



# Saint Philip Catholic Parish

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

**WEEK OF JANUARY 30, 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.

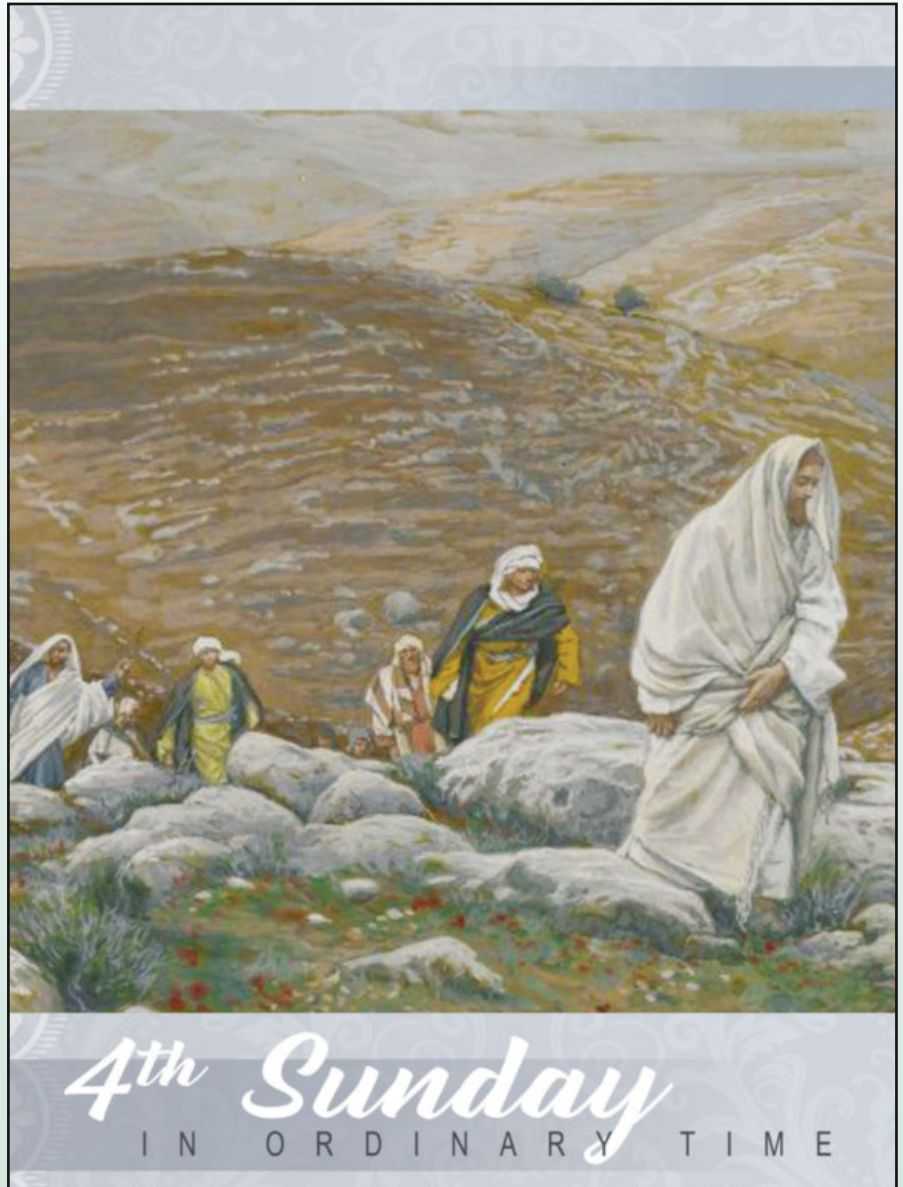
**PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL**

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

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
<b>SATURDAY, JANUARY 29 — WEEKDAY</b>			
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
<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 30 — FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Jannielle Van Suren	Ron & Jane Benedetti
Ascension	9:30am	Ray Killmeyer	Ray & Dianne
Saint Philip	11:00am	Terry Keeley	Pat Keeley
<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 31 — SAINT JOHN BOSCO, PRIEST AND RELIGIOUS FOUNDER</b>			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Jackie Andrascik	A Friend
<b>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1 — WEEKDAY</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	Nancy Von Vreckin	Hooks & Needles Craft Group
<b>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 — THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</b>			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Margaret Pazzula	Claire Megyesy
<b>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3 — SAINT BLAISE, BISHOP AND MARTYR</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	Marion & Will Lugaila	Family
<b>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4 — WEEKDAY</b>			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Irene Schubert	Mary Kedzierski & Donna Copfer
<b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5 — SAINT AGATHA, VIRGIN AND MARTYR</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
Saint Philip	4:00pm (V)	Dorothy McDonald	McDonald Family
Ascension	5:30pm (V)	Marty Martini	Donna & Family
<b>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6 — FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Joseph & Louise Rago	Family
Ascension	9:30am	Florence & Margaret Ley	Blair Family
Saint Philip	11:00am	Francis Anthony Leone	Sister, Michelle Leone

**DID YOU KNOW?**



*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!

## A Sunday Reflection

**Last Sunday, we heard the from early days of Jesus' public ministry.** In the synagogue, He announced that He is the one anointed by the Spirit of God who was sent to bring healing and salvation to the world. Today, we hear the episode that followed when Jesus' listeners turned against Him and tried to eliminate Him because He made remarks about their disbelief and their opposition to Him and His good news.

**For all who have been and still are disciples of the Lord Jesus,** it's difficult to understand why anyone would be opposed to Him and His message. As Catholic Christians, we believe in Jesus and appreciate His message, His healing power, His teaching, and His death on the cross and His Resurrection. We acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, and the Savior of humanity. We see Jesus as the Light of the World who's leading us to eternal life in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Yet, even today - 20 centuries since Jesus' ministry on earth - there are many individuals who reject Jesus and His Gospel.** There are also many other individuals who simply don't care about Jesus and all that He means to humanity and to our life and society today. All too often, those who reject Jesus and those who ignore Him are actually baptized Catholic Christians and Christians of other communities. Sadly, many weren't raised well in the Faith and didn't participate in the Sunday Liturgy - and so, their lives are devoid of religious practice and belief.

**Despite the large number of people in our world, our nation, and our communities** who are currently separated from the Lord, it is good and important that

we continue to place our faith in Jesus and to live every day as His people in the Holy Catholic Church. It's important for us to gather in the Liturgy every Sunday (or Saturday evening) to profess our faith, to give thanks to God, to renew our spiritual lives through the Bible and the Eucharist, and to support each other as Catholic Christians!

**It can be discouraging** to see how many Church members and families (and others) simply don't care about Jesus and Christianity and the Church, but let us appreciate how many Christians in our own community and throughout the world continue to be faithful believers and disciples. Let's continue to celebrate how important Jesus is to us. Let's remain dedicated to the Lord and His way. Finally, let's renew our hope and trust in the divine love and salvation that Jesus gives and promises to all of us who are and who remain His faithful people!

## What it means to be "Catholic"

I very much appreciate the times when a parish member - or anyone - asks me to explain some aspect of our faith. Last month, I was asked the question "What do we mean by the name 'Catholic'?"

In the first generations of the Lord's community (the Church), our ancestors who were becoming followers of the Risen Christ came to be called "Christians". This is still the name that we receive and proclaim even today.

During later generations, small groups of Christians were becoming very exclusive and were pursuing their own versions of the Christian faith. They often excluded the poor and uneducated and outcast. They typically considered themselves to be much better than the average member of the Lord's Church. These groups were hostile to the Apostolic Church and its leaders and caused many difficulties and upset through the early centuries.

As a result, in order to distinguish faithful Church members from those who created small, exclusive groups (those who came to be called 'heretics'), the Church began teaching that true disciples belong to a "Catholic Church" - an inclusive Church of Christ that does not exclude anyone and which seeks to share the

Good News and the grace of the Lord with all people everywhere.

Today, we often hear the name “Catholic Christians” as a reminder that we are indeed Christians baptized into Christ Jesus - and that we belong to the one Catholic Church (universal, inclusive, open to all) established by Jesus upon the foundation of Peter and the Apostles which welcomes all people and seeks to share salvation with all who believe and live in Jesus the Lord.

#### Remaining healthy and well

As we enter into the third year of this worldwide Covid-19 pandemic, please remember to protect yourself, your health, and your family during these winter months when illnesses are much more common and prevalent. We all wish this pandemic were finished, but as we hear in the media, this is not yet the situation.

Thank you for receiving a Covid vaccination and a booster vaccination. Thank you for wearing a full face mask when appropriate and wise (especially when you're at the church). 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. Thank you, too, for your patience and your understanding of these safety measures as we move through these winter months.

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 February and 2022!

#### **Best wishes for a very good and healthy 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!

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



Your goodness and participation help to keep our parish alive!



# BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

## Sunday, January 30

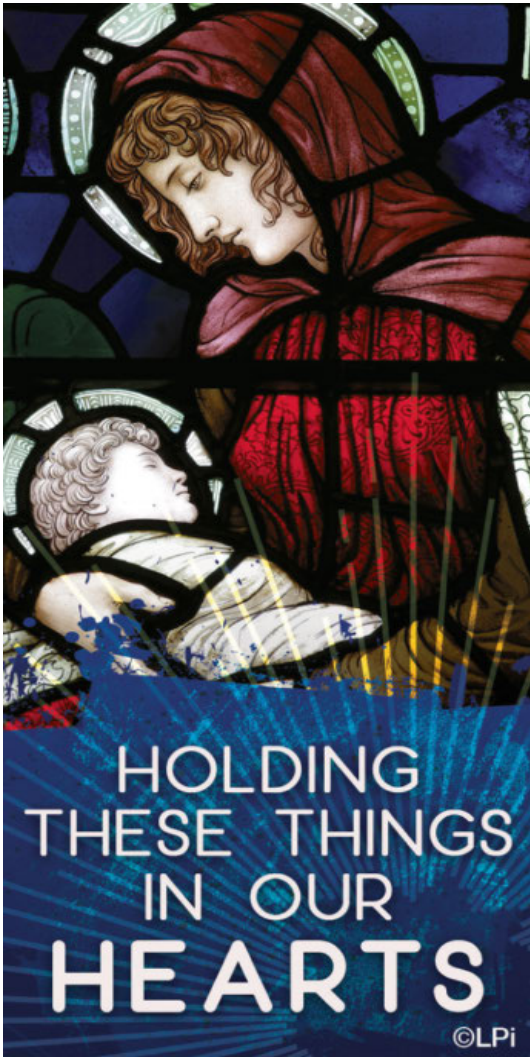
Jeremiah 1:4-19;  
1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13;  
Luke 4:21-30

## Weekdays

2 Samuel 15-18;  
Mark 5-6

## Sunday, February 6

Isaiah 6:1-8;  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11;  
Luke 5:1-11



# FINANCIAL REPORT OUR SAINT PHILIP PARISH FINANCES

Sunday collection total, <b>January 22-23, 2022</b>	-- \$9,089.00
Online donations last week	-- \$985.00
Sunday collection total, <b>January 15-16, 2022</b>	-- \$12,397.50
St. Anthony School Programs & DePaul School for Hearing and Speech Collection	-- \$2,323.00

Parish income needed for this Fiscal Year	-- \$724,000.00
Parish income <u>received</u> since July 1, 2021	-- \$328,435.96
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 <b>January 22-23</b>	-- 493
Sunday envelopes used	-- 204
Online contributions last week	-- 25
Total households receiving envelopes	-- 1,151
Sunday envelopes used, <b>January 15-16</b>	-- 245

## THE GLOBAL SYNOD: WHO ARE YOUR COMPANIONS ON THE ROAD TO HEAVEN?

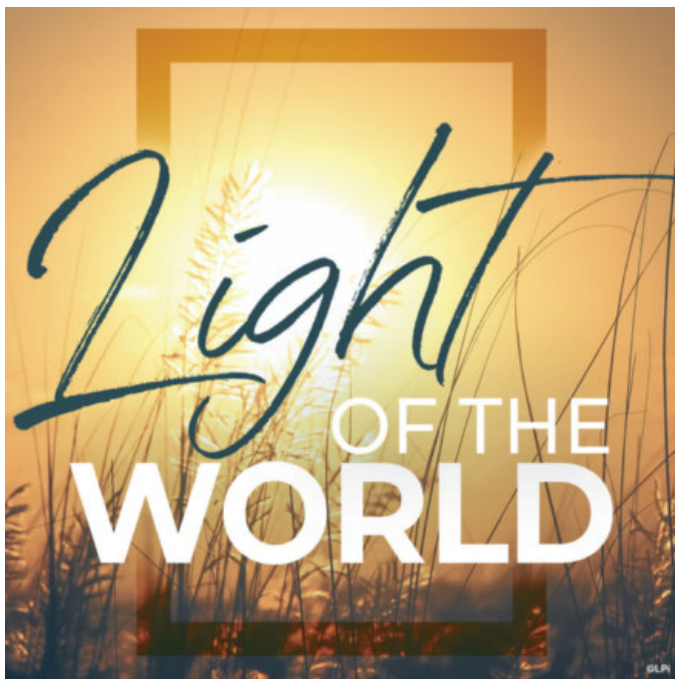
As we reflect on our “journeying together” as the Church, think about your traveling companions on the road to heaven. Who walks together? Who stands on the periphery? Who has been left



behind? Listen to all of them with an open mind and a heart attuned to mercy and reconciliation. Speak what is on your heart in love, free of any desire to dominate. Synodal sessions will be held across the Diocese of Pittsburgh in early 2022. For more information, go to [www.diopitt.org/journeying-together](http://www.diopitt.org/journeying-together) to download your Participant Guide or text “Synod2021” to 84576.



# Parish News



## MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### LECTORS - February 5 & 6

- 4:00pm at St. Philip - Denny Maher
- 5:30pm at Ascension - Grace Berard
- 7:00am at St. Philip - Patrick Kelly
- 9:30am at Ascension - Robert Okraszewski
- 11:00am at St. Philip - B. J. Gamble

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - February 5 & 6

- 4:00pm at St. Philip - Regina McDonald
- 5:30pm at Ascension - Carroll Gorman
- 7:00am at St. Philip - Don Wolbert
- 9:30am at Ascension - Joe Allen
- 11:00am at St. Philip - Kathy Hayes

## BULLETIN DEADLINE

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

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## NEXT WEEKEND - SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a **second collection taken up next weekend, February 5 & 6** to support the ministry and charitable works of our parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society. Your generosity will be very much appreciated.

**Please Note: All checks must be made payable to St. Vincent de Paul Society.**

## FEAST OF SAINT BLAISE, FEBRUARY 3

On **Thursday, February 3**, we will observe the Feast of Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr of the early Church at whose intercession a young boy was saved from choking to death. It has been the custom of the Church to invoke this saint's aid in asking God to protect us from ailments of the throat.

A simple prayer and blessing will be prayed over those present during Mass at 8:00am (Ascension Church), at 12:00 noon (Ascension Church), at 4:00pm (St. Philip Church), and at 7:00pm (Ascension Church).

## SANCTUARY LAMPS

Sanctuary Lamps burn before Our Lord in the Tabernacle and are a wonderful way to remember our loved ones, living and deceased. There are still quite a few Sanctuary Lamps available in 2022. Contact Maureen in the Parish Office if you would like to schedule a date.

## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH SYNOD 2021-2023



Pope Francis wants to hear from everyone about how the Church-the People of God- can help him discern the Holy Spirit's guidance. The Holy Father has described the synod as an opportunity to plant dreams and draw forth visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another, and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, and give strength to our hands.

### ST. PHILIP SYNOD SESSIONS

Wednesday, Feb. 23 @ 7:00pm, Ascension Conner Hall

Thursday, Feb. 24 @ 1:00pm, Ascension Conner Hall

**Synod Opening Prayer:** *We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, Who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.*

### **Synod Prayer from Pope Francis at the Opening of the Synod on Synodality**

*Come, Holy Spirit! You inspire new tongues and place words of life on our lips: keep us from becoming a "museum Church", beautiful but mute, with much past and little future. Come among us, so that in this synodal experience we will not lose our enthusiasm, dilute the power of prophecy, or descend into useless and unproductive discussions. Come, Spirit of love! Open our hearts to hear Your voice. Come, Holy Spirit of holiness! Renew the holy and faithful People of God. Come, Creator spirit! Renew the face of the earth! Amen.*



We offer our sympathy to the family of **Theresa Pastir** 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 Dorothy McDonald*  
Offered by McDonald Family

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at **Ascension** burns  
*In Loving Memory of the Deceased of*  
*St. Philip Parish*

### **ADVERTISER** of the Week

**DENNIS R. JOYCE, ATTORNEY AT LAW**

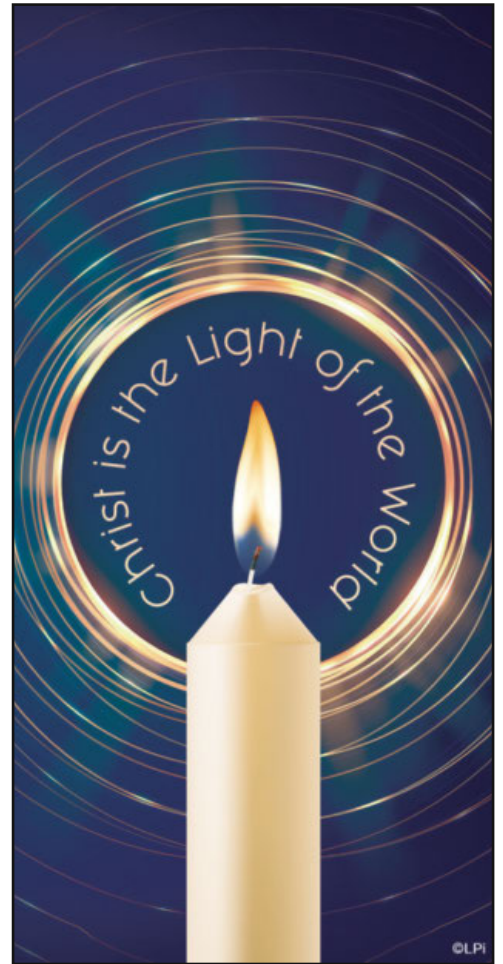
*Thank you for helping to underwrite the production of our weekly Parish Bulletin.*



# Religious Education

Ms. MaryAnn Garfold, Director of Religious Education  
412-922-6388 [stphilipreligioused@gmail.com](mailto:stphilipreligioused@gmail.com)

**A NOTE FROM MARYANN: IMPORTANT!** Pope Francis wants to hear from everyone about how the Church-the People of God-can help him discern the Holy Spirit's guidance for the mission that Jesus gave to all baptized Christians. The first part of this consultation called a synod will be held in Parishes throughout the Diocese this Winter. Synod means *"journeying together."* **This is not like anything we have done before. This is not, "been there done that."** The Holy Father has described the synod as an opportunity to plant dreams, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken hope and give strength to our hands. The sessions for St. Philip Parish will be held on **Wednesday, February 23 at 7:00pm** in Conner Hall and **Thursday, February 24 at 1:00pm** in Conner Hall. You may attend either session. The thoughts and comments will be gathered and sent to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The bishops, in turn, will write a summary of what they have received from every diocese in the country and forward that document to Rome. In October 2023, bishops from across the globe will gather in Rome to consider what has been heard, shared and experienced. Don't miss this opportunity to gather, listen and dream together. The Church wants and needs to hear about your experiences. Mark your calendar for February 23 or February 24. We need to hear your voice! As we begin this process, St. Philip Parish will pray each week at Mass for the Holy Spirit to inspire the People of God during this time. Let us each be guided by the Holy Spirit as we begin dreaming.



**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.

**SECOND GRADE RECOGNITION:** On **Sunday, February 6 at the 11:00am Mass** in St. Philip Church, we will recognize our second grade students who are preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Each child will be recognized and receive a small Mass Prayer Book to be used each week during Mass. Please welcome our students and their families at that Mass and offer them your prayers and support.

**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.

**MARDI GRAS IS COMING!** On **Monday, February 28**, St. Philip Parish will sponsor a free Pancake Supper from 5:00pm 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.

**OUR LENTEN SOUP, SALAD, AND SPEAKER SERIES RETURNS:** Our Lenten *Soup, Salad and Speaker Series* begins on **Wednesday, March 9 from 6:15pm to 8:15pm** in Ascension Conner Hall. Our theme is *"Following Jesus on the Way."* Our first speaker will

address *"Following Jesus in Prayer"* Our series continues each Wednesday. Specific speakers and topics will be available in the coming weeks. Watch this space for more information.

## Save the Date:

**FEBRUARY 10:** Free Coffee, Tea, and Community Breakfast at 8:30am in Conner Hall

**FEBRUARY 23 or 24:** Synod Listening Sessions  
Feb. 23 at 7:00pm or Feb. 24 at 1:00pm

**FEBRUARY 28:** Mardi Gras Free Pancake Dinner  
5:00pm to 7:30pm in Ascension Conner Hall

**MARCH 2:** Ash Wednesday

**MARCH 9:** Lenten Soup, Salad, and Speaker Series  
6:15pm to 8:15pm in Ascension Conner Hall

# 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.

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Name:

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Telephone:

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Email:

No. of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Children: \_\_\_\_\_



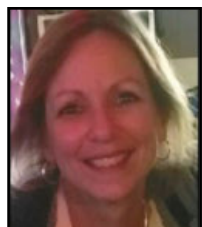
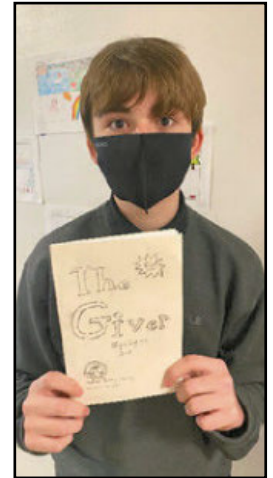
# Guardian Angel Academy

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

**MR. ROY FISCHER'S CLASSROOM:**

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade reading class has finished reading “*The Giver*.” As part of a final project, the students were tasked with creating their own sequel to the book, as *The Giver* has a very ambiguous ending. Students wrote their own original endings and drew their own book covers as well. We stapled them into small books. Students were then able to read their peer’s new short stories and write reviews on their classmate’s work. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade’s imagination brought us new experiences and offered us a new view of the original text of “*The Giver*.”

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies is just finishing off a chapter on the Wild West. To help the students experience the life of a settler heading West, we played an old video game: *The Oregon Trail*! Using an online video game emulator, students were able to play the 1985 game on their Chromebooks in class. Even though it was an old game, the students were able to find not only enjoyment in playing the classic staple of all computer rooms of the 1990s, but were also able to draw conclusions about hardships and life in the West. After playing the game, students were then tasked with writing a reflection about their experiences.



**STAFF SPOTLIGHTS:** This week we will spotlight one of our outstanding staff members at Guardian Angel Academy.

**MRS. KAREN MILKOWSKI,  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

I was the secretary for St. Margaret of Scotland since July of 2017, and I am very glad to be continuing on as one of the secretaries at the newly formed Guardian Angel Academy! I have been working in a Catholic school office since 2012. Before that, I worked for 25 years as a secretary and bookkeeper for various types of businesses. My husband, Dave & I have one son, Zach, who is 22. We also have a cat named Lulu.

We are big college football fans and enjoy going to Pitt games (or watching them on TV if it’s too cold). We also enjoy trying new restaurants and spending time with family and friends.





# Around the Diocese and Community



## BISHOP CANEVIN

**Coffee with Principal Joyce** - In celebration of Catholic Schools Week, prospective families are invited for a morning with Mr. Michael Joyce, Bishop Canevin's Principal, to discuss the school's present and future. These sessions provide parents and guardians with the opportunity to ask questions, share experiences and connect with families. So grab a cup of "joe" and sit down with Mike! RSVP at <https://bit.ly/3so7Fl9>.

Virtual: **Thursday, February 3** from 9:15am to 9:55am

In-Person: **Friday, February 4** from 8:30am to 9:30am

## AQUINAS ACADEMY ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE

Aquinas Academy High School, Gibsonia, is hosting an open house for families on **Saturday, February 5 from 11:00am to 1:00pm**. Find out how your child will benefit from an Aquinas Academy High School education. Information about merit scholarships and financial aid will be available.

For more information, contact Mr. Joe Austin, Director of Enrollment at 724-444-0722 x15 or email him at [austin@AquinasAcademy-pittsburgh.org](mailto:austin@AquinasAcademy-pittsburgh.org).

Register online at [www.AquinasAcademy.info](http://www.AquinasAcademy.info).

## 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 at <https://forms.gle/xKQ9NyEVjUrytPXA6>.

For more information, please contact Don Fontana, [dfontana@stpaulofthecross.com](mailto:dfontana@stpaulofthecross.com).



**From March 2nd – April 10**, you're invited to join other Christians for **40 Days for Life** – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood, 933 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, and to help spread the word about this important community outreach. If you'd like more information – and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact: **Nikki Bruni, [nbruni@40daysforlifepgh.com](mailto:nbruni@40daysforlifepgh.com), or Donna Goss at [gdgoss620@gmail.com](mailto:gdgoss620@gmail.com)**

- **20,689 babies saved**
- **229 abortion workers converted**
- **114 abortion centers closed!**

**Kick-off Mass at Divine Mercy Parish, Epiphany Church on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm, followed by a Eucharistic Procession to Planned Parenthood led by Fr. Chris Donley, Pastor of Divine Mercy Parish. All Christians are welcome to participate! This is a free event.**

**[40daysforlife.com/Pittsburgh](http://40daysforlife.com/Pittsburgh) for more info, or check out our blog at [40daysforlifepittsburgh.com](http://40daysforlifepittsburgh.com)**



# Ministries & Societies

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program or ERAP has been assisting renters impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic with financial assistance for delinquent and future rent and utility bills since April of 2021 ([www.dhs.pa.gov/ERAP](http://www.dhs.pa.gov/ERAP)). Finally, a similar program for homeowners will begin accepting applications on Tuesday, February 1.

The Pennsylvania Homeowner Assistance Fund or PAHAF, which is funded with \$350 million from the American Rescue Plan, will assist qualifying homeowners with mortgage payments, real estate taxes, homeowners' association or condominium association fees, and utility bills. The total maximum assistance amount per household across all expense categories is \$30,000. Qualifying homeowners can receive up to 24 months of assistance for delinquent mortgage payments. Up to 6 of the 24 months can be allocated to future mortgage payments if the homeowner has not hit the 24 month or \$30,000 cap. Up to \$5,000 can be obtained for delinquent real estate taxes and up to \$5,000 can be obtained for delinquent homeowners' or condo association fees. Utility assistance is capped at \$3,000 or 24 months, whichever is less.

In order to qualify, you must own and live in the house; the house must be located in Pennsylvania; you must have experienced a financial hardship after January 21, 2020 (including a hardship that began before January 21, 2020 and continued after that date); you must meet income guidelines; and you cannot have received assistance from another government agency for the same expenses. The income limit for a household of one is \$89,050 per year, a household of two \$101,800, a household of three \$114,500, and a household of four \$127,200.

To learn more or apply, visit <https://pahaf.org> or call 888-987-2423. Online applications are strongly encouraged. The launch of this program is very timely

as most protections against foreclosure ended on December 31, 2021. If our experience with ERAP is any indication, it may take a while for applications to be processed, and the need may outpace the funds available - so be sure to apply early and follow up on your application often. Please pass this information along to your friends and neighbors who might be in need of assistance with their mortgage payments and/or any of the other expenses mentioned above.

This week, your generous donations enabled us to give a single mother \$400 toward a security deposit for a new apartment after her former residence was sold by her landlord.

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, mail them to the parish office at 114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205, or donate online 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, 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). 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, 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).



You may be familiar with the annual “blessing of throats” that many parishes in the United States use to commemorate the beloved bishop and martyr. St. Blaise lived in the fourth century in Turkey and Armenia when a mother came to him with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise’s command, the child was able to cough up the bone and thus lived.

**Blessing Schedule at St. Philip Parish:**

8:00am at Ascension Church,  
 12:00 noon at Ascension Church,  
 4:00pm at St. Philip Church, and  
 7:00pm at Ascension Church.

**Prayer of Saint Blaise:**

*Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*



**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 \_\_\_\_\_

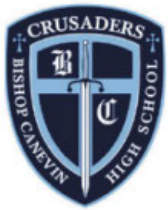
**Please check how you would like to help.**

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.*



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Wednesday, February 9

6:30 – 9:00 PM

Doors open at 6:00 PM for a

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Questions?

Contact our Admissions Department at

(412) 922-7400 ext. 220

[konklej@bishopcanevin.org](mailto:konklej@bishopcanevin.org)



## This Sunday's Bible Readings

### FIRST READING:

*The word of the LORD came to me, saying:  
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I dedicated you, a  
prophet to the nations I appointed you.*

(Jer 1:4-5)



### PSALM:

*I will sing of your salvation.* (Ps 71)



### SECOND READING:

*So faith, hope, love remain, these three;  
but the greatest of these is love.* (1 Cor 13:13)



### GOSPEL:

*And he said, "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is  
accepted in his own native place."* (Lk 4:24)

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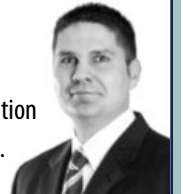
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