



Saint Philip Catholic Parish

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

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

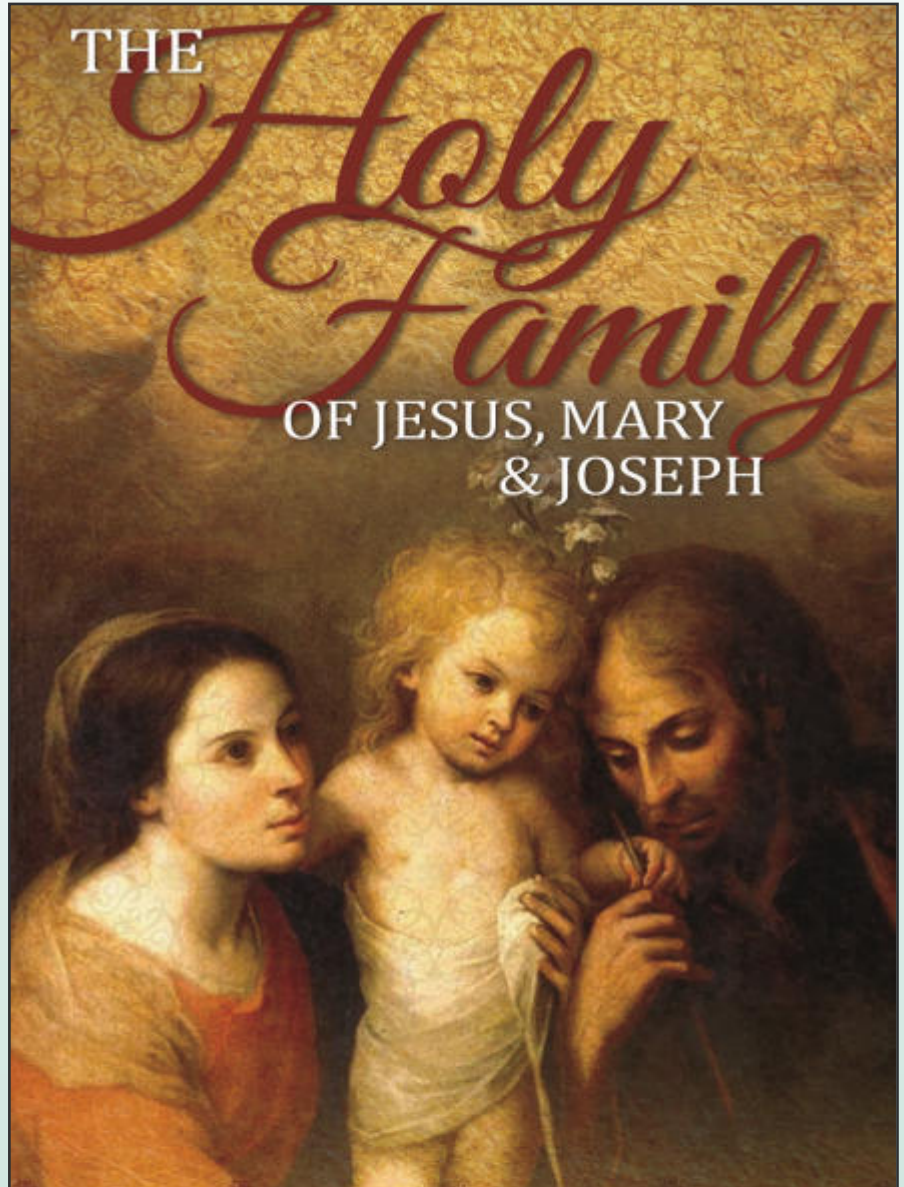
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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

WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021

Download the bulletin at www.parishesonline.com



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 25 — THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / CHRISTMAS			
Saint Philip	12:00 Midnight	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
Ascension	9:30am	Virginia Conti	DeDe & Sam Palombini and Susie Kiesel
Saint Philip	11:00am	Mary Poliziani	Laverne Wayhart
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 — THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Tim Puccetti	Wife & Son
Ascension	9:30am	Anniv. Ruth Ann Holzapfel	Family
Saint Philip	11:00am	Russell Adzina	Bernice Vertullo
Saint Philip	4:00pm	Beverly Karg	Albert Burlikowski
Ascension	5:30pm	Wayne Alexander	Hendrick Family
MONDAY, DECEMBER 27 — SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST			
Saint Philip	8:00am	John C. Sebesta	Family
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28 — THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS			
Ascension	8:00am	Tom Clayton	Roberta Clayton
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29 — FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30 — SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS			
Ascension	8:00am	Mary A. Goyke	Joan & Ed Goyke
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31 — SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Cathleen Frank	Alice Glaser
Saint Philip	10:00am	Wedding - Jack C. Shorthouse and Jacqueline M. Zimmer	
Saint Philip	4:00pm (V)	Harry David Burdette	Joseph & Edna DiPaolo
SATURDAY, JANUARY 1 — SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD			
<i>(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)</i>			
Ascension	8:00am	Irene Schubert	Mary Kedzierski & Donna Copfer
Saint Philip	4:00pm (V)	Mulkerrin & Zokaites Families	Jim & Rosemary
Ascension	5:30pm (V)	Arthur Peter Dobbins	Alice R. Dobbins & Family
SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 — THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD			
Saint Philip	7:00am	John Thomas	Legion of Mary
Ascension	9:30am	William E. Happoldt	Blair Family
Saint Philip	11:00am	Mary Adelaide & Chris Sprows	Family



Notes from the Pastor



Greetings once again, and best wishes for a very good Christmas Season and NewYear!

[Christmas 2021, Holy Family Sunday, and January 1, 2022](#)

Best wishes to all our parish members and families, neighbors and friends for a blessed Christmas Season which began on Christmas Eve and will continue to the Sunday of the Baptism of the Lord celebrated on January 9! This is our time for Christmas carols and decorations, lights and gatherings in celebration of the Lord Jesus' birth!

The Birth of the Messiah still gives us an assurance of Almighty God's love for humanity and all of us. The Birth of the Lord brought us Good News and a message of peace, goodness, and love. It's the birth of Jesus that has changed the world for the better as Jesus brought to us the Kingdom of God. We are invited by

Jesus to live in the presence and the divine life of God the father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and we are called to imitate the life of God for the sake of our families, our communities, humanity, and the world.

As we also celebrate Holy Family Sunday this Sunday, may you know the love, care, and presence of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in your life and in your home. May the Holy Family guide you and your own family in your life of discipleship in 2022, and may you know the loving presence of Jesus and his holy parents in your home and in your own family every day!

I'd also like to extend a message of thanks to all our members and volunteers who helped to make this year's Christmas Liturgies and season very prayerful and memorable! To our church decorators and cleaners; to our music director, vocalists, and choir; to our Lectors, Communion Ministers, ushers, servers, and sacristans; to our maintenance staff, office staff, collection counters; and to all who've assisted with Christmas celebration, thank you all very, very much! May you all know our gratitude and also enjoy some rest in these days. Thank you!

Finally, may you and all members and families of our community be renewed in our Catholic Christian faith during this Christmas Season. May you be filled with joy, hope, and divine love. Finally, may you have a blessed New Year as we begin 2022 and look forward to the coming twelve months.

[A brief Christmas review of the essentials of our Catholic Christian Faith](#)

As we celebrate Christmas and soon begin the New Year 2022, I thought that it'd be good once again to offer a 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 during the Christmas holidays.

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, and we believe that God is life-giving, good, and loving;
- 2.) **INCARNATION.** The Son of God became fully human in Jesus of Nazareth thus joining together both the Divine and humanity (yes, this is the belief that we celebrate every Christmas!); 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 for Eternal Life.


Again, there are many, many wonderful beliefs in our Catholic Christian faith, yet it's always good to see everything in the context of these three basic beliefs: **Divinity, Incarnation, and Resurrection.** This Christmas, 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. Have a joyful Christmas, and God bless!

Best wishes for a joyful Christmas Season - and for a blessed new Year 2022!

Best wishes for a very good Christmas Season and for a very good Holy Family Sunday! 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 weekend and the New Year 2022, 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



Synod
2021
2023


For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

THE GLOBAL SYNOD: POPE FRANCIS INVITES EVERYONE TO PARTICIPATE IN A SYNOD

Everyone who cares about the Church is encouraged to participate in the Synod. Pope Francis wants to hear from those who feel marginalized or hurt by their Catholic experience, as well as from those who have found joy and mercy in the Church. During synodal sessions in early 2022 we will listen to each other and invite the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to feel the love, joy and pain of those whose experience is different from our own. Catholics throughout the world will be discerning the same questions.

For more information text "Synod2021" to 84576 and to download your Participant Guide, visit www.diopitt.org/journeying-together.

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



Your goodness and participation
help to keep our parish alive!



**BIBLE READINGS
FOR THE WEEK**

Sunday, December 26

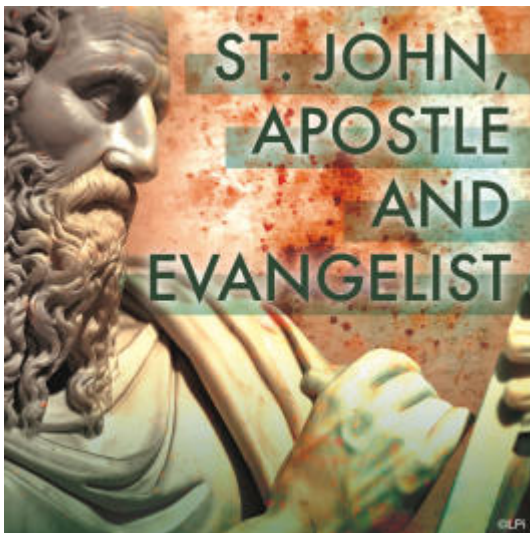
Sirach 3:2-14;
Colossians 3:12-21;
Luke 2:41-52

Weekdays

1 John 1-3;
John 1 & Luke 1-2

Sunday, January 2

Isaiah 60:1-6;
Ephesians 3:2-6;
Matthew 2:1-12



**ST. JOHN,
APOSTLE
AND
EVANGELIST**



LIGHT A CANDLE
for a
LOVED ONE

FINANCIAL REPORT  **OUR SAINT PHILIP
PARISH FINANCES**

Sunday collection total, December 11-12 , 2021	-- \$9,034.57
Online donations	-- \$2,316.00
Holy Day Collection, December 8 , 2021	-- \$2,601.00

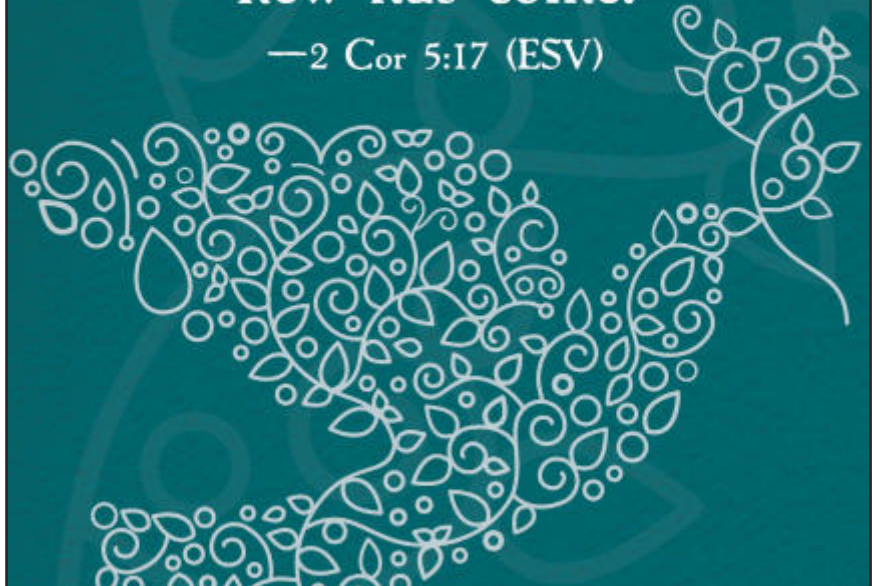
Parish income needed for this Fiscal Year	-- \$724,000.00
Parish income <u>received</u> since July 1, 2021	-- \$249,573.98
Parish fundraising since July 1, 2021	-- \$14,921.52
Estate gifts received since July 1, 2021	-- \$0.00

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 December 11-12	-- 634
Sunday envelopes used	-- 292
Online contributions this week	-- 19
Total households receiving envelopes	-- 1,151

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

—2 Cor 5:17 (ESV)





Parish News

Mary, Mother of God

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

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

Join us at Mass to honor our Blessed Mother and to welcome the New Year on Friday, December 31 at 4:00pm at Saint Philip Church and on Saturday, January 1 at Ascension Church.

Since this Feast falls on a Saturday, IT IS NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION this year.

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

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



It is our hope that 2022 will be a year filled with countless blessings and graces from God. And may it be a healthy and happy New Year for you.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

LECTORS - January 1 & 2

- 4:00pm at St. Philip - Denny Maher
- 5:30pm at Ascension - Grace Berard
- 7:00am at St. Philip - B. J. Gamble
- 9:30am at Ascension - Frank Daily
- 11:00am at St. Philip - Jessica Rea

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - January 1 & 2

- 4:00pm at St. Philip - Kathy Hayes
- 5:30pm at Ascension - Katie Phillips
- 7:00am at St. Philip - Dian Perkins
- 9:30am at Ascension - Alice McAfee
- 11:00am at St. Philip - Maribeth Cringle

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

To receive a copy of your contributions to Saint Philip Parish for 2021, please fill in the form below. If you wish your statement to be sent via email, please provide your email on the form. If you would like your statement to be sent through the U.S. Postal Service, please include a self addressed stamped envelope with the form. Thank you for your cooperation.

2021 IRS Contribution Statement

Yes, I would like a copy of my 2021 Contributions to St. Philip Parish.

Envelope # _____ Phone #: _____

Name

Email Address

Send by Postal Service to:

Address



HOPE &

Relief

Dear God, rest your hands on recovery efforts in the Kentucky communities. Let all people find relief and healing in you. Amen.



THE HOLY FAMILY

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well. When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love.



We offer our sympathy to the families of **Elizabeth A. Dellemonache** and **Katherine Fazio** who entered into eternal life. Please keep them in your prayers.

We ask you also to keep in your prayers **Frank R. Henry** who recently passed away. May he rest in peace.



Please Support
SAINT PHILIP PARISH!
by including the parish in your will and estate planning.

Thank you!



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

In Loving Memory of Dulick ☺

Carson Families

Offered by David Dulick

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

In Loving Memory of Steve Klemash

Offered by Helen Klemash



RE/MAX SELECT REALTY

DIANE MCCONAGHY, REALTOR

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



FAITH FORMATION: There will be no class on December 27. Classes will resume January 3 at 7:00pm.

FAITH FORMATION SECOND SEMESTER: Beginning in January, our Faith Formation Sessions will include a Parent Information Night, a Family Valentine Dinner, a Mardi Gras Pancake Supper, Lent Activities, Sacramental Preparation, an Easter Egg Hunt and much more. If you are not registered and would like to participate in our program, please call the Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388.

BAPTISM REQUESTS: We are accepting requests for baptism. Please call the Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388 for a request.

Want to learn more about the Catholic Faith or receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? We welcome anyone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith. New Sessions are starting in January. We also welcome any Adult who is interested in completing the Sacraments of Initiation with the Sacrament of Confirmation. Sessions are designed to fit your individual schedule and needs. For information, please contact MaryAnn in the Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388.

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 college 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, contact MaryAnn at 412-922-6388.



EXAMPLES OF OUR FAITH St. Stephen | Feast Day December 26

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

Saint Philip Parish Faith Formation

An Evening in Bethlehem



St. Philip families enjoyed *an Evening in Bethlehem* on Monday Night, December 13 in Ascension Conner Hall. Each family shared a pizza supper followed by crafts for the children. Each child then received a book while families enjoyed samples of cookies and hot chocolate. Everyone created a tree ornament or bookmark to share with Meals On Wheels for the Christmas Season. The evening continued in Church with a reading of The Shepherd's Story and caroling. The evening concluded with Father Torquato reading the Nativity Story from the Gospel of Luke and giving each family a blessing.





Guardian Angel Academy

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

MRS. KAISER'S KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM



In November, we thought of our turkey animal friends by dressing up as turkeys to act out a poem. Our creative turkeys displayed their "Save the Turkeys" sign with suggestions of various other foods to feast on during Thanksgiving. November ended with a science experiment in which we made an outline of a pumpkin using Skittles and upon completion, the children poured warm water over the Skittles. It was exciting to watch the color and sugar dissolve and then diffuse through the water, making it the color of the Skittles.

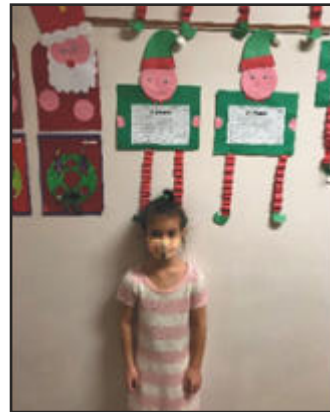


December brought excitement as we prepared for the birth of Jesus. The children made Advent wreaths. Each week we placed a candle on the wreath and learned what each candle symbolized.

St. Nicholas Day was filled with excitement too as he came to visit and left a treat in our shoes. Thank you, St. Nicholas! The children celebrated the day by making their own St. Nicholas. The Kindergarten class



was also concerned that Santa wouldn't have enough helpers, so they made elves along with an application for employment for Santa's Workshop. Now, we think Santa will be set to go.



In literature, we are reading the classic tale, "The Gingerbread Boy." The children worked on various projects with the story. We discussed the lessons learned in the story and worked on rhyming and putting the story in sequential order.

The kindergarten children and I would like to wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with peace and joy.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHTS:

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



MR. DANIEL BAKER - 7TH GRADE

Hi. I'm Dan Baker, and I am a 7th grade homeroom teacher at Guardian Angel Academy. I teach math for grades 5-8. I have been teaching for over 20 years. My family has strong roots in Pittsburgh. I was born and raised on Mt. Washington, attended Catholic schools at St. Mary of the Mount, OLSH and Duquesne University. I have a degree in Elementary Education

and Middle Level Math. More recently, I completed a Master's Degree in Technology and Curriculum Design from the University of Phoenix. During my free time I enjoy exploring new restaurants with friends and family, seeing the latest action movie and visiting my family in Florida. I recently purchased a house, and I have been spending much of my free time on planning projects for it. You may also see me tutoring in the morning or after school, as well as helping with the morning/after school care program. Be sure to say hello the next time you see me around the school.

**GREEN TREE POLICE
HOLIDAY CARD
ART CONTEST**

Green Tree Police hosted a Holiday Card Art Contest for the 4th Grade Students from Guardian Angel Academy and from Fred L. Aiken Elementary School in the



Keystone Oaks School District. Fourth grade students were asked to design the front of the Holiday Card for the Green Tree Police Department.

CONGRATULATIONS to Sophia Romanovitch for finishing in 2nd place. Sophia won gift cards to restaurants in the area. *Great Job Sophia!!!* SPECIAL THANKS to **Green Tree Police Officer Ryan Bacci** for organizing this contest for our students!

This **Christmas** as we celebrate the miraculous gift of **Jesus**, may we share with others the joy that knowing Him brings!

From faculty, staff and students of Guardian Angel Academy, have a blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year!!!

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

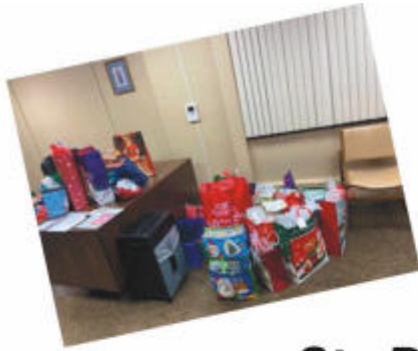
Total enclosed _____

I would like to name my block(s):

Name _____

Phone number _____

Email _____



St. Philip Parish's generosity is

AWESOME!!!

This year's Giving Tree recipients:

- 45 Fruit Baskets given to our parishioners in their 9th decade
- 24 Poinsettias sent to our shut-ins
- \$385 in Gift Cards to Women's Shelter of PGH
- 7 Gifts to male residents of a personal care home
- 25 Gifts to F.O.R. in McKees Rocks
- 30 Gifts to Lifeline of Pittsburgh
- 10 Giant Eagle Gift Cards for BackPacks at Langley School
- 60 Gifts to our sister parish in Tunnelton, WV
- 20 Gifts to Catholic Charities of Pittsburgh

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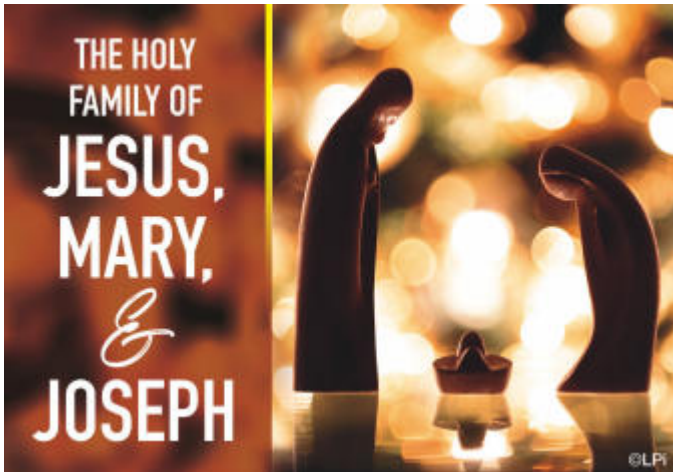
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Ministries & Societies

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE



We would like to wish you and your families a very merry and holy Christmas! As the birth of Jesus brought an inextinguishable light into the world, all of you - who support our conference through donations, volunteering, or keeping us and those we help in your prayers - bring a light to our friends in need when they need it the most. As you celebrate Christ's birth, we ask you to pray that our friends in need will feel the love of Christ no matter how difficult their current situation may be.

Many of our friends in need face similar challenges to those of the Holy Family. Some struggle to find adequate shelter. Some find themselves having to travel long distances, maybe to escape abuse or violence in their home country. Many are trying to raise children the best they can in an uncertain world and with limited resources. We are very blessed, with your help, to be able to assist so many families on their journey, even if only in little ways.

This week, your generous donations enabled us to give a man \$575 for rent; a single mother was given \$244 for her gas bill; a woman was given \$250 toward a security deposit; and a disabled woman was given \$346 for her electric bill.

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, are in need of assistance, please call or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email us at svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com.



Christmas Flower Memorials

The following are our most recent Christmas Flower Memorial intentions:

- In Memory of **Mary & Edward Stewart** by *Eileen Cox*
- In Memory of the **Gannon & Stewart Families** by *Eileen Cox*
- In Memory of **Adelaide Kelly** by *Mr. & Mrs. William Cullen*
- In Memory of **Robert R. Kelly** by *Mr. & Mrs. William Cullen*
- In Memory of **William T. Cullen** by *Mr. & Mrs. William Cullen*
- In Memory of **Katherine Cullen** by *Mr. & Mrs. William Cullen*
- In Memory of **Sister Mary Denis Harris** by *Mr. & Mrs. William Cullen*
- In Memory of **Genevieve Kennedy** by *Mr. & Mrs. William Cullen*
- In Memory of **William Kennedy** by *Mr. & Mrs. William Cullen*
- In Memory of the **Sauberlich Family** by *John & Marlene Elliott*
- In Memory of the **Elliott Family** by *John & Marlene Elliott*
- In Memory of the **Janeda Family** by *John & Marlene Elliott*
- In Memory of the **Harding Family** by *John & Marlene Elliott*
- In Memory of the **Couture Family** by *John & Marlene Elliott*
- In Memory of the **Dodds Family** by *John & Marlene Elliott*
- In Memory of the **O'Toole Family** by *John & Marlene Elliott*
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THANK YOU: Donations for Christmas Flowers were made by **Mr. & Mrs. John Perkins** and **Donna Yoha & Jim Kolb**.



This Sunday's Bible Readings

FIRST READING:

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD." (1 Sm 1:27-28)



PSALM:

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)



SECOND READING:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)



GOSPEL:

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:46)

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