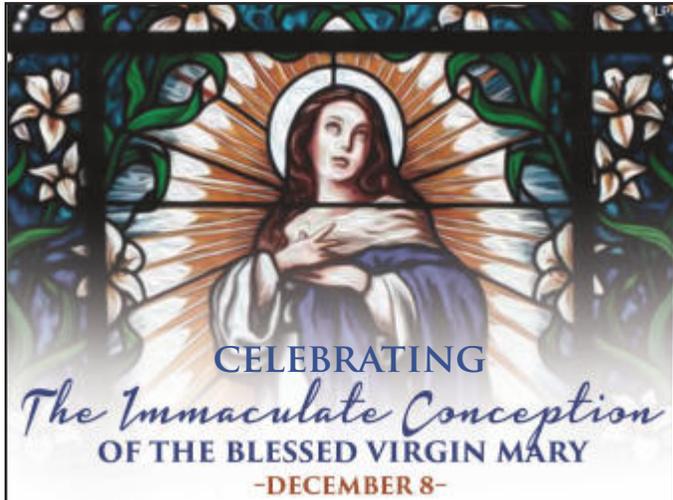
Our Liturgies are celebrated at both Saint Philip Church, 50 West Crafton Avenue, Crafton, and Ascension Church, 114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh

LOCATION	TIME	MASS INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4 — ADVENT WEEKDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	Russell Toal	Wife & Family
Saint Philip	2:00pm	Wedding - Bradley J. Davis and Mary F. Philbin	
Saint Philip	4:00pm (V)	Thomas Paul Brophy	Father, Paul Brophy, Sr.
Ascension	5:30pm (V)	Alice Cummings	Pat Rodgers
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 — SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Edward & Robert Dulick	Dave & Dorothy Dulick
Ascension	9:30am	Sigmund Patterson	Jolene D'Andrea
Saint Philip	11:00am	Theresa Jakiel	Kathleen Badish
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6 — ADVENT WEEKDAY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Catherine Hermann	Family
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7 — SAINT AMBROSE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH			
Ascension	8:00am	Willis F. O'Neil	Janine & Mike Wilson
VIGIL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY			
Saint Philip	4:00pm (V)	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
Ascension	5:30pm (V)	Rocco Julian	Barb & Rosanne Hendrick
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8 — THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Torquato	Family
Ascension	7:00pm	Nancy Frankowski	Bob & Sandy Frankowski
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9 — ADVENT WEEKDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	Brian Urban	Shirley Zieger
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10 — ADVENT WEEKDAY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Stanley Michaels	Joanne DiCarlo & Family
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 — ADVENT WEEKDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
Saint Philip	2:00pm	Wedding - Braden R. Schramm & Lauren M. Smith	
Saint Philip	4:00pm (V)	John C. Sebesta	Family
Ascension	5:30pm (V)	James A. Snatchko, Jr.	Kropf Family
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 — THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Amanda Louise Ogden	Audra Ogden
Ascension	9:30am	Thomas F. Quinn	Paul Naughton
Saint Philip	11:00am	Henry Mucha	Family



Notes from the Pastor

Greetings once again, and best wishes for a very good week and a blessed Season of Advent!



This coming Tuesday evening and Wednesday, the Church will again celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Mary in the womb of her mother Ann. Mary was preserved from any sin so that she would be the holy and fitting mother of the Son of God - Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus the Christ.

In that this will be a **Holy Day of Obligation**, we will celebrate the Liturgy on Tuesday evening, **December 7, at 4:00pm in Saint Philip Church**, and then at **5:30pm in Ascension Church**. On **Wednesday, December 8**, we'll celebrate the Liturgy at **8:00am at Saint Philip Church**, and then finally again at **7:00pm at Ascension Church**.

Best wishes for this Immaculate Conception Holy Day! We look forward to celebrating with you in Church this week.

