

Saint Philip Catholic Parish

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9:00am to 3:00pm

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
 Mr. David Pilarski, Business Coordinator
 & Safe Environment Coordinator
 Ms. Maureen Takach, Administrative Assistant
 Ms. Linda Bey, Faith Formation Secretary
 Mr. Richard Hufnagel, Maintenance
 Ms. Chris Archacki, Maintenance
 Mr. Thomas Dembecki, Maintenance

PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Joseph Scheib, Saint Philip Rectory

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Robert Bertocchi, Frank Bey,
 Patricia Cygrymus, Barbara Hendrick,
 Joseph Hoover, Martin Matko,
 Katie Phillips, Mary Schubert
 and Richard Schubert.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Benjamin Bannon, Joseph Hoover,
 Joseph Rynn and 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 SVdP (412) 444-8140
 Guardian Angel Academy (412) 922-4765



SAINT PHILIP CATHOLIC PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic Community of Saint Philip Parish, united in faith and empowered by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, are firmly committed to promoting full and active participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church.

We answer the call of the Gospel to bring about the kingdom of justice and peace through worship, education, service, and stewardship.

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



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.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Our Liturgies are celebrated at both Saint Philip Church, 50 West Crafton Avenue, Crafton, and Ascension Church, 114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh

LOCATION	TIME	PRIEST'S INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 — WEEKDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	Sister Miriam Marlinga	Annette Marlinga
Saint Philip	4:00pm (Vigil)	Regis, Mary B. and Dorothy McDonald	McDonald Family
Ascension	5:30pm (Vigil)	Mr. & Mrs. Fred J. Askin	Daughter
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 — THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Deceased of the Knights of Columbus #875 & the Fr. Dennis Baron Assembly #0939	PGK Jacob & PGK David Dulick & Knights of Columbus #875
Ascension	9:30am	Theodora & Vance Okrazewski	Marcy Nordick
Saint Philip	11:00am	Joe & Dorothy Chmiel	Chmiel Family
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20 — WEEKDAY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Kathleen Redington Kanavy	Family
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 — PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY			
Ascension	8:00am	Mary, Jay, & Jimmy DeAngelis	DeDe Palombini
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 — SAINT CECILIA, VIRGIN AND MARTYR			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Gary M. Goyke	Joan & Ed Goyke
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23 — THANKSGIVING DAY			
Ascension	9:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24 — SAINT ANDREW DUNG-LAC, PRIEST, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS - THE VIETNAMESE MARTYRS			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Jean Ulicny	Joan Ulicny
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25 — WEEKDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	Bernice Sigh	Pat Hudson
Saint Philip	4:00pm (Vigil)	James Bloom, Sr.	Bloom Family
Ascension	5:30pm (Vigil)	Laurie S. Henkle	Jerome J. Henkel, Jr.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26 — OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Marlene Andrascik	Friend
Ascension	9:30am	Howard Kelly	Nancy Bondi
Saint Philip	11:00am	Johnathan Turino	Crystal Dunhoff



Notes from the Pastor

asked on that last day to describe our faithfulness to the Lord and our lifetime of service to Jesus and to the Kingdom of God.

Before we reach our final day, it's good for us to evaluate our own life and determine where we stand. Many of us have lived good and faithful lives of Christian service. Thankfully, there's still time for all of us to serve the Lord Jesus before we're called home to give our personal accounting to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit! Let's all make it a very good "back nine" on the 'golf course' of our own life!

Our increased offertory appeal

In these weeks, with the help of the Our Sunday Visitor, Inc. (*the premier Catholic parish services company*), our community of Saint Philip Parish will begin a NEW Increased Offertory Appeal to ALL of our Registered Parish households. Beginning with pulpit appeals this month, and then continuing with today's Commitment Weekend, all of our parish members and families will be asked to pledge some increase in your weekly contribution to the parish in order to sustain Saint Philip Parish now and for the next generation.

By the divine grace of God - and with your increased financial support - will we continue to be a vital and thriving parish community. Please see the articles on Page 7 of this bulletin, and then please commit your financial support later this month to Saint Philip Parish both now and in the year/s ahead!

