



Saint Philip Catholic Parish

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

WEEK OF JANUARY 23, 2022

Download the bulletin at www.parishesonline.com

OFFICE HOURS:

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

PASTORAL STAFF

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

PRIESTS IN RESIDENCE

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Robert Bertocchi, Frank Bey,
Patricia Cygrymus, Barbara Hendrick,
Joseph Hoover, Dolores Leone, Martin
Matko, Patricia McDermott (Co-Chair),
Katie Phillips, David Pilarski (Co-Chair),
Mary Schubert and Richard Schubert.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

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

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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

Saint Philip Office (412) 922-6300
Faith Formation Office (412) 922-6388
Society of SVdeP (412) 444-8140
Guardian Angel Academy (412) 922-4765



3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

Available 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, JANUARY 22 — DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF			
PRE-BORN CHILDREN			
Ascension	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
Saint Philip	4:00pm (V)	Angela & Victor Mancini	Mancini Family
Ascension	5:30pm (V)	John Rodgers	Edward & Joan Nock
SUNDAY, JANUARY 23 — THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Mike Suehr	Rago Family
Ascension	9:30am	Margaret Butter	Randy & Kathi Butter
Saint Philip	11:00am	Rose & Joe Givvin	Givvin Family
MONDAY, JANUARY 24 — SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES, BISHOP & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Well-Being of Val Shrieve	Caitlin Rodocker, Friends & Family
TUESDAY, JANUARY 25 — CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL, APOSTLE			
Ascension	8:00am	Helen Zak & Chuck Wilde	Rose
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26 — SAINTS TIMOTHY AND TITUS, BISHOPS			
Saint Philip	8:00am	John & Minnie Guay	John & Eileen Guay
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27 — WEEKDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	Hazel Knight	Annette Marlinga
FRIDAY, JANUARY 28 — ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of the Ambrozic Family	Family
SATURDAY, JANUARY 29 — WEEKDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
Saint Philip	4:00pm (V)	Marie & Bill Reif	Sue & Mike Rust
Ascension	5:30pm (V)	Mulkerrin Family	Jim & Rosemary
SUNDAY, JANUARY 30 — FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
St. Philip	7:00am	Jannielle Van Suren	Ron & Jane Benedetti
Ascension	9:30am	Ray Killmeyer	Ray & Dianne
St. Philip	11:00am	Terry Keeley	Pat Keeley

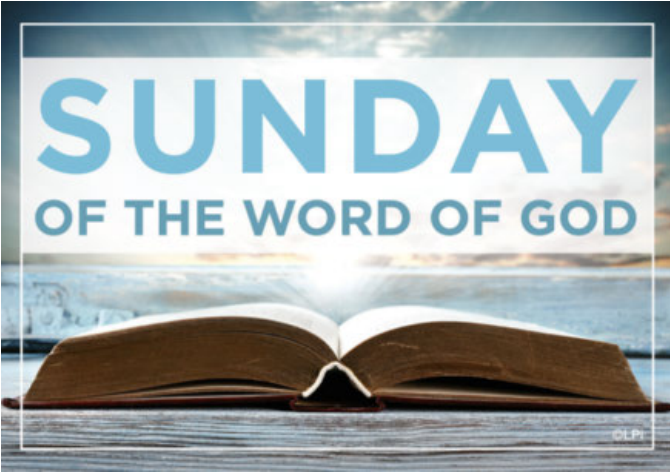


Saint Philip Parish is on Facebook! Follow us today to learn about upcoming events and happenings.



Notes from the Pastor

Greetings once again, and best wishes for a very good week and a blessed 2022!



Today's Word of God Sunday

Three years ago, Pope Francis declared the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time to now be “Word of God Sunday” to remind us of the importance of the Bible in our Catholic Christian faith, in our Sacred Liturgy and prayer, and in our daily living!

In recent weeks, I reminded everyone that the Bible is one of the three foundations of our faith (again, they are known as “S.T.M.” - the Scriptures in the Bible, the Apostolic Tradition, and the Official Magisterium - *the Official Teachings.*) Also, in every Sunday and weekday Liturgy, we read from the books of the Old Testament AND the New Testament - especially from the Four Gospels of Jesus’ life and teachings which are the most important writings in the Bible (*that’s why we stand in church to listen to the Gospel Reading.*) Likewise, reading the Bible (*the Word of God*) is highly recommended for our daily reading and for our time in prayer.

This Sunday’s Bible readings in the Liturgy show us the use of the Bible (*the Scriptures*) in the life of

Israel and in the life of Jesus and the early Church. The people of Israel (*our ancestors in the faith*) and Jesus and his disciples read the Jewish Scriptures (*what we traditionally call the Old Testament*) in their Saturday synagogue prayer and in their daily religious practice. The Jewish Scripture readings were composed over many centuries. They give to us the story of God’s choice of Israel to be his people. The Jewish Scriptures also point Israel toward the promised Messiah (*Jesus*) who would come to them to restore Israel and create a new the people of God.

The Gospels and writings of the New Testament were composed in the first generations of the Catholic Church. The Church was already alive and growing and teaching our faith in Jesus and his death and Resurrection for years. In time, the Apostles knew that it would be important to record the story of Jesus which they had been sharing verbally and preaching for years. The writings that were inspired by the Holy Spirit and then written and circulated eventually became the New Testament. We believe that the writings of both the Old Testament and the New Testament were truly inspired by Almighty God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and so we call these writings the “Word of God.”

Again, the Bible is so essential to our Catholic Christian faith that it is one of the Three Pillars of Christianity. The Bible is read in each of our Liturgies throughout the year. The Bible is essential to our own daily prayer. Just as Jesus read and honored the Word of God in the Jewish Scriptures, may we too honor and read all the writings in the Bible - especially all the writings about the Lord Jesus. This week, please find your Bible, open it, and read the Gospels. Then read the Acts of the Apostles, the New Testament letters, and the Old Testament. You and your faith (*and your family*) will benefit from the Word of God being important in your life and in your home every day!

This Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was established more than a century ago to further the effort to reunite all Christians. This important week is observed each year during the third week of January - concluding with the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle on January 25. However,

because it follows only a few weeks after the conclusion of the Christmas Season - and because this is our winter hibernation and illness season - the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity doesn't receive the attention that it should. *(If the week were moved to the middle of the year, perhaps it would be celebrated with more energy and events.)*

Ecumenism - or the effort to reunite all Christians - is an important service to the Lord Jesus and to the Lord's disciples. As you may remember, the division between Catholics and Eastern Orthodox occurred in the eleventh century A.D., and the numerous Christian divisions within Europe were created in the sixteenth century A.D. As we all know, it's difficult to repair and heal fractures. However, for the spread of the Lord's Gospel and the growth of the Kingdom, it's important for members of the Lord's Catholic Church to work and pray for Christian unity here and throughout the world. May we respect all members and shepherds of the Catholic Church as well as those of other Christian communities, and may we join together in praying for and promoting unity among all the Lord Jesus' disciples!

Remaining healthy and well

As we continue this the third year of the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic, please remember to protect yourself, your health, and your family during these winter months when illnesses occur much more frequently.

Thank you for receiving a Covid vaccination and a booster vaccination. Thank you for wearing a full face mask when appropriate and wise. Thank you for sanitizing and distancing. Please be mindful of current safety measures as we all try to mitigate and survive this ongoing health crisis. May the good Lord protect you and all of us, and may we all have a healthy and safe 2022!

Best wishes for a blessed 2022!

Best wishes for a very good and healthy NewYear 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

ST. PHILIP PARISH



This coming Lent, our parish will host a modified Fish Fry program for our members and families and community. We're making plans to offer Pick Up Fish Dinners at Conner Hall of Ascension Church during the evenings of Ash Wednesday (March 2) and the Fridays of Lent. Orders will be accepted before each event and also taken on those evenings. The hall will NOT be open for dining due to Covid concerns, but our delicious meals will still be available to take home.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To make our 2022 Fish Fry program a success, we need your help as a volunteer - especially with 1.) work in the kitchen, and 2.) cleanup work after each event. Perhaps your entire family can volunteer together!

Please complete the form on page 13, and send it to the parish office - or place it in the weekend collection. Your help is needed and greatly appreciated as we provide these Lenten meals and conduct this annual parish fundraiser!



BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 23

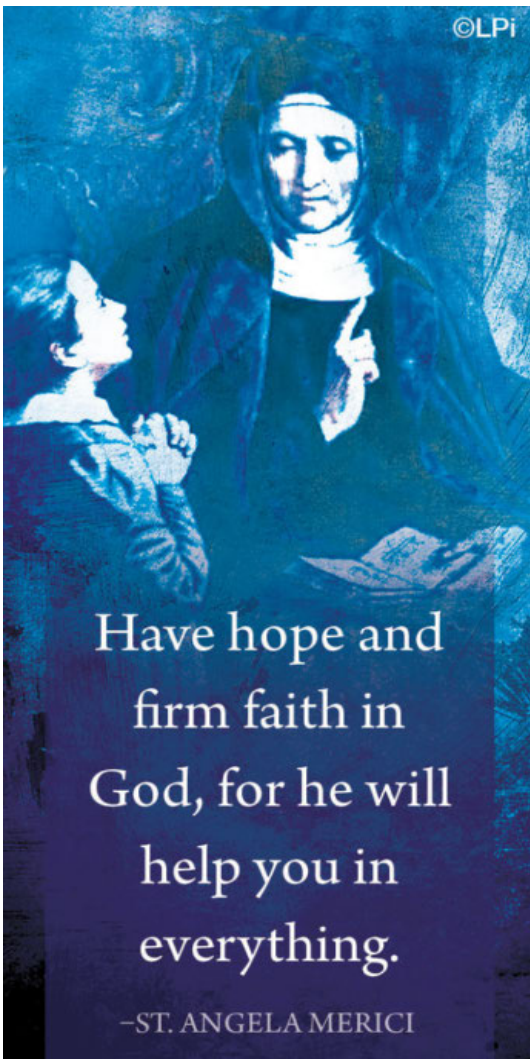
Nehemiah 8:2-10;
1 Corinthians 12:12-30;
Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Weekdays

2 Samuel 5-12;
Mark 3-4

Sunday, January 30

Jeremiah 1:4-19;
1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13;
Luke 4:21-30



Have hope and firm faith in God, for he will help you in everything.

-ST. ANGELA MERICI

FINANCIAL REPORT OUR SAINT PHILIP PARISH FINANCES



Sunday collection total, **January 15-16, 2022** -- Not available
Online donations last week -- \$2,693.00

Parish income needed for this Fiscal Year -- \$724,000.00
Parish income received since July 1, 2021 -- \$305,964.46
Parish fundraising since July 1, 2021 -- \$17,463.52
Estate gifts received since July 1, 2021 -- \$15,000.00

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 -- \$1,630.32

Parish members -- 3,463 Parish families -- 1,719
Church attendance on **January 15-16** -- 536
Sunday envelopes used -- Not available
Online contributions last week -- 37
Total households receiving envelopes -- 1,151

THE GLOBAL SYNOD: LISTENING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT TOGETHER



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

Christians are called to community, not isolation. We are called to serve God as one body with many parts. One way we serve God is by listening to one another about how to we can carry out the continuing mission of the Church. Pope Francis has asked us to dream of better ways for Christians across the globe to listen together to hear the prompting of the Holy Spirit as He is calling us here and now. These synodal sessions will be held across our diocese in early 2022. For more information text "Synod2021" to 84576 and go to 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!



Parish News



MINISTRY SCHEDULE

LECTORS - January 29 & 30

- 4:00pm at St. Philip - Gregory Healy
- 5:30pm at Ascension - Grace Berard
- 7:00am at St. Philip - Beth Ayres
- 9:30am at Ascension - Francis Sullen
- 11:00am at St. Philip - Joe Allen

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - January 29 & 30

- 4:00pm at St. Philip - David Sammel
- 5:30pm at Ascension - Carroll Gorman
- 7:00am at St. Philip - Dorothy Kraemer
- 9:30am at Ascension - Debby Sullen
- 11:00am at St. Philip - Maribeth Cringle

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please keep in mind that the bulletin deadline is 12:00pm Friday for the following Sunday's bulletin.

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.

SALVATION HISTORY

Our Salvation History group will resume on **Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 7:00pm** in the upstairs Meeting room in the Administration Building. We will continue our discussion of the Patriarchs. All are welcome.

Join Us
LENTEN FISH FRY!
See page 13 for Volunteer Opportunities!

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 _____

Send by Postal Service to:

Address _____



"My kids will be so excited to open their gifts. Thank you for giving us something to look forward to this year."
- Survivor

Because of your incredible generosity, **WC&S's Adopt-A-Family program** provided **\$51,600 in gift cards** to **1,032 survivors and their children** this holiday season. **Thank you!**



Dear friends of St. Philip Parish,

"To know you set aside time and resources to make us feel like we aren't alone is an absolutely beautiful gift."

The holidays can be a stressful time, especially for those experiencing domestic violence (DV) and their children. The financial uncertainty caused by the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the dynamics of DV have made it even more difficult. However, because of friends like you, this time of year has been made brighter and more joyful. It is so empowering for survivors to be able to shop for their children, choose the perfect presents, and enjoy a peaceful holiday with their family. It is a truly priceless gift.

That's why we can't thank you enough for your donation of \$360 in gift cards to WC&S' 2021 Adopt-A-Family program. For the past decade, donors like you have been making holiday dreams a reality for survivors of domestic violence and their children. Last year, an incredible 965 individuals received gift cards through the Adopt-A-Family program. This year, we expect the need to be just as great as we strive to provide critical holiday support to the brave survivors served through our many programs and services.

Thanks to you, we anticipate being able to fulfill the many requests we receive from those we serve and provide a holiday season to remember. Your generosity and commitment to these families will always be with them. On behalf of everyone at WC&S, thank you! We wish you and your family a safe holiday season.

Warmly,

Nicole Molinaro
President/CEO



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

Connect with FLOCKNOTE!



To register, contact our parish office, OR text **stphilippa** to **84576**, OR visit www.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 Pat & Bob Doherty
Offered by Chris Bloom

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at **Ascension** burns
In Loving Memory of Jean M. Damits
Offered by Roy Fischer Family



MCCHESNEY LUECK ROOFING, LLC

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

A NOTE FROM MARYANN: *Let's See What Love Can Do.* This quote from St. Francis de Sales is our guide as we begin 2022 at St. Philip. For the next few weeks, COVID guidelines from the Diocese call us to be cautious and careful in ministry. As we exercise caution, we will continue the celebration of Daily and Sunday Masses. We will continue to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. We will continue to share the faith with our children. We will continue to baptize and welcome new members into the faith. Although our family Valentine gathering is on hold, we will celebrate the day with families in another way.

AS WE SHARE GOD'S LOVE, WE CONTINUE TO PLAN THE FOLLOWING:

- A Parish meeting to respond to Pope Francis Invitation to discern the Church's path forward. More information to come.
- Our *Mardi Gras Free Pancake Dinner Celebration* is scheduled for **Monday, February 28**. Call 412-922-6388 for reservations.
- Our *Coffee, Tea and Community Prayer Breakfast* is **February 10** from 8:30am to 10:00am. Call 412-922-6388 for reservations.
- We will have a *ChristLife Leadership Training* the weekend of **February 18**.
- *Lenten Fish Fry Opportunities*. See the bulletin for details.
- Our *Soup, Salad and Speaker Series* is scheduled for each Wednesday in Lent **beginning March 9** from 6:15pm to 8:15pm. Call 412-922-6388 to attend.
- *Lenten Prayer Experience Opportunities*
- In the Spring, we plan our annual *Family Easter Egg Hunt*.
- Our *Parish Mission* will be held the week of **April 24**.

These are just a few things, we will share as a Parish. So, plan to join us as we gather together in Love and *Let's See What Love Can Do*.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS: Due to restriction within the next few weeks, our *Family Valentine Day Gathering* in Conner Hall has been cancelled. Faith Formation students will create Valentines for their families. Students will review and practice the Corporal Works of Mercy. Families will also receive a box of special desserts at Faith Formation on February 14 to share with their family.

BAPTISMS: 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.



COFFEE, TEA, AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST: Our next breakfast is scheduled for **February 10** in Ascension Conner Hall. 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 Ourselves and How to Avoid Falls and Accidents*. Join us. Call the Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388 for reservations. All are welcome! Come and bring a friend.

RCIA CONTINUES EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING: If you would like to know more about the Catholic Faith, if you were baptized in another faith and would like to consider joining the Catholic Church or if you are an adult and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, join us **each Wednesday evening from 6:30pm to 7:30pm**. Call MaryAnn at 412-922-6388 for more information.

MARDI GRAS IS COMING! Monday, February 28, St. Philip Parish will sponsor a free Pancake supper from **5:30pm to 7:30pm** 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. For reservations, call the Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388.

SSS is coming! Watch this space. Our *Soup, Salad and Speaker Series* is coming March 9, 2022.

SAVE THE DATE! Our *Parish Mission* with Father Joe Freedy is coming the week of **April 24**. Make plans to be with us each evening. Child Care will be available. Live the Easter Message in Your Life and make this Lent/Easter Season the best ever.



St. Philip Parish
Celebrates

MARDI GRAS



Monday, February 28, 2022
5:30pm to 7:30pm

Ascension Conner Hall: 114 Berry Street

Free Pancake Supper, Music,
Desserts & Kings Cake. Come join us
for family fun - *All ages welcome!*

For reservations, either call the Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388, or complete the form below and return it to the Parish Office.

Name:

Telephone:

Email:

No. of Adults: _____

No. of Children: _____

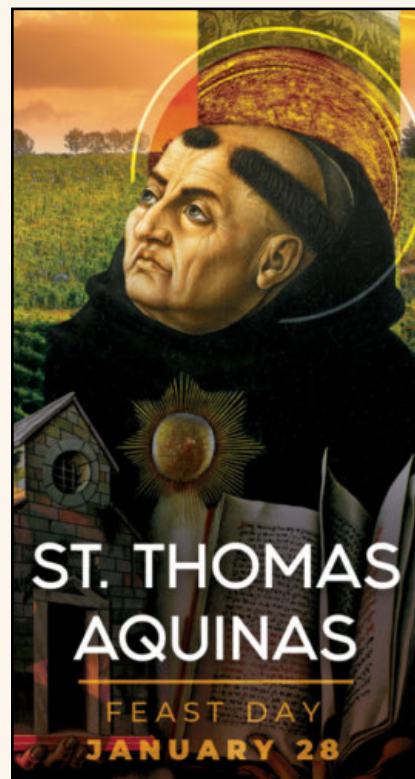
Family Faith Formation

Ideas and information for the family to share.

MISSION: Look up Isaiah chapter 61 and read it with your family. Then read Luke 4:14-21. Jesus kept all of those promises!

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

SPIRIT	FREEDOM	LORD
CHOSEN	SIGHT	JESUS
POOR	SUFFERS	TRUE



One of the most famous members of the Dominican Order, St. Thomas Aquinas (1225 - 1274) is well-known by many for his theological work, "The Summa Theologiae." Born in Italy, his mother wanted him to become a Benedictine and had high hopes that he would eventually become abbot of Monte Cassino, where he spent much of his youth. To change his vocation, she had him kidnapped by his brothers on his way to Paris at the age of 19. He spent two years in their captivity. Despite this, nothing could shake him from his vocation to become a Dominican priest and he was eventually released. Once free, he went to Paris and then to Cologne, where he finished his studies with Albert the Great.

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony, and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, encompasses his writings. The Summa Theologiae, his last and, unfortunately, uncompleted work, deals with the whole of Catholic theology.

The patron saint of teachers, theologians and students, St. Thomas Aquinas died in 1274. His life and the impact he had on the whole Church, however, remains alive today.



Our newly merged regional school is almost through their first year! Saint Philip Parish families are welcome to learn more about Guardian Angel Academy. Applications are now being accepted for the 2022-23 school year.

To learn more, please contact Guardian Angel Academy this week at 412-922-4765.



Around the Diocese and Community

PRE-CANA CLASS

St. Paul of the Cross Parish (Castle Shannon/Mt. Lebanon) will be hosting Pre-Cana marriage preparation on Saturday, March 5 from 9:00am to 5:00pm on the campus of St. Anne's Church. Six hours of preliminary preparation using FORMED is required prior to attending. Registration information can be found <https://forms.gle/xKQ9NyEVjUrytPXA6>. For more information, please contact Don Fontana, dfontana@stpaulofthecross.com.

ADDICTION RECOVERY MINISTRY (A.R.M.)

2599 Freeport Rd., Pittsburgh 15238 | 412-378-9290
Bringing hope and healing to those suffering from a substance use disorder and those who love them.

Spiritual Enrichment

Mass: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday at noon in St. Francis of Assisi Church, 2599 Freeport Rd., Pittsburgh 15238

CALIX Meeting - 2nd Sunday of the month from 2:45pm to 3:45pm in St. Francis Church.

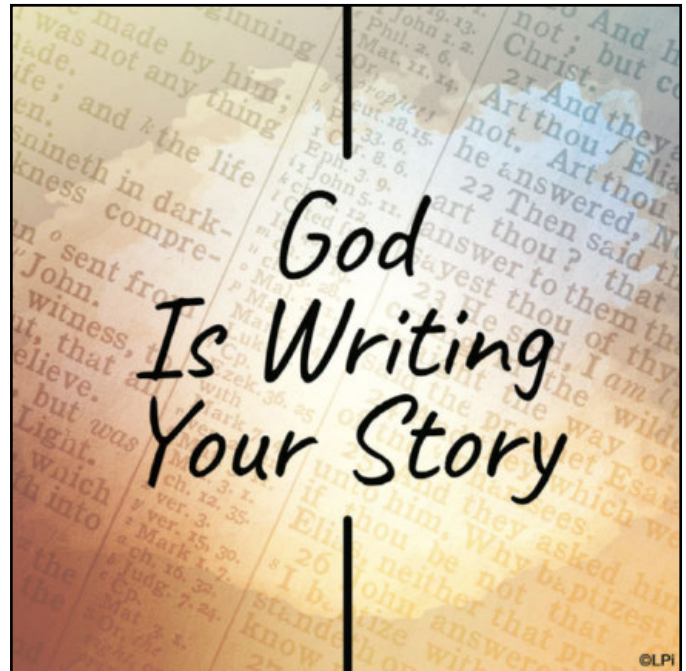
Anointing Mass - Sunday, February 27 at 3:00pm in St. Francis Church for those suffering a substance abuse disorder, their loved ones and those in recovery.

Support

12-Step Meeting - every Wednesday at 6:30pm in St. Francis Hall, 2599 Freeport Rd., Pittsburgh 15238. Also meetings in Sharpsburg at the JPI Center, 201 9th Street, NA - Mondays at 7:00pm, Wednesdays at 8:00pm, Sundays at 7:00pm.

NARANON - Tuesdays at 7:30pm

ALANON - Mondays at 7:30pm



Grief Support - every Tuesday from May 24 through July 5 at 7:00pm in St. Francis Hall.

Six Steps to SANITY - every Tuesday from February 22 through May 10 at 7:00pm in St. Francis Hall.

Enrichment

A brief presentation given by Fr. Michael Decewicz on issues surrounding addiction and recovery every Monday at 1:00pm on our Facebook page and YouTube channel @ Addiction Recovery Ministry Pittsburgh, or visit us on our website, www.addictionrecoveryministrypittsburgh.org.

7:00pm - 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00pm in St. Francis Church, also on Facebook (live streaming) and on our website and YouTube Channel.

Social/Fundraisers

Virtual and Live Bingo - Sunday, February 20 at 2:00pm in St. Francis Hall or through a ZOOM feed. Tickets are \$25 per person for 20 games.

St. Patrick Celebration with dinner and Irish music on Sunday, February 27. Doors open at 4:30pm; Dinner at 5:30pm. Music, dancing and basket raffle follows. Tickets are \$50 per person (only 50 tickets will be sold).



Ministries & Societies

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

For the 2020 tax year, the average federal income tax refund was \$2,827 (CNBC: <https://cnb.cx/3jByd9y>). Many people count on their tax refund each year, as it is the one time a year that they will have access to a lump sum of money that can be used for a rainy day fund, vehicle repairs, home repairs, real estate tax payments, or other extraordinary expenses. Those who are anxiously awaiting their tax refund can now get the process started by filing their 2021 federal tax return.

The IRS started accepting returns for filers with income of \$73,000 or less on January 14, and will start accepting returns from all other filers on January 24. Filers with income of less than \$73,000 can take advantage of the Free File program, which allows qualifying filers to utilize online tax preparation software and file their return electronically for free. Visit www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free for more information.

People who received advance child tax credit payments in 2021 have already or will soon be receiving Letter 6419 from the IRS, which states how much of the child tax credit was paid in advance. Recipients need to retain this letter, as this information is necessary when preparing your 2021 tax return to determine how much child tax credit you are entitled to receive as part of your 2021 tax refund.

The IRS estimates that it will be able to issue most refunds in 21 days or less, but if your return needs to be reviewed for inaccuracies, or if you file by mail instead of electronically, your refund will likely take longer. If you are anxiously awaiting your refund money, you should file your return early - and you

can monitor the status of your return by utilizing the "Where's My Refund?" tool on the IRS website at www.irs.gov/refunds.

This week, your generous donations enabled us to provide a family with \$50 in Giant Eagle gift cards, a \$50 household goods voucher for use at one of our thrift stores, and various furniture items; and a woman raising her grandchildren was given \$354 toward utilities, various furniture items, and will be added to our food pantry's monthly delivery list. Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need!

If you would like to make a monetary donation or a \$10 Giant Eagle gift card donation, place your gift in one of the poor boxes, mail them to the parish office at 114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205, or visit <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. 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, call or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com.

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 _____



**Come join us in volunteering.
You will make a difference!**

**Yes! I would like to volunteer for the 2022
St. Philip Parish Fish Fry at Ascension Church.**

New volunteers please check box.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please check how you would like to help.

Kitchen Help Cleanup Help

**All volunteers, please fill out this form.
New volunteers will receive a call.**

Protecting God's Children Class & Clearances are necessary.

Please place form in the collection basket or mail to the Parish Office at 114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh PA 15205.

— GOSPEL MEDITATION —

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Human history reveals many periods where people lost a sense of God's transcendence. It may even be argued that human beings have been wandering and lost more than they have been at home and focused. Human nature being what it is, we struggle with who God really is — the God of our salvation history or the "gods" of human constructs. Relying on our own designs and pursuits, we forget that we really are meant to listen to One upon whom the Spirit of the Lord rests, Jesus Christ, and not to ourselves. That same history that reveals our fickleness and infidelity also reveals God's constancy and faithfulness. God always finds us.

As people wander and fumble to find their way, God is there bringing them back to holiness and giving them the assurance of His presence. We have to allow God's Word, God's life, to touch

us and change us. It can make us more flexible and attentive to the sacred in all facets of life so that every day is one that is holy. Every day is a time when fulfillment is possible for one's soul. Jesus stood before those gathered in the synagogue as the fulfillment of words of promise that were echoed long ago. God doesn't forget. He always comes for us.

Now it is time to remember to go to God. Sometimes our lives are so confused and tangled that it is difficult to see the Word and hand of God. But when we realize, deep within, the depth of friendship God offers to us it really has the power to turn sadness to joy. The promise is fulfilled. Going frequently to God's Word, allowing ourselves to be enriched and rejuvenated, and pondering the certainty of God's fidelity and promise permanently transforms us. We will be more aware of the sacred and the holy and less invested in things that pull us away.



This Sunday's Bible Readings

FIRST READING:

Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read. (Neh 8:8)



PSALM:

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life. (Ps 19)



SECOND READING:

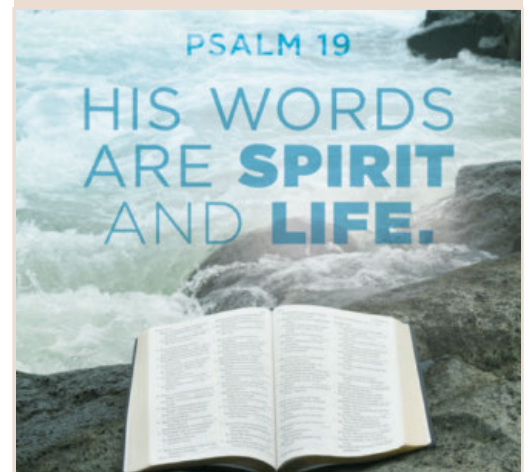
For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. (1 Cor 12:12)



GOSPEL:

He said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." (Lk 1:21)

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