Concluding the Year of Saint Joseph

Throughout this past year, Catholic Christians throughout the world have celebrated and honored good Saint Joseph and his importance to Jesus and to the entire Church throughout the ages! In accepting the will of God, Joseph became the foster father and guardian of the Lord Jesus. He helped form Jesus and protected him throughout his early years. Then for Jesus' disciples, Saint Joseph has been an inspiration, a role model, and a hero of our Christian faith and life. Saint Joseph remains today the Patron Saint of the Universal Church.

It's been a true blessing to the Church and to the world that we've honored and celebrated Saint Joseph throughout this year. As we move on to the years ahead, may we always remember and honor good Saint Joseph. May we journey to the Kingdom with Joseph and Mary and all the holy ones of God. One day, may we find ourselves in the company of Jesus, Mary, Joseph, all the Saints, and all the People of God!



The Second Sunday of Advent

Last Sunday, this Advent Season began with Jesus' reminder that the end of day will arrive one day - both for the world and for us as individual disciples - and that we should be personally prepared for his return in glory to the earth and to our lives.

This Sunday, we hear of Saint John once again - known to history as Saint John the Baptist. The Prophet John was sent by God to prepare the people of Israel for the arrival of Jesus as the Messiah and the Lamb of God who himself was sent to sacrifice himself for our

forgiveness and for our reconciliation with God the Father. John called the people of Israel to repentance, to renewal, and to reconciliation with God, and John promised Jesus would redeem the People of God - Israel.

In a similar way, Saint John the Baptist also speaks to us today. Saint John calls us to repentance, to renewal, and to reconciliation as well - both in our individual lives and families - and as the Church. While we're busy preparing for Christmas, may we also take time to examine our lives and our faithfulness. May we seek forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and may we renew our lives as the faithful People of God during this holy Season of Advent. God bless!

A brief Advent review of what's most essential

As we continue this Season of Advent, I thought that it'd be good to repeat this basic review of our Catholic Christian faith. I usually presume that all members of our parish and all Catholic Christians know the basic beliefs of our faith along with many of the details of Catholic Christianity and the Good News of the Lord Jesus. Our Catholic faith and life are indeed tremendous treasures that are comprised of so many amazing facets - just like a diamond.

At the same time, as a pastor, I want to once again share this simple reminder with everyone who reads this bulletin.

As Catholic Christians, our three most essential and basic beliefs - found in our Sunday Creed - are these:

- 1.) **DIVINITY.** We believe there is One Eternal God in Three Divine Persons (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) as revealed to us by Jesus of Nazareth;
- 2.) **INCARNATION.** The Son of God became fully human in Jesus of Nazareth thus joining together both the Divine and humanity; and
- 3.) **RESURRECTION.** The Lord Jesus was raised from the dead three days after his crucifixion and death on the cross, and Jesus' Resurrection gives us hope for our own Resurrection and Eternal Life.

Again, there are many, many wonderful beliefs in our Catholic Christian faith, yet it's always good to see

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



Your goodness and participation help to keep our parish alive!

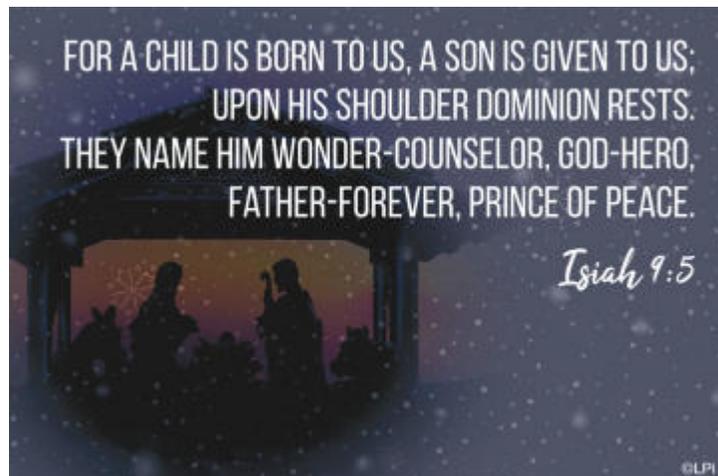
everything in the context of these three basic beliefs: **Divinity, Incarnation, and Resurrection.** This Advent, please take some time to reflect on these three essential and important beliefs, and take a moment to actually say once again "Yes, I believe in the Trinity, the Incarnation, and the Resurrection!" Amen. God bless!