Best wishes for Thanksgiving Day and for the holidays!

Best wishes to you and to all in our Saint Philip Parish community for an enjoyable Thanksgiving Day holiday weekend -- and for very good holidays. May the Lord Jesus bless you, your family, and our Saint Philip Catholic Parish community now and always. Amen!

Yours, Father Jim Torquato

Greetings once again, and best wishes for a very good Thanksgiving Day holiday weekend - and for joyful holidays in the coming six weeks!

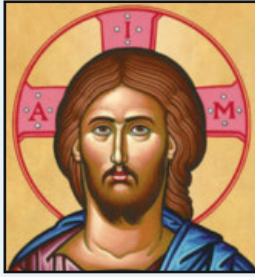
Nearing the finale

One of my identical triplet brothers (*they're now 61, and I just reached 60*) **has enjoyed golfing for many years.** Occasionally, he'll take the other two triplets to a golf course for a round, but among the six brothers in my family, John's the best golfer. As for myself, I've never had any athletic abilities whatsoever, and when someone asks me if I golf, my reply is simply "I have no time, no talent, no money, and no friends who golf" (*mostly no time and no talent*).

After my triplet brothers reached age 60 last year, my golfer brother has continued to remind us that "we're all on the back nine" - maybe even on the 16th green if we're honest! In fact, we like to remind each other that the great majority of our years in this life are behind us. Six decades have been lived already, and if we're fortunate and blessed, we'll hopefully have at least two final decades ahead of us. Yet I'm sure they'll fly by just as quickly as the previous six decades.

This Sunday, Jesus reminds us in the Gospel according to Matthew that the finale will come for all of us sooner than we expect. As you know, next weekend, we will celebrate the Solemnity of Christ Jesus the King of the Universe - the final Sunday of this Church Year 2023. Before we arrive at that final Sunday, we're reminded during this weekend that our years in this lifetime are NOT eternal. Our final day will come, and as Jesus teaches, we will be

LIFE IN SAINT PHILIP PARISH...



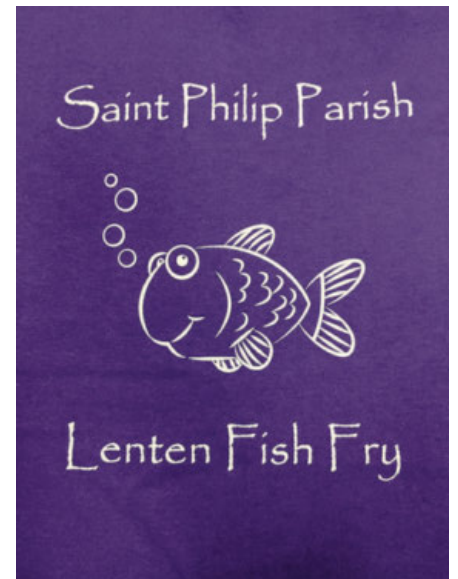
Sharing the Good News and growing the Kingdom of God!

As we'll soon begin our *Forward in Faith!* Stewardship Program and appeal, it's good to reflect on the many blessings that are present in our parish community and life - blessings supported by you, our members, and our contributors. And so, once again, here in Saint Philip Parish, we have:

- 1.) one vital parish with two excellent churches and campuses;
- 2.) the celebration of the Liturgy and sacraments in both churches;
- 3.) the work of evangelization - sharing Jesus' Good News in many ways;
- 4.) a vital ministry of Catholic education and catechesis provided through Guardian Angel Academy and our various Faith Formation programs for children, youth, families, and adults in our parish;
- 5.) a very charitable and generous community which provides for the poor in our own community as well as many neighbors who have needs in their life and family;
- 6.) our parish members and community who've brought many adults, young adults, and children to faith and life in Jesus, the Son of God;
- 7.) so many personal and family connections which have been made and continue to be created among the members and families of Saint Philip Parish - and which are very good for our lives and our community;
- 8.) the many members and staff of Saint Philip Parish who work together each day in a number of parish organizations that promote our Christian discipleship and that serve many in our parish community as well as many of our neighbors;
- 9.) dedicated members and families who share our life with one another in Catholic faith, hope, and love as we live together in the Saint Philip Parish community - and as we continue to support one another in our daily discipleship as the People of God; and
- 10.) an excellent Saint Philip Parish community which remains a true beacon of Christian light, hope, holiness, and charity in this local area!

