

**One Heart,
One Church**

THANK YOU
for supporting our
Annual Parish Appeal!

OFFICE HOURS

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

PARISH STAFF

Rev. James R. Torquato, Pastor
Mr. Frank Bey, Office Coordinator
Ms. MaryAnn Garfold, Faith Formation Director
Ms. Mary Beth Barsh, Music Director
Ms. Dorothy Mancini, Assistant Organist
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

PRIESTS IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Joseph Scheib, Saint Philip Rectory
Rev. Philip Farrell, Ascension Rectory

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Robert Bertocchi, 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 St. Vincent dePaul (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 July 14, 2024

15TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

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*.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA): 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, JULY 13 — SAINT HENRY			
Ascension	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
Saint Philip	4:00pm (Vigil)	Mary Scotti	Scotti Family
Ascension	5:30pm (Vigil)	Anna Kaczmarek	Paul Kaczmarek
SUNDAY, JULY 14 — FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Deceased of the Balsamo Family	Rita Keblish
Ascension	9:30am	Joseph Varvaro	Wife
Saint Philip	11:00am	Kathleen Mortel	Family
MONDAY, JULY 15 — SAINT BONAVENTURE, BISHOP & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH			
Saint Philip	8:00am	John W. Konrad	George & Victoria Konrad
TUESDAY, JULY 16 — OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL			
Ascension	8:00am	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Weimerskirch	Ruth Rittler
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17 — WEEKDAY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Darren Jevcak	Friends & Family
THURSDAY, JULY 18 — SAINT CAMILLUS DE LELLIS, PRIEST			
Ascension	8:00am	Mary Ann Merville	McDonald Family
FRIDAY, JULY 19 — WEEKDAY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Raymond & Dolores Drozak	Family
SATURDAY, JULY 20 — THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY			
Ascension	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
Saint Philip	4:00pm (Vigil)	Paul Meehan	Barb Pfender
Ascension	5:30pm (Vigil)	Deceased of the Coleman, Massaro & Winkler Families	Coleman Family
SUNDAY, JULY 21 — SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Thomas A. Ogden, Sr.	Pauline Ogden
Ascension	9:30am	Joseph Rago, Jr.	Family
Saint Philip	11:00am	Robert F. Badish	Paula Badish
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

Best wishes for these summer months! Try to enjoy some time of rest, relaxation, and recreation.

Set in your ways?

In this Sunday's account from the Gospel according to Mark, we read a very simple version of the "sending of the apostles" event which is more developed in the Gospels according to Matthew and Luke.

In Mark's account, Jesus' simply instructs the Apostles to venture out to preach and to heal. Jesus also instructs them to accept the hospitality of those who will welcome them.

In addition to expelling demons and healing those who are ill, what message was the preaching of the Apostles to include? We find the answer in the final verse of today's passage - the Apostles are to share the message of repentance - of conversion - with all who would listen.

Why repentance and conversion? I imagine this initial Christian message was preached because it's very easy and commonplace for human persons to get "stuck in a rut" as we say. If we are to be faithful to the Lord, then we need to continually turn to Jesus and regularly recommit ourselves to the Lord.

I hope that all of us are virtuous Catholic Christians, but it's very easy for us to get stuck in bad habits. These bad habits which pull us further and further away from the fullness of life in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We call these bad habits "vices", and yes, in time, these bad habits truly become "vicious."

How often do you examine your ways and

your own habits? Are your ways and habits always good and holy? Or do you also need conversion and repentance like the people of Jesus' own day?

In reality, the Lord Jesus calls us to conversion and repentance every day of our lives. Our conversion and repentance should be a normal and regular part of our daily living.

Of course, this is true of all human persons since the beginning of humanity - and it's also true of us, of all Christians, and of all people today as well.

Take the time today and this week to honestly examine your own words, thoughts, attitudes, and actions. Are they all as holy and as Christian as they should be? Will you benefit from your own conversion and repentance? Should you celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation soon? Give it some thought, and may you and all of us heed the Lord's call to repentance, conversion, and faithfulness to the ways of the Lord and the life of God.

Welcome, Father Philip Farrell!

This Monday, July 15, we will welcome our newest priest resident to the rectory on the Ascension church campus. Father Phil Farrell is a native of Crafton Heights and has been given a new assignment in the diocesan administration by Bishop David Zubik. You'll find additional information on Page 4 of this bulletin. Please join me in welcoming Father Farrell as he settles into his new home here at Saint Philip Parish - and as he begins his new diocesan ministry!

Best wishes for goodness this summer!

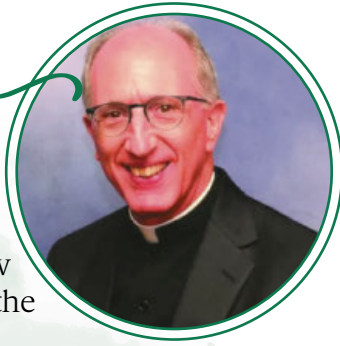
May all of you - our parish members and families - enjoy a very good summer. May the Lord keep you and your family members and friends healthy and safe. May this also be a time of rest, renewal, faith, and the love of God for you and all your neighbors, friends, and loved ones. God bless!

Yours, Father Jim Torquato

Welcome

Father Phil Farrell!

Tomorrow, Monday, July 15, we will welcome Father Philip Farrell as the new resident priest living in the rectory on the Ascension campus.



Father Farrell is a native of Crafton Heights. He was ordained in June 1993 and has served in our Diocese as a parish vicar, as a pastor, and - for most of these recent 15 years - as Bishop Zubik's Regional Vicar for the northern counties of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Beginning July 15, Father Farrell will serve as the Director of Institutional Ministries overseeing all of the Catholic chaplaincies at our high schools, college campuses, jails and prisons, and nursing facilities.

Father Phil will also provide some assistance to our parish liturgies on Sundays as did Father Larry Adams who is now the Pastor of Saint Mary Magdalene Parish in Pittsburgh's East End.

We welcome Father Farrel home to our parish community, and we wish him many blessings as he serves our diocesan church and as he becomes part of our parish community!



ADDING SOME EXTRA STAFF HELP

Given our parish staff changes within the past 12 months, we've been able to reconfigure our personnel budget for this new fiscal Year 2024-2025. This will allow us to reassign some of the duties and work of our staff members.

Our revised parish budget will now allow us to hire a new, part time Safe Environment Coordinator so that David Pilarski can focus on all of the business and financial aspects of our parish operation. Also, because our Faith Formation Office continues to create new and excellent programs and events for our parish community, we will also be able to hire a new, part time events coordinator.

We will be finalizing these part time additions to our parish staff this summer and will share with you in September the names of the individuals who will fulfill these important roles for the benefit of our Saint Philip Parish community. As always, thank you for your participation and support - as well as your financial contributions - which continue to keep Saint Philip Parish vital and alive!



The Great Jubilee of 2025

In keeping with an ancient Catholic practice, Pope Francis has declared next year to be a Jubilee Celebration of the birth of the Lord Jesus. Pilgrims from around the world are being encouraged to visit Rome and its four major basilicas to renew their faith and to receive divine graces during their pilgrimage.

As we speed toward 2025, be sure to look for the many pilgrimage trips to Rome if you'd like to join them. Also, information will be shared in the coming months about other celebrations of our Catholic Christian faith and of the Lord's birth as our Redeemer and Savior.

The overall theme for the 2025 Jubilee Year is *Pilgrims of Hope*. May 2025 be a blessed year of faith, hope, and charity for all of the Lord's holy people!



Sunday, July 14

Amos 7: 12-15;
Ephesians 1:3-14;
Mark 6:7-13

Weekdays

Isaiah 7-10;
Matthew 10-12

Sunday, July 21

Jeremiah 23:1-6;
Ephesians 2:13-18;
Mark 6:30-34



*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, June 29-30	-- \$9,163.50*
Online donations, June 29-30	-- \$1,979.50
Sunday collections, July 6-7	-- \$10,456.00*
<i>* Includes Mail-in donations</i>	
Online donations, July 6-7	-- \$3,487.50
Maintenance donations, June 30 & July 7	-- \$540.00
Religious Edu. donations, June 30 & July 7	-- \$338.00

Collection for the Holy Father, June 29-30 -- \$2,521.17

Parish income needed for this Fiscal Year	-- \$861,064.00
Parish income <u>received</u> since July 1, 2024	-- \$14,421.50
Parish fundraising since July 1, 2023	-- \$0
Estate gifts received since July 1, 2023	-- \$0
General donations since July 1, 2023	-- \$0

Average weekly staff salary and benefits expenses	-- \$7,640.00
Average weekly maintenance/operation expenses	-- \$1,543.97
Average weekly utility expenses	-- \$2,259.50
Average weekly insurance expenses	-- \$1,102.17
Weekly contributions to Guardian Angel Academy	-- \$1,397.92

Parish members -- 2,456	Parish families -- 1,287
Church attendance on July 6-7	-- 666
Sunday envelopes used July 6-7	-- 323
Total households receiving envelopes	-- 1,058

2024 Parish Appeal Goal	-- \$128,119.00
Parish Appeal received as of July 7	-- \$122,838.04*
<i>*Includes online Parish Appeal donations</i>	
2024 Parish Appeal Donors	-- 249

2024 PARISH APPEAL FOR OUR DIOCESE

All parishes of our Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh have begun this year's 2024 Parish Appeal. For the past 50 years, each parish has been required to support the work of our bishop, his staff, and all diocesan programs based on the annual income of that parish community. The 2024 goal for our Saint Philip Parish community is \$128,119.

All contributions above this year's goal will be retained by our parish. Many thanks for your response and your continued generosity in helping our parish meet this obligation in 2024!



Parish News

NEW PRAYER CARDS FOR YOUR HOME

Quite often, parents and grandparents don't know where to begin when it comes to sharing our faith with children and grandchildren. That's why a new simple, starter prayer card has been assembled here at Saint Philip Parish for such a purpose. Take a few prayer cards home with you, and invite your children and grandchildren to join you in praying these basic prayers.

Then, when you're ready to go even farther, call our parish office and request a basic catechism of the Christian faith, and we'll share that with you as well. Best wishes for your ministry of sharing our holy faith with your youngest family members.

Newly Baptized

Please welcome into our faith family...

Carson Rae and

Easton James McKee,

daughter and son of James

Michael and Katherine

Cheryl Lamb McKee; and

Marco Louis Colaizzo, son of

Matthew Louis and Noel Elena

Kalnas Colaizzo who received the Life of Christ

in Baptism in our parish on Sunday, June 30,

2024. We also welcome **Harper Rose DeWeese**,

daughter of James Ryan and Kelly Erin O'Toole

DeWeese who received the Life of Christ in

Baptism on Sunday, July 7, 2024. May they grow

in wisdom, age, and grace.



GRIEF SUPPORT

Our Bereavement Support Group meets on the third Thursday of each month from 2:00pm to 3:00pm in Conner Hall on the Ascension Campus. We spend about an hour together hearing each other's stories with compassion and loving support. This is not a psychotherapy group but fellow parishioners who care for one another and support one another as we travel through the grief process together. You may come alone or bring someone with you. **Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, July 18. Please consider joining us.**

SUMMER READING

Many people take time this summer to do some extra reading when the pace of life is a bit slower.

Once again this year, if you'd like a good, easy to read Catholic catechism for your summer reading, please contact our parish office (412-922-6300) this month.

We'll provide to you a FREE copy of the **Life in Christ Catholic Catechism** which is an excellent, user friendly compendium of our Catholic Christian faith - filled with complete teachings of the Church as well as prayers, creeds, and practical suggestions for living our Christian way as individual disciples and as families.

Let our office staff know that you'd like a FREE copy, and we'll have it ready for pick up at the parish office during our weekday office hours.

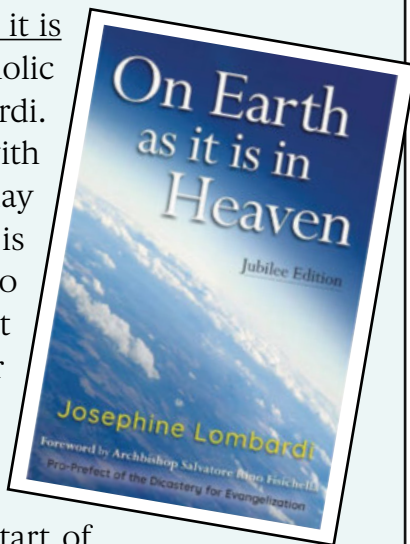
FOOD BANK SUMMER RELOCATION

For families and individuals who visit the monthly food distribution from the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, please remember that **during the months of July and August, the food distribution has been moved to the Pittsburgh Classical Academy (Greenway), 1463 Chartiers Avenue, 15220** due to summer construction at Langley K-8. This relocation applies to the Food Bank dates of **July 16 and August 20, 5:30pm to 7:00pm**. The Food Bank hopes to return to Langley K-8 on September 17.

A Jubilee Year Reflection

In preparation for the upcoming 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis is encouraging all Catholic Christians to nurture our faith by studying and reflecting on the Lord's Prayer - the "Our Father." To assist with this study and reflection, a recent book has now been reprinted for those who'd appreciate good spiritual reading.

The book is titled, On Earth as it is in Heaven by Canadian Catholic Professor, Josephine Lombardi. Bishop Zubik shared this book with all Diocesan clergy on Holy Thursday of this year, and the book is available to you for about \$20 through your favorite internet bookseller. You'll find Professor Lombardi's study and reflections to truly be inspiring and worth your reading time as we reflect on the Lord's Prayer before the start of the 2025 Jubilee Year!



YOUR CALLING AWAITS: JOIN OUR FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY TEAM!

Are you seeking a fulfilling way to give back and make a difference? Our Faith Formation Ministry is on the lookout for a passionate Catechist and a dedicated aide to nurture the minds and spirits of our youngest members. This is more than a role; it's a calling to shape the future. We Need You If:

- You're a student eager to gain service credit and experience in teaching.
- You're retired but your heart still beats for the joy of guiding young minds.
- You're a community member who thrives in collaborative, faith-driven environments.

Don't let this opportunity to inspire faith pass you by. Call MaryAnn at 412-922-6388 and discover if this ministry is where you're meant to be. Your journey in faith and service starts here!



We offer our sympathy to the families of **Francis A. Joseph** and **Michael J. Nau** 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 the Deceased of the Rimkus & McDermott Families*
Offered by Helen McDermott

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at Ascension burns *In Loving Memory of Robert Badish*
Offered by Kathleen Badish



ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTER OF KENNEDY TWP.

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 m.garfold@saintphilipparish.com

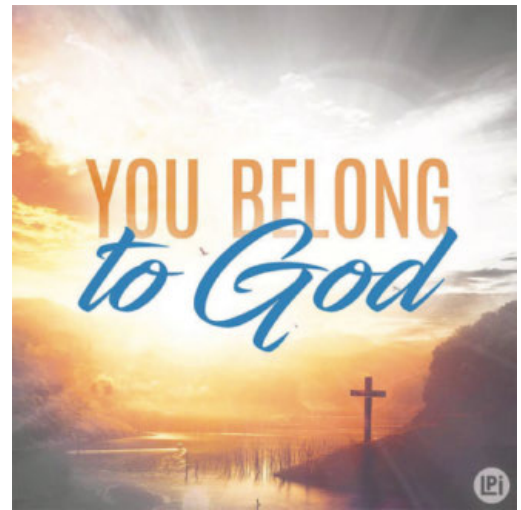
A NOTE FROM MARYANN: In the first reading for the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we read from the book of Amos, *“Amos answered Amaziah, ‘I was no prophet, nor have I belonged to a company of prophets; I was a shepherd and a dresser of sycamores. The Lord took me from the flock and said to me, Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”* I can imagine Amos saying to himself, *“What do I know, I can’t be a prophet, Someone else will have to do it.”* We might be tempted to speak to the Lord in the same way. We can say to ourselves, *“I don’t know enough about my religion to witness my faith.”* Or we might say, *“I don’t have time to go to a meeting. Anyway, other people pray more than I do.”*