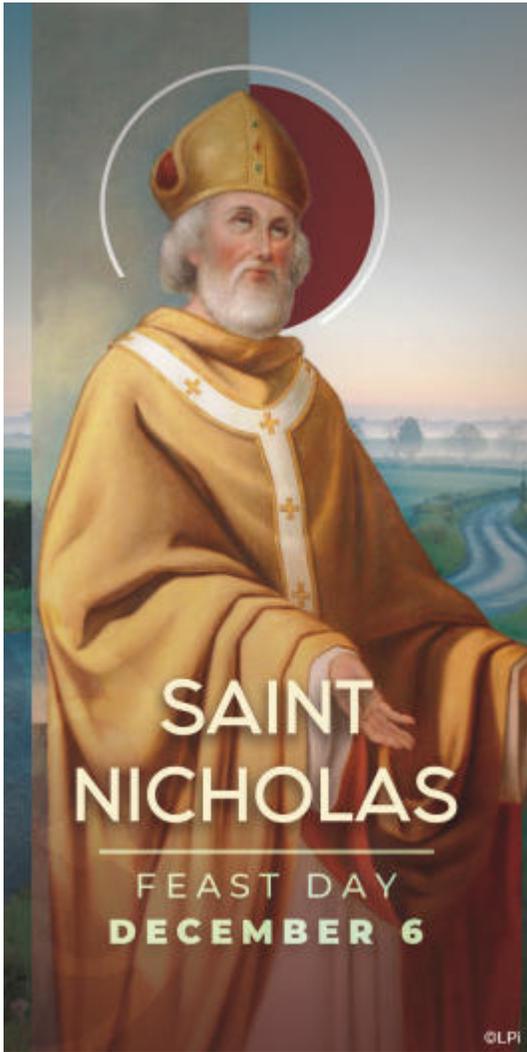
Best wishes for this Second Week of Advent - and for a quiet and prayerful Advent Season!

Best wishes for a very good Sunday and for a blessed Advent Season! Again, thank you very much for your continued faith, discipleship, dedication, goodness, and generosity - to our parish community, to one another, and to those in need.

Until next week and the Second Sunday of Advent, 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 Lord Jesus bless you, your family, and our parish community now and always!

Yours,
Father Jim Torquato





FINANCIAL REPORT OUR SAINT PHILIP PARISH FINANCES

Sunday collection total, November 20-21 , 2021	-- \$10,048.75
Online donations	-- \$ 805.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	-- \$ 5,865.05
Sunday collection total, November 27-28 , 2021	-- \$ 8,309.44
Online donations	-- \$ 1,820.00

Parish income needed for this Fiscal Year	-- \$724,000.00
Parish income <u>received</u> since July 1, 2021	-- \$220,890.97
Parish fundraising since July 1, 2021	-- \$14,921.52
Estate gifts received since July 1, 2021	-- \$0.00

Average weekly staff salary and benefits expenses	-- \$7,208.00
Average weekly maintenance/operation expenses	-- \$ 973.00
Average weekly utility expenses	-- \$1,539.00
Average weekly insurance expenses	-- \$1,251.00
Weekly contributions to Guardian Angel Academy	-- \$1,400.00

Parish members -- 3,463	Parish families -- 1,719
Church attendance on November 20-21	-- 629
Sunday envelopes used	-- 252
Online contributions this week	-- 22
Total households receiving envelopes	-- 1,151
Church attendance on November 27-28	-- 626
Sunday envelopes used	-- 245
Online contributions this week	-- 22
Total households receiving envelopes	-- 1,151



Sunday, Decembre 5:

Baruch 5:1-9;
Philippians 1:4-11;
Luke 3:1-6

This week:

Isaiah 35, 40-41;
Luke 5

Sunday, Decembre 12:

Zephaniah 3:14-18;
Philippians 4:4-7;
Luke 3:10-18

2nd Sunday of Advent

*"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."
- Matthew 3:3*

Advent thought for today:
This week look for people, places and situations that long for God's presence. In the here and now, your own acts of love, compassion and justice help prepare for Christ's coming.





