

Saint Philip Catholic Parish

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

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

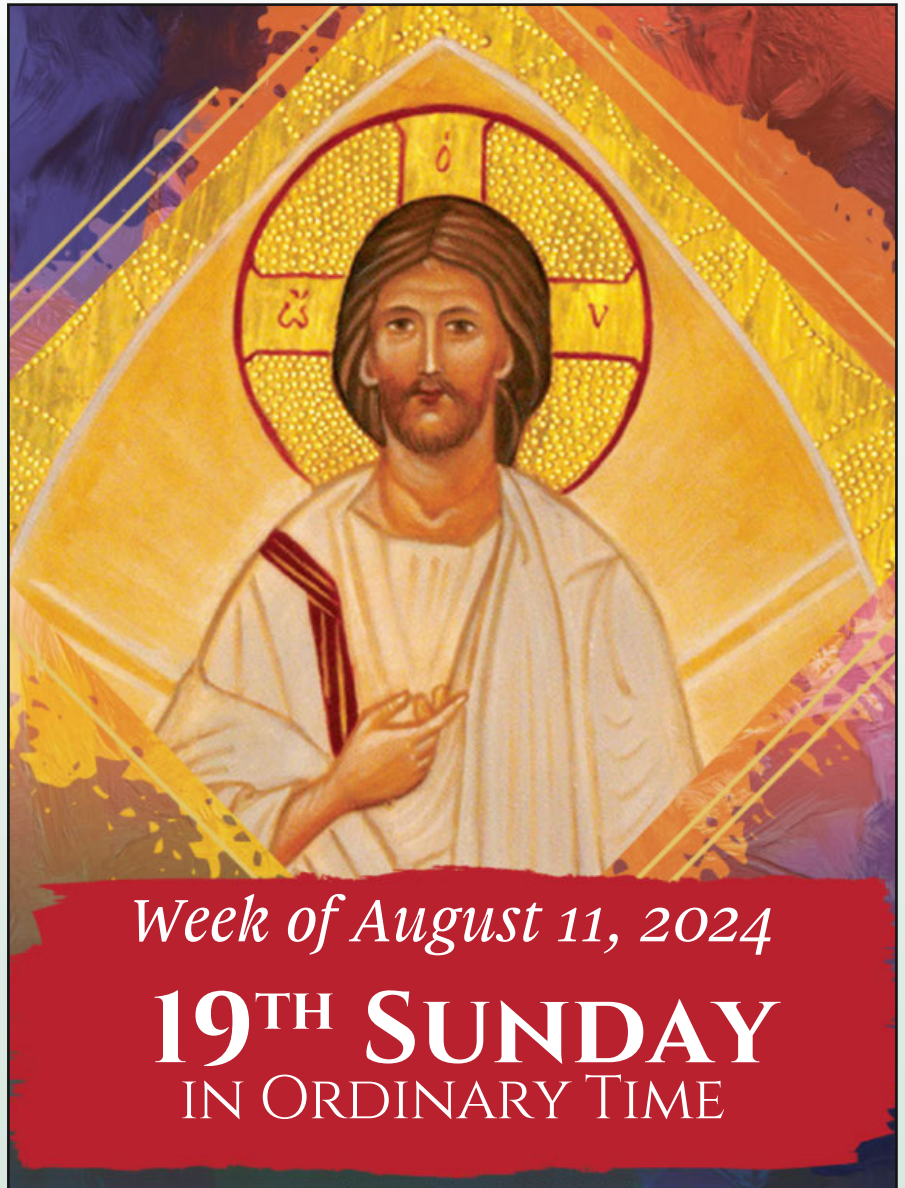
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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



