

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
 Website: www.saintphilipparishpgh.com
 Email: parishoffice@saintphilipparish.com

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



Week of November 26, 2023

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
 KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

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 25 — SAINT CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, MARTYR			
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
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27 — WEEKDAY (THIRTY-FOURTH OR LAST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME)			
Saint Philip	8:00am	John Bobak, III	Joan Ulicny
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28 — WEEKDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of the Waigand Family	Sister Betty
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 — WEEKDAY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Michael Wilson	Joan Ulicny
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 — SAINT ANDREW, APOSTLE			
Ascension	8:00am	Raymond Legath	Family
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 — WEEKDAY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 — THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY			
Ascension	8:00am	Peter Dobbins	Alice Dobbins
Saint Philip	4:00pm (Vigil)	Evelyn L. Filardi & Salvatore Battaglia	Carol Anderson
Ascension	5:30pm (Vigil)	Eddie Nordic, Sr.	Marcy
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 — FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Evelyn Filardi	Carol Anderson
Ascension	9:30am	Thomas Jungling	Evelyn
Saint Philip	11:00am	Frank N. Leone	Daughter, Michele Leone
BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS: Should be submitted to m.takach@saintphilipparish.com no later than 12:00pm on Friday to be included in the following week's bulletin.			





Notes from the Pastor

Greetings once again, and best wishes for a very good week as we conclude November and look forward to the First Sunday of Advent next weekend!

Servant Disciples of Jesus our Lord

This liturgical year (*and the calendar year of 2023*) has gone by so very quickly for all of us. It's amazing that we've celebrated the Thanksgiving Day holiday already and that, NEXT Sunday, we'll begin a new Church Year with the First Sunday of Advent!

On December 2-3, we'll restart our 365 day annual celebration of our Christian faith and life in the Lord Jesus. Each year, we begin the celebration of our faith in Advent by: 1.) preparing for the return of the Lord Jesus; and 2.) remembering Jesus' first coming to us as the Incarnate Son of God during the first "Christmas event."

Now that we've arrived at the final days of the 2023 Church Year, we're reminded of the FINAL event of our Christian faith - that is, the return of Jesus into our world as our Lord and Savior and King. We firmly believe that, when Jesus returns in glory, He will complete human history and the Kingdom of Almighty God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We believe that, when the Lord Jesus returns into the world, He will reward His faithful people for their discipleship, their ministry, and their service to others - especially the poor and those in need. Today's parable in the Gospel according to Matthew has been a favorite of Church members - of Catholic Christians - for twenty centuries. Jesus' teaching is a divine call to all of us to "live for others and not only for ourselves."

This instruction from the Lord in Matthew 25 has been cherished and followed since Jesus first spoke these words to His Apostles and followers.

This tremendously important teaching of Jesus continues to remind us that ALL these elements of our Christian Gospel are important to us: 1.) professing our faith in the Lord; 2.) serving others in charity and respect; and 3.) sharing our belief and hope in Jesus with others often throughout our years.

As we honor the Lord Jesus on this Solemnity of Christ Jesus, King of the Universe, may we look forward to His return with true anticipation and joy. May we honor and imitate Jesus in our daily living, and may we look forward to the Kingdom and the glory that Jesus promises all of us who His holy, faithful, and loving people, disciples, servants, and friends. God bless!

Our **Forward in Faith!** increased offertory appeal

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

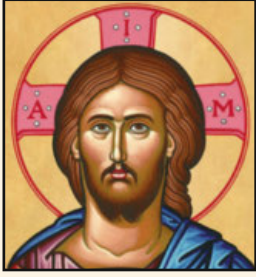
By the divine grace of God - and with your increased financial support - we will continue to be a vital and thriving parish community. *Please see the articles on Page 4 and Page 7 of this bulletin, and then please commit your increased financial support to Saint Philip Parish both now and in the year/s ahead!* Kindly complete your Commitment Card, and then return it to the parish office before December 1. Thank you very, very much!

Best wishes for this Christ the King Holy Day!

Best wishes to you and to all in our Saint Philip Parish community for a very good Sunday and final week of November - and a very good Season of Advent which begins December 2. May the Lord Jesus bless you, your family, and our Saint Philip Catholic Parish community now and always. Amen!

Yours, Father Jim Torquato

LIFE IN SAINT PHILIP PARISH...



Sharing the Good News and growing the Kingdom of God!

Now that we've begun 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?

Ash Wednesday, 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 26

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

Weekdays

Daniel 1-7;
Luke 21

Sunday, December 3

Isaiah 63 & 64;
1 Corinthians 1:3-9;
Mark 13:33-37



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

Sunday collections, **November 11-12** -- \$12,368.10*

*Includes Mail-in donations

Online donations -- \$1,888.00

Maintenance donations -- \$132.00

Religious Education donations -- \$871.00

Parish income needed for this Fiscal Year -- \$850,409.00

Parish income received since July 1, 2023 -- \$241,697.25

Parish fundraising since July 1, 2023 -- \$5,653.64

Estate gifts received since July 1, 2023 -- \$0.00

General donations since July 1, 2023 -- \$4,205.00

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 -- 318

Total households receiving envelopes -- 1,107

2023 Parish Appeal Goal -- \$129,011.00

Parish Appeal received as of November 12 -- \$192,446.60*

*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



Christmas Flower Memorials

We invite you to remember your loved ones this Christmas through your contribution for Christmas Memorials. Donations can also be made in thanksgiving for favors received. Your donation of \$10.00 per intention will help defray the cost of altar flowers and decorations which will beautify Saint Philip and Ascension churches during the Christmas Season.

A special envelope was included in your November envelope packet for the Floral Memorials. We ask you to please get your intentions to us by Tuesday, December 5.

BEGINNING EACH LITURGY WITH PRAYER

As our Next Generation Parish 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 CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

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. Have questions, call Katie at 412-983-4541. See page 11 of this week's bulletin for more information.

OPLATKI: CHRISTMAS WAFER

"Oplatki" is the traditional Christmas Wafer, sometimes referred to as the "Bread of Angels." The Christ Child was born in Bethlehem which means "House of Bread," and Jesus is "The Bread of Life."

The custom began in Poland, Slovakia and Lithuania millennia ago. By breaking and sharing "Oplatki" on Christmas Eve our prayers for health and happiness are offered for the family. It unites heaven and earth and reminds us of the "Unseen Guest," Jesus Christ. Some families set an extra place at the table as a reminder of the Christ Child Who was born in a manger to save us all. "Oplatki" will be available in the Parish office the first week of December. Donation is \$3.00.



Celebration of Marriage HOLY MATRIMONY

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to: **Brandon N. Schneider** and **Haley N. Loesch** who were united in the Sacrament of Marriage at St. Philip Parish on November 11, 2023. May God bless them as they begin their lives together.



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 month, 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.

During November and December, all of our parish members and families have been 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 month, 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 still available in our churches at this time. You can:

- 1.) place your Commitment Card in the basket during the Sunday Collection;
- 2.) mail to the parish office your Commitment Card in the 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*. **Gifts should be returned by Monday, December 4 and must be in a gift bag with tag attached.** The *Giving Tree* is a wonderful opportunity to help families in need and provide Christmas presents for their children and to give a little Christmas joy to the elderly and homebound.

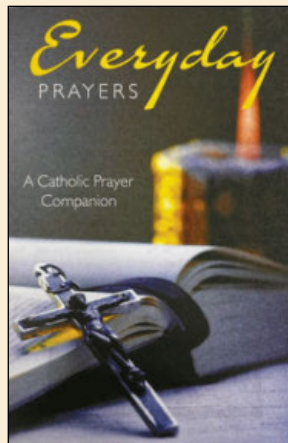


Some agencies that benefit from your generosity are: the Crafton Food Bank, our Sister Parish in Tunnelton, WV, Catholic Charities, F.O.R. (McKees Rocks), Back Pack for Kids (Sheraden), as well as our Parish's shut-ins and residents in nursing homes. We thank you in advance for your Christmas charity.

PRAYING TOGETHER IN YOUR HOME

Everyone is encouraged to take time every day to pray at home as a way to deepen your spiritual life and the spiritual life of our parish community!

At our church entrances, you'll still find copies of the booklet "Favorite Catholic Prayers." If you intend to increase your prayer time at home - alone and with your family members - please feel free to take the prayer book/s which will be used by you and in your family prayer time.



Please turn OFF your television and the internet, and pray to the Lord each day. You, your family, and our parish community will all greatly benefit from your daily time in prayer!

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

Due to the holiday season, LPI, the publisher of our weekly bulletin has asked that we submit bulletin information earlier than our usual submission dates for the month of December. Thank you very much for your cooperation. Articles must be received in the Parish Office no later than 11:00am on the following dates:

Sunday, December 10 bulletin **due Friday, December 1**

Sunday, December 17 bulletin **due Thursday, December 7**

Sunday, December 24 bulletin **due Wednesday, December 13**

Sunday, December 31 bulletin **due Wednesday, December 20**



We offer our sympathy to the families of **Mary Katherine Cielecy-Potanko, Mary J. Kueshner, and James Rodgers**, 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 William Macklin & The Macklin and Macino Families*
Offered by Anita Macklin & Family

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at Ascension burns *In Loving Memory of Paul Korol*
Offered by Wife, Claudia



ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTER OF KENNEDY TOWNSHIP, P.C.

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

DONATE ONLINE 

Make donating easy!

Your regular online contributions to Saint Philip Parish are encouraged and always welcome!

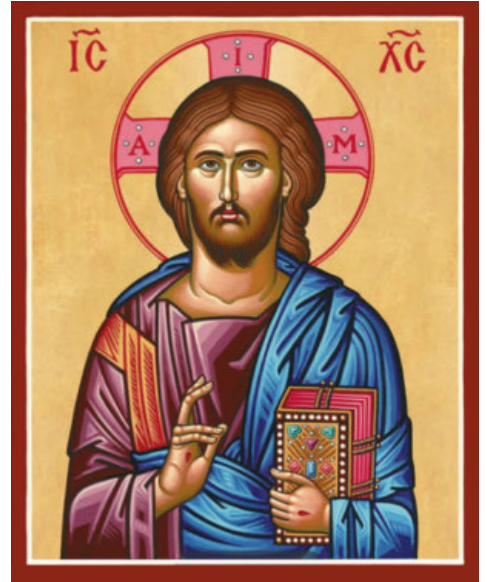
You can send your weekly donations through our *We Share!* internet service at www.saintphilipchurch.weshareonline.org.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK 



Faith Formation /Religious Education

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



A NOTE FROM MARYANN: “The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.” As we begin this last week of November, we are reminded of God’s love and care for each of us. As we begin this week and before we enter fully into the busy Advent/Christmas Season, we reflect on Psalm 23. As we reflect, may we pray:

God of hope, assure me of your unconditional love

Compassionate God, hold me to your heart when I feel helpless in the face of pain

Comforting God, shelter me in your care when I feel overcome with distress

Light-filled God, keep me close to your when I face the dark moments of my life

God of Peace, be my strength and a constant assurance of hope

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.

Save *the* Date

For information or reservations on any of these upcoming events, call 412-922-6388.

Tuesday, November 28: *Hooks & Needles* from 9:00am to 12:00 noon in the Ascension Admin Building.

Wednesday, November 29: *Mental Health Ministry* at 6:30pm in Ascension Hall.

Thursday, November 30: *Around the Advent Circle* at 6:30pm in Ascension Hall and join us every Thursday through December 21.

Friday, December 1: *Children's Advent Night* in Ascension Church Hall from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. Children will enjoy food, crafts, games, activities and a movie. Fill out the registration form on page 11 of this bulletin.

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

Saturday, December 9: *Teen Leadership Corps Service* from 9:00am to 11:00am at Ascension. We will be making cookies for Little Sisters of the Poor and Red Door.

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

Thursday, December 14: *Ladies of Charity Come & See* at 1:00pm in Ascension Hall.

Monday, December 18: *Parish & Faith Formation Family Night: A Night in Bethlehem* from 6:30pm to 8:00pm in Ascension Church Hall. Families will enjoy a pizza, crafts, treats, Christmas stories, a gift for each child and sing-a-long.

SAINT PHILIP PARISH PRESENTS

For Reservations, call the Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388. All are Welcome!

Mary's Tea

**Wednesday, December 6
11:00am to 1:00pm**

Enjoy finger sandwiches, sweet breads, cookies, fruit and tea.
Frank Bey will speak on
Our Lady of Guadalupe



ADVENT EVENING OF PRAYER

The Women of Bethlehem

**Wednesday, December 13
7:00pm at Ascension Church**

Come Pray with Mary, Elizabeth and Anna in an evening of Prayer, Scripture, Reflection, and Music followed by a social with Christmas treats.

A Night in Bethlehem

Monday, December 18

6:30pm to 8:00pm at Ascension Hall

All families and relatives are invited to spend an evening in Bethlehem. Enter the village and enjoy a pizza supper. View the Nativity Scenes. Create a family craft memory. Sample sweets from the Bethlehem Bakery. Take home a book from the Bethlehem Library. Enjoy some hot chocolate then join together in Scripture readings and song.



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 _____



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 and
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023**

Before & After all Masses

Conner Hall and Kelty Hall

Enjoy delicious, yummy, homemade

**CHRISTMAS COOKIES
and SWEET TREATS**

to support Saint Philip Parish

Large trays (3 Dozen) \$15.00

Small trays (1 Dozen) \$6.00

Pre-orders are suggested.

To place an order or any questions, call:
Katie @ 412-983-4541 / Rose @ 412-922-5785

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

We invite parishioners, parents and children to share their favorite homemade cookies with us. Cookies can be dropped off Ascension Conner Hall on **Friday, December 15 between 6:00pm & 8:00pm** and **Saturday, December 16 between 9:00am & 10:00am.**

**All cookies MUST BE delivered by
10:00am on Saturday for traying.**

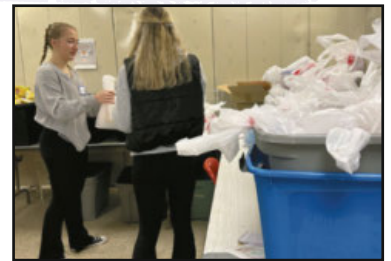
Volunteers are needed to sort, tray and wrap cookies. Contact Katie Phillips at 412-983-4541.

Thank you for your generosity!



TEEN LEADERSHIP SERVICE CORPS

Saint Philip Teen Leadership Service Corps recently helped at the Red Door Ministry in Pittsburgh. The teens made sandwiches, created foods bags, served coffee and lunch to the homeless and those in need. Our next project is baking Christmas cookies on December 9 for the Little Sisters of the Poor. If you have a teen interested in earning service hours, please contact MaryAnn at 412-215-7743.



ARE YOU INTERESTED
IN CELEBRATING IRISH
CULTURE?



ARE YOU INTERESTED
IN VOLUNTEERING IN
THE COMMUNITY?

JOIN THE A.O.H.

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

We invite all Catholic men of Irish birth or descent to seek admittance to America's oldest and largest Irish Catholic Fraternal Organization!

All we ask is for you to live our motto:

FRIENDSHIP - UNITY - CHRISTIAN CHARITY

**SCAN
ME** 

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DENNY MAHER: ALLEGHENYAOH@GMAIL.COM



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

We would like to thank all of our generous donors who purchased raffle tickets for our *Help Thy Neighbor Raffle*. Our ticket sales and donations from corporate sponsors totaled \$5,485, which, coupled with the \$5,000 in matching funds from our anonymous donor, added up to \$10,485 in money raised to help our friends in need! This is \$442 more than last year, and as always, all of these funds will stay with our conference.

Now that almost all of the Covid assistance programs have ended, we have seen a great increase in requests for assistance from our neighbors in need. Without your help, we would be unable to answer the call to help God's children - our brothers and sisters - who reach out to us each day. We are truly blessed!

We would also like to thank you for your donations of non-perishable food items to our food pantry at the Thanksgiving Day Mass. Our volunteers deliver food on a monthly basis to our "food families" who do not have transportation with which to reach traditional food banks. We currently deliver to approximately 70 families a month and new families sign up frequently.

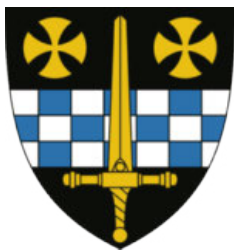
If you have an hour or two to spare each month and are interested in volunteering with our food pantry, call/text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email us at svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com. You will be matched with at least one other volunteer to make a "food team." You and your teammates will meet once a month at our pantry to pack the food and deliver it to one or more "food families." Being on a food team is a very rewarding experience as

you get the chance to know your food families as the months go by and have the opportunity to develop lasting friendships with them. We are not only delivering food, but some smiles and a little fellowship as well. This is also a great way to volunteer as a family or a couple!

This week, your generous donations enabled us to assist a woman with \$271 toward a security deposit; a veteran was assisted with \$400 toward rent; a pregnant woman was assisted with \$55 for a medical expense; a single mother was assisted with \$100 toward her gas bill; and an elderly man was given \$300 in rental assistance. Thank you for helping us to make these positive impacts in our local community!

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, 15205, or donate at <https://saintphilipchurch.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/StVincentdePaul>. Monetary donations made to our conference are used only to assist friends in need and to pay our operational expenses. No money is given to any other organizations.

If you would like to make a donation of furniture or household goods, please 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. If you'd like to join us in helping our friends in need or just want to learn more, call/text or email us for more information.



Around the Diocese and Community

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Staff Accountant - Financial Services: Applications are now being accepted for the position of Staff Accountant in the Department for Financial Services of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. This is a full-time position located at the Diocese of Pittsburgh Pastoral Center, 2900 Noblestown Road.

This position is responsible for financial matters in areas of the Diocesan accounting function of various funds as assigned by the Controller. Qualifications for the Staff Accountant position include:

- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting;
- Minimum of five (5) years' experience in accounting/finance;
- Experience with financial reporting requirements;
- Knowledge of accounting and financial reporting rules FASB and GAAP;
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office;
- Advanced Excel skills including experience with spreadsheets;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills;
- Ability to analyze information;
- Attention to detail & problem solving skills;
- Proactive attitude that focuses on creating ideas and plans for correcting issues and handling daily tasks with the ability to multitask;
- Excellent time management skills;
- Ability to protect confidential information.

A competitive salary will be offered to the successful candidate as well as a full benefit package. Qualified applicants should submit a letter of interest and résumé to: Deacon Jeff Hirst, Director of Human Resources, at jhirst@diopitt.org.

2024 GAA LOTTERY CALENDARS

Great stocking stuffers! 365 chances to WIN - a gift that keeps on giving! Donation of \$30 per card. Payouts are \$40 Sunday-Friday, \$60 Saturday, and Holidays vary from \$75 to \$500. Win once and it pays for itself! Available now at the parish office, Guardian Angel Academy office or email klozano@guardianangelacademy.org. Proceeds benefit the students of Guardian Angel Academy.

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Did you know?



The Feast of Christ the King was instituted in 1925 to address growing attitudes of secularism and atheism and to proclaim Christ's kingship forever. The day also marks the final Sunday on the Church's Liturgical Calendar.

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