Parish News

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

LECTORS - December 11 & 12

- 4:00pm at St. Philip - Art Bannnon
- 5:30pm at Ascension - Colleen Pilarski
- 7:00am at St. Philip - Beth Ayres
- 9:30am at Ascension - Linda Barone
- 11:00am at St. Philip - Kathryn Hoff

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - December 11 & 12

- 4:00pm at St. Philip - Regina McDonald
- 5:30pm at Ascension - Katie Phillips
- 7:00am at St. Philip - Dorothy Kraemer
- 9:30am at Ascension - Alice McAfee
- 11:00am at St. Philip - Kathy Hayes



St. Philip Parish Presents
GATHER FOR ADVENT

Who: Adults, Children and Families
What: 6:15pm - Free Soup, Salad, Dessert Dinner
7:00pm - Stories, Scripture, Advent Carols
When: Thursday, December 9 (6:15pm to 8:00pm)
Where: Ascension Conner Hall

Join the St. Philip Parish Community as we Gather to Prepare our Hearts for Christmas.

Reservations are requested.

Call 412-922-6388 for reservations.

All are Welcome.

MARRIAGE BLESSINGS

HOLY MATRIMONY

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to **Bradley J. Davis and Mary F. Philbin** who were united in the Sacrament of Marriage at St. Philip Parish on December 4. May God bless them as they begin their lives together.

Christmas Flower Memorials

We invite you to remember your loved ones this Christmas through your contribution for Christmas Memorials. Donations can also be made in thanksgiving for favors received. Your donation of \$10.00 per intention will help defray the cost of altar flowers and decorations which will beautify St. Philip and Ascension Churches during the Christmas Season.

A special envelope was included in your November envelope packet for the Floral Memorials. We ask you to please get your intentions to us by Monday, December 6.

SALVATION HISTORY

BYOB Bring your own Bible Salvation History will meet again on **Tuesday December 14 at 7:00pm** in Ascension Church. We will continue our discussion of Abraham and the Patriarchs. All are welcome. Any questions, please call Fran and Debby Sullen at 412 481-9063.



All are invited to take a name tag from the Tree which is located at both St. Philip and Ascension Churches. **We ask that all gifts be returned by Monday, December 6. Gifts must be in a gift bag with tag attached.**

The *Giving Tree* is a wonderful opportunity for us to help families in need to provide Christmas presents for their children and for us to give a little Christmas joy to the elderly and homebound. Some of the agencies which will benefit from your generosity are: the Crafton Food Bank, our sister parish in Tunnelton, WV, Catholic Charities, F.O.R. (McKees Rocks), Back Pack for Kids (Sheraden), and last but not least, our Parish's shut-ins and residents in nursing homes. We thank you in advance for your Christmas charity.

THE TEXAS ROADHOUSE DINNER

The Texas Roadhouse Dinner was held on November 17, 2021. This fundraiser served 148 dinners, 44 orders of rolls and butter all through Dorothy's Drive Thru. Several customers remarked that the Drive Thru took less time than McDonald's. **Thank you to Texas Roadhouse in Bridgeville.** They are always ready to help us with our fundraiser. In just two hours for pickup dinners and with a staff of 6 volunteers, **we raised \$1,872.00. Thank you to all who supported this fundraiser.**

CONGRATULATIONS: We congratulate the following students from our parish who were named to the Honor Roll at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School for the First Academic Quarter:

Highest Honors: Malley Aiello, Gracey Avery, Brian Bannon, Jr., Giavanna Booz, Katelyn Hoff, Presley Holmes, Katarina Komoroski, Bernard Komoroski, Gianna Marino, Rachel McDevitt, Paige Smith and Nicole Szabo.
High Honors: Matthew McDevitt.

