

**Forward in
Faith!**

*Thank you for
supporting our Parish!*

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

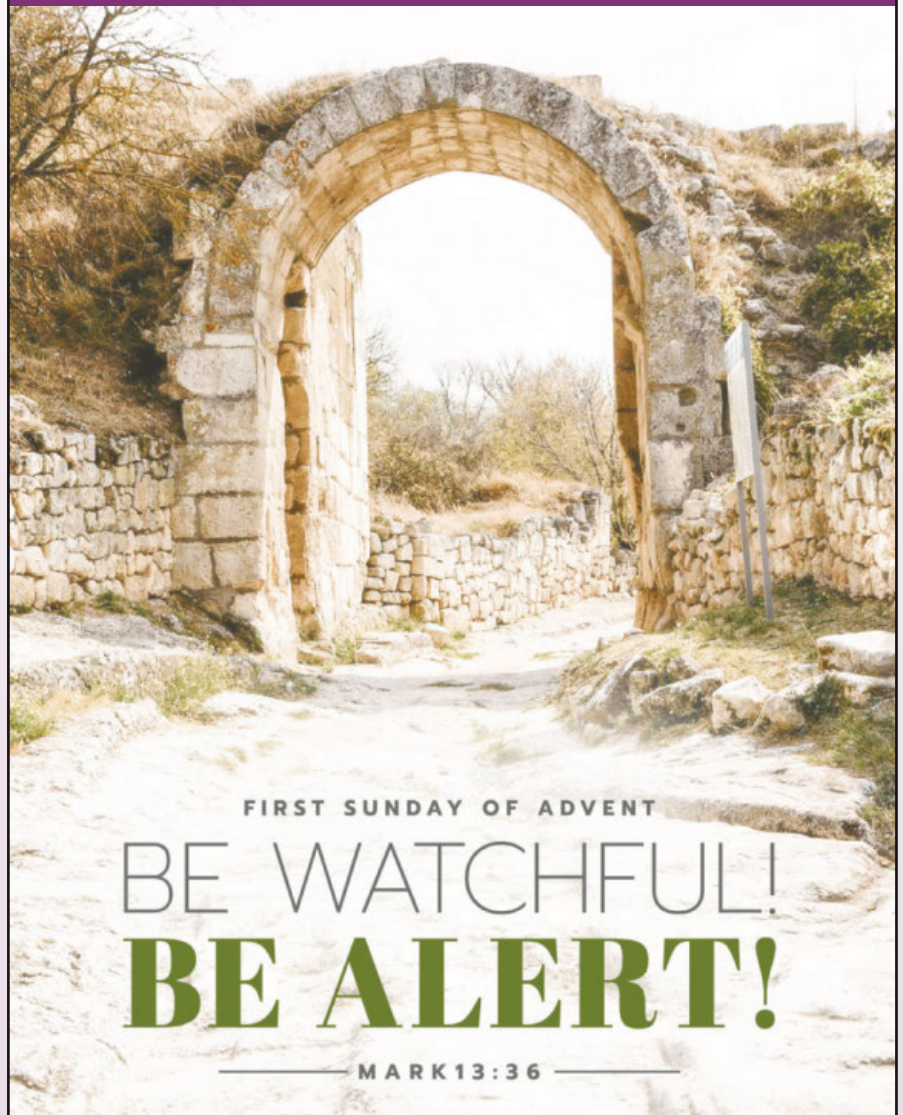
CRISIS SUPPORT/SUICIDE PREVENTION

24-Hour Lifeline Dial 988
Resolve Crisis Network 1-888-796-8226

Saint Philip Catholic Parish

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

Week of December 3, 2023



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, 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 Nordick, 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
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4 — ADVENT WEEKDAY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Michael & Mary Dolansky	Dolansky Family
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5 — ADVENT WEEKDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	Francis Ruffalo	Rose
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 — SAINT NICHOLAS			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Patricia Urbanic	Jan Ringel Kersnick & Paul Kersnick
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 — ST. AMBROSE, BISHOP & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH			
Ascension	8:00am	Willis F. O'Neil	Janine & Mike Wilson
VIGIL LITURGIES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION			
Saint Philip	4:00pm (Vigil)	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
Ascension	5:30pm (Vigil)	Nancy Baur	St. Philip Choir
FRIDAY, DEC. 8 — IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Ervin Leedstrom	Leedstrom Family
Ascension	7:00pm	Our Lady's Intentions	Parish Member
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 — ADVENT WEEKDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
Saint Philip	4:00pm (Vigil)	Santo Rea	Wife & Family
Ascension	5:30pm (Vigil)	Rittler Family	Ruth, Barb & Joe
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 — SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Special Intention of the Rees Children	Aunt Beth
Ascension	9:30am	Annette Demor	Family
Saint Philip	11:00am	JoAnna Mascellino Rizzo	Mascellino Siblings



Notes from the Pastor

Greetings once again, and best wishes for a blessed Advent season and month of December!

