



# 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](mailto: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 JANUARY 2, 2022

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



## THE EPIPHANY *of the Lord*

### 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](mailto:maureen@saintphilipchurch.org) no later than 12:00pm on Friday to be included in the following week's bulletin.





## CONFESSION

Offered Saturdays from 12:00pm 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
<b>SATURDAY, JANUARY 1 — SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</b>			
<i>(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)</i>			
Ascension	8:00am	Irene Schubert	Mary Kedzierski & Donna Copfer
<b><i>Vigil, Epiphany of the Lord</i></b>			
Saint Philip	4:00pm (V)	Mulkerrin & Zokaites Families	Jim & Rosemary
Ascension	5:30pm (V)	Arthur & Peter Dobbins	Alice R. Dobbins & Family
<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 — THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>			
Saint Philip	7:00am	John Thomas	Legion of Mary
Ascension	9:30am	William E. Happoldt	Blair Family
Saint Philip	11:00am	Mary Adelaide & Chris Sprowls	Family
<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 3 — CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY</b>			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 4 — SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	Douglas Shoup	Martha Farr
<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5 — SAINT JOHN NEUMANN, BISHOP</b>			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Jack Cherry	Kerry & Nancy Reese
<b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 6 — CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	Fred Rippole	Hooks & Needles Craft Club
<b>FRIDAY, JANUARY 7 — CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY</b>			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Mary G. Barber	Michael & Patti Diduch
<b>SATURDAY, JANUARY 8 — CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	James O'Connor, Sr.	O'Connor Family
Saint Philip	4:00pm (V)	James M. O'Connor, Sr.	Cathy O'Connor
Ascension	5:30pm (V)	Rev. Walter Sobon	Diana Miller
<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 9 — THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Pat Daly	Carol Bayer
Ascension	9:30am	Cynthia Laughlin	Ray, Dianne, Julia & Jeff DeFrancis
Saint Philip	11:00am	Geoff Seacrist	St. Philip Choir



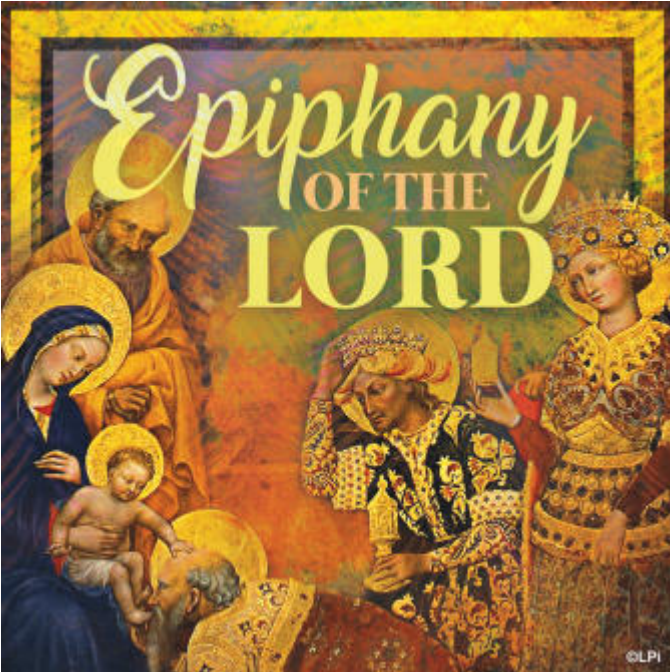
*Saint Philip Parish is on Facebook! Follow us today to learn about upcoming events and happenings.*





# Notes from the Pastor

Greetings once again, and best wishes for a very good week, a blessed Season of Christmas, and a grace filled 2022!



Celebrating Epiphany Sunday 2022

**For all of us who are Catholic Christians**, one of our most important and most favorite celebrations during the year is the event of Christmas! From its beginning on Christmas Eve until the commemoration of the Lord Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan River, our annual observance of the Christmas Season is one of the two most important times of every year - the other time being the Easter Season of the Lord's Resurrection.

**In our celebration of Christmas**, we remember the birth of the Son of God, and we give thanks for the love, divine graces, and blessings that are given to all of us throughout our years. At Christmas, we remember and celebrate the goodness of the Lord, and together, we share this wonderful proclamation - this manifestation - of the Lord's love and care for us and for all humanity.