Saint Francis de Sales writes, *“Live Jesus! Jesus has as many varied faces and dwelling places as there are human hearts open to His presence.”* We are called to Live Jesus! We are called to grow closer to Jesus through our prayer, participation in the sacraments and participation in parish life. So during these days of summer, we might begin to think about how can we deepen our faith and answer the Lord’s call to us. I have included in this bulletin many of Saint Philip Parish Ministries and Programs. Why not read it over and reflect upon where the Lord might be calling you to become involved.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS:

Faith Formation Monday Night Sessions will begin on **September 16 from 6:30pm to 7:45pm**. You should register your child if:

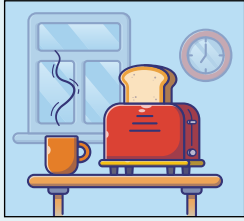
- You would like your child to participate in the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation in 2025 or 2026.
- You would like your child to grow in the faith using age-appropriate interest activities and lessons with other children.
- You would like your family to begin to practice the faith again after recovering from the pandemic.
- You have a young child with special needs whom you would like to receive the Sacraments.



SAINT PHILIP PARISH MINISTRIES

- **Adult Faith Formation**
(Dinner with the Saints)
(Eucharist video discussion)
- **School Age Faith Formation**
aides & catechists
- **Family Faith Formation & Events**
- **ChristLife** (Small faith groups)
- **Hooks & Needles Circle**
- **Salvation History** (Small faith group, 412-481-9063)
- Saint Vincent de Paul Society (412-444-8140)
- **Christian Men’s Fellowship Group**
- **Travel Ministry** (Fall & Spring)
- **Kitchen Table Ministry** (Wellbeing)
- **Legion of Mary** (412-922-6300)
- **Ladies of Charity**
- **Bridal Coordinators** (412-922-6300)
- **Grief Support** (412-922-6300)
- **Music Ministry** (Choirs, Bells)
- **OCIA** (Christian Rite of Initiation)

For more information about any of these ministries, please call 412-922-6388.



Kitchen Table Ministry

NEW MINISTRY - NEW NAME: Every Saturday morning, my father's ritual was simple yet profound: he sat at the kitchen table. With coffee in hand and toast on plate, he waited for the family to join him, one by one. It was more than a meal; it was a tradition of connection, where he shared wisdom and lent an ear to our stories and struggles.

The kitchen table has long been a cornerstone of family life, a place where meals are shared, and memories are made. It's where holiday treats are sprinkled with laughter and love. In today's world, where challenges like illness, social unrest, and personal struggles touch us all, the need for such a gathering place is greater than ever.

In recognition of this, we've transformed our "Mental Health and Wellness Ministry" into the ***Kitchen Table Ministry***. This rebranding reflects our commitment to fostering a space where stories are shared, support is given, and understanding is nurtured. Join us as we launch new initiatives to bring our community together, one conversation at a time. This fall, the *Kitchen Table Ministry* will offer (All events will take place at Ascension Church Conner Hall):

- A 3-5 week video series titled, "*Anxious for Nothing*," starting **September 10**.
- A monthly drop-in session featuring refreshments and health screenings beginning on **September 8** from 10:30am to 11:30am.
- A guest speaker event on managing holiday stress on **November 19** from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

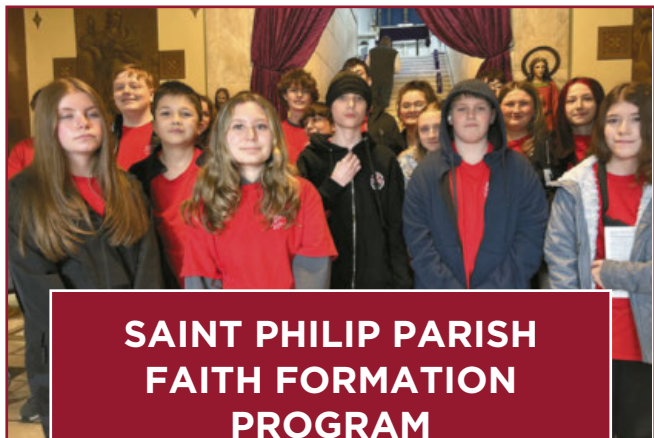
NEW BEGINNINGS: Faith Formation is beginning a catechetical ministry for children with special needs. This program primarily takes place on **Monday evenings from 6:30pm to 7:45pm**. Individual needs and schedules could also be addressed according to a child and family's needs. If you have a child who would benefit from special education faith formation, call 412-922-6388 for more information.

OCIA (RCIA): The Order of Christian Initiation is designed for adults and children, who after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts. **If you or someone you know is interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith, call 412-922-6388.**

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: In The Church of Mercy, Pope Francis notes: There is an urgent need to see that faith is a light and once the flame of faith dies out, all other lights begin to dim. The light of faith is unique, because it is capable of illuminating every aspect of human existence. This light comes from God and is a light for our darkness. To help us grow in the light of faith, Adult Faith Formation offers the following the Fall (to register, call 412-922-6388):

Dinner with Saint Vincent de Paul on Wednesday, September 4 from 6:15pm to 8:00pm in Ascension Church Conner Hall. "*If God is the center of your life, no words are necessary. Your mere presence will touch hearts.*" Join us to learn from the life and spirituality of Saint Vincent de Paul. We'll discuss his wisdom and faith, and what we can learn from Vincentian spirituality.

Eucharistic Revival Study small group discussions on Mondays beginning **September 23 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm** in Ascension Church Conner Hall. Join us for a discussion on Christ's real presence in the Eucharist and how the Eucharist can change lives. Light refreshments served.



SAINT PHILIP PARISH FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

Join Us Monday Evenings
from 6:30pm to 7:45pm
on the Saint Philip campus

Preschool through 8th grade - register by calling 412-922-6388. We will accommodate individual needs and schedules.

Our Program Features:

- **Flexible Scheduling:** Tailored to individual needs.
- **Sacramental Preparation:** For First Eucharist and Confirmation.
- **Weekly Sessions:** Mondays from 6:30pm to 7:45pm.
- **Creative Activities:** Including music, art, and hands-on learning.
- **Family Events:** Monthly gatherings with dinner.
- **Educational Tools:** Utilizes alphabet, colors, shapes, and language development.
- **Community Fun:** Pizza nights, Mardi Gras, ice cream socials, kids' nights, and Easter egg hunts.
- **Spiritual Growth:** Traditional and experiential prayer.
- **Retreats:** Age-appropriate retreat experiences.
- **Volunteering:** Service opportunities available.



THE NATIONAL EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Continuing in 2024, our Diocesan Church of Pittsburgh and the entire Catholic Church in America are celebrating a Year of the Eucharist. In recent years, the bishops of the United States have called our entire nation to a **Eucharistic Revival** in order to renew our faith in Jesus as well as our appreciation of his sacred gift of the Eucharist.

During these days, the National Eucharistic Congress is being held in Indianapolis, Indiana where 60,000+ Catholic Christians have gathered to celebrate this extraordinary gift of the Lord Jesus. Please pray that this historic Catholic event will deepen their love - and our love too - for the Eucharist and the divine grace and the pledge of eternal life which are shared with us every day in our own Holy Communion.

Here at home, we are all encouraged to give time to Jesus in our Eucharistic Adoration and to cherish Jesus' truly important gift of the Eucharist in each of our Sunday and weekday Liturgies. As Jesus' Eucharist and our Holy Communion fill us with divine life and grace, may we always be grateful for the Body and Blood of the Lord which gives us a share in the very life of God. May we renew and profess our faith in the Lord and his Eucharist every day of this year, and may we receive all the blessings and divine grace of Jesus as his friends, as his co-workers, and as his holy Catholic Church. Amen.

Our Seven Sacraments

Since the days of Jesus' ministry and of the early Church, we've been blessed to receive the Seven Sacraments of the Lord Jesus which fill our immortal souls with the divine grace of Almighty God. To refresh your memory, these seven sacraments are:

The Sacraments of Initiation

- 1) **Baptism** – the first Sacrament by which we are cleansed from the sin of humanity; by which we are filled with the divine life of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and by which we are made members of the Lord's holy Catholic Church.
- 2) **The Eucharist** – which is our share in the Lord Jesus' Supper and the gift of divine life in the sacramental, Eucharistic Body and Blood of the Lord.
- 3) **Confirmation** – in which we accept and profess our Catholic Christian faith as young adults, and in which we receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit of God as did the Apostles and disciples on that first Pentecost Sunday in Jerusalem.



The Sacraments of Christian Life

- 4) **Christian Marriage** – which makes holy the union of a husband and wife in a sacramental bond and covenant, and which continues family life and the creative work of the Lord in bringing to life the next generation of the Lord's holy Church and of the human community.
- 5) **Holy Orders** – in which the Lord Jesus provides shepherds and servants for his Church by the ordination of bishops, priests, and deacons who exercise the ministries of the Lord among and for the People of God.



The Sacraments of Healing

- 6) **Reconciliation** – the sacred gift of forgiveness and healing which Jesus first shared with his Apostles on the night of his Resurrection (see the Gospel according to John 20), and by which bishops and priests – having the authority first granted to the Apostles – extend forgiveness and the healing of souls to the members of the Lord's people.
- 7) **Anointing of the Sick** – the gift of the Lord's spiritual and physical healing – as well as the forgiveness of sins – offered to those who are ill, elderly, and dying through the imposition of the priest's hands and anointing with holy oil which is first recorded in the Letter of Saint James in the New Testament.



These seven sacred gifts of divine life – these seven Sacraments – have been celebrated and received by the Lord's holy people for twenty centuries. These seven Sacraments transform our earthly existence by making us disciples of Jesus and the very People of Almighty God. They continue to fill us with the Lord's goodness and life, and they are essential to our sharing in the eternal life and salvation of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. While there are Christian communities which only acknowledge the Sacrament of Baptism, the Catholic Church has always maintained and handed on all seven of these Sacraments as sacred gifts of God given to us by the Lord Jesus for our eternal salvation.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

If you failed to get your 2023 Property Tax/Rent Rebate application submitted by the June 30 deadline, you are in luck, because the deadline to submit your application has been extended to December 31! Seniors 65 years of age and older, widows and widowers age 50 and older, and those age 18 and older who are disabled have the opportunity to apply for up to \$1000 through the Pennsylvania Property Tax/Rent Rebate program. Those living in the City of Pittsburgh can qualify for a supplement of up to an extra \$500. Don't miss your chance to avail yourself of this program, because you never know when you may need a little extra money in an emergency.

More information and rebate forms, visit www.revenue.pa.gov/IncentivesCreditsPrograms/PropertyTaxRentRebateProgram or you can contact your local state legislator's office or the Area Agency on Aging.

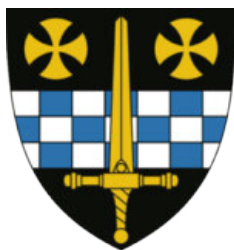
Our State Representative is Daniel J. Deasy; his office is located at 1074 Greentree Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220 and the phone number is 412-928-9514. Our State Senator is Wayne Fontana; his office is located at Kenmawr Plaza, 524 Pine Hollow Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136 and the phone number is 412-331-1208. The Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging office is located at 2100 Wharton St., 2nd Floor, Pittsburgh, PA, 15203 and the phone number is 412-350-4234. In addition to providing you with more information and rebate forms, these offices can also assist you in filling out and submitting the forms. Please call ahead to schedule an appointment.

Our thanks go out to all of you who have donated new twin and full sheet sets! We are still in need of some more new twin and full sheet sets, as well as couches and loveseats for our friends in need. We also still desperately need volunteers for our furniture mission. If you would like to donate or to get more information about volunteering, call or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email us at svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com. Thank you!

Over the past two weeks, your generous donations enabled us to assist a woman with \$163 toward her electric bill to prevent a shutoff; a single mother was given two beds; a single mother was given various furniture items and a household goods voucher; a woman was assisted with \$400 to avoid an electric shutoff; a woman was given various furniture items, including a bed, and \$400 toward her rent; a single mom was given \$207 to stop a gas shutoff; a woman was added to our monthly food delivery list; a woman was given \$350 toward her rent; a family was assisted with \$214 to prevent an electric shutoff; a woman was assisted with \$276 to prevent a gas shutoff; a single mother was given living room furniture and dressers; and a man was given \$360 toward his security deposit. It has been a busy time, and we couldn't have helped all of these neighbors in need without your generous support; 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 (to the attention of SVdP) at 114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205, or donate online by visiting <https://saintphilipchurch.we-shareonline.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 or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com.



Around the Diocese and Community

EITC TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

There are tax credits for qualified donors who can make a two year commitment on behalf of our Scholastic Opportunity Scholarship Program. Donors will receive a 90% PA tax credit. With your help, we can increase the donations to Catholic schools. A donor can specify our regional elementary schools or high schools that will receive the aid through their donation. For more information, contact the diocesan Stewardship Office at 412-456-3085 or mfreker@diopitt.org.

NEWMAN MINISTRY

Attention recent high school graduates: If you are heading to college or technical school and are looking for a Catholic Mass to attend, visit www.newmanministry.com. This website can help you contact the Campus Ministry or Catholic Church in your area. Make sure to search and continue practicing your faith while away from home!

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- other assistance as needed.

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If you'd like to help others you're most welcome to:

- become a Member or Associate;
- donate good, clean clothing;
- donate appliances;
- donate furniture;
- provide Giant Eagle gift cards;
- give to our food pantry.



We invite our parish members to join us in this charitable work and to serve others in the name of the Lord.

Please **call 412-444-8140** today if you need help, OR if you'd like to help others in this important charitable service!



"Holy, holy,
holy Lord God
of hosts."

The Prophet Isaiah saw
a vision of heaven and heard
the angels sing this to God. -Is 6:3

THE YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

Our Diocesan Church of Pittsburgh and the entire Catholic Church in America are celebrating a Year of the Eucharist. In recent years, the bishops of the United States have decided that our entire nation should conduct a ***Eucharistic Revival*** to renew our faith in Jesus and our appreciation of his sacred gift of the Eucharist.

We are all encouraged to give time to Jesus in our Eucharistic Adoration and to cherish Jesus' truly important gift of the Eucharist in each of our Sunday and weekday Liturgies. As Jesus' Eucharist and our Holy Communion fill us with divine life and grace, may we always be grateful for the Body and Blood of the Lord which gives us a share in the very life of God. May we renew and profess our faith in the Lord and His Eucharist every day of this year, and may we receive all the blessings and divine grace of Jesus as His friends, as His co-workers, and as His holy Catholic Church.



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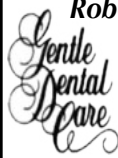
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