It's time to rise from our slumber!

When we arrive at the end of any year, we tend to be tired - maybe even exhausted! When we think of it, 365 days is quite a long time. Whether it be the Church Year or our secular calendar year, one full year is filled with activities, work, schedules, deadlines, responsibilities, and obligations. It's no wonder that, in our Northern Hemisphere, it's quite natural for all of us to desire hibernation time and sleep.

Then, after we officially end the year, it seems there's something of an increase in our energy and enthusiasm when the New Year gets rolling. Once January gets underway, we eagerly look forward to Spring, sunshine, pleasant weather, and a renewal of life.

The same is true of our Catholic Christian calendar. When we arrive at the final week of the Church Year, we realize how long a year it's been - a long year of faith and prayer, Liturgy and Sacraments, service and charity, along with witness and holiness of life! It's not unusual that we need some quiet time to reenergize our spiritual lives and energy as well. (YES, some hibernation in these cold winter months benefits us spiritually too.)

Once we've rested a bit, we hopefully have the energy and enthusiasm to begin yet another year celebrating the entirety of our Christian faith - beginning with our commemoration of the Lord Jesus' birth during the Christmas Season which we combine with our anticipation of Jesus' return in glory. Then we remember all the significant events of Jesus' life - his teaching and preaching, his miracles of healing, the Lord's Supper, his suffering and death, and finally Jesus' Resurrection, Ascension, and

gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost - as well as with Jesus' promise to return in glory!

The 365 days of our Catholic Year are wonderfully filled with great celebrations and faith and the Good News of the Lord Jesus. As we begin this New Church Year 2024, may we ask the Lord and the Holy Spirit to reenergize all of us so that we may have a wonderful year along this pilgrim way to our final and eternal life with God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit! A blessed New Christian Year 2024 to everyone!

Our *Forward in Faith!* increased offertory appeal

In these months, 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. For the first time in many years, all of our parish members and families are being 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.

To date, we've received a good number of pledges to increase weekly contributions - as well as some one time donations. We're hoping that, before the end of December, every household in our parish will respond to this *Forward in Faith!* Stewardship Campaign.

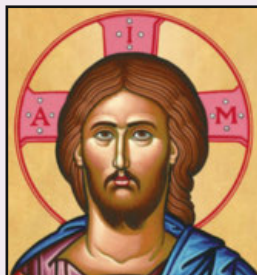
By the divine grace of God - and with your increased financial support - we will continue to be a vital and thriving parish community. Please see the articles on Page 4 and Page 7 of this bulletin, and then please commit your increased financial support to Saint Philip Parish both now and in the year/s ahead! **Please complete your Commitment Card today, and return it to the parish office before December 10.** Thank you very, very much!

Best wishes for the Advent Season and for the holidays!

Best wishes to you and to all in our Saint Philip Parish community for a very good Season of Advent which begins a new Christian year for all of us. 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!"



Every year, we celebrate the special December 8 National Holy Day of the United States of America -- the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We come together for the Liturgy on the day which asserts the Church's belief that Mary herself was conceived and lived without any sin. The divine grace of God protected Mary, the mother of the Lord, from any stain of sin from the moment her life began in her mother's womb. This is also, once again, the Patronal Feast of the Catholic Church in the United States.

We will celebrate the Liturgy on **Thursday, December 7 at 4:00pm (Saint Philip) and at 5:30pm (Ascension)**. On **Friday, December 8, we will have the Liturgy at 8:00am (Saint Philip) and at 7:00pm (Ascension)**. Please mark your calendar now, and be sure to join us for on this special Day of Obligation to worship the Lord.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 3

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

Weekdays

Isaiah 25-30;
Matthew 8-10

Sunday, December 10

Isaiah 40:1-11;
2 Peter 3:8-14;
Mark 1:1-8

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

O MARY,
CONCEIVED
WITHOUT SIN,
PRAY FOR US
WHO HAVE
RECOURSE
TO THEE.



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 18-19** -- \$9,337.89*

**Includes Mail-in donations*

Online donations -- \$1,331.00

Maintenance donations -- \$130.00

Religious Education donations -- \$156.00

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

Parish income received since July 1, 2023 -- \$252,652.14

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

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

General donations since July 1, 2023 -- \$4,395.00

Average weekly staff salary and benefits expenses -- \$7,640.00

Average weekly maintenance/operation expenses -- \$1,912.05

Average weekly utility expenses -- \$2,288.82

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 18-19 -- 712

Sunday envelopes used November 18-19 -- 299

Church attendance on November 25-26 -- 676

Sunday envelopes used November 25-26 -- 255

Total households receiving envelopes -- 1,090

2023 Parish Appeal Goal -- \$129,011.00

Parish Appeal received as of November 19 -- \$193,496.60*

**Includes online Parish Appeal donations*

2023 Parish Appeal Donors -- 352

OUR NEW *Forward In Faith!* STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

We have now inaugurated a NEW Increased Offertory Program to (*hopefully*) increase the financial stewardship and support of our parish community now and in the years to come. 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!



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.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Charlie Michael Colantonio** who was named to the Honor Roll at **Central Catholic High School** for the First Academic Quarter. He received High Honors.

Congratulations to the following students from Saint Philip parish who were named to the **OLSH Honor Roll** for the First Quarter:

HIGHEST HONORS: **Mason Bannon, Hannah Hayes, Presley Holmes, Salvator Lozano, Gianna Marino, Rachel McDevitt, and Katelyn Miller.**

HONORS: **Hope Avery, Keely Bodnar, Colby Lane, and Brianna Stumpf.**

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday, December 4: *Faith Formation* 6:30pm on Saint Philip campus

Tuesday, December 5: *Hooks & Needles* 9:00am in Ascension Admin Building

Wednesday, December 6: *Mary's Tea* from 11:00am to 1:00pm in Ascension Hall

Wednesday, December 6: *Christian Men's Fellowship* at 7:00pm in Ascension Admin Building

Thursday, December 7: *Around the Advent Circle* at 6:30pm in Ascension Hall

Friday, December 8: *Immaculate Conception Feast Day* - see bulletin for Mass times

Saturday, December 9: *Teen Leadership Service Corps* from 9:00am to 11:00am at Ascension

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.

Before the Liturgies this weekend, we'll be singing new musical settings for the Gloria and our acclamations using the music page at your seats. Also, during this **First Sunday of Advent, December 2-3,** we'll also together 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 participation in the Liturgy - as well as more prayer in our daily Christian living in church and at home!

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Holy Day of Obligation the parish office will be closed on Friday, December 8. Messages may be left with the answering service or sent via email.



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!

Last 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.

In these months, 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, we're asking all of our faithful and dedicated parish members (*and families*) to complete AND submit 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 (<https://saintphilipparishpgh.com>) 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!

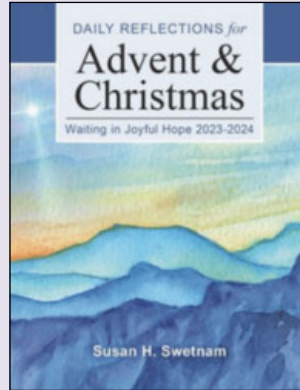


OUR ADVENT DAILY REFLECTIONS

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

At our church entrances, you'll find copies of this year's booklet of *Advent Reflections 2023*. Please make time for prayer this Advent and Christmas Season - alone, and with your family members. Feel free to take home the Advent Reflection booklet/s for use by you and all in your family.

Please turn OFF your television and the internet, and spend quiet time in prayer with the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit each day. You, your family, and our parish community will all greatly benefit from your daily time in prayer this Advent and in the Christmas Season!



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

This is just a reminder that all Giving Tree gifts should be **returned by Monday, December 4** and must be in a gift bag with tag attached. *Thank you for your generosity!*



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 one millennium 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.



SAVE THE DATE

The annual Saint Philip Purse Bingo will be held on **Sunday, January 28, 2024**.
See you here!



We offer our sympathy to the family of **Elizabeth H. Wagner**, who entered into eternal life. Please keep her in your prayers.

Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at St. Philip burns *In Loving Memory of Evelyn Filardi*
Offered by Carol Anderson

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at **Ascension** burns *In Loving Memory of Eddie Nordick, Sr.*
Offered by Marcy Nordick



CRAFTON GIANT EAGLE

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 stphilipreligious@gmail.com

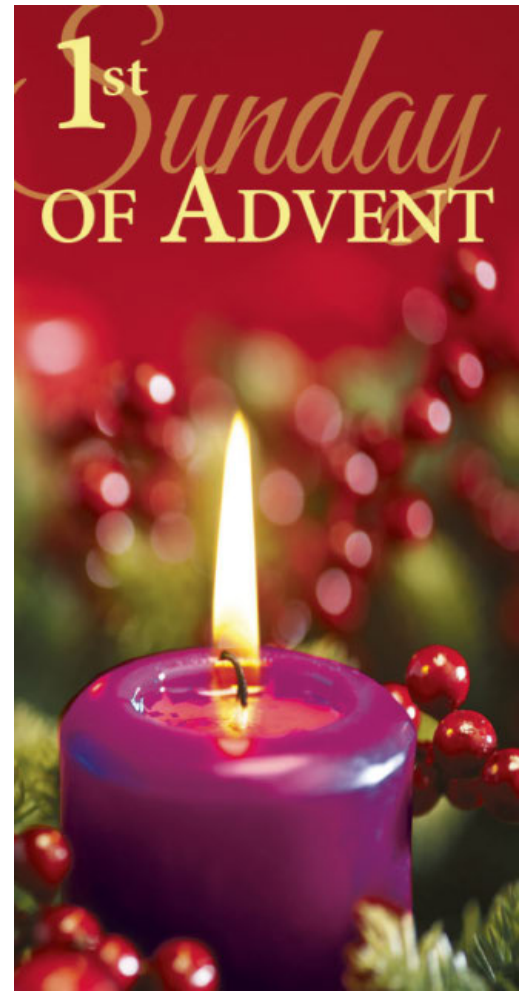
A NOTE FROM MARYANN: A blessed First Sunday of Advent. Our theme for this Sunday is *“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.”* Our secondary theme is *Waiting*. We wait for the Lord to come both at the end of time and at Christmas. But we do not wait alone. We wait with someone. We wait with one another. There are two ways to “wait” with another: (1) to be physically present with another or (2) to be present “in spirit” by deliberately sending prayer, compassionate thoughts, and kind feelings. As we “wait” together this Advent, let us consider the following during these days:

- Wait with someone who needs you.
- Wait with someone who give you hope.
- Wait with someone who is in pain or worry.
- Wait with a child.
- Wait with someone who is in the hospital.
- Wait with those who do not go to Church.
- Wait with someone in need of food or shelter.
- Wait with someone who is lonely.

The above was adapted from *Out of the Ordinary* by Joyce Rupp.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

The purpose of our *Mental Health Ministry* is to raise awareness, provide support and start conversations regarding mental health. It is important that those in our community facing mental health challenges feel accepted, understood, supported, respected and loved within our faith community. In our sessions together, we have considered the following: What is mental health? What is the teaching of the Church regarding mental health? How do we as a Parish help build resiliency for those facing mental health challenges? We also listened to the experiences of individuals facing mental health challenges. Our next session is on **Wednesday, January 10 at 6:30pm in Ascension Hall**. At that session we will consider the Church’s view of suffering and, “What is recovery?” All are welcome to join us. Call 412-922-6388 for information.

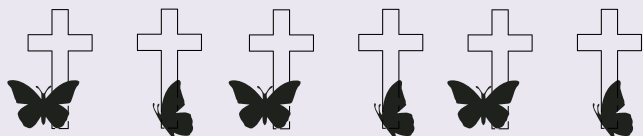


TEEN LEADERSHIP SERVICE CORPS



Our high school students will meet on **Saturday, December 9 from 9:00am to 11:00am in Ascension Hall** to bake cookies for the Little Sisters of the Poor. If your teen would like to earn service hours, college letters of recommendation and have fun while serving others, please call 412-922-6388 to register and volunteer.





PRAYING FOR THOSE STRUGGLING WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Beginning last week, you can see prayer crosses or prayer boards at the entrance to our churches. 1.) Throughout the Christmas Season and into January, we ask that if you know of a person in need of prayer for hope and healing due to suffering from mental challenges, please write their first name on a square post-it and place it on the cross or board. 2.) 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 or cross. We ask the Lord to hold all of these loved ones in His care.