Week of August 11, 2024

**19TH 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.

CRISIS SUPPORT/SUICIDE PREVENTION

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

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, AUGUST 10 — SAINT LAWRENCE, DEACON AND MARTYR			
Ascension	8:00am	Ottlee Rodgers	Pat Rodgers
Saint Philip	4:00pm (Vigil)	John C. Sebesta	Family
Ascension	5:30pm (Vigil)	Audrey Rice	Cindy Garvin
SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 — NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Saint Philip	7:00am	John & Frances Priselac	Linda Priselac
Ascension	9:30am	Deborah Julian	Family
Saint Philip	11:00am	Special Intention of Mia Madden	Daniel & Teresa Harrold
MONDAY, AUGUST 12 — SAINT JANE FRANCES DECHANTAL, RELIGIOUS			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Raymond Kohler	Wife
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13 — WEEKDAY			
Ascension	8:00am	80 th Jubilee of Sister Betty	Family
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14 — SAINT MAXIMILLIAN KOLBE, PRIEST & MARTYR			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Ervin Leedstrom	Family
VIGIL OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY			
Saint Philip	4:00pm (Vigil)	Mary Jaconetta	Ed Connell Family
Ascension	5:30pm (Vigil)	Mary Regina Dietrich	Bernice & Pat Gallagher
THURSDAY, AUGUST 15 — THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY			
Ascension	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of St. Philip Parish	
Saint Philip	7:00pm	Our Lady's Intentions	A Parish Member
FRIDAY, AUGUST 16 — SAINT STEPHEN OF HUNGARY			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Katie Fazio	Husband, Timothy Fazio, Sr.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 17 — THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY			
Ascension	8:00am	Special Intention of Jane & Phil Beistel	Jane Beistel
Saint Philip	4:00pm (Vigil)	Victor & Elizabeth Muzzie	Tamara Dulick
Ascension	5:30pm (Vigil)	Rev. Walter Sobon	Diana Miller
SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 — TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Herb & Joan Reffert	Ken Reffert
Ascension	9:30am	Heidi Schroeder	Rita Crowley
Saint Philip	11:00am	George E. McCartney	Spezialetti Family



Notes from the Pastor

Best wishes for August! Please enjoy some time of rest, relaxation, recreation - and prayer, too, as this year moves along!

Changed by the Eucharist

Most of us eat at least three meals each day - breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Of course, there's also the snacking and "grazing" throughout the day since we Americans tend to have an overabundance of food wherever we are.

For as often as we eat - and for as much as we eat - I doubt that we regularly think of what effect our food consumption is having on our bodies and our lives.

Many people have high blood glucose levels and must cope with a diabetic condition of one sort or another. Many have arteries that are clogged. More than a few of us are carrying some amount of excess weight.

What we consume - along with personal habits like exercising (*or not*) and periodic fasting (*or not*) - has a significant impact on our bodies, our health, and our lives! Of course, I'm sure that anyone reading this brief article is already well aware of this reality.

In a very similar way, the Eucharist which we receive from the Lord Jesus in every Sunday and weekday Liturgy is also meant to have a significant impact in and on our lives as well.

In our Catholic Christian faith found in the teachings of Jesus and handed down for twenty centuries, we believe that the Holy Spirit - and the words of Jesus spoken by the priest - transform the simple bread and wine on the

altar into the sacramental, real, and true Body and Blood of the Lord. This sacramental action is a most wonderful and remarkable transformation of two simple elements of food into our food for eternal life.

Likewise, we who consume the Body and the Blood of the Lord in Holy Communion are also meant to be transformed into Saints of God by the power of the Holy Spirit and the divine grace of the Lord Jesus!

The Eucharist that is given to us by Jesus - like the food we eat every day - is meant to have a beneficial and invigorating effect in our lives and in our souls. The Eucharist is meant to have a real transforming effect on our faith, our discipleship, and our faithfulness.

By filling us with the divine grace of the Lord, the Eucharist is intended to deepen our life in Christ and - Sunday after Sunday, day after day - to transform us into the saints and holy ones that Jesus calls us to be.

We may not think often about the daily food which we eat, but I encourage everyone to give thought and consideration when receiving the Eucharist EVERY TIME that you present yourself for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. May all of us realize and truly appreciate the divine blessing and treasure which we are receiving, and may we take seriously the call to be transformed more and more by the Eucharist into the companions, co-workers, and saints of the Lord which all of us are called to be.

Best wishes for goodness this month!

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



Our August 15 Holy Day of Mary's Assumption

This coming Thursday, August 15, the Lord's Church throughout the world will celebrate the Holy Day of Obligation known to us all as the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into the heavenly presence of her divine Son, Jesus.

The Assumption of the Blessed Mother following her passing away has been a belief since the very beginning of Christianity. If Mary's bodily remains were still here on the earth, that place of burial would no doubt draw countless pilgrims there for prayer every day - just like the burial location and the tomb of Saint Peter underneath the Basilica of Saint Peter in Vatican City.