These are the Top Ten Reasons why Saint Philip Catholic Parish is so very important to all of us - and why your continued and generous support is of tremendous importance for the life, vitality, and future of our parish community.

Thank you so very much for sharing your life and years with our Saint Philip Parish community! Thank you, too, for all the support which you provide for our parish life together. Your faith, goodness, and generosity keep Saint Philip Parish alive, vital, and vibrant as we continue "Sharing the Good News and growing the Kingdom of God!"



Ready for the Lenten Parish Fish Fry?

February 14 and Lent are NOT that far away. In order to have a successful Saint Philip Parish Fish Fry during the Season of Lent 2024, our coordinators will hold a preliminary meeting this December during a weekday evening.

If you'd like to continue (*or even begin*) your Fish Fry service to our parish, please leave a message for Rick Hufnagel at the Parish Office (412-922-6300) this week, and we'll inform you when the December planning meeting will be held. Thank you!

Please make sure to find your purple Fish Fry shirt before February 14. If you're new to the Fish Fry Volunteer Crew (*or if you lost your Fish Fry shirt*) please remind us, and we'll order a purple Fish Fry shirt for you.



BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, November 19

Proverbs 31:10-31;
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6;
Matthew 25:14-30

Weekdays

1 & 2 Maccabees;
Luke 18-20

Sunday, November 26

Ezekiel 34:11-17;
1 Corinthians 15:20-28;
Matthew 25:31-46



Thank you

for your generous
financial contributions to

SAINT PHILIP PARISH!



Your goodness and
participation help to keep
our parish alive!

FINANCIAL REPORT OUR SAINT PHILIP PARISH FINANCES

Due to the early bulletin deadline, the financial report information will be available in the next bulletin.

Parish income needed for this Fiscal Year	-- \$850,409.00
Parish income <u>received</u> since July 1, 2023	-- \$226,438.15
Parish fundraising since July 1, 2023	-- \$5,145.74
Estate gifts received since July 1, 2023	-- \$0.00
General donations since July 1, 2023	-- \$3,255.00

Average weekly staff salary and benefits expenses	-- \$7,640.00
Average weekly maintenance/operation expenses	-- \$2,175.00
Average weekly utility expenses	-- \$2,384.00
Average weekly insurance expenses	-- \$1,186.00
Weekly contributions to Guardian Angel Academy	-- \$1,630.32

Parish members	-- 2,286	Parish families	-- 1,202
Church attendance on November 11-12	-- 708		
Sunday envelopes used November 11-12	--	Next bulletin	
Total households receiving envelopes	-- 1,107		

2023 Parish Appeal Goal	-- \$129,011.00
Parish Appeal received as of November 12	-- \$191,891.60*
*Includes online Parish Appeal donations	
2023 Parish Appeal Donors	-- 352

OUR NEW *Forward In Faith!* STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Beginning in mid-November, our parish will inaugurate a NEW Increased Offertory Program to (*hopefully*) increase the financial stewardship and support of our parish community now and in the years to come. Until then, please review all the life and blessings already present in Saint Philip Parish (*see Page 4 of this bulletin*) which we'd like to continue for many years! **Please ALSO see Page 7 of this bulletin.**

Information about this initiative was sent to you in the mail. Please give some thought as to how you can help bolster Saint Philip Parish financially so we'll remain strong and vital for the next generation! Thank you very much in advance!



Parish News

LIVE THE LITURGY: INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God entrusts special gifts to each of us, but they are not gifts to be hoarded and hidden. Let's work each and every day to multiply those gifts in the world.

PRAYER - FOR EVERYDAY & EVERYBODY

Prayer for Thanksgiving

Dear Lord, We raise our thanks to You, the giver of every good gift. Thank You for the ways You have blessed, guarded, and guided us this past year and always. Keep us in Your hands, and close to Your heart. Amen.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT

Retirement Fund for Religious - Support for a Lifetime of Service. A lifetime of prayer and service unites thousands of elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Generations of Catholics gratefully remember their ministry in schools, hospitals, parishes, and more.

Most older religious served for little pay, resulting in a shortage of retirement savings. This appeal helps hundreds of U.S. religious communities to care for their aging members and their long-term retirement needs.

Retired religious now outnumber wage-earning members resulting in declining income and rising health care costs. Your gift to this week's special collection helps provide care, medicine, and more. Please be generous.

BEGINNING EACH LITURGY WITH PRAYER

As our Envisioning Team begins some new initiatives to revitalize the life of our parish community, one of the first efforts will be to start each Sunday/Saturday evening Liturgy with a few prayers before the Opening Song.

During the Liturgies this weekend, we'll be learning new musical settings for the Gloria and our acclamations. **When we come to the First Sunday of Advent, December 2-3**, we'll turn again to the music page at your seats, and together we'll pray 3 favorite Catholic prayers as a way to focus our minds and hearts on the Liturgy.

Each assembly will be invited to pray 2-3 prayers together after greeting each other and before we sing the Opening Song. We hope this will encourage a better focus on the Liturgy - as well as more prayer in our daily Christian living and at home as families!

ANNUAL SAINT PHILIP CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

Looking ahead - the *Annual Saint Philip Christmas Cookie and Treat Sale* will be held on **Saturday, December 16 and Sunday, December 17**, before and after all Masses. Our Cookie Crew worked very hard to make this annual event a success. Any questions or suggestions? Contact Katie at 412-983-4541. Watch the bulletin for more information.

LOOKING AHEAD

If you are interested in learning more about the following events, call 412-922-6388.

Monday, November 20 - Faith Formation Family Night from 6:30pm to 7:45pm in Kelty Hall

Tuesday, November 21 - Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank Distribution

Tuesday, November 21 - Hooks & Needles

Thursday, November 23 - Thanksgiving



Our New Forward in Faith!

Stewardship Program

Thank you all very much for your dedicated support of Saint Philip Parish
- and for your participation in the life of our Catholic Christian community!

This past week, you and all of our registered households received a mailing introducing to you our *NEW Forward in Faith!* initiative.

So many individuals and families in our parish community are thankful and feel very blessed to be part of this family of faith. At this time, we need your help in keeping Saint Philip Parish strong and vital.

This weekend, November 18-19, all of our parish members and families will be invited to participate in this important initiative as we respond to the goodness of the Lord by pledging our increased financial support to our parish life.

Please review the letter and brochure you've received, and then prayerfully consider and determine how you and your family can help sustain Saint Philip Parish by financially supporting our ministries, furthering our mission, and reinforcing our future with your increased weekly contribution!

Again, this weekend, we're asking all of our faithful and dedicated parish members (and families) to complete a Commitment Card.



This Commitment Card was included in your mailing, and extra Cards are available in our churches this weekend. You can:

- 1.) place your Commitment Card in the basket prior to the Sunday Collection;
- 2.) mail to the parish office your Commitment Card in the pre-paid envelope included in your mailing; OR
- 3.) visit our parish internet site (www.saintphilipchurch.org) and complete an electronic Commitment Card there.

On the Commitment Card, you may also include your prayer intentions for which we'll be praying in the coming weeks. Also, if you'd like to speak with Father Jim Torquato or our parish staff regarding this initiative, please let us know at the parish office.

Our goal is 100% participation from all our households. With your commitment to our parish, we can reach this goal. Thank you very much for your generosity and your support of our Saint Philip Parish!

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ALSO, please see the article on Page 4 of this bulletin for the List of the "Top Ten Reasons" why Saint Philip Parish is a true blessing for our members and families, for you, and for the entire local community!

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

You are invited to take part in the annual *Christmas Giving Tree*, which is up this weekend, November 18 & 19, at both Saint Philip and Ascension churches. **Gifts should be returned by Sunday, December 3 and must be in a gift bag with tag attached.** The *Giving Tree* is a wonderful opportunity to help families in need by helping them provide Christmas presents for their children and to give a little Christmas joy to the elderly and homebound.



Some agencies that benefit from your generosity are: the Crafton Food Bank, our Sister Parish in Tunnelton, WV, Catholic Charities, F.O.R. (McKees Rocks), Back Pack for Kids (Sheraden), as well as our Parish's shut-ins and residents in nursing homes. We thank you in advance for your Christmas charity.

REVITALIZING OUR HOSPITALITY

As we enhance the life of our parish community following the 2020-2022 Pandemic, we'd like to increase our hospitality at our weekend Liturgies. Yes, we greet each other before the Opening Song. Now, some of our members would like to invite our families and individuals to welcome all who enter our churches for the Liturgy in the spirit of Christian hospitality.

Moving forward, it's important to greet everyone who enters the church so that each person is welcomed with a smile and a greeting. Both families and individuals are invited to join our Parish Welcoming Teams. Please contact Katie Phillips (412-983-4541) this week if you'd like to be a member of this important ministry!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY!

Best wishes to all our parish members and families and friends for a very good Thanksgiving Day holiday this Thursday, November 23! Know that you're all welcome to join us for a Thanksgiving Day Liturgy at 9:00am at Ascension church.

Also, during Thanksgiving Day, please take time to pause and to consider the many blessings that have been shared with you and your family this year. Then, before your dinner - and at the end of the day - be sure to render a prayer of thanksgiving to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit for their goodness to you and to your family throughout all these years! God bless!



We offer our sympathy to the families of **Charlotte C. Franc** and **William P. Shields**, who entered into eternal life. Please keep them in your prayers.

Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at St. Philip burns *In Loving Memory of Regis, Mary B. & Dorothy McDonald*
Offered by McDonald Family

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at Ascension burns *In Loving Memory of The Bajoras & Berard Families*
Offered by: Grace Berard



ROBERT P. BOTT, D.M.D.

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

A Final Gift to the Parish
Please support

SAINT PHILIP PARISH
by including the community in your will and estate planning.

Thank you!

Connect with FLOCKNOTE!



To register, contact our parish office, OR text **stphilippa** to **84576**, OR visit www.stphilipchurch1.flocknote.com.



Faith Formation /Religious Education

Ms. MaryAnn Garfold, Director of Religious Education
412-922-6388 stphilipreligioused@gmail.com



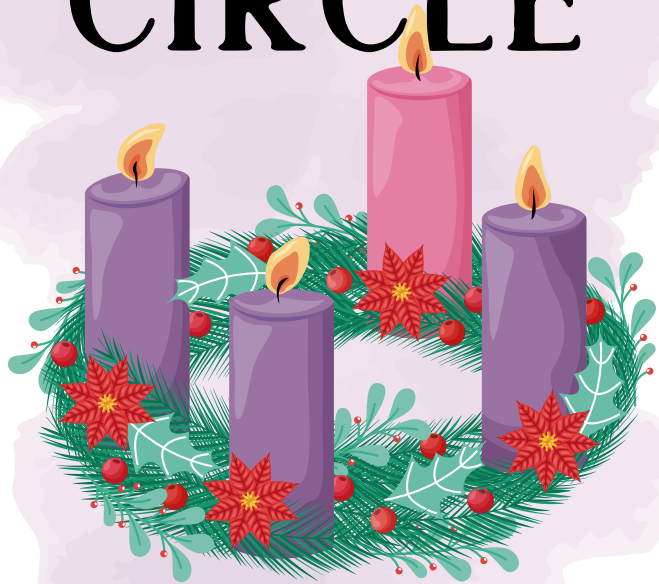
A NOTE FROM MARYANN: A blessed Thanksgiving week to all. As we celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving, we tend to give thanks for all the blessings in our life. I wonder if we might take the time in our private prayer to give thanks for the irritating and unwanted things in our life and the blessing that those things bring. Even something as small as a cold or sore throat, we might see as a blessing as it calls us to slow down and not take our health for granted. I was recently stopped at a red light on Route 19. I was irritated and inconvenienced as I was going to be late for a work meeting. I looked out my passenger window and there was a cute little white fluffy dog barking hello. It caused me to recall that God is always trying to get my attention. What was an inconvenience, really turned out to be a blessing. Let us give thanks this Thanksgiving Day for both the blessings as well as the irritations or challenges in our life. Let us also remember to give thanks for one another and for the blessings given to Saint Philip Parish.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS: A new ministry in Saint Philip Parish is the Mental Health Ministry. We all get colds, the flu, maybe a sinus infection or backache...all things that keep us from functioning at our best. No one thinks anything when we have issues with our physical health. When it comes to mental health it is an entirely different story. We all are on the Mental Health continuum, which means simply, sometimes we cannot function at our best because we have issues with our mental health. We may experience loss, financial stress, relationship stress, depression, anxiety or other issues. One in four people will be affected by mental health problems in their lifetime which interferes with them functioning at their best. According to the National Institute of Health the prevalence of mental illness is also greater than imagined. We are called as the Church to demonstrate God's love through the way we care for those in need. Individuals struggling with mental health problems represent a large population in need of care. One thing we can do as a parish is pray for those who have been affected in any way by a mental health crisis or illness.