FIND HELP

CRISIS HELPLINES

As part of our Parish effort to provide support to those who may need it, we offer the following information:

988: A Direct Link for Suicide Prevention and Crisis Support. Contacting 988 will connect individuals to 24/7 free and confidential support if they are in distress or in need of prevention and crisis resources for themselves or a loved one.

1-888-796-8226: Resolve Crisis Network. Resolve is a 24 hour, 365-day crisis service that is free to all Allegheny County residents. It is a partnership between the county and UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital. Call any day, any time, any reason.

DECEMBER ATTRACTIONS:

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

Monday, December 4: *Faith Formation* at 6:30pm on Saint Philip campus.

Tuesday, December 5: *Hooks & Needles* 9:00am in Ascension Admin Building.

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

Wednesday, December 6: *Christian Men's Fellowship* at 7:00pm in Ascension Admin Building.

Thursday, December 7: *Around the Advent Circle* at 6:30pm in Ascension Hall.

Friday, December 8: *Immaculate Conception Feast Day* - see bulletin for Mass times.

Saturday, December 9: Teen Leadership Service Corps from 9:00am to 11:00am at Ascension.

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.

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

Saturday, December 16 & Sunday, December 17: Annual Parish Christmas Cookie Sale.

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 supper followed by crafts, sweet treats, Christmas stories, a gift for each child and sing-a-long in church. All are welcome.

Saint Philip Parish

presents



AN ADVENT EVENING OF PRAYER

Three Wise Women

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

Join us as we journey through the **Advent Season with Mary, Elizabeth and Anna**. We will hear from each of the women as we reflect on their experiences through Scripture, song and prayer. We will conclude the evening with a Christmas Cookie Social in Ascension Hall.



Saint Philip Parish Annual **CHRISTMAS** *Cookie Sale*



**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!



Guardian Angel Academy

One of the South Region Catholic Elementary Schools (SRCES)



HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

Guardian Angel Academy would like to acknowledge and congratulate our Middle School Honor Roll Students for the First Quarter of the 2023 -2024 School Year!

HIGHEST HONOR: Adrianna Batts, Christian Bush, Mason Dick, Brady Jenkins, Gabriella Kim, Maria Leithauser-Mihalega, Carter Lemmon, Emily Luzar, Raymond Piaggese, Alexxis Robles, Elsa Snover, Dylan Ford, Maria Fuchs, Chase Harris, Maddie Hayes, Julia Piaggese, Kayla To, Nicolo Trigona, Sydney Twardy, Lucy Writable, Amari Wright, Eliana Cornetti, Aline Ibrahim, Skylar Jenkins, Fiona Shipley, Juliet Snover, Joseph Stack, Macie Trombetta, Travis Anglum, Allison Julia, Avery Sinicrope, Adaya Nosa-Oviasu, and Daniel Proch.

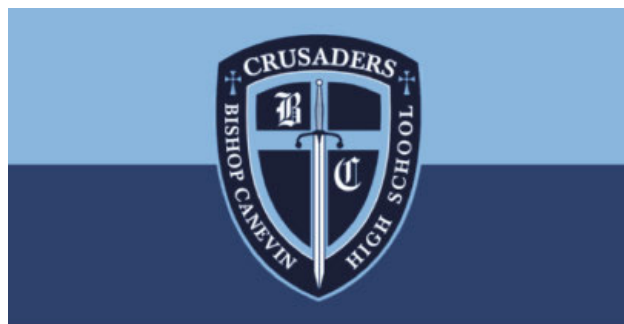
HIGH HONOR: Eden Franc, Jackson Leslie, Hunter Smith, Daniel Talerico, Noah Bays, Hunter Mattern, Isabella Trosky, Camden Washington, Chelsey Harris, and Betsy Rector.

HONOR: Bridget Fraino, Dylan Courtney, Derek Elaiho, Zoey Golembiewski, Devin Hanna, Eve Reinheimer, Halle Reinheimer, Sophia Romanovich, Beckham Barr, Grady Molinero, and Caroline Yuhas.

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.



HIGH HONOR ROLL:

Elizabeth Fuchs, Marli Hornack, Casey Marston, Cienna Rung, Ava Washington, Cooper Anselm, Amari Elliott, Chloe Waxter, Matthew Ziegler, Kelsey Adamski, Natalie Kirsch, Hayleigh Loeffert, Bridget McNamara, Maslen Anselm, Alejandro Badran, Zachary Bittner, Violet Chabala, Madeline Dillon, Thomas Foster, Joseph Hurley, Alex Ibrahim, Sean Kelsch, Jacob Loeffert, Cameran Lokaitis, Isabella Malloy, Ava Mercurio-Brennan, Gracie Rauterkus, Ian Swanson, Julianna Nelle Umalin, and Hayden Wigle.

HONOR ROLL:

Samantha Bittner, Ethan Elstner, Katie Butcher, Aidan Didion, and Lucas Golembiewski.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

We often report that a friend in need received a clothing voucher and/or a household goods voucher, but what are those things and where do the items come from?

Many of you know that the St. Vincent de Paul Central Council of Pittsburgh operates thrift stores, and you may have even donated by placing items in their blue bins (in front of the Hope House and behind the Ascension worship site) or by dropping donations off at one of the thrift stores. There are stores in Coraopolis, Castle Shannon, Monroeville, Penn Hills and Butler. These stores not only provide employment opportunities and low-cost items for sale, but they also supply our friends in need with free items!

When we meet a new friend in need, we often find that the friend in need lacks clothing and/or basic household goods like pots, pans, silverware, towels or sheets. We are able to fulfill these needs by ordering a clothing voucher and a household goods voucher. A clothing voucher entitles the friend in need, and everyone in their household, to obtain three free outfits from a St. Vincent de Paul thrift store. There is no cost to the conference for a clothing voucher.

A household goods voucher allows a friend in need to obtain a certain dollar amount (usually \$50) of items from one of the thrift stores for free. The referring conference pays for the value of the goods that the friend in need “purchases,” but our money goes much further by allowing the friend in need to purchase gently used items from our thrift stores than it

would if we had to purchase new items.

In order to help the thrift stores to be able to continue the clothing and household goods voucher programs, you can shop at one of the thrift stores or make a donation of new or gently used clothing or household goods. Clothing, shoes and accessories (purses, scarves, etc.) can be placed in the blue bins in front of the Hope House and behind the Ascension worship site, or donated directly to one of the thrift stores. Household goods like pots, pans, lamps and towels must be donated at one of the thrift stores (they cannot go in the blue bins). To view store locations and hours, visit <https://svdppitt.org/stores/store-locations-directions>. Thank you in advance for helping the needy in our diocese by supporting the Council of Pittsburgh, and for your constant support of the Saint Philip Conference.

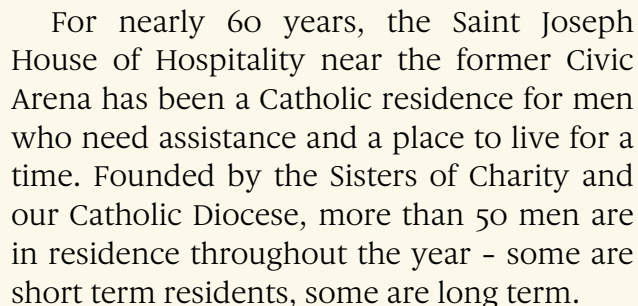
This week, your generous donations enabled us to assist a veteran with \$500 toward rent by twinning with another conference; a woman was given a clothing voucher; a woman was assisted with a Thanksgiving dinner; a single mother was assisted with emergency food and a PRT Connect Card; a single mom was given a mattress for her child; a family was given \$438 toward their water bill in order to prevent a shut-off; a woman was assisted with \$420 for a one-week motel stay; and a woman was given a bus pass to get to a new job. Thank you!

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please place your donation in one of the poor boxes, mail it to the parish office (attention of SVdP), or visit <https://saintphilipchurch.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/StVincentdePaul>. Monetary donations made to our conference are used only to assist friends in need and to pay our operational expenses. No money is given to any other organizations.

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



On **Sunday, January 14, 2:00pm to 5:00pm**, at Top Golf Bridgeville, our Guardian Angel Academy will host a three hour event for experienced AND casual golfers alike. This outing includes three hours of driving range style golfing - as well as a competition, raffle, auction baskets, appetizers, and more. It is an adult (*21+ years of age*) event. The donation is \$125 per ticket OR \$600 for a group of six.



Overseen now by Catholic Charities of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Saint Joseph House of Hospitality supports these men thanks to your generosity. If you'd like to help, you may send a donation at any time of the year. Please make your check payable to Catholic Charities with *Saint Joseph House in the memo* and mail it to:

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c/o Catholic Charities
212 Ninth Street
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