Honors: Mason Bannon, Kaleigh Costantino, Tavon Lane, Emily Schuck and Colin Wiegand.

OPLATKI: *Christmas Wafer*

"*Oplatki*" is the traditional Christmas Wafer, sometimes referred to as the "*Bread of Angels*." The Christ Child was born in Bethlehem which means "*House of Bread*," and Jesus is "*The Bread of Life*."



The custom began in Poland, Slovakia and Lithuania millennia ago. By breaking and sharing "Oplatki" on Christmas Eve our prayers for health and happiness are offered for the family. It unites heaven and earth and reminds us of the "*Unseen Guest*," Jesus Christ. Some families set an extra place at the table as a reminder of the Christ Child who was born in a manger to save us all. "**Oplatki**" are now available. To place an order, please call the parish office. Donation is \$3.00.



We offer our sympathy to the family of **Paul Dodge** who entered into eternal life. Please keep him in your prayers.

Connect with
FLOCKNOTE!



To register, contact our parish office,
OR text **stphilippa** to **84576**, OR visit
www.stphilipchurch1.flocknote.com.

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 Russell Toal
Offered by Wife, Mary

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at **Ascension** burns
In Loving Memory of Berard ☹
Bajoras Families
Offered by Grace Berard

 **ADVERTISER**
of the Week

HANLON'S CAFÉ & CATERING

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



Religious Education

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

MARYANN'S THOUGHTS: It is difficult to believe that we are celebrating the Second Sunday of Advent. As we prepare for Christmas, we often lose sight of what matters most during this time. We first ask ourselves if we are preparing to receive Jesus into our hearts and our lives. Are we taking a little more care to spend time with Jesus and to bring Jesus to others? Below are a few ideas of how we might make Advent more meaningful.

- **Stop and Be Intentional:** Set aside time for yourself. Decide how you want your holidays to be this year. What might you do differently?
- **Make Room for God.** Clear the stable of your heart by taking time for extra prayer, spending time in Liturgy, going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and joining the Parish in Advent activities.
- **Light an Advent Wreath.** You may just be able to light the wreath or a single candle each day in your home before the evening meal or at a certain time.
- **Make Room for the Needy.** Be intentional. Decide which charities you will support. Choose one charity or individual to support with prayer and generous giving.
- **Watch the Stress.** Prioritize your list of activities. Eliminate those that do not speak to the Spirit of Advent or Christmas.
- **Intentional Giving.** Find creative ways to make gift giving more fun, personal and joyful. Prioritize presence over presents.
- **Start a New Tradition.** Is it time to try a new activity or revive an old one that will bring you closer together with family or friends? Perhaps let go of a less life-giving activity to make room for a new one.



WE HONOR MARY THIS WEEK: December 8 is a Holy Day of Obligation to honor Mary on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. We take a moment this Advent to pray the Angelus to honor Mary.

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary and she conceived of the Holy Spirit. (Hail Mary)

Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done to me according to Thy word. (Hail Mary)

And the Word was made flesh. And dwelt among us. (Hail Mary)

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promise of Christ.

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of the Resurrection.

Through the same Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

ADVENT HAPPENINGS AT ST. PHILIP: COME AND JOIN US! Advent began on November 28. Our Parish Celebration of Advent will begin with the event, *Gather for Advent* on **Thursday, December 9 from 6:15pm to 8:00pm** in Ascension

Conner Hall. We will begin with a free homemade soup, salad, bread and dessert supper followed by reflections, readings, and carols in Church. We will even have a special visit by St. Nicholas. So mark your calendar and plan to join us for this intergenerational event. Reservations are suggested. Call 412-922-6388. Space may be limited so call early. Social distancing will be observed.

