



# Saint Philip Catholic Parish

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

**WEEK OF JANUARY 9, 2022**

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

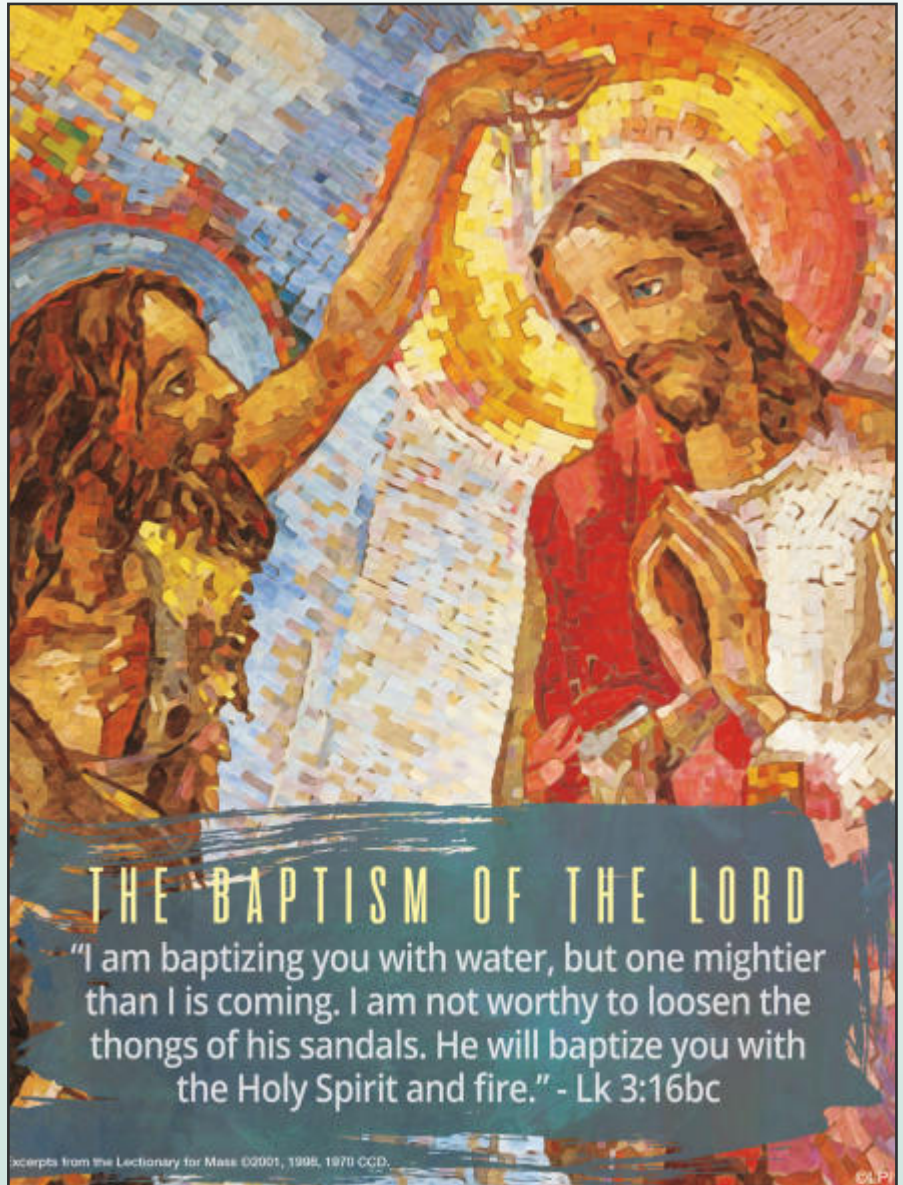
**PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL**

Benjamin Bannon, Thomas Hipkiss,  
Joseph Hoover, Joseph Rynn, Gary Urbatis

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205  
[parishoffice@saintphilipchurch.org](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



**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 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
<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 10 — WEEKDAY (FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME)</b>			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Sally Sabol	Holy Innocents Money Counters
<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 11 — WEEKDAY</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	Douglas Shoup	Hooks & Needles Craft Group
<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12 — WEEKDAY</b>			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Len Murin	Friend
<b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 13 — WEEKDAY</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	Super Family	Family
<b>FRIDAY, JANUARY 14 — WEEKDAY</b>			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Dorothy Fogle	Jan & Jay Roach
<b>SATURDAY, JANUARY 15 — WEEKDAY</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
Saint Philip	4:00pm (V)	Joe Quaquarelli	Legion of Mary
Ascension	5:30pm (V)	Antoin Rodgers	Rodgers Family
<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 16 — SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Maureen McDonough	Jeff & Marian Flaus
Ascension	9:30am	Paul Korol	Wife, Claudia
Saint Philip	11:00am	Joseph Stotlemeyer	Anita Stotlemeyer



*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 and a blessed New Year 2022!

## The Baptism of the Lord Sunday

**This Sunday, we conclude the Christmas Season with our celebration of the Baptism of the Lord Jesus at the Jordan River.** As Jesus began His public ministry, He was recognized by the prophet John the Baptizer as the Holy One sent by God into the world, Jesus was proclaimed by John to be the Lamb of God, the Messiah, and Christ - the Anointed One. This witness by John is an important and magnificent testimony to us, to the Church, and to the world. It is a sacred testimony that Jesus is the Lord and Savior who was promised to Israel - the first People of God - and to all of humanity.

**Of course, we believe that Jesus and His mother Mary never sinned, and so, Jesus' Baptism was NOT for the forgiveness of any sins.** Instead, Jesus' Baptism was the clear indication that Jesus shares fully in the life of all human persons. Jesus' Baptism shows that He is indeed fully human as He shared in our human living and journey. As we believe that Jesus is fully Divine, we also believe that Jesus is fully human. He is the Divine Incarnation of the Son of God who unites humanity with the Divinity. He is the Lord who came to redeem all people and to offer us salvation in the life and Kingdom of Almighty God.

**May we always cherish the Lord Jesus.** May we know that He fully shares our human life with us, and may we share in the glory and love of God that Jesus came to share with all those who accept Him - and who live in Him and with Him. God bless!

## The Blessings of our own Baptism

**Baptism has been a sacred religious ceremony for thousands of years,** and for all Catholic Christians it

remains a sacred religious ceremony today as well. As we see in the ministry of Saint John the Baptist, Baptism was practiced among the people of Israel, and as we see in the Gospels and the early Church, Baptism is the first Ritual of Initiation for all those called to be disciples of Jesus and members of his holy Church.

**As you know, Baptism (and the divine grace that it shares with us) lasts a lifetime.** In fact, we believe that Baptism marks us as God's people for all eternity, and in our prayer, we ask the Lord to renew and revitalize our Baptismal Grace throughout our lifetime.

**There are also three most important gifts which we receive in our Baptism.** These gifts are: 1.) our being cleansed from the sin of this world ("Original Sin"); 2.) our receiving divine life (grace) in our souls and in our lives for the first time; and 3.) our membership among the People of God in the Catholic Church. All these of these gifts are very important to our Christian faith, life, and discipleship - and to our sharing in the eternal life and goodness of God.

**May we always appreciate and give thanks for the gift of our Baptism,** may we live in the life of the Lord every day, and may the divine grace within us be renewed in the Eucharist, in our prayer, and in all the Sacraments that we receive throughout our lives!

## Why we Baptize our Children

Most Catholic Christians accept the nearly 2000 year old practice of baptizing children, but sometimes people ask "Why baptize children? Why not let them grow up without any formal connection to Jesus and the Church, and then let them decide for themselves?"

**Here are my regular responses to such questions.**

**First,** since we consider our life in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - and in the Church and in our parish - to be a most wonderful gift and treasure, there's NO good reason to withhold this treasure from our children. Let them share in God's life as soon as possible!

**Second,** since parents make every decision for their children until age 18 (especially important decisions such as schools, friends, home instruction, and activities), parents have the right and the obligation to make very important faith decisions for their children too.

**Third**, planting the seeds of faith is most important in the lives of children. If NO seeds of faith are planted, then the next generation will grow up without any faith or life in God.

**Fourth**, the practice of Infant Baptism is recorded in the earliest generations of the Church (when entire families were baptized together), and this has continued throughout our 2000 year history.

**Fifth**, in the Gospels, Jesus healed individuals because of the faith of the family and friends. This is why parents, grandparents, and godparents speak on behalf of their children in accepting the faith for them. At Confirmation, children then accept and profess our faith - and become young adult disciples by their own acceptance of all that we believe and live.

**As new generations of God's people are born into our families, the Church, and the world**, may we share our Catholic Christian faith and life with them as soon and as completely as possible! May future generations of your family and of the People of God be joined to the Lord in Baptism and continue to share the salvation of God with all people—now and until the Lord Jesus makes his return to us!

Best wishes for a blessed New Year 2022!

**Best wishes for a very good Sunday and for a very good 2022!** 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, 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

Christmas collection total	-- \$16,870.00
Special Christmas collection total	-- \$3,368.00
Regular Christmas collection envelopes used	-- 248
Church attendance on Christmas	-- 1,063

Sunday collection total, <b>December 26</b> , 2021	-- \$4,332.00
Church attendance on December 26	-- 495
Sunday envelopes used	-- 145

Sunday collection total, <b>January 1-2</b> , 2022	-- \$6,112.55
Online donations (Dec. 26, 2021 & Jan. 1-2, 2022)	-- \$3,445.53
Church attendance on January 1-2, 2022	-- 616
Sunday envelopes used	-- 173
Online contributions (12/26/2021 & 01/1-2/2022)	-- 38

Parish income needed for this Fiscal Year	-- \$724,000.00
Parish income <u>received</u> since July 1, 2021	-- \$290,525.11
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
Total households receiving envelopes	-- 1,151



### THE GLOBAL SYNOD: REFLECT ON YOUR CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE

To prepare for participation in the worldwide Synod, ponder how you have experienced “journeying together” in your parish or Catholic community.

What joys, obstacles, or insights did you receive from this journey? As you reflect, consider where you are hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit. What is the Spirit asking of us as a Church? What paths are opening? Synodal sessions will be held throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh in early 2022.

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.



# CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH NEWS

2900 Noblestown Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205-4227

E-mail: [communications@diopitt.org](mailto:communications@diopitt.org)  
[www.diopitt.org](http://www.diopitt.org)

**Diocesan Spokesperson: Jennifer Antkowiak**

**For questions, Media Contact: Bob DeWitt**

**(c) 412-527-8483**

**Email: [bdewitt@diopitt.org](mailto:bdewitt@diopitt.org)**

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**For Release: December 31, 2021**

## **IMPORTANT COVID-19 PROTOCOL REMINDERS FOR MASS ATTENDANCE IN THE DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH**

The celebration of the Holy mass, where we gather to worship God and receive Holy Communion, is the heart of our Catholic faith. Given the recent record-breaking surge in positive COVID-19 cases in Allegheny County and surrounding counties, Bishop David Zubik is reminding everyone of the current diocesan safety protocols. He is doing so in order to safely continue in-person Masses throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh. This is also being done as an urgent request for everyone to do their part to remain vigilant and mitigate the spread of the virus.

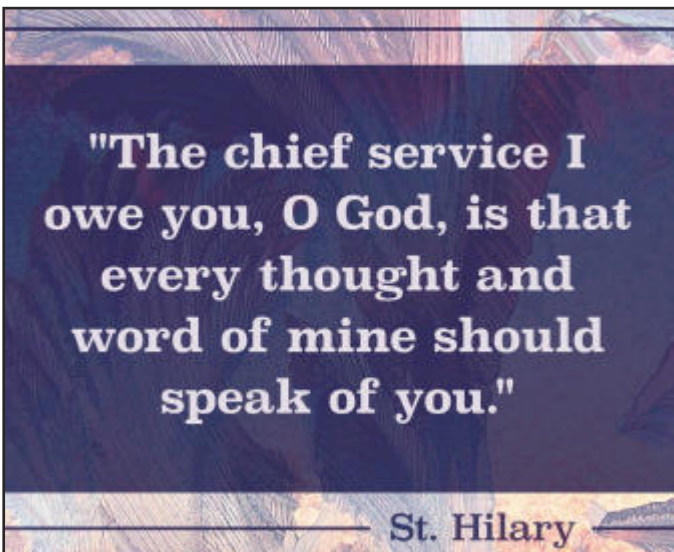
### **The current diocesan COVID safety protocols are:**

- As already widely communicated, the obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Mass in person was restored effective Sunday, August 15, 2021. That obligation remains in effect. Those who are sick, have a health risk, or are a primary caregiver, are excused from this obligation.
- The practice of extending the Sign of Peace at Mass is suspended until further notice.
- The distribution of the Precious Blood continues to be suspended until further notice.
- Given the high transmissibility rates, mask-wearing is urgently encouraged for all attending Mass regardless of vaccination status.
- Priests, deacons, and all Eucharistic Ministers must continue to wear masks during the distribution of Holy Communion, and at all times except when speaking.
- All greeters and ushers must wear masks while welcoming parishioners, should maintain social-distancing, and should refrain from hand-shaking with fellow parishioners.

*“As we mark the end of 2021 and look with hope to a new year filled with God’s continued blessings, please join with me in praying for an end to the spread of COVID-19, and for health and happiness for all,”* Bishop Zubik said.



# Parish News



## MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### LECTORS - January 15 & 16

- 4:00pm at St. Philip - Gregory Healy
- 5:30pm at Ascension - Robert Okraszewski
- 7:00am at St. Philip - Patrick Kelly
- 9:30am at Ascension - Francis Sullen
- 11:00am at St. Philip - Katelyn Hoff

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - January 15 & 16

- 4:00pm at St. Philip - Ursula Eberle
- 5:30pm at Ascension - Nancy Salinski
- 7:00am at St. Philip - Karen Rozeck
- 9:30am at Ascension - Debby Sullen
- 11:00am at St. Philip - Susan Kelly



## 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*



# MARRIAGE BLESSINGS

## HOLY MATRIMONY

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to **Jack C. Shorthouse** and **Jacqueline M. Zimmer** who were united in the Sacrament of Marriage at St. Philip Parish on December 31. May God bless them as they begin their lives together.

## 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

## THE PARISH OFFICES ARE OPEN

The Parish Offices are once again open for in-person parish business, Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

If you have not been fully vaccinated, please wear a face covering to enter the offices. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

## PARISH SUPPORT

We are grateful for your continued support!

If you are unable to attend Mass, you may mail your weekly offering to the Parish Office at 114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh 15205 or drop it off in the mail box located outside the main office door. St. Philip Parish also offers the option for ONLINE GIVING.

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT

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

We must continue to keep current the information of those ministering and volunteering in the parish in the diocesan database. (For instance, the PA Child Abuse History Clearance and waivers or fingerprints must be renewed every 5 years.)

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

## FUNERAL MASS SERVERS

As you are probably aware, St. Philip Parish has a high number of funerals each month. At this time, we could use additional Adult Funeral Mass Servers to assist us at both churches, St. Philip and Ascension. Most funerals are celebrated Monday through Saturday at 10:00am. We will train you and work around your schedule.

Please consider helping us in this very important ministry. If you would like to become a Funeral Altar Server or if you have any questions, please contact the parish office.

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



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



We offer our sympathy to the families of **Hazel M. Knight** and **James M. Wilhere** who entered into eternal life. Please keep them 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).



**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 Jenny & Bill McNally*  
Offered by McNally Children

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at **Ascension** burns  
*In Loving Memory of Marie Rogers*  
Offered by Daughter, Pat



**VINCENT'S OF GREEN TREE  
ITALIAN RESTAURANT**

*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:** As we conclude the Christmas Season this week with the Baptism of the Lord, I share a prayer as a reminder of this time of year by Robert Louis Stevenson.

*Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.*

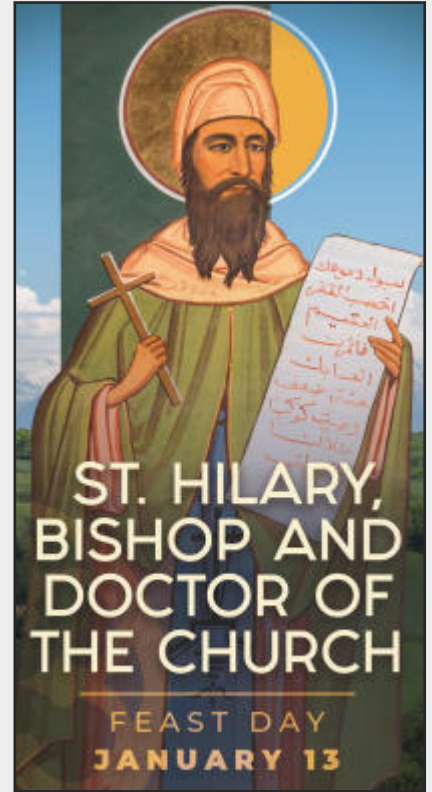
*Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.*

*May the Christmas Season make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

## FAITH FORMATION NEWS

**CONFIRMATION:** There will be a gathering on **Monday, January 10 at 6:30pm in Kelty Hall** for all St. Philip Parish 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who will be participating in the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. The purpose of the gathering will be to create blankets for the homeless. This is a required service project. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from Faith Formation and Guardian Angel School should attend.

**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.



Born a pagan, St. Hilary (c. 315 - c. 367) studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353. Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy, Arianism. He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ's divinity. From Phrygia St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy.

Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way. St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.



# Family Faith Formation

*Ideas and information for the family to share.*

**MISSION:** Find out what makes God happy. As a family, read John 15:9-12.



**GOSPEL WORD SEARCH:** Find and circle these words from today's Gospel.

<del>JOHN</del>	WATER	HOLY SPIRIT
MESSIAH	POWERFUL	FIRE
BAPTIZING	SANDALS	JESUS



**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.

**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.

**BAPTISM:** We are accepting Baptism requests for 2022. If you would like to have your child baptized at St. Philip Parish, please call 412-922-6388 to begin the process.

**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.



## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

### *I Hope I Am Like Him*

*“Who is this Christ? Is he like you?”*

Perhaps you’ve heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

*“He is nothing like me,”* the saint is said to have answered. *“But I hope I am like him.”*

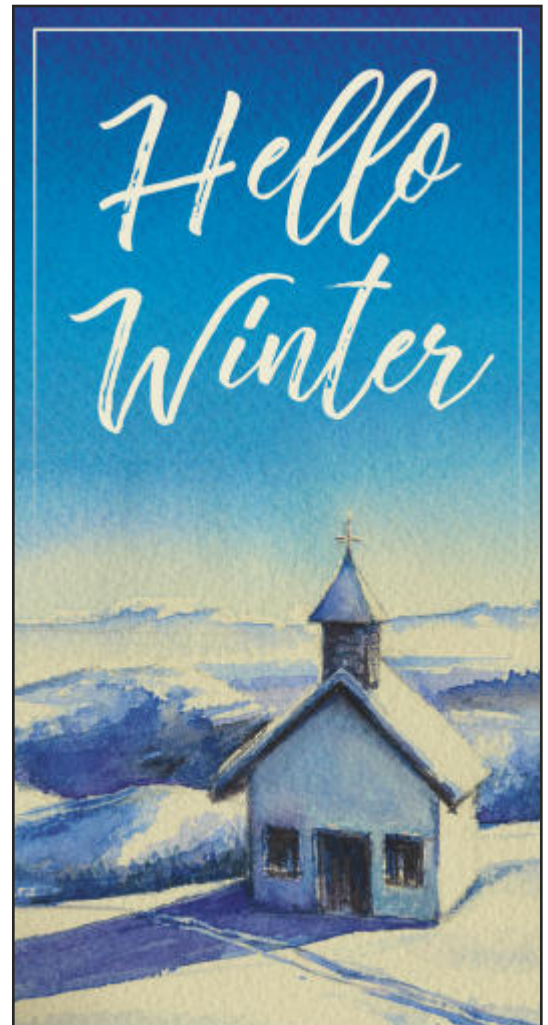
Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. “One worthier than I is coming,” he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God’s will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

Let’s examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God’s plan?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI



### CATHOLIC WEBSITES

Would you like to find good Catholic information, news, and inspiration on the Internet? Then explore these very good sites and sign up for their communications.

[www.aleteia.org](http://www.aleteia.org)

[www.dynamiccatholic.org](http://www.dynamiccatholic.org)

[www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

[www.catholicnews.com](http://www.catholicnews.com)

[www.catholicnewsagency.com](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com)

[www.catholic.com](http://www.catholic.com)

[www.ewtnnews.com](http://www.ewtnnews.com)

[www.zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)

[www.cruxnow.com](http://www.cruxnow.com)

[www.pittsburghcatholic.org](http://www.pittsburghcatholic.org)



**Sunday, January 9**

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

**Weekdays**

1 Samuel 1-8;  
Mark 1-2

**Sunday, January 16**

Isaiah 62:1-5;  
1 Corinthians 12:4-11;  
John 2:1-11



Our newly merged regional school has begun its first year! Saint Philip Parish families are welcome to learn more about Guardian Angel Academy and to enroll in this school year.

**Please contact Guardian Angel Academy this week at 412-922-4765.**

**— AROUND THE COMMUNITY —**

**BIRTHRIGHT OF PITTSBURGH** — 160 N. Craig Street, Suite 209, Pittsburgh, PA 15213; Phone: 412-621-1988; 24/7 Help Line: 1-800-550-4900.

Birthright needs your prayers, involvement and financial support. We are interdenominational, nonprofit and nonpolitical. Free services. Dedicated volunteers confidentially provide alternatives to abortion.

**Our greatest need:** Join our Volunteer Team! We would like to staff our office from 9:00am until 7:00pm, five to six days a week so that we can be available to meet the needs of clients at convenient times for them; although our hotline takes calls 24/7. We hope to have our walk-in services available more frequently.

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

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





# Ministries & Societies

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

A new, temporary program designed to assist people with delinquent water and sewage bills has recently begun accepting applications. Funded with \$42.3 million from the American Rescue Plan, the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) provides qualifying households with one grant for delinquent water charges and one for delinquent sewage charges, up to \$2,500 each. The grants are available to both renters and homeowners. The household income limits are as follows: \$19,320/year for one person, \$26,130/year for two people, \$32,930/year for three people and \$39,750/year for four people. For more information, or to apply, visit [www.dhs.pa.gov/waterhelp](http://www.dhs.pa.gov/waterhelp) or call 877-395-8930. Please pass this information along to your friends and neighbors who might be in need of assistance with their water and/or sewage arrears.

A federal government regulation restricting the ability of mortgage companies to foreclose on borrowers with federally-guaranteed or federally-insured mortgages who became delinquent during the Covid pandemic expired at the end of 2021. If you have fallen behind in mortgage payments, even if you were on a lender-approved Covid forbearance, you must contact your mortgage company immediately and inquire about your loan modification options in order to avoid foreclosure. Many people who took advantage of Covid forbearance plans mistakenly believe that the mortgage company can automatically “move” missed mortgage payments to the end of the loan term, but this is not correct. You must apply for and be approved for a loan modification in order to bring your mortgage current if you do not have the ability to do so in a lump sum or over a very short period of time.

This week, your generous donations enabled us to provide a single mother with a bus pass and clothing

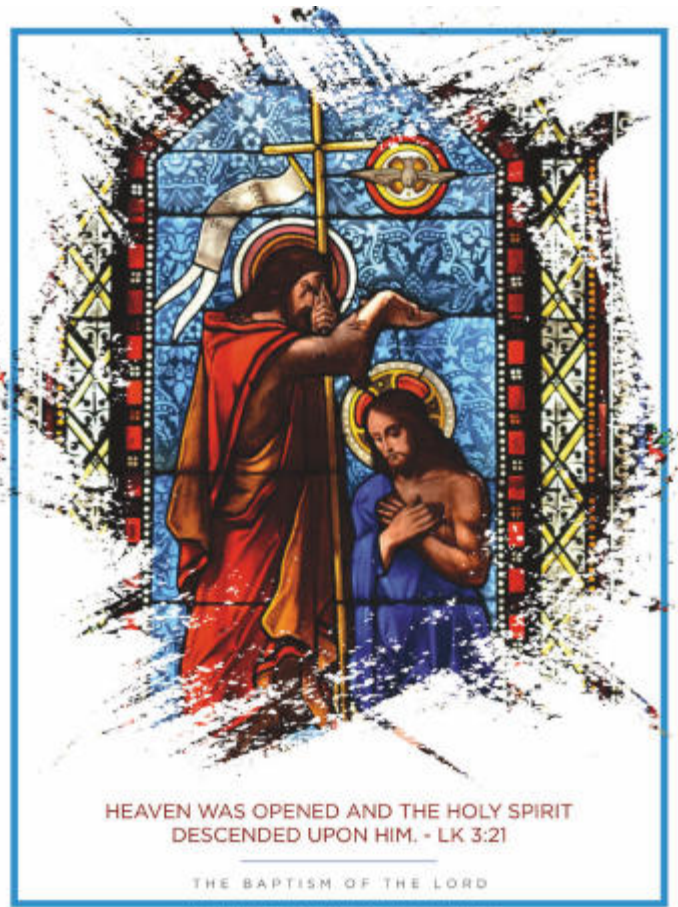
vouchers for herself and her two children, and we donated \$1,000 to the Saint Vincent de Paul USA Disaster Services Corporation ([www.svdpdisaster.org](http://www.svdpdisaster.org)) to aid the victims of devastating tornadoes in the Midwest.

If you would like to make a monetary donation or a donation of \$10 Giant Eagle gift cards, place your donation in one of the poor boxes, mail them to the parish office at 114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205, or donate at <https://saintphilipchurch.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/StVincentdePaul>. 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, call or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email us at [svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com](mailto:svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com). If you would like to donate clothing, shoes or accessories, please place your donation in the blue bins in front of the Hope House at St. Philip or in the rear parking lot at Ascension, or you can call, text or email us to arrange a pickup if you are unable to transport them yourself. Please do not place any other items in those bins or leave anything outside of them because they will be thrown away. If you are looking to purchase new or gently-used clothing, housewares or furniture, please shop at the St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores and visit our online store at [eshoppittsburgh.com](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, 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).





## LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus stood in line with everyone else and was baptized. There is something incredibly humbling about how this must have played out. Then, God did something truly awesome and inspiring. Through a very gentle and simple action he let the world know about the special relationship He shares with Jesus. That's exactly what is so incredible about our baptisms as well! Through those holy waters God announces to the world the special place we also occupy in His heart. We no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. We do not need to fumble around, tripping over ourselves and wondering why we are even here. The answer has been given. All we have to do is live out the vocation we have received, to live the Gospel in fidelity to our Creator. There is nothing to fear and worry has no place. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor and God is very pleased.

# 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):

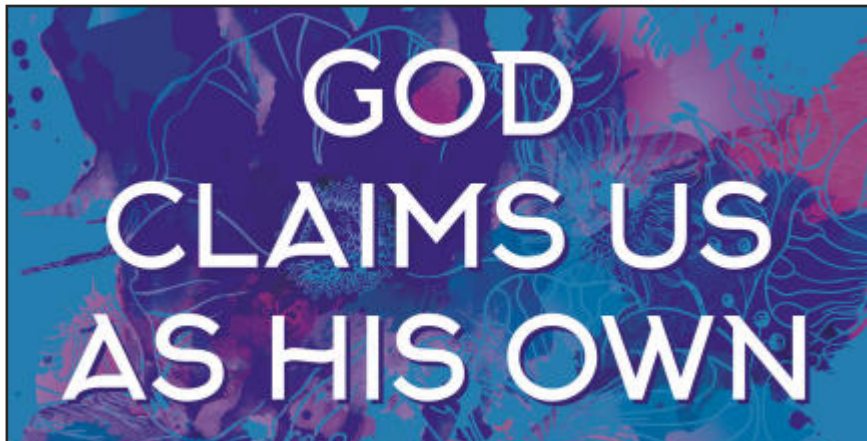
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## GOSPEL MEDITATION: ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

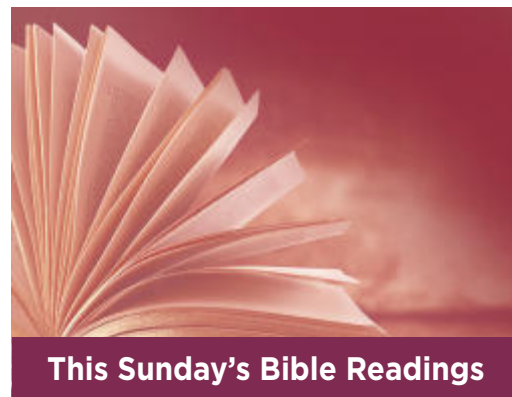


*"We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ."*  
— Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.



**FIRST READING:**  
*Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together; for the  
mouth of the LORD has spoken. (40:5)*



**PSALM:**  
*O bless the Lord, my soul. (Ps 104)*



**SECOND READING:**  
*He saved us through the bath of rebirth  
and renewal by the Holy Spirit. (Ti 3:5)*



**GOSPEL:**  
*After all the people had been baptized  
and Jesus also had been baptized and was  
praying, heaven was opened and the Holy  
Spirit descended upon him in bodily form  
like a dove. (Lk 3:22)*

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smile can do." - Mother Teresa

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