Along with our ancestors in the Catholic Church, we fully believe that Mary was assumed into the glory of the Lord as a reward for her lifetime of dedication to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - and because she made it possible for the Savior of humanity to become one of us and one with us in her very womb.

For the August 15 Assumption Holy Day of Obligation, we will celebrate the Sacred Liturgy on Wednesday, August 14 at both 4:00pm (at Saint Philip church) and at 5:30pm (at Ascension church). Then, on Thursday, August 15, we will celebrate the Holy Day Liturgy at 8:00am (in Ascension church) and finally once again at 7:00pm (in Saint Philip church).

Please mark your calendars now, and be sure to join with the other members of our parish community in celebrating the Holy Day AND the eternal glory shared with the Blessed Mother and promised to all of us who are the faithful disciples of her Son Jesus!

Reminder: the parish offices will be closed on Thursday, August 15 in observance of the Holy Day of Obligation.



A "thank you" from Father Harry Nichols

In late July, Father Harry Nichols - one of our retired priests who presides twice each month at one of our Saturday evening Liturgies - underwent scheduled open heart surgery.

Father Harry's cousin - Father Jim Kunkel - has shared with our parish community that Father Harry's operation was successful and he's doing well. Father Harry will continue to recuperate at his residence within the nearby Saint John Vianney Retirement Manor for priests just off Noblestown Road.

Please know that Father Harry is very grateful for your prayers and good wishes in this difficult time, and he hopes to return to our parish Liturgies sometime in the Fall.

If you'd like to send Father Harry a card or note, his address is:
Father Harry Nichols
Saint John Vianney Manor
2600 Morange Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15205.



**BIBLE READINGS
FOR THE WEEK**

Sunday, August 11

1 Kings 19:4 - 8;
Ephesians 4:30 - 5:2;
John 6:41 - 51

Weekdays

Ezekial 1 - 18;
Matthew 17 - 19

Sunday, August 18

Proverbs 9:1 - 6;
Ephesians 5:15 - 20;
John 6:51 - 58



**Many thanks
to all our
Parish Appeal
Donors!**

Thanks so very much to all of our parish families and members who've contributed to this year's 2024 Annual Parish Appeal in support of our Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh!

Your contributions and annual generosity have allowed us to meet our goal once again this year!

As you know, our Annual Parish Appeal goal is now assessed as a "Management/Administration

FINANCIAL REPORT  **OUR SAINT PHILIP PARISH FINANCES**

Sunday collections, July 27-28	-- \$8,703.35*
Sunday collections, August 3-4	-- \$12,260.00*
<i>* Includes Mail-in donations</i>	
Online donations, July 27-28	-- \$1,829.50
Online donations, August 3-4	-- 3,562.50
Maintenance donations, July 28 & Aug. 4	-- \$2,858.00
Religious Edu. donations, July 28 & Aug. 4	-- \$251.00

Parish income needed for this Fiscal Year	-- \$861,064.00
Parish income <u>received</u> since July 1, 2024	-- \$66,115.70
Parish fundraising since July 1, 2024	-- \$0
Estate gifts received since July 1, 2024	-- \$0
General donations since July 1, 2024	-- \$870.00

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 August 3-4	-- 674		
Sunday envelopes used August 3-4	-- 291		
Total households receiving envelopes	-- 1,058		

2024 Parish Appeal Goal	-- \$128,119.00
Parish Appeal received as of July 28	-- \$130,935.08*
<i>* Includes online Parish Appeal donations</i>	
2024 Parish Appeal Donors	-- 249

Fee" expected of each parish according to their annual parish income. Our annual parish income is averaged over the most recent three calendar years. Then, along with every parish in the diocese, Saint Philip Parish is required to raise and contribute to diocesan operations an amount equal to 11% of our average annual income.

For 50 years now, rather than assessing these funds directly from our parish operating budget, every parish's members and families are asked to contribute

toward this necessary assessment for the funding of our diocesan church and operating budget.

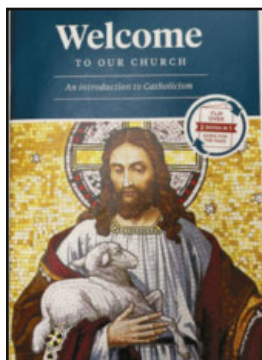
Now that our 2024 goal has been met, we will gratefully continue to receive and accept additional contributions to the Annual Parish Appeal. As in past years, the amount contributed above the annual goal remains with our parish for our own operating budget. Again, thanks very much to all of this year's Annual Parish Appeal contributors!