On **Monday, December 13**, Faith Formation will sponsor "*A Night in Bethlehem*" for all parish families in Ascension Conner Hall. It begins at **6:15pm** with a pizza supper. The evening will include dinner (pizza for all or mac & cheese), a variety of hot chocolate flavors to taste, seasonal pastries, snack bags, crafts and activities. Each child will receive a book and a small gift. The evening will conclude with the Story of the First Christmas and a Prayer Service. If your family would like to attend and you are not registered in our Monday Night Faith Formation Program, please call the Faith Formation Office at 412-922-6388.

Our Free *Coffee, Tea, and Community Prayer Breakfast* will be held on **Thursday, December 16 from 8:30am to 10:00am**. Join us for a special reflection on *Mary: the Mother of God*. Our speaker will be from Carnegie Library sharing upcoming events. The menu this month is waffles, fruit, bagels with cream cheese, scones, muffins, yogurt, coffee, tea, juice. Come and spend some time preparing your heart for Christmas. Call 412-922-6388 for reservations.

High School Leadership Core: We are interested in having high school students as part of our Leadership Core. These students would receive credit toward a collage application, service hours, the opportunity to help others in need and a chance to plan and take a leadership role in high school faith formation. Time commitment would be 4 hours per month. If your son or daughter would like to volunteer, please contact MaryAnn at 412-922-6388.



As we conclude The Year of Saint Joseph on December 8, we remember that no one knew Jesus and Mary better than Saint Joseph, the man to whom God entrusted their care. Let us remember to pray to Saint Joseph, to honor him and ask his help in all our daily trials.

NOVENA PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

*O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong,
so prompt before the throne of God,
I place in you all my interests and desires.*

*O St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful
intercession and obtain for me from your divine Son
all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
So that, having engaged here below your heavenly
power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage
to the most loving of Fathers.*

*O St. Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you
and Jesus asleep in your arms.
I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart.*

*Press Him close in my name
and kiss His fine head for me.*

*St. Joseph, patron of departing souls,
pray for me.*

Amen.



Around the Diocese and Community



THE PITTSBURGH CRECHE

The blessing of the Pittsburgh Crèche was back in-person, and so are the visitors. Bishop Zubik was one of 10 members of the Christian Leadership Fellowship who led a prayer service at the crèche on Friday, November 19. Last year the blessing was held virtually due to the pandemic. The Pittsburgh Crèche is the only authorized replica of the Nativity scene that Saint John Paul II commissioned for the Vatican. This is the 23rd year it has been displayed in Pittsburgh, mostly at the U.S. Steel Plaza.

The crèche is an ecumenical effort by Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant Christians to preserve the true meaning of Christmas. It stands as a reminder of God's great love for all His creation. Local labor unions volunteer their services in assembling the 30-ton structure.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Walk in the footsteps of Jesus in the Holy Land, **January 14-24, 2022**, guided by Bishop William Waltersheid. Sail the Sea of Galilee, visit Bethlehem, walk the Via Dolorosa. \$3899 includes airfare, hotel, all transit and most meals. Optional extension to Jordan.

Book online at www.bit.ly/Bishop2022 or call Belinda at 724-679-7450 or email her at belinda@unitours.com. Other destinations are available in 2022-2023.

**BISHOP CANEVIN'S
CHRISTMAS IN
THE COURTYARD**

Students in grades 6-8 are invited to celebrate the Christmas season with an evening full of joy and giving. Guests will enjoy caroling and cookies in the courtyard, a scavenger hunt inside the school, snowball dodgeball and other fun festivities. Upon arrival, students are asked to “Stuff the Canavan” with a new, unwrapped toy donation for local children in need.