**This Sunday**, we also commemorate and celebrate Epiphany ("Manifestation") Sunday and the wonderful account of the Three Magi who traveled from afar to visit and honor the infant Jesus. These witnesses to the Lord have a very important role in the proclamation of Jesus of Nazareth — the Messiah sent to Israel, and the Savior of the world.

**Our observance of the Christmas Season continues on to next Sunday and the Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan River!** Please continue to pray with us and for one another as we enter into a new calendar year and as we dedicate 2022 to Jesus and to the coming of his Kingdom!

Our Parish Fish Fry dinners this coming Lent

**Yes, Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent begin two months from today on Wednesday, March 2, 2022.** As we all know, that day will arrive rather quickly as it always does.

**This year, we would like to hold our Annual Parish Fish Fry once again during the season of Lent!** Before 2021, the Annual Fish Fry has been a very successful event for our parish community, and it actually raises about 5% of our annual parish operating budget each year - except for last year when we weren't able to hold the Fish Fry due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. This wonderful event benefits both our local community as well as our parish every year!

**As such, it's time to assemble our volunteers for the Saint Philip Lenten Fish Fry!** We'll be seeking your participation and support throughout January so that we make plans and organize everything before mid-February. Please make plans now to volunteer for the Fish Fry this Lent, and please encourage your family members - especially our younger members - to join us in service to the parish in March and April. Please sign up when we call on you and your family and neighbors. Many thanks!

Many thanks once again!

**I'd again 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.

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

Best wishes for a very good Epiphany Sunday and for a very good Christmas 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 weekend and throughout 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! Merry Christmas, and a blessed New Year!

Yours,  
Father Jim Torquato



## FINANCIAL REPORT OUR SAINT PHILIP PARISH FINANCES

Sunday collection total, **December 18-19**, 2021 -- \$8,541.05  
Online donations -- \$1,650.00

Parish income needed for this Fiscal Year -- \$724,000.00  
Parish income received since July 1, 2021 -- \$259,765.03  
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 18-19** -- 667  
Sunday envelopes used -- 236  
Online contributions this week -- 24  
Total households receiving envelopes -- 1,151

### THE GLOBAL SYNOD: THE CENTRAL QUESTION

The central question for our synodal sessions is: How do we, as sisters and brothers in Christ, journey together in our parish, diocese or other Catholic commu-



nity? What steps is the Holy Spirit inviting us to take so that we can grow together? Everyone is invited to share what the Holy Spirit has laid on their hearts at synodal sessions throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh in early 2022. Catholics throughout the world will be discerning the same questions.

For more information text "Synod2021" to 84576 and go to [www.diopitt.org/journeying-together](http://www.diopitt.org/journeying-together) to download your Participant Guide.

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



*Your goodness and participation help to keep our parish alive!*



**Sunday, January 2**

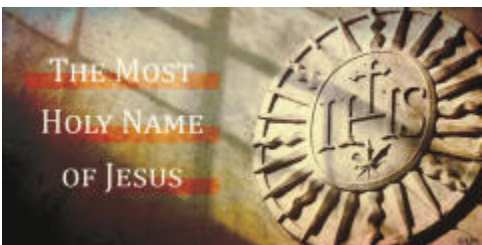
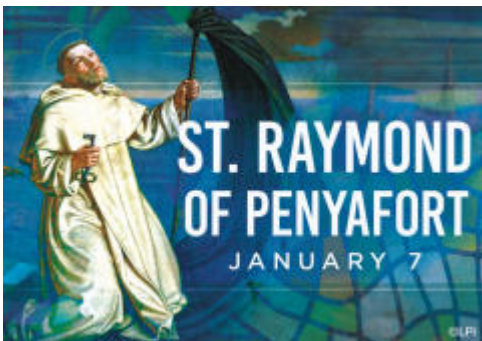
Isaiah 60:1-6;  
Ephesians 3:2-6;  
Matthew 2:1-12

**Weekdays**

The Letters of John;  
Luke 3-5

**Sunday, January 9**

Isaiah 42:1-7;  
Acts 10:34-38;  
Luke 3:15-22



## Making use of our remaining funds from the *Catholic Campaign for the Church Alive!*

In 2014, Bishop David Zubik and the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh - and all our parishes - conducted the *Campaign for the Church Alive!* to financially strengthen our parishes and the Diocese. Funds from this campaign have been used to eliminate debts and to complete major projects of programming and renovation. For example, from this Diocesan Campaign, our consolidated Saint Philip Parish received \$1,250,000 from the other parishes to eliminate our long-standing operating debt. In addition, our remaining churches and campuses of Saint Philip and Ascension have undergone significant repairs and renovations thanks to the generosity of our contributors.

To recap our own Campaign, the four previous parish communities (*now consolidated into one Saint Philip Parish community*) received:

Campaign Pledges	\$1,856,000
Campaign Contributions	\$1,291,000
Pledges NOT yet contributed	\$ 565,000

All the repairs and projects of our consolidated Campaign Case Statement have been completed at this time. So much good has been accomplished by you, our members and families, and our staff.

**At this time, Saint Philip Parish still has \$121,426 remaining in our Campaign Funds.** Diocesan officials are encouraging pastors to utilize remaining funds for the good of our respective parishes. As such, I would like to add several projects to our Campaign Case Statement at this time so as to utilize our remaining Campaign funds in beneficial ways.

### These are the new projects that we'd like to accomplish using these remaining Campaign funds:

- The purchase of a NEW outdoor Nativity Scene for Saint Philip Church;
- The repair and refurbishing of the exterior doors of Saint Philip Church;
- Evangelization efforts (including invitation postcards to the entire community);
- Tree service for both church campuses; and
- The designing and installation of needed parish signs for both church campuses.

These projects have been reviewed by our Pastoral Council and Finance Council as well as our parish staff, and these projects will make good use of our remaining Campaign funds. Should you have any questions or comments, please call our parish office (412-922-6300) this week. Thank you very much, and many thanks to all our members and families who contributed to the *Campaign for the Church Alive!* during the past seven years. God bless! -- Father Jim Torquato





# Parish News



## MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### LECTORS - January 8 & 9

- 4:00pm at St. Philip - Denny Maher
- 5:30pm at Ascension - Colleen Pilarski
- 7:00am at St. Philip - Patrick Kelly
- 9:30am at Ascension - Richard Musser
- 11:00am at St. Philip - B. J. Gamble

### EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS - January 8 & 9

- 4:00pm at St. Philip - Art Bannon
- 5:30pm at Ascension - Carroll Gorman
- 7:00am at St. Philip - Beth Ayres
- 9:30am at Ascension - Joe Allen
- 11:00am at St. Philip - Chris Falki

## Christmas Flower Memorials

The following are our most recent Christmas Flower Memorial intentions:

- In Memory of **Ed Webb** by *Wife*
- In Memory of **Webb & Koltula Families** by *Family*

## LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Human beings easily get bored. Life's routines can become so predictable that there is often little time for excitement or freshness. Today is all about the new and the wonderful. In celebrating the beauty and simplicity of the Epiphany, we see in tangible ways God's creative, redemptive, and restorative power. This refreshment and revitalization is offered not only to a select few but to everyone throughout the world. There is nothing routine or static about God. Surprises, wonders, miracles, opportunities, healings, and joy without measure are available to those who believe. There are never any endings, just beginnings. And, when darkness, boredom, and gloom seem to be the order of the day, a bright new light now shines pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

### 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



## EPIPHANY: 20 + C + M + B + 22

On the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, the Church recalls that with the visit of the three Wise Men to the Holy Family, all the Gentiles would be offered salvation.

The word epiphany means: “a revealing scene or moment.” During the Christmas season, we celebrate the fact that in Jesus Christ, the Son of God is revealed to us. On the Feast of the Epiphany, we celebrate the day when Jesus was revealed to the whole world, represented by the Magi, who came from distant lands. At the Feast of the Epiphany we are invited to bless our homes as a reminder of the Magi’s welcoming the Christ Child and that we welcome Jesus into our home. We can bless our homes by writing in 20 + C + M + B + 22 in chalk above our entrance or door. The 22 represents the Year. The letters C, M and B represent the initials of the 3 Wise Men who were identified as Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar. The letters C, M, B also represent the first letters of the words: Christum Mansionem Benedicat which is Latin for Christ Bless this House.

The following prayers can be said:

*“Though the light seems very far, darkness shall be overcome. Christ come now and bless our home.”*

OR

*“Heavenly Father, as we mark our threshold, send the angel of mercy to guard our home and repel all powers of darkness. Fill all who live in this home with holy charity and warm them with the fullness of your grace. And so, Father, may all who dwell here or grace its portals with their presence, find the joy and thoughtfulness of Mary, the God-bearer, and thus praise and thank You eternally together with Jesus, the light of the nations, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.”*



We offer our sympathy to the family of **Alice C. Wroblewski** who entered into eternal life. Please keep her in your prayers.

**Connect with FLOCKNOTE!**



To register, contact our parish office, OR text **stphilippa** to **84576**, OR visit [www.stphilipchurch.flocknote.com](http://www.stphilipchurch.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](http://www.saintphilipchurch.weshareonline.org).

**Sanctuary Lamp**

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at **St. Philip** burns  
*In Loving Memory of D'Aversa Family*  
Offered by Family

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at **Ascension** burns  
*In Loving Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Fred J. Askin*  
Offered by Mary Ellen Askin

**ADVERTISER**  
*of the Week*

**CRAFTON GIANT EAGLE**

*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](mailto:stphilipreligioused@gmail.com)

**A NOTE FROM MARYANN:** A Happy and Blessed New Year to everyone. We take a moment now to listen to what the Saints have to tell us regarding our New Year's Resolutions.

- *Have patience in all things but chiefly have patience with yourself.* -St. Francis de Sales
- *To live is to change and to be perfect is to change often.* -St. John Henry Newman
- *Do something beautiful for God; do it with your life; do it everyday; do it in your own way, but do it.* -Saint Teresa of Calcutta
- *This New Year I resolve to begin a new life. I do not know what will happen to me during this year, but I abandon myself entirely to You, my God, and my aspirations and all my offerings (activities) will be for You.* -Saint Gemma Galgani

**THE NEW YEAR:** As we begin 2022, we anticipate the many opportunities for prayer and gathering in St. Philip Parish. Here is just a sample. Mark your calendars and plan to join us.

- Coffee, Tea and Community Breakfast, January 13, February 10
- Salvation History Bible Study
- Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner Celebration, February 28
- Lenten Fish Fry
- Soup, Salad and Speaker Lenten Series
- Celebration of the Sacraments and Sacramental Preparation
- Parish Mission with Fr. Joe Freedy the week of April 24
- Travel Ministry
- ChristLife Parish Evangelization Program

**COFFEE, TEA AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST:** Join us on **Thursday, January 13** in Ascension Conner Hall for our *Coffee, Tea and Community Breakfast*. It begins at **8:30am** with a hot breakfast of quiche, muffins, bagels, yogurt, fruit, juice, coffee and tea. This will be followed by a reflection with MaryAnn Garfold on Laughter, our path to the Joy of the Gospel. Dr. Carol Baric-Tarrow will then speak to us on *"Care of our Bones and How to Avoid Falls and Accidents this Winter."* Join us. Call the Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388 for reservations. All are Welcome! Come and bring a friend.



## EXAMPLES OF OUR FAITH St. Elizabeth Ann Seton | January 4

The patron saint of Catholic schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774 – January 4, 1821) was born in New York City to a prominent family of the Episcopal faith. When she turned 19, she married a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. He later died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving her a young widow. After discovering the Catholic faith in Italy, where her husband had died, she returned to New York and converted to Catholicism in 1805.

After several years struggling as a single mother, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, which started a chain reaction of Catholic-based education in the United States that continues today.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized September 14, 1975 in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI and was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "saint."





**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, please contact MaryAnn at 412-922-6388.



Mardi  
Gras

©LPI

**MARDI GRAS IS COMING TO ST. PHILIP:** On **Monday, February 29**, St. Philip Parish will sponsor a free pancake supper from **6:00pm to 8:00pm** in Ascension Conner Hall. There will be food, music, desserts, fun and King's Cake. This will be for all ages and for the entire Parish. Registrations are requested. Come let us celebrate the beginning of Lent as a Parish. More information coming. Call the Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388 to register.



**RCIA:** If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, are an adult who now would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation or are a baptized Christian who would like to consider Full Communion with the Catholic Church, St. Philip Parish is beginning new sessions this winter. Please call MaryAnn at 412-922-6388 for more information.



# 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. WOODALL'S PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM

This year the preschool students have been working very hard to develop academically and socially. Our days are filled with excitement and wonder as the students explore new concepts and ideas. We have been building our early literacy skills by making a connection between the sounds associated with each letter of the alphabet and their printed form. The children have also started learning to isolate the beginning, middle, and end sounds in spoken words, blend and segment syllables, and create compound words by combining two smaller words. The children are building a strong foundation that will allow them to be strong readers in the future. The preschool students have also been busy learning early math skills. They have worked to understand that numbers help us answer questions about time, size, and amount. They have practiced writing numbers, identifying printed numbers, and counting various-sized groups. They have also started exploring how to read, identify, and complete AB patterns using manipulatives and our classroom SMART Board. Recently, we practiced using our math skills during a game of Christmas Bingo that was sponsored by the PTG. In religion, the preschoolers have built their relationship with God and our faith through Bible stories and prayer. They have learned to

recite the Hail Mary and Guardian Angel prayers. Throughout the season of Advent, the children are working to be patient as we learn about the true meaning of Christmas and wait to celebrate Jesus' birth. Each week we "light" a candle on the Advent wreaths we created that are hanging outside of our classroom. We even enjoyed a surprise visit from St. Nicholas in celebration of his feast day. There is never a dull moment in preschool, and we look forward to continuing this adventure together as we move through the school year.

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

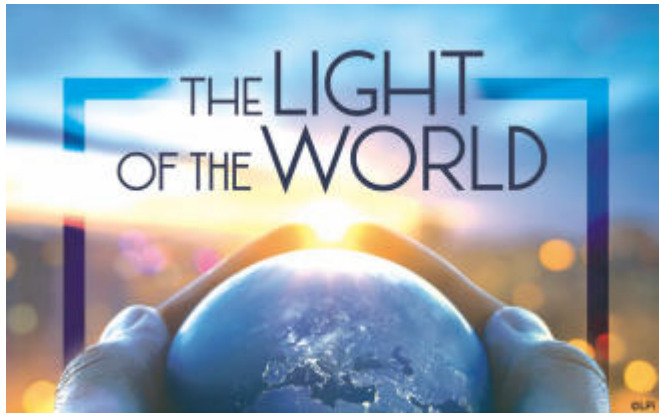
## MR. ROY FISCHER - 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

I am proud to say that I have spent nearly my entire academic career within the Catholic school system! I attended St. Philip School, as my mother and my grandfather had done before me, before



graduating from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School. I started college at CCAC, transferred to Carlow University for my Bachelors, and finished with a graduate degree from Duquesne University. My wife and I had our wedding at St. Philip, like my grandparents, and even had the students of St. Philip sing in the choir for our ceremony, like my grandparents! Tradition plays a key role in my life, probably a testament to my passion of teaching history to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Guardian Angel Academy. This will be my 8<sup>th</sup> year teaching at a Catholic school. Within my classroom, I incorporate religion into my lessons, discussing morality and the corporal works of mercy as it pertains to history. It is the duty of my class to educate our children of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. It is also our job to remember that these presidents, soldiers, and legendary figures are all humans, with the same fears, hopes and desires as you and I. People cannot be reduced to numbers and statistics. To deny this is to deny the people of the past their humanity.





**THE LIGHT OF THE MOON:** If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film *"It's a Wonderful Life."*

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing *"Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/ And dance by the light of the moon?"*

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. *"Upon you the LORD shines,"* writes Isaiah, *"and over you appears his glory."* Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star. — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

# 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:

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

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

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

## SAINT PHILIP SUPER BOWL POOL

\_\_\_\_\_ Square(s) @ \$50 each

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to name my block(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_





# Ministries & Societies

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

It has been almost six months since the Knights of Columbus building caught fire and we lost our storage space for donated furniture, household items and clothing. These items are distributed to our friends in need within our parish boundaries and in Tunnelton, West Virginia. We are very excited to announce that we recently secured new storage space and are ready to accept donations again!

We accept donations of most furniture and household items, including stoves, washers, dryers, refrigerators, pots, pans, couches, tables, chairs, etc. We are most in need of beds and dressers. We normally do not accept televisions unless they are flat screen and come with or are compatible with an over-the-air antenna, as we cannot always assume that our friends in need will be able to afford cable. We also accept clothing donations for the Madonna Hope House in Tunnelton.

If you would like to make a donation, please call or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email us at [svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com](mailto:svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com). We are in need of additional volunteers to help us pick up donations. This is a perfect volunteer opportunity for someone interested in learning more about our mission or for someone that has a busy schedule, but wants to volunteer for a couple of hours on an as-needed basis. Please call, text or email us if you are interested in volunteering.

This week, your generous donations enabled us to assist an unemployed man with a clothing voucher and up to \$400 toward his rental arrearage (the exact amount is still being finalized). We are very blessed to have your continued support so that we are able to help our friends in need.

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 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](http://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, call or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email us at [svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com](mailto:svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com).



# Epiphany

OF THE LORD

## LIGHT OF CHRIST

Theologically, the Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of the messiah to the Gentiles. The Magi story appears exclusively in Matthew's gospel because this evangelist emphasizes the universal nature of Christ's message. Thus, Epiphany helps establish and inspire the Church's mission of evangelization. The light of Christ is not to be hidden or hoarded: "Your light must shine before others." Epiphany is also about enlightened awareness, as when we have an "epiphany moment." Upon viewing the baby Jesus, the aged Simeon proclaims the twin grace of the Messiah as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). *Epiphany, God Shining Forth* c. All Saints Press

## THE SEARCH CONTINUES

What was true for the Magi remains true for us today as we continue our search for God. In the darkness of our lives, we look for a star - as in the beloved Christmas carol, *We Three Kings* - to "guide us to thy perfect light." Many are distracted by the artificial lights of fame and fortune, but true and wise believers open themselves to the experience of being drawn to God's presence in themselves and their lives. The Epiphany proclaims the truth that we are called to a life reordered by our experience of God's presence. *Epiphany, God Shining Forth* c. All Saints Press

## EPIPHANY AT THE TABLE

Because the Magi came from the Orient, many of the traditional foods served on this day are spicy. Entrees may include curry powder or other pungent spices with spice cake often being baked for dessert.

In Mexico, serving La Rosca de Reyes or Three Kings Cake is a still-popular family tradition on Epiphany, with good fortune bestowed on anyone who is lucky enough to find a figure of the baby Jesus baked inside. *Epiphany, God Shining Forth* c. All Saints Press

## WHAT WILL YOU BRING TO CHRIST?

On this feast day we cannot go to Jesus empty-handed.

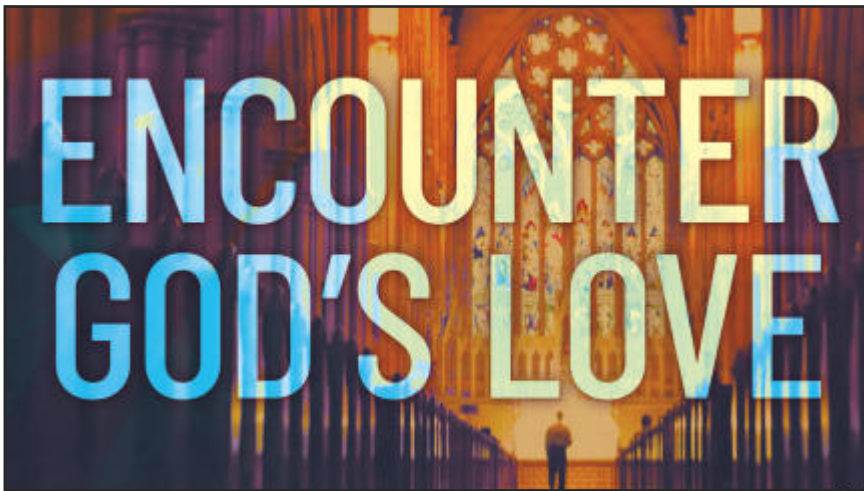


GOLD  
FRANKINCENSE  
MYRRH



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





## GOSPEL MEDITATION: ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD:** In his Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: “*Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.*” Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in

time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, “*Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being.*”

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.



### This Sunday’s Bible Readings

#### FIRST READING:

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



#### PSALM:

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



#### SECOND READING:

*It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.* (Eph 3:5-6)



#### GOSPEL:

*“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”* (Mt 2:2)

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the good that a simple  
smile can do." - Mother Teresa

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