

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



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.

LOCATION	TIME	PRIEST'S INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
ATURDAY, JU	LY 27 — THE BL	ESSED VIRGIN MARY	
Ascension	8:00am	Alva & Joseph Kerstukos	Granddaughter, Jennife
Saint Philip	4:00pm (Vigil)	Bill Solt	Family
Ascension	5:30pm (Vigil)	Thomas Conroy	Conroy & Gorman Families
UNDAY, JULY	28 — SEVENTEI	ENTH SUNDAY IN ORDI	NARY TIME
Saint Philip	7:00am	Catherine Stayduhar	Alice Glaser
Ascension	9:30am	Robert Badish	Kathleen Badish
Saint Philip	11:00am	Frank Fazio, Jr.	Daniel & Teresa Harrolo
ONDAY, JULY	<u> 29 — SAINTS M</u>	ARTHA, MARY AND LAZ	ZARUS
Saint Philip	8:ooam	Doris L. Plouy	Janine & Mike Wilson
UESDAY, JULY	/ 30 — SAINT PE	TER CHRYSOLOGUS, BI	SHOP
Ascension	8:ooam	William A. Happoldt	Blair Family
VEDNESDAY,	JULY 31 — SAIN	FIGNATIUS OF LOYOLA	A, PRIEST
Saint Philip	8:ooam	Katie Fazio	Husband, Timothy Fazio, Sr.
		Γ ALPHONSUS LIGUOR	I, BISHOP AND DOCTOR
Ascension	8:00am	Special Intention of Ailis Haenni	Teresa Madden Harrold
RIDAY, AUGU	ST 2 –WEEKDA	Y	
Saint Philip	8:ooam	Ervin Leedstrom	Family
1	JGUST 3 — THE E	BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	•
1	JGUST 3 — THE E 8:00am		mbers of St. Philip Parish
ATURDAY, AL		Living & Deceased Mer	mbers of St. Philip Parish
Ascension	8:ooam	Living & Deceased Mer	mbers of St. Philip Parish
Ascension Saint Philip Ascension	8:00am 4:00pm (Vigil) 5:30pm (Vigil)	Living & Deceased Mer J. Edward Brandimarti Sister Bartholomew	mbers of St. Philip Parish Lillian Brandimarti O'Toole Family

Garvin

Ascension

Saint Philip

9:30am

11:00am

Mary Lou Reynolds

Deceased Members

of the Jacob Family

Sisters, Anna, Jean & Rita

Joanne McCamey



Notes from the **Pastor**

Best wishes, once again, for these summer months! Please enjoy some time of rest, relaxation, recreation - and prayer, too!

Food, glorious food!

Have you ever opened your kitchen pantry or cupboard - and found nothing there? Not even a can of sardines?

Some members of our local and parish communities may actually have this regular experience in their homes, but I don't get the sense that it's a common occurrence.

Here in the United States of America, we pride ourselves on being the "Land of Plenty." In fact, even before our nation's independence and establishment, the people of this land have been and are extraordinarily blessed and fortunate.

Most Americans don't ask, "Are we going to have any food today?" Most of us ask, "What's on the menu?"

As today's Gospel account of Jesus' multiplying the loaves of bread and the fish reminds us, food and nourishment are absolutely essential for human life - and in reality, food and nourishment of some sort are essential for all of creation and life on the earth!

As disciples of the Lord Jesus - as the Catholic Christian People of God, we're commissioned by Jesus Himself to provide for the needs of those who are poor and destitute. In being charitable, compassionate and caring to those who are less fortunate - and yes, also to those who simply can't provide for themselves, one of the most basic kindnesses that we can offer in the name of the Lord is the gift of food and nourishment!

Certainly, there are additional needs among the poor and the homeless - shelter, clothing, medical assistance to name a few needs. Yet the basic human and bodily need for food and nourishment usually ranks first among the needs of every individual person.

In the days ahead, the Saint Philip Parish Conference of the Saint Vincent DePaul Society will conduct a Food Drive among the members and families of our Parish community. From our own abundance, may we too offer food to the poor and all those in need of this basic staple of life.

In a miraculous and compassionate way, Jesus provided for this most basic need of the people of His own day - the basic need of food and nourishment.

Please consider a charitable donation to the Food Drive coming soon from the Saint Philip Parish Conference of the Saint Vincent DePaul Society. Both you and all who receive your contributions will truly be blessed with goodness!

Best wishes for goodness this summer!

May all of you - our parish members and families - enjoy a very good summer. May the Lord Jesus 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

FINAL QUARTER REPORT FOR THE 2023-2024 PARISH FISCAL YEAR provided by the Financial Staff of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh

2,014

(4,801)(71,401)

215 /10

485001 - Saint Philip

(Quarter-4 2023/2024)

OPERATING REVENUE:	
Offertory Collections AND Annual Parish App	peal 920,433
Donations & Bequests	36,838
Fundraising	90,147
Campaign Income	1,285
Other Income	34,211
	1,082,914
OPERATING EXPENSE:	
Administration	359,419
Operations & Maintenance	240,770
Religious Ed & School Subsidy	139,219
Liturgical & Rectory	127,056
Property & Liability Insurance	57,507
Social/ Outreach/ Other	3,382
	927,353
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	155,561
NON-OPERATING ITEMS:	
Extraordinary Maintenance Expense	(68,614)

FEATURED ASSETS and LIABILITIES at 6/30/2024

ASSETS:

Cach

Unrestricted Funds:

Net Third Party Collections

Proceeds from Insurance Claim (Net)

Casn	215,418
Deposit & Loan Operating Savings	1,026,204
	1,241,622
Restricted Funds:	
Deposit & Loan Restricted Savings	29,090
Deposit & Loan Restricted Campaign	1,295
Parish Endowment Investment	39,624
Other Investments	415
	70,424
	70,424
LIABILITIES:	70,424
LIABILITIES: Insurance Past Due	70,424
	70,424
Insurance Past Due	70,424

Our Diocesan Central Administration sends Quarterly and Final Financial Reports to each parish for inclusion in our parish bulletin.

Here is the Final Report for this Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Contributions and fundraising were thankfully very good. Needed repairs left us with a final surplus of \$84,160 for this past Fiscal Year according to the Diocese.

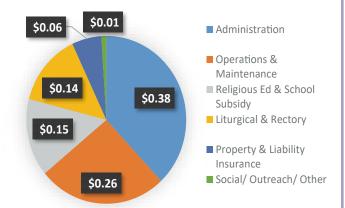
Thank you for your generosity which keeps Saint Philip Parish alive and doing well!

Revenue vs. Expense for 7-1-2023 thru 6-30-2024

Revenue: 1,082,914

Expense: **927,353**

How each Expense Dollar Supports the Parish



Line items include but are not limited to:

Offertory Collections: Offertory, Parish Appeal Campaign Income: Capital Imp., Debt Reduction, etc. Other Income: Interest Income, Hall Rentals, Votive Administration: Staff, Supplies, Management Fee Operations & Maintenance:

Staff, Church Utilities, Upkeep, Taxes, Supplies Religious Ed & School Subsidy:

Staff, Supplies, CCD, Adult Ed, RCIA, Elem School Grant Liturgical & Rectory: Staff, Worship, Rectory Upkeep Social/Outreach/Other:

Youth, Community, Net Rental Property, Preschool Extraordinary Maintenance Expense: > \$4,000 Net 3rd Party Collections: e.g. Holy Land, Peter's Pence



Sunday, July 28

2 Kings 4:42-44; Ephesians 4:1-6; John 6:1-15

Weekdays

Jeremiah 14-26; Matthew 13-14

Sunday, August 4

Exodus 16:2-15; Ephesians 4:17-24; John 6:24-35



A THANK YOU FROM SISTER JACINTA KIMARO. ESM

Having visited our Saint Philip Parish community last weekend for the Annual Mission Visitor's Appeal. Sister Jacinta Kimaro, ESM, of the Evangelizing Sisters of Mary has expressed her tremendous gratitude to our community for your welcome, goodness, hospitality, and generosity during her visit and her presentations at both of our churches!

As she returns to her missionary work in Africa, Sister Jacinta will keep Saint Philip Parish in her daily prayers. We wish Sister Jacinta many blessings as she serves the Lord Jesus and helps to grow his Kingdom here on the earth.

FINANCIAL POUR SAINT PHILIP PARISH FINANCES

Sunday collections, July 20-21	\$8,815.17*
* Includes Mail-in donations	
Online donations, July 20-21	\$1,964.50
Maintenance donations	\$65.00
Religious Education donations	\$946.00

Collection for the Evangelizing Sisters of Mary -- \$7,288.40

Parish income needed for this Fiscal Year -- \$861,064.00 Parish income received since July 1, 2024 -- \$35,632.35 Parish fundraising since July 1, 2024 **--** \$0 Estate gifts received since July 1, 2024 **--** \$0 General donations since July 1, 2024 -- \$250.00

Average weekly staff salary and benefits expenses -- \$6,433.39 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 20-21 -- 666 Sunday envelopes used July 20-21 -- 251 Total households receiving envelopes -- 1,058

2024 Parish Appeal Goal -- \$128,119.00 Parish Appeal received as of July 21 -- \$126,337.04* *Includes online Parish Appeal donations 2024 Parish Appeal Donors -- 249



AN AUGUST 25 HONOR FOR **FATHER PHILIP FARRELL. OUR NEW RESIDENT PRIEST**



Father Philip Farrel is both a native of Saint Philip Parish and - together with Father Joe Scheib - an alumnus of the former Bishop's Latin School here in Pittsburgh.

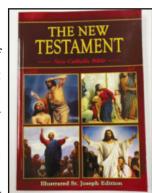
Each year, the Bishop's Latin School Alumni Association hosts a luncheon to raise funds for promoting Vocations in our diocese - and to honor alumni for their service to our diocesan church.

At their annual luncheon on Sunday, August 25, 11:00am, at the Longue Vue Country Club near Verona, Father Farrel will be one of four alumni honored for their many years of service to the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh. Our parish members are most welcome to attend the August 25 luncheon and to honor Father Philip Farrell. The requested donation is \$75 per person. Please contact Father Joe Scheib (jscheib@diopitt.org) if you're interested in attending!



FREE NEW TESTAMENTS AT OUR PARISH OFFICE

Having shared copies of the Life in Christ Catholic Catechism with interested parish members, we're now making available FREE copies of the **New Testament** at the parish office!



Having and actually

reading your own copy of the New Testament will allow you to read the words, teachings, and life of Jesus in the Four Gospels - and to read the Acts and the Letters and all the treasures of the Christian Sacred Scriptures.

To receive your FREE copy of the New **Testament**, please contact the parish office (114 Berry Street, 15205 or 412-922-6300) before August 15 - or stop by and visit our parish offices any time Monday to Friday, 8:00am until 3:00pm.

May you, your spouse and children, and family members find inspiration and a deeper faith in these essential writings of all Christianity!

EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION AND ADORATION

This coming Saturday, August 3, from 8:30am until 9:30am, our parish will hold our monthly time of prayer and thanksgiving in the presence of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

All are welcome to attend and to participate in this time of prayer, silence, and adoration in order to give honor and thanks to Jesus. This is also a time to deepen your love for and your closeness to Jesus present in the Eucharist!

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL **PARISH RAFFLE**

Our Annual Parish Raffle will take place in September with the prize drawing now scheduled for our Annual Parish Picnic, Sunday, September 15 in Conner

Hall at Ascension. Along with this year's staff changes, we're also working with changes in our parish's fundraising events.

Our Annual Raffle - along with the Parish Lenten Fish Fry dinners and other efforts - are essential for our parish operation so that we'll continue to have a balanced parish budget every year.

Your participation in and support of the Annual Parish Raffle will be greatly appreciated!

The Raffle prizes this year will include a \$2,500 First Prize, and then prizes of \$500, \$400, \$250, and \$100. This mean that we'll have FIVE cash prizes this year - and five winners!

The Raffle tickets will be sent to all of our households in the coming weeks. Your booklet will contain 15 tickets as in past years, and the donation for each ticket will be \$3.00.

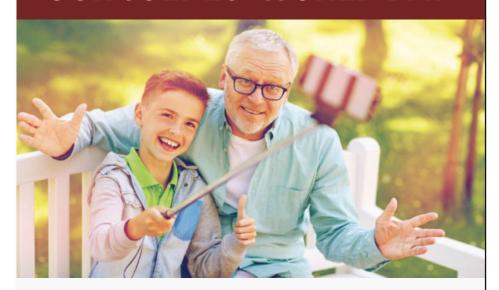
Please return your purchased and sold ticket stubs as soon as possible. The final deadline for returned sold tickets will be Sunday, September 15 prior to the 4:00pm drawing of the five prize winners.

Again, thank you very much for your continued support of - and appreciation for our Saint Philip Parish community! Your help keeps our parish alive and vital!



Please welcome into our faith family... Alice Diane Laureano, daughter of Hector Manuel Jr. and Danna Marie Corsini who received the Life of Christ in Baptism in our parish on Sunday, July 21, 2024. May she grow in wisdom, age, and grace.

OUR JULY 28 'WORLD DAY'



This Sunday, July 28, all Catholic Christians are invited to observe and celebrate the Annual World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly!

During the past 50 years, Pope Saint John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis have reminded all of us who are the People of God to appreciate, honor, and celebrate the senior members of our families, of our communities, and of the entire Church.

It is our grandparents who've handed on to us the gifts of life, of faith in the Lord, and of all the countless blessings that are ours. It's our grandparents who have been and continue to be so very important in our lives and in the life of the Catholic community. Especially today, we so often rely on grandparents to share the Gospel and our Christian faith and our Catholic way of life with our youngest generations! For their life, faith, discipleship, and service, our grandparents deserve our gratitude and our esteem.

Likewise, the oldest among our community - the 'elderly' - also deserve honor and recognition for all that they have shared with our younger generations - especially their faith, their service and witness, and their fidelity to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

May we always respect and value our grandparents and the older (and oldest) members of our parish and our community. Celebrating this Sunday's World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will hopefully remind us that ALL the Lord's holy people are important to God - both in past years and today too!



We offer our sympathy to the families of Robert M. Beshenich, Patricia A. Kneup, Sophie Sorace and Ruth Londino who entered into eternal life. Please keep them in your prayers.

Sanctuary of Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at St. Philip burns In Loving Memory of Joan Raihala Offered by Kormick Family

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at Ascension burns In Loving Memory of the Schuler (4) Connell Families Offered by Edward & Mary Connell



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.





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

A NOTE FROM MARYANN: Sometimes when we were in elementary school, we would be given the assignment, "How I spent my Summer Vacation." Each year, I usually speak of things I experienced during my Summer vacation days. This year during my vacation, I thoroughly cleaned my house. I cleaned cupboards, closets, storage rooms and bought some new furniture. It made me think of how my spiritual life might need some deep cleaning.

I began to ask myself the following questions: Are there practices of prayer, such as reflecting on Scripture, that I haven't used for a while that I might need to examine? Might I take time to try some new form of prayer such as using art or music during my prayer time? Do I take time each day to review the day and see where I might do things differently?

Do I begin each day anew, throwing out what happened yesterday instead of dragging mistakes into the new day? Are there some activities such as a walk in the park, seeing a movie, sipping a morning cup of tea, or savoring a favorite dessert that I have not recently taken the time to enjoy? Do I thank God each day for the gifts of that day? Do I take time even in the summer for the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Now may be a great opportunity to reflect and "tidy up" my spiritual life.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS:

Faith Formation Registration Forms for pre-school through 8th grade will be sent out this week. If you have participated in the program in the past, please look for this. We ask that you return the form to the Office of Faith Formation at 114 Berry Street. If you are new to the program and would like a registration form, please call the Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388.

Walk-in registrations will be held on Thursday, August 22 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at the courtyard Ramp Door of Saint Philip church.



As July vacation season continues, I thought it might be good to once again offer some lighter thoughts and laughter as a break this Summer season. I offer the following laughter moments:

"Hello, Reverend Smith? This is the Internal Revenue Service. Is Samuel Jones a member of your Parish? "He is." "Did he donate \$10,000 to the

Church?" "He will."

A Pastor noted in his journal: Just as I began, my Christmas Eve service, the electricity in the church failed. The ushers and I found some candles and placed them around the church. Then I reentered the pulpit, shuffled my notes, and muttered, "Now, where was I?" A tired voice called out, "Right near the end!"

As I was admitted to the hospital prior to a procedure, the clerk asked for my wrist, saying, "I'm going to give you a bracelet." Has it got rubies and diamonds? I asked jokingly. "No," he said, "but it costs just as much."

EXCITING NEWS!

Faith Formation is beginning a catechetical ministry for children with special needs. If you have a child who would benefit from special education faith formation, please contact the Office of Faith Formation. This program would primarily take place on Monday evenings from 6:30 - 7:45 pm. Individual Needs and Schedules could also be addressed according to a child and family's needs. Contact MaryAnn Garfold in the Office of Faith Formation for more information.

The Office of Faith Formation Monday Evening Sessions from 6:30pm to 7:45pm is in need of the following:

- Kindergarten catechist,
- Kindergarten catechist aide,
- A catechist for 3 children with special needs.
- An aide for 3 children with special needs
- Parents interested in ministry for high school with monthly activities.



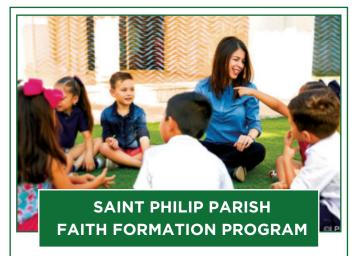
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Join us to learn from the life and spirituality of Saint Vincent de Paul. We will hear a guest speaker as we discuss his wisdom, faith, and the lessons we can draw from Vincentian Spirituality.

Wednesday, September 4, 2024 6:15pm to 8:00pm

Ascension Church Conner Hall

To register, call the Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388



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:

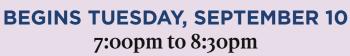
- Flexible Scheduling: Tailored to individual needs.
- Sacramental Preparation: For First Eucharist and Confirmation.
- Weekly Sessions: Mondays from 6:30pm to 7:45pm.
- Creative Activities: Including music, art, and hands-on learning.
- Family Events: Monthly gatherings with dinner.
- Educational Tools: 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.

Kitchen Table Ministry: "Anxious for Nothing"

Do you find yourself?

- Bothered by the daily newscast
- Unable to get a good night sleep with worry
- Fearful of future events
- Worried about finances, relationships or health concerns

Join Saint Philip Parish for this 5-week video discussion series. We will examine feelings of anxiety and discover ways to address these feelings and experience the peace of Christ.



Ascension Church Conner Hall

Light refreshments will be served. Registrations are accepted. Everyone is welcome. Walk-Ins are welcome.





HELP WANTED: JOIN OUR MINISTRY!

We are seeking dedicated individuals for the following roles: Kindergarten Catechist for a small group of children, Kindergarten Aide, and Special Needs Catechist for young children. If you feel called to this ministry, contact MaryAnn at 412-922-6388. You might be the perfect fit if:

- You are a high school or college student looking to earn service credit.
- You are considering a career in teaching.
- You are retired and have experience working with children.
- You are a Parish member who enjoys teamwork and sharing faith with children and families.



Our New Evangelization

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

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

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

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



In the coming year, we are hoping to repaint the exteriors of both the Ascension church building and the parish office center. We're also planning to repaint the interior of Ascension church. Having completed this painting more than 12 years ago, all of these projects are needed in 2025 due to the current condition of the exterior and interior walls of our Ascension properties.

Prior to those major repainting projects next year, we're currently planning to remove all of the bushes that are adjacent to the Ascension buildings. These "arbavida" bushes were planted nearly 60 years ago when the former trolley depot was converted into Ascension church. At this time, most of the bushes have reached the end of their lifespan and are basically moribund underneath the green surfaces. Also, these bushes have become regular nesting sites for wasps and other stinging insects.

In the coming months, arrangements are being made to have our parish landscaping contractor remove all of these bushes as they near death. This change will remove all of the wasp nests, and it will allow better access to the exterior walls next year for the repainting work at Ascension



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

For a while now, we have been saying that we are in need of volunteers to assist with our furniture mission. For those of you who are not familiar with this mission, we collect locally donated furniture, appliances and household goods and deliver them to our friends in need within our parish boundaries or to our friends in Tunnelton, West Virginia if we have extra donations.

Unfortunately, we are to the point that it is a struggle for us to pick up the furniture that is being generously donated to us and deliver it to our friends in need, as we only have approximately four consistent volunteers. If we are unable to pick up donated furniture and/or deliver it to our friends in need, we are forced to purchase furniture, which causes us to spend money that would otherwise go to pay for other needs such as rent or utilities. Please help us to make the best use of our resources by volunteering for this very important mission!

The timing of these pickups and deliveries is often flexible, so this is the perfect opportunity for someone who may have limited availability, but wants to help out when their schedule allows. While it is not a necessity, it is a bonus if you have a pickup truck! If you would like to get more information about volunteering, please call or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email us at svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com. Thank you!

For those of you who are looking for a less physical volunteer opportunity, the Central Council office needs volunteers to answer incoming phone calls. This particular task can be done from your home as the phone system is digital! Please contact Pete Hutchinson at phutch326@yahoo.com if you would like to learn more. They could really use your assistance!

Over the past week, your generous donations enabled us to assist a single mother with three beds, a coffee table and a chest of drawers; a single mother was given \$286 toward her gas bill; a single mother was given \$282 to avoid a gas shutoff and was also given two dressers; a single mother was assisted with \$340 to restore her electric service; a single mother was given \$305 toward her electric bill; and a man was assisted with \$600 toward his rent. Thank you for helping us to make these positive impacts in our local community!

If you would like to make a monetary donation, place your donation in one of the poor boxes, mail it to the parish office (attention SVdP) at 114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205, or give 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, please call, text or email us.

SAINT PHILI AKISE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Ascension Campus Food Served BINGO

2:00pm to 5:00pm 2:30pm to 4:30pm

3:30pm

Hot dogs, hamburgers, sides and beverages will be provided at NO cost to you.

Come join in the fun, food, games, crafts, bingo, 50/50 raffle, music and fellowship! Something for everyone!

We ask each family to bring an item for the dessert table.

If you plan on attending our Parish Picnic, please make a reservation either by filling out this form and placing it in the collection basket or calling the Parish Office of Faith Formation at: 412-922-6388. Thank you! Name: Phone: _____ #Adults attending: _____ #Children/ages: _____

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: Monday, September 9, 2024



MAGNIFICAT PITTSBURGH BREAKFAST

On Saturday, August 17, 9:00am until 12:00pm, the Pittsburgh chapter of Magnificat (a nationwide Catholic women's association) will host their quarterly Breakfast and Speaker gathering at the Hilton Garden Inn at Southpointe near Canonsburg. Along with prayer, breakfast, and fellowship, the gathering will hear the faith story of Sister Rita Clare Yoches, a Franciscan T.O.R. Sister from Michigan.

For complete information, call Donna at 412-874-7471. The donation is \$35 per person, and deadline the registration is August Information is also available by visiting www.magnificatpittsburgh.org Internet site.

LOCAL PARISH SUMMER FESTIVAL

This coming August 7-10, our neighbors at Regina Coeli Catholic Parish will hold their annual parish fun festival! The festivities will be held on the grounds of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary church, 45 North Sprague Avenue in Bellevue - just minutes north of the McKees Rocks Bridge.

Our parish families and members are invited to enjoy their games, food, bingo, children's rides, prizes, beer garden, funnel cakes, basket raffles, nightly 50/50, and the annual Big Raffle with \$10,000 in prizes. For further information, visit www.reginacoeliparish.org/festival.

COLLEGE CAMPUS MINISTRY

Attention recent high school graduates: If you are heading to college or technical school and are looking for a Catholic Mass to attend,

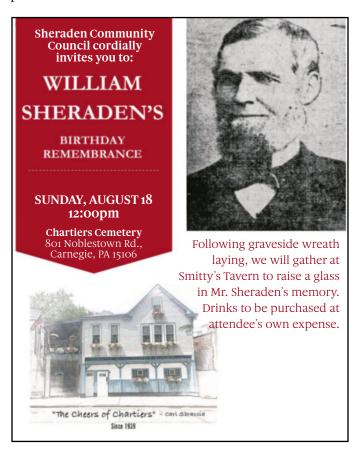
visit www.newmanministry.com. This website can help you contact the Campus Ministry or Catholic Church in your area. Make sure to search and continue practicing your faith while away from home!

ARE YOU CALLED TO SERVE THE LORD?

In these three years since the terrible impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, life in our world has continued to rebound from that terrible multi-year affliction.

As we return to a more normal state of life, it's good to begin encouraging young men and young women to enter into the service of the Lord Jesus and His community, His Church.

If you (or perhaps some young man whom you know) are interested in ordained ministry as a priest or deacon, or if you (or some young woman or man) are interested in the life and ministry of a Consecrated/Religious community, contact the Vocations Office of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh (412-456-3000) OR contact our own parish office this summer.





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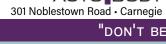
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