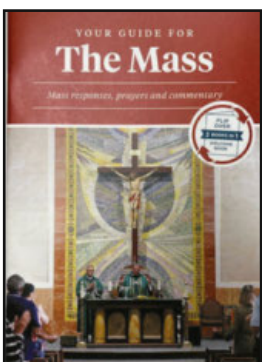
Parish News

FREE WELCOME BOOKLETS EXPLAINING THE CHURCH AND OUR CATHOLIC LITURGY

Having shared copies of the *Life in Christ Catholic Catechism* as well as copies of the *New Testament* with parish members, we're now making available **FREE copies** of a "two sided, flip" booklet at both of our churches! This new booklet from *FaithCatholic Publishing* provides both a "Welcome" and an explanation of the Church and the Catholic Liturgy



We tend to think that everyone gathering with us for the Liturgy understands the Lord's Church and the Mass, but in these years, this may not be the case. This user friendly booklet is an excellent guide and an explanation of our faith community and our worship.



You'll find the FREE copies of this fine Catholic "welcome" and introduction to the Church booklet at the primary entrances of both Saint Philip and Ascension churches.

May you and your family members - and all inquirers - benefit from this new booklet!

FIFTH ANNUAL SVDP FOOD DRIVE

Help SVdP collect non-perishable food items for the 5th Annual Food Drive this **Saturday, August 10 and Sunday, August 11**. For more information, see page 12. Volunteers are also needed. Let's come together to support our community!



OUR SAINT PHILIP PARISH SCHEDULE FOR THE AUGUST 15 HOLY DAY OF MARY'S ASSUMPTION INTO HEAVEN

Wednesday, August 14, 2024

4:00pm Vigil Liturgy at Saint Philip

5:30pm Vigil Liturgy at Ascension

Thursday, August 15, 2024

8:00am Holy Day Liturgy at Ascension

7:00pm Holy Day Liturgy at Saint Philip

Newly Baptized



Please welcome into our faith family... **Maddox Ronald Joseph Hipkiss**, son of Trevor Joseph Hipkiss and Bryce Nicole Henline, who received the Life of Christ in Baptism in our parish on Sunday, August 4, 2024. May he grow in wisdom, age and grace.

MEN'S RETREAT

The annual Saint Philip Parish Men's Retreat will be held **September 13-15** at Saint Paul of the Cross Retreat Center on the Southside. The Retreat begins with Mass at 5:30pm on Friday and concludes with Mass on Sunday at 11:00am. For questions, please call Al Bannon at 412-853-1341 or Joe Hoover at 412-310-6691.

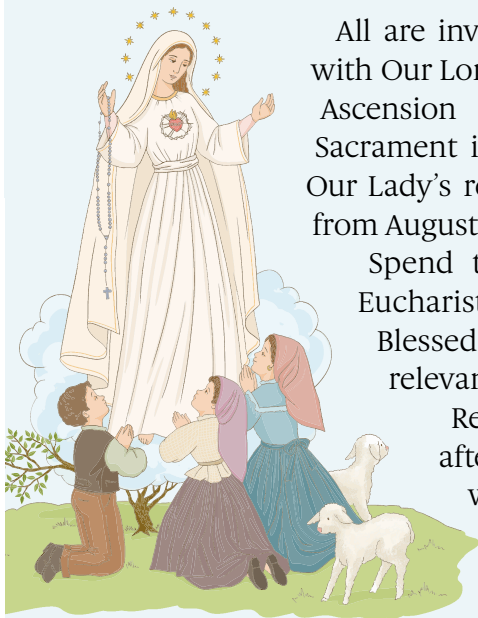
ANNUAL PARISH FLEA MARKET

We are happy to announce that our popular Flea Market, Luncheon, and Bake Sale will be held **Saturday, October 12**. This is a great opportunity to de-clutter your home of unwanted "Treasures." We're sorry but we are unable to accept clothing, bedding, encyclopedias, TVs, large appliances, furniture, stuffed animals, or anything with freon.

We're looking forward to seeing you! Watch the bulletin for drop off dates.