In the coming weeks you will see prayer crosses at the entrances to our churches. **Beginning November 26 through the Christmas season in January**, we ask if you know of a person in need of prayer for hope and healing due to suffering from mental health challenges, you write their first name on a square post-it and place it on the cross. We would also like to pray for those we have lost to mental illness or death by suicide and ask you to write their first name on a butterfly post-it and place it on the board. We ask the Lord to hold all of these loved ones in His care

During this beautiful season when we celebrate Christ's coming to walk among us, we walk with the Christ in one another as we pray together and journey together with those facing mental health challenges. We also remember those with physical challenges in our daily private prayer and intercessory prayer. May this Advent Season be a particularly special one for Saint Philip Parish.

AROUND THE *Advent* CIRCLE



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 6:30PM IN ASCENSION HALL

Beginning Thursday, November 30 and continuing through December 21, our group will participate in a reflection based on the Scripture readings of Advent.

The evening begins with prayer, a reading of the Sunday Scripture, some reflections on the Scripture and discussion. The group will meet each Thursday for four weeks from 6:30pm to 8:00pm in Ascension Conner Hall.

*If you would like to join,
call the Office at 412-922-6388.*



COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Friday, December 1: *Children's Advent Night* in Ascension Church Hall. Children will enjoy food, crafts, games, activities and a movie. Registration forms will appear in the bulletin or call 412-922-6388.

Wednesday, December 6: *Mary's Tea* from 11:00am to 1:00pm in Ascension Church Hall. We will enjoy a tea with sandwiches, ambrosia salad, sweet breads, cookies and fruit. Mr. Frank Bey will give a talk on Our Lady of Guadalupe. Call 412-922-6388 for reservations.

Wednesday, December 13: *Parish Advent Evening of Prayer: The Three Wise Women* from 7:00pm to 8:00pm in Ascension church with Christmas treats of cookies and cakes to follow in the hall.

Monday, December 18: *Parish and Faith Formation Family Night: A Night in Bethlehem* from 6:30pm to 8:00pm in Ascension Church Hall. Families will enjoy a pizza supper. Evening includes crafts, sweet treats, Christmas stories, a gift for each child and a sing-a-long in church. All are welcome. Please call 412-922-6388 for reservations.

Our New Evangelization

Twenty five years ago, when preparing the Church for the New Millennium, Pope Saint John Paul II called all Catholic Christians to begin a *New Evangelization* to share the Good News – the Gospel – once again with both Christian disciples and non-believers in the new 21st century. Most Catholics are NOT aware of this effort to evangelize the world once again (*similar to the first evangelization of the world which was begun by Jesus 2000 years ago*).

Now is the time for all Church members to participate in the New Evangelization so that the Kingdom of God might continue to grow even in this modern world.

It is very good to share the Good News with those who have forgotten Jesus' message and promise. It is also very important that we ourselves believe Jesus' message and live His way.

Our first suggestion is to deepen your own faith in the Lord. Pray the Lord's Prayer often, recite the Apostles' Creed every day, and pray the Rosary often to remain close to Jesus. Grow your own faith and your life of prayer. Then make the effort to share the Good News of the Lord with those whose ears and hearts are open and ready to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ!



December 1, 2023
5:30pm to 8:00pm

Children will enjoy food, activities, crafts, and a movie. I would like to register my child/ren for Saint Philip Parish Children's Night Out.

Child's Name _____ Age _____

Child's Name _____ Age _____

Child's Name _____ Age _____

Parent Name _____ Phone Number _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone Number _____

Medical Authorization

I agree that in case of injury to my child, I will apply my hospitalization and/or accident insurance toward payment of the expenses incurred and will not look to St. Philip Parish, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, Reverend James R. Torquato, the Director of Faith Formation or any adult chaperone for the payment of any medical costs or injury related costs.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Insurance Company _____

Policy Number _____

What it means to be Catholic and Christian

Today, many people – *including Catholic Christians* – ask 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 became very exclusive and pursued their own versions of the Christian faith and community. They often excluded the poor and uneducated and outcast. They typically considered themselves to be much better than the average, ordinary members 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 belonged 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 use the name "Catholic Christian" 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 the Lord Jesus. We are and always have been the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church for nearly 2,000 years!



CATHOLIC INTERNET SITES

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

www.dynamiccatholic.org

www.vatican.va

www.diopitt.org

www.catholicnews.com

www.catholicnewsagency.com

www.catholic.com

www.ewtnnews.com

www.zenit.org

www.cruxnow.com

www.pittsburghcatholic.org





Ministries & Societies



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

Once again, we will be collecting **non-perishable food items before the Thanksgiving Day Mass on Thursday, November 23**. The food collected will go to assist the households served by our food bank. For over 40 years, our Vincentians have been delivering food on a monthly basis to our “food families” who do not have transportation with which to reach traditional food banks, as well as to those who contact our hotline in need of one-time “emergency” food assistance.

We are most in need of the following items:

Peanut butter, jelly (strawberry and grape), applesauce, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, macaroni and cheese, and cereal (corn flakes, rice krispies, raisin bran, flavored oatmeal).

Please do not donate any expired food as it will have to be thrown away. While we will

accept items that are not on this list, we respectfully request that you primarily donate these items. Thanks in advance for your cooperation and generosity!

This week, your generous donations enabled us to provide twinning assistance in the amount of \$1,000 to the St. Joseph Conference in Kingwood, West Virginia; \$500 to the St. Agnes Conference in Beaumont, Grand'Anse, Haiti; \$500 to the Good Shepherd Conference in Braddock; and \$500 to the Mary Mother of God Conference in McKeesport. (As a reminder, “twinning” is the term used within the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to describe when conferences come together to assist friends in need.) In our local area, a woman was given \$400 toward utilities; a family was given \$460 toward rent; and a single mother and her children, who were recently living in a shelter, were given beds and other furniture items. Thank you!

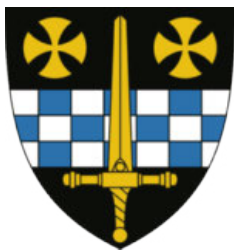
As always, if you, or someone you know, need assistance, call/text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email us at svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com.

Bereavement MINISTRY



Our Bereavement Support Group meets on the third Thursday of each month from 2:00pm to 3:00pm in Conner Hall on the Ascension campus. We spend about an hour together hearing each other's stories with compassion and loving support.

This is not a psychotherapy group, but fellow parishioners who care for one another and support one another as we travel through the grief process together. Please consider joining us.



Around the Diocese and Community



JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT WITH MARY

The Saint Paul of the Cross Retreat Center (148 Monastery Avenue on the South Side Slopes) will host a *Day of Recollection on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe*, **Tuesday, December 12 from 10:00am until 3:00pm**. The featured presenter will be Father Michael Ackerman, the pastor of Resurrection Catholic Parish in the South Hills.

The day will include two presentations, lunch, a Holy Hour, and a Liturgy for the Feast Day of the Blessed Mother as Patroness of the Americas. The donation for the day is \$35. Reservations can be made by calling 412-381-7676.





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