

**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 SVdeP (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 10, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ONE MIGHTIER
THAN I IS
COMING.

MARK 1:7A

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 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
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 — ADVENT WEEKDAY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Robert Wilson	Joan Ulicny
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 — OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE			
Ascension	8:00am	Albert & Jenny Cue	Amy Cue & Family
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 — SAINT LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Sam Palombini	Anita C. Macklin
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14 — SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH			
Ascension	8:00am	Denk & Moses Families	Evelyn Moses
FRIDAY, DEC. 15 — ADVENT WEEKDAY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Ruth Ann Holzapfel	Parents, Ruth & Bill
Saint Philip	3:30pm	Wedding - Shane J. Young and Anna H. Covatto	
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 — ADVENT WEEKDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
Saint Philip	4:00pm (Vigil)	Deceased of the McDonald & Auth Families	McDonald Family
Ascension	5:30pm (Vigil)	Pat Wilkie	Ruth Rittler
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 — THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Laura Kelly	Patrick Kelly
Ascension	9:30am	Ruthann Holzapfel	Family
Saint Philip	11:00am	Catherine Hermann	Family
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 blessed Advent season and month of December!

Pointing to Jesus

Have you ever noticed that everything is intended to point to Jesus?

In our Catholic Christian faith, the Old Testament of Israel points to Jesus as the promised Messiah and Savior. The New Testament certainly points us all to Jesus. The teachings, saints, martyrs, and history of the Catholic Church all point to Jesus. The ministry and charity and work of the Lord's holy people all point to Jesus. Being the Son of God, Jesus is the focus and the pinnacle of all humanity, of the Kingdom of God, of the Gospel, and of our salvation! Everything is meant to point above all to Jesus and his tremendous importance in our lives and in our world.

As we continue the Season of Advent, this Second Sunday brings Saint John the Baptizer to us once again. Before anyone else, Saint John the Baptizer is the very first witness directing us to Jesus at the beginning of the Lord's public ministry. In addition to the Lord's mother, Mary of Nazareth, Saint John enthusiastically directs his disciples (and all who would listen) toward Jesus as the Promised One of God, the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world and bring salvation to the People of God.

Today, Saint John the Baptizer - along with our Blessed Mother Mary - continues to direct us toward Jesus in this Advent Season and throughout the Catholic Christian Year. May we pay attention to Saint John and his testimony. As this first prophet of the New Testament points us to Jesus once again, may we follow John's direction and turn our daily attention and our lives toward Jesus. At John's

encouragement, may we focus on Jesus every day of our lives. May we remain close to Jesus in our discipleship, and like Saint John, may we also point and guide others to Jesus too.

Many individuals in our community are looking for meaning, love, hope, and fulfillment. As we prepare for the celebrations of the Christmas Season, may all of us remind our family members and neighbors of the meaning and importance of the Lord's birth. May we guide their focus away from the gifts and decorations of Christmas and, instead, direct those around us in the coming five weeks - first and foremost - toward the Lord Jesus whose birth we celebrate joyfully every year - the Lord Jesus who offers us divine love and a share in the eternal life of his Resurrection

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.

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.

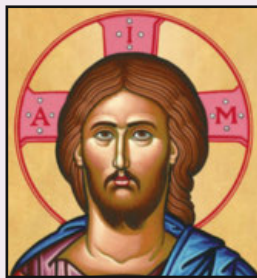
By the divine grace of God - and with your increased financial support - we will continue to be a vital and thriving parish community. **Please complete your Commitment Card today, and return it to the parish office before December 17.** Thank you very, very much!

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!"

OUR NEW PARISH WEBSITE AND EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Nearly eight years ago, Saint Philip Parish became a consolidation of six previously distinct communities here in the West End of Pittsburgh - along with Crafton, Ingram, and Thornburg.

Given the name of Saint Philip Parish, it's been decided to change our internet site and email addresses to reflect this unity in one Catholic parish.

As such, here is the address of our NEW website where you'll find information about our parish - along with the email addresses of our staff members.

Saint Philip Parish Website:
www.saintphilipparishpgh.com

Rev. James R. Torquato, Pastor
jtorquato@diopitt.org

Dorothy Kraemer
Parish Office Manager
parishoffice@saintphilipparish.com

MaryAnn Garfold
Faith Formation Director
m.garfold@saintphilipparish.com

David Pilarski
Business Coordinator and
Safe Environment Coordinator
d.pilarski@saintphilipparish.com

Maureen Takach
Administrative Assistant
m.takach@saintphilipparish.com





BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 10

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

Weekdays

Isaiah 35-48;
Luke 5 & Matthew 11

Sunday, December 17

Isaiah 61:1-11;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;
John 1:6-28



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 25-26** -- \$8,886.00*

*Includes Mail-in donations

Online donations -- \$2,053.00

Maintenance donations -- \$331.00

Religious Education donations -- \$80.00

Retirement Fund for Religious -- \$1,053.00

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

Parish income received since July 1, 2023 -- \$264,002.14

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

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

General donations since July 1, 2023 -- \$4,595.00

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 25-26 -- 676

Sunday envelopes used November 25-26 -- 255

Church attendance on December 2-3 -- 658

Total households receiving envelopes -- 1,090

2023 Parish Appeal Goal -- \$129,011.00

Parish Appeal received as of November 26 -- \$193,741.60*

*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. (*It comes to us from Our Sunday visitor, Inc. which is conducting our Increased Offertory Campaign in November.*)

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

THE *Light* IS ON FOR
YOU!

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday, December 13

6:00pm to 9:00pm

Ascension Church



SAVE THE DATE

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



OUR ADVENT 2023 RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important part of our sacramental and spiritual lives. It is also an important part of our preparation for Christmas and the Christmas Season. **This December**, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available during the following times at our two churches:

****All Saturdays in December**

12:00pm to 1:00pm Ascension church

Wednesday, December 13

6:00pm to 9:00pm Ascension church

Monday, December 18

12 noon to 1:00pm Saint Philip church

6:00pm to 8:00pm Ascension church

Wednesday, December 20

12 noon to 1:00pm Saint Philip church

6:00pm to 8:00pm Saint Philip church

Thursday, December 21

6:00pm to 8:00pm Ascension church

Friday, December 22

12 noon to 1:00pm Saint Philip church

NO Confession times on December 24.

OUR 2023 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

For your Christmas planning, our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Liturgies will be celebrated at these times:

Sunday evening, December 24

4:00pm at Saint Philip church

4:00pm at Ascension church

6:00pm at Ascension church

12 midnight at Saint Philip church

Monday, December 25

8:00am at Saint Philip church

9:30am at Ascension church

11:00am at Saint Philip church

****Christmas IS a Holy Day of Obligation EVERY year!**

Best wishes to all our parish members and families for a joyful Season of Christmas beginning the evening of December 24, 2023 until the evening of January 8, 2024!





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!

During these weeks, 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!

A CANDLE DONATION INCREASE

Beginning January 1, 2024, the requested donation for each shrine candle (*prayer candle*) at both of our churches will **increase to \$4 per candle**. The requested donation has NOT increased for several decades.

However, because of the increased cost of each candle - and because of increasing delivery charges and fuel surcharges - each candle will soon cost the parish more than \$3.

As such, beginning January 1, 2024, please be kind enough to contribute **\$4 for each shrine candle** (*prayer candle*) at both Saint Philip and Ascension churches. Thank you!



We offer our sympathy to the families of **Robert Hoffman, Keli Neal, and Donna Scholz**, 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*
Ervin Leedstrom
Offered by Leedstrom Family

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at **Ascension** burns *In Loving Memory of*
Russell Toal
Offered by Wife & Family



HANLON'S CAFÉ & CATERING

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

DONATE ONLINE

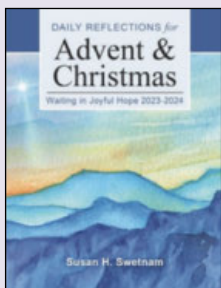
Make donating easy!

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 

OUR ADVENT DAILY REFLECTIONS



Last weekend, booklets of *Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas* were made available to everyone at both of our churches. Please be sure to read each daily reflection during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Everyone is encouraged to take time every day to pray at home - *especially during Advent and Christmas* - as a way to deepen your spiritual life and the spiritual life of our parish community. May the Lord bless you in your prayer!

THE GIVING TREE - THANK YOU!

For nearly five decades, our parish and all parishes in the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh have conducted *Giving Tree* programs to provide Christmas gifts to people and families in need. Having been created during the closing of the steel mills in our county during the 1970's, these *Giving Tree* efforts continue to bring joy and gladness to many homes and households in our local area.

Your response this year has been exceptional as always! Many thanks and much gratitude is extended to all of our Saint Philip Parish members and families for your goodness and generosity which will make this Christmas 2023 memorable and blessed once again for many individuals of all ages - and numerous families too!

Thank you very much once again to all our donors and gift contributors for your true generosity this year. As you've blessed many people in need this December, may the good Lord also bless you this Christmas and throughout the year to come!





Faith Formation /Religious Education

Ms. MaryAnn Garfold, Director of Religious Education
412-922-6388 m.garfold@saintphilipparish.com



A NOTE FROM MARYANN: Blessings this Second Sunday of Advent. In this Sunday's Second Reading, Saint Paul says, *"I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in Him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

This is the time of year when we share and give gifts to one another. It is the time of year when we recognize all the many gifts, both material and spiritual, that God has bestowed upon us. I ask now, at this time of year when we are giving gifts, that each of us consider giving the gift of ourselves and sharing our gifts with one another in Saint Philip Parish.

Faith Formation needs your gifts. **We are grateful to those who share their gifts** as *catechists and catechetical aides*. We are grateful to those who share their gifts as *greeters, ushers, altar servers and lectors*. We are grateful to those who share their gifts with the poor through the *Saint Vincent de Paul Society*. We are grateful to those who feel called to the *Legion of Mary* and the *Ladies of Charity*. But we need everyone's gifts.

Saint Philip Parish is in need of individuals, young and old, to serve as prayer companions to the newly baptized children and their families. This would involve reaching out to a family, whose name you would receive from the Office, and agreeing to pray each day for that family. We are also in need of adults to companion our OCIA candidates on their journey. Our final need for 2023 is for parents of teens to help supervise our *Teen Leadership Service Corps*. I ask that as 2023 ends and you are wrapping gifts to give this Christmas that you pray and consider giving the gift of your time and talent to one of the above ministries.

God has blessed each of us with all the spiritual gifts we need to share our faith. Would you consider volunteering for one of the prayer and companion ministries to share the faith with our families, OCIA candidates and teens. If you are able to help in 2024, call the Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY: Our *Mental Health Ministry* has as its purpose 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.

Beginning last week, you can see prayer crosses or prayer boards at the entrance to our churches. Throughout the Christmas Season and into January, 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. 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.

DECEMBER ATTRACTIONS:

Monday, December 11: *Faith Formation Session*, 6:30pm to 8:00pm, St. Philip campus

Wednesday, December 13: *Parish Advent Evening of Prayer: The Three Wise Women*, 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*, 1:00pm at Ascension.

Thursday, December 14: *Around the Advent Circle*, 6:30pm at Ascension.

Saturday, December 16 & Sunday December 17: Parish Cookie Sale

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



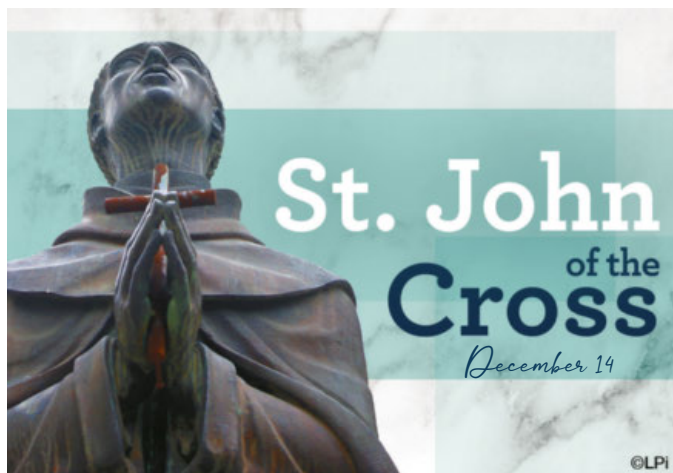
A Night in Bethlehem

Monday, December 18

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

Enjoy Dinner, Crafts, and Activities. Sample Sweets and Hot Chocolate. View 25 different Nativity Scenes, listen to the Christmas Story and Sing-a-long with Advent and Christmas Carols. Children receive a new Christmas Book

All ages are welcome. Activities for young and old. Call 412-922-6388 for Reservations.



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!

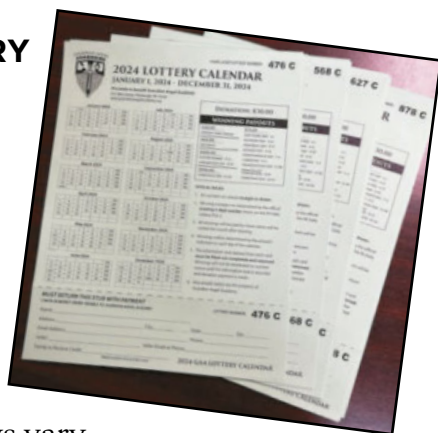


Guardian Angel Academy

One of the South Region Catholic Elementary Schools (SRCES)

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.

A GOLFING BENEFIT FOR GUARDIAN ANGEL ACADEMY

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.

Visit www.GAATopgolf.cheddarup.com to buy tickets. For more information, email Erin Sites at GAATopGolf@gmail.com. **You can also be an event sponsor!** Ticket deadline is Friday, January 5, 2024.

A "CHRISTMAS BLUES" LITURGY

A Light of Hope Within the Longest Nights of the Year Mass on **Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00pm** (Preceding Mass: 6:00pm Adoration, 6:30pm Rosary; After Mass: 7:50pm Short Presentation 8:00pm Closing Prayers)

Saint Jude Parish at Saint Raphael Church

1154 Chislett St., Pittsburgh PA 15206
Morningside/Highland Park Area

A Blue Christmas Mass recognizes the sadness and loneliness felt during the holidays due to the loss of a loved one, a job, physical or mental health, or feelings of anxiety and depression. All are welcome. This evening offers a ray of hope in the midst of life's darkest moments. A quiet time to prayerfully express feelings and find a sense of calm and peace.

Come join us during this time of the dark Winter Solstice for prayers, music, and reflections of hope.

CORNHOLE

Tournament

For Bishop Canevin Girls Basketball Team

When: Saturday, December 30th

Location: Bishop Canevin High School Gym

Doors open @12:00pm (Tournament starts @1:00pm)

All ages welcome (NO separate brackets for children)

Spectators Free

REGISTRATION DUE 12/22/2023

Prizes:
\$500 1st Place | \$200 2nd Place | \$100 3rd Place

Food available for purchase, Auction baskets, and 50/50

Register Here! Pay Here!

\$50 PER TEAM TO ENTER (double elimination)

QR codes for registration and payment (Cashapp, Venmo).

5BCgirlsbasketball @BC-Girls-Basketball



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, better known as LIHEAP, is currently accepting applications for its 2023-2024 program year, and will continue accepting applications through April 5, 2024. If you, or someone you know, worries about how they will pay to heat their home this winter, LIHEAP is here to help.

LIHEAP provides households that meet certain income requirements with grants from \$300 to \$1000, which can be applied to your electric or gas account, depending on which one you use to heat your home. This money does not have to be paid back, and you can get the grant even if you are not behind on your heating bill. LIHEAP also helps people in emergency situations by providing monetary assistance of \$25 to \$1000 to avoid a shut off, restore a shut off utility, replenish heating fuel, and fix broken heating equipment. Qualifying households can receive one regular LIHEAP and one LIHEAP crisis grant per program year. Grants are available to both homeowners and renters.

Customers of any utility company can call the LIHEAP hotline at 1-866-857-7095 for additional information.

If you heat your home with electricity and are a **Duquesne Light customer**, visit www.duquesnelight.com/account-billing/payment-assistance/liheap-grants for more information, including ways to apply for LIHEAP. If you heat your home with gas and are a **Peoples Gas customer**, visit www.peoples-gas.com/my-account/help-pay/pa/liheap.php for more information, including ways to apply for LIHEAP.

If you would like to apply for LIHEAP in person, the closest County Assistance Office is located at 5947 Penn Avenue, 4th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. Call the office at 412-562-0330 for office hours and to find out what information you will need to bring with you.

This week, your generous donations enabled us to assist a woman with a bed and chair, and another woman was provided with \$600 in rental assistance and was added to our monthly food delivery list. 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) at 114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205, or donate online at <https://saintphilipchurch.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/StVincentdePaul>. Monetary donations made to our conference are used only to assist friends in need and to pay our operational expenses. No money is given to any other organizations.

If you would like to make a donation of furniture or household goods, please call or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email us at svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com. If you would like to donate clothing, shoes or accessories, please place your donation in the blue bins in front of the Hope House at St. Philip or in the rear parking lot at Ascension, or you can call, text or email us to arrange a pickup if you are unable to transport them yourself. Please do not place any other items in those bins or leave anything outside of them because they will be thrown away. If you are looking to purchase new or gently-used clothing, housewares or furniture, please shop at the St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores and visit our online store at eshoppittsburgh.com. Also, we are always looking for volunteers! Any donation of your time is extremely valuable to us. If you'd like to join us in helping our friends in need or just want to learn more, call, text or email us for more information.

A Personal Examination of Conscience

Before celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession, it's important to conduct a personal examination of conscience in order to offer a complete confession.

"You shall love the Lord with all your heart, all your mind, and all your soul!"

- Is God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit of greatest importance in your life?
- Do you spend time in prayer each day?
- Do you offer thanks and praise to God each day?
- Do you give higher priority to your work, recreation, or possessions?
- Do you speak respectfully of the Lord at all times?
- Do you respect the name of God, and especially of Jesus, at all times?
- Have you missed church worship on any Sunday or any Holy Day?
- Do you keep Sunday as the day of the Lord and a day of prayer?

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

- Are you a person of love as Jesus commands us to be?
- Do you treat your parents, other adults, and all people with respect?
- Do you speak of family members, friends, neighbors, and strangers with charity?
- Have you taken the life of a human person or harmed someone?
- Have you ended or helped to end the life of a pre-born child?
- Have you mistreated or harmed other life?
- Have you broken your marriage commitment or intruded on another's marriage?
- Have you engaged in marital relations before or outside of married life?
- Have you used pharmaceuticals, prophylactics, or surgery to prevent conception?
- Have you made use of pornography or engaged in self-abuse?
- Have you engaged in theft of another's property or money?
- Have you damaged the property of someone else?
- Have you abused or damaged the natural resources of the earth?
- Have you told lies about other people? Have you lied about other matters?
- Have you spoken poorly of others or treated others with little or no respect?
- Have you spoken profanity or curses or sacrilege or blasphemy?
- Are you judgmental or critical of others without cause?
- Do you hold grudges and refuse to forgive family members or others?
- Are you envious and jealous of others, their families, or their possessions?
- Do you appreciate and give thanks for your own blessings?
- Do you share your blessings and possessions with others? With the Church?

An Act of Contrition - Lord God, I am sorry for all my sins. In choosing to do wrong, and failing to do good, I have offended you, whom I should love above all else. With the help of your grace, I promise to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, suffered and died for our sins. In His name, my God, have mercy.
Amen.

A copy of this Act of Contrition is also located in our confessional.



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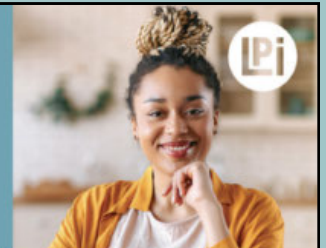
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