HONORING OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Commemorate the 4th Apparition of Fatima
with us on **Tuesday, August 13.**



All are invited to an hour of Adoration with Our Lord from 7:00pm to 8:00pm at Ascension church. After the Blessed Sacrament is reposed in the Tabernacle, Our Lady's requests to the three children from August 1917 will be shared.

Spend time with Our Lord in this Eucharistic Revival Year and hear the Blessed Mother's message that is still relevant 107 years later.

Refreshments will be served afterward and religious books will be available at no cost. The Legion of Mary will sponsor this presentation.



Sanctuary Lamp

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at St. Philip burns *In Loving Memory of Charles "Smokey" Garvin*
Offered by Cindy Garvin

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at Ascension burns *In Loving Memory of Bird, Favaro, Fico & Morris Families*
Offered by Family



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

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

Ascension Church Conner Hall

Be a part of an enlightening discussion on the life and spirituality of Saint Vincent de Paul. We'll have a guest speaker to guide us through his wisdom, faith, and the valuable lessons we can draw from Vincentian Spirituality.

Registration is required: Register now!

Call the Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388.



R & R CONTRACTING

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

REFLECTIONS FROM MARYANN: In the readings for this Sunday, August 11, we hear the Scriptures calling us to a deeper reflection on our relationship with the Lord. We hear in the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians, “*And be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ. So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love.*” This is quite a challenge. We sometimes find that we cannot do it alone. We need the support and prayers of one another. We have several opportunities this Fall to support one another in addition to participation in the Liturgy each week.

In the Gospel for this Sunday we hear Jesus say, “*I am the Bread of Life.*” We remind ourselves of this as we continue our celebration of the Eucharistic Congress and an affirmation that the Eucharist is the real presence of Jesus. S. James Meyer in his book, Living with Real Presence: Eucharist as an Approach to Life, notes the following: “*When we think of real presence in Eucharist, we tend to forget that presences is not a thing; it is an experience, an encounter, and a real form of intimacy. If we dare go deep in our spirituality, we discover that real presence is a way of life, perhaps the way of life that brings hope, compassion, peace, harmony, mercy, joy and love to us, to our relationships and to all humanity. It is the source of happiness now and forever.*”

Our small faith groups will be reflecting on the book, Living with the Real Presence: Eucharist as an Approach to Life throughout the coming months of September, October and November. They will be reflecting on the chapters titled: **As Real as It Gets**, *Substance and Essence, Bread, Blessed, Broken and Shared, Do this in Memory of Me*; **Real Presence. Real Relationships**, *Real Presence in our Relationship with Self, Real Presence in Our Relationship with God, and Real Presence in our Relationship with Others, Society and Creation.*

If you would like to be part of this once-a-month, small faith book discussion group, contact the Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388.



A PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

By Sister Regina Motreuil, OP
(1916-2013) Ozone Park, NY

Father, we are Your people,
the sheep of Your flock.

Heal the sheep who are
wounded, Touch the sheep
who are in pain, Clean the
sheep who are soiled, Warm
the lambs who are cold.

Father, help us to know You
through Jesus, the Shepherd,
And through Your Holy Spirit.

Help us to lift up that love and
show it all over the world.

Help us to build love on justice
and justice on love. Help us to
believe mightily, hope joyfully,
love divinely. Renew us that
we may help renew the
face of the earth.

LIGHT SUMMER HUMOR

As we enjoy the final weeks of our summer break, let's add a touch of light humor to our days.

A young man saw an elderly couple sitting down to lunch at McDonald's. He noticed that they had ordered one meal, and an extra drink cup. As he watched, the gentleman carefully divided the hamburger in half, counted out the fries, one for him, one for her, until each had half of them. Then he poured half of the soft drink into the extra cup and set that in front of his wife.

The old man then began to eat, and his wife sat watching, with her hands folded in her lap. The young man decided to ask if they would allow him to purchase another meal for them so that they didn't have to split theirs. The old gentleman said, *"Oh no. We've been married 50 years, and everything has always been and will always be shared, 50/50."* The young man then asked the wife if she was not going to eat, and she replied, *"It's his turn with the teeth."*



A farmer wonders how many sheep he has in his field, so he asks his sheepdog to count. *"So what's the verdict?"* The farmer asks when the dog is done. *"Forty."* *"Huh?"* The farmer says, puzzled, *"I only had 38."* *"I know,"* the dog says. *"But I rounded them up."*

ATTENTION PARENTS!