December 10 | 6-8 pm

Bishop Canevin High School
2700 Morange Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

RSVP by Dec. 6
Using the QR Code -->

ADDICTION RECOVERY MINISTRY — Our Grief Support for those who have lost a loved one to addiction meets each **Tuesday at 7:00pm** at the Venerable Matthew Talbot Center for Healing and Hope, located at 2599 Freeport Road in Harmar. Our Six Steps to Sanity classes continue led by Chico and Joe Fical. For more information, please contact Deacon Tim Noca at 412-793-4511, ext. 21 or by email at tnoca@diopitt.org.



One of our valuable lessons learned over the past few generations is that people with similar pain can be very good for each other. The expansive growth is probably the largest example, but there are many others. Anyone who has ever lost a child knows how helpful others can be who have spent time in a club that no one wants a membership to. Those that have lost a family member or friend because of an addiction have a uniqueness to their grief and thus far, not many groups have been created for this specific pain. Addiction Recovery Ministry is beginning a grief group for family members or friends who have lost a loved one because of overdose or addiction. Weekly meetings started on November 2 at the Venerable Matthew Talbot Center for Healing and Hope, located at 2599 Freeport Road in Harmar. Our discussions are framed by the video, "Among the Many." We will strive to offer hope to anyone grieving such a tragic loss.

If you have experienced this tragedy, please feel welcome; or if you know of someone who has, please invite them. For more information, contact Deacon Tim Noca at 412-793-4511, ext. 21 or by email at tnoca@diopitt.org.



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DAN DEASY'S**
Community
OPEN HOUSE
3PM – 6PM

Dec. 2 • Pittsburgh Musical Theater
327 S. Main St., Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Dec. 9 • Ingram Borough Building
40 W. Prospect Ave., Ingram, PA 15205

Dec. 16 • Green Tree Volunteer Fire Dept.
825 Poplar St., Green Tree, PA 15220

DEASY'S STAFF CAN HELP WITH STATE PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- PA Driver License/ID renewal
- Vehicle Registration
- Handicap Placards/Plates
- Unclaimed Property Searches
- Port Authority Senior Bus Passes
- Free Notary on State Documents
- Any other state-related matter

ACORx PHARMACY ON-HAND FOR COVID-19 VACCINES/BOOSTERS

- Register online at www.acorxpharmacy.com or by phone at (412) 857-2922
- Pfizer, Moderna and J&J vaccines available
- Bring Vaccine Card
- Bring Medicare and/or Insurance Card
- Wear a Mask



CALL MY OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION AT 412-928-9514





Ministries & Societies

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The St. Philip Grief Support Group will meet **Thursday, December 16 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm** at Conner Hall. The Grief Support Group meets on the third Thursday of the month and is an open, caring sharing group for adults who have lost someone to death. You may come alone or bring someone with you.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

Since 1985, the St. Philip Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been helping the people of Appalachia by delivering trucks full of donated furniture, clothing and household goods for distribution at the Madonna Hope House in Tunnelton, West Virginia. This mission is very popular among our supporters and we even have people who specifically ask that their donations go to the Madonna Hope House. Knowing the enthusiasm that people have to help the people of Appalachia, we wanted to let you know of another opportunity to help people all across West Virginia.

The *Appalachian Christmas Project* (which is not affiliated with St. Vincent de Paul) provides shoeboxes with personal care items to friends in need throughout West Virginia. Last year, 14,455 gifts were distributed through this program. Of those, approximately 1,000 shoeboxes full of gifts were donated to the organization by churches, civic groups and individuals. The rest of the boxes were

put together by the organization itself with items purchased in bulk using monetary donations. The average cost of each box is \$15. If you would like to donate to the Appalachian Christmas Project, you can send a check payable to "*Appalachian Christmas Project*" to 395 Oak Lane, Cameron, WV 26033. These shoeboxes provide not only much needed personal care items to their recipients, but also may be the only Christmas gift that the person receives. Please consider donating to this worthy cause.

This week, your generous donations enabled us to assist a man with \$300 for his rent; a single mother was approved for up to \$500 toward her water and sewage; an elderly woman was given \$350 toward her water and sewage; and a family that recently moved across the country was given \$300 for rent, household goods, and clothing vouchers.

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, or mail them to the parish office at 114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205. Monetary donations made to our conference are used only to assist friends in need and to pay our operational expenses. No money is given to any other organizations.

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 have items that you would like to donate to us, we ask that you hold onto those items until we are either able to deliver them directly to a friend in need or have new storage space. 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, is in need of assistance, please call or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email us at svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com.





Guardian Angel Academy

CLASSROOM CHRONICLES: Each week we will highlight the amazing things that are going on in our classrooms at Guardian Angel Academy.

MISS LINDA GERRITY - 2ND GRADE CLASSROOM

Second Grade is a busy place to be. We are having lots of fun and learning at the same time. We are growing every day in our faith preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation & First Holy Communion later this school year. The class has learned about the Seven Sacraments and currently are learning about the parts of the Bible and the Ten Commandments. The students have been practicing their writing skills. We are writing a class book on animals which will be published and have also become pen pals with the Sisters of Mercy. We sent the Sisters Halloween & Thanksgiving cards and many of them have sent letters back to us. We love getting to know our new friends! Cursive handwriting has begun and the students are loving this new way of writing. In science class we have been studying Earth Science. An exciting project was creating our own Solar System Posters with clay. In math class we have been adding two-digit numbers with regrouping and enjoy competing with each other to improve knowing our basic math facts for speed. Art class is a favorite class for 2nd grade. We have enjoyed sketching and water color projects and love painting our class room windows for all to enjoy. We hope everyone has a blessed Advent Season!



TEACHER SPOTLIGHTS: Each week we will spotlight one of our outstanding teachers at Guardian Angel Academy.

MRS. LOUELLA JOSEPH - 5TH GRADE TEACHER

My name is Mrs. Joseph, and I am excited to be here as one of the 5th grade teachers. I have been actively teaching in a Catholic School since 2004. I received both of my degrees from Duquesne University: A Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Education majoring in Reading and Language Arts. In addition, I am also certified to teach Science to grades 7-9. Growing up I attended Catholic grade school from Kindergarten to 8th grade. As a product of Catholic education, I am thankful for the academics and Catholic values that were taught. I love teaching Religion because it allows me to live out my own faith while helping my students to grow in their faith. Teaching that God has a path and a vocation for each of us are concepts that I enjoy discussing in class. I wish everyone a great year and may the Holy Spirit guide us.



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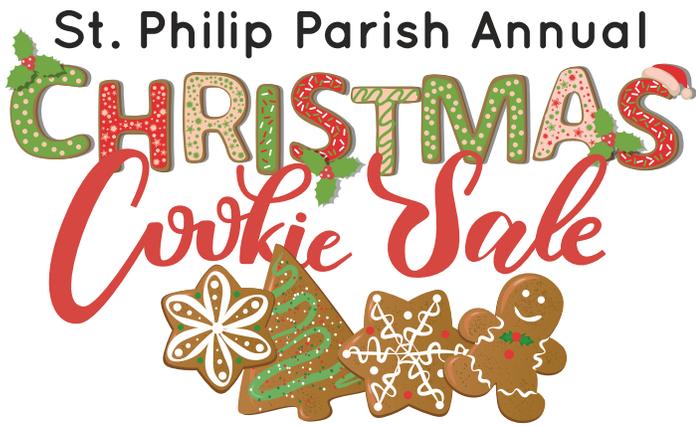
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So that we might have some idea of how many cookies we can anticipate for the Cookie Sale, we ask that you please fill in the form below and return it to the Parish Office or through the Collection Basket.

___ # of Dozens of _____

___ I want to help sort, tray & wrap cookies.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Thank you for your generosity and support!

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. 13, 2022** between the AFC and the NFC. We are having a Super Bowl Pool. The cost is \$50 per block. There are 100 blocks in the pool. We will have 4 payouts:

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

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

We already have blocks sold!!

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

SAINT PHILIP SUPER BOWL POOL

___ Square(s) @ \$50 each

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