Children eligible to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation in 2025 must be enrolled and participate in a Catholic school or Parish Faith Formation program by November 1, 2024. If you are new to the Faith Formation Program and would like to register, please call 412-922-6388.

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION FORMS

Faith Formation Registration Forms for preschool through 8th grade have been sent out this week. If you have participated in the program in the past, please look for them. 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 need a registration form, call us at 412-922-6388.

WALK-INS WELCOME

Saint Philip Faith Formation will hold **walk-in registrations** on **Thursday, August 22 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm** at the courtyard ramp door of Saint Philip church. New registrations are welcome and any questions will be answered on site!

PARENTS UNLOCK YOUR TEEN'S POTENTIAL!

Are your teens looking for a chance to share and discuss how Jesus can make a difference in their lives and the lives of others? Do they want to spread the Good News and make a positive impact?

Imagine your teen participating in service opportunities that help them grow in their faith while earning high school service hours and receiving college or job recommendations.

If this sounds like something your student would benefit from, consider enrolling them in the **Saint Philip High School TEEN SERVICE CORPS**. Call 412-922-6388 for more information.

Don't miss this incredible opportunity for your teen to deepen their relationship with Jesus, have fun, serve others, and earn valuable recommendations!

NEW BEGINNINGS

Faith Formation is launching a catechetical ministry for children with special needs. Sessions are mainly on Mondays from 6:30pm to 7:45pm, but we can adjust to fit individual schedules. For more details, call 412-922-6388.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

OCIA is for adults who, after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed, consciously and freely seek the living God through the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts. If you or someone you know:

- Is not Catholic and is interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith
- Was baptized but never received the Sacraments of First Eucharist or Confirmation
- Was never baptized

Consider participating in the Saint Philip OCIA process. Sessions can be tailored to fit your schedule. General sessions are conducted on Thursday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. For information, call 412-922-6388.

KITCHEN TABLE MINISTRY

Kitchen Table Ministry will host several events this Fall to support health & mental well-being:

Drop-In Sunday: September 8 from 9:30am to 10:30am at Ascension. Enjoy coffee, donuts, blood pressure screenings, and a listening ear. Next Ascension session: November 10.

Anxious for Nothing: Tuesdays starting on September 10 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at Ascension. This 5-week series will address anxiety and help you find peace through Christ (*This is NOT therapy*).

Drop-In Sunday: October 6 from 8:00am to 9:00am at Saint Philip cafeteria with coffee, donuts, and support.

Hope for the Holidays: November 19 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at Ascension. Find help managing stress and anxiety through the holidays with support and a talk from a counselor.

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

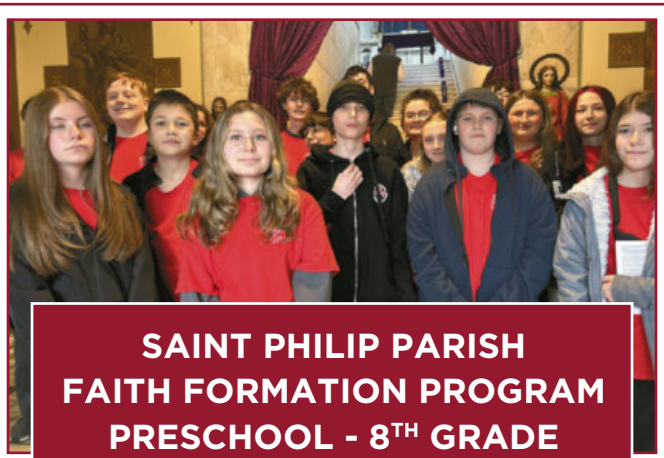
Join Saint Philip Parish for this 5-week video discussion series. We will examine feelings of anxiety and discover ways to address these feelings and experience the peace of Christ.

**BEGINS TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 10**

7:00pm to 8:30pm

Ascension Church Conner Hall

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



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

Register by calling 412-922-6388.

Our Program Features:

- **Flexible Scheduling:** Tailored to individual needs and schedules.
- **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.



**LANDSCAPING
at Ascension**

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

This weekend is our Fifth Annual Summer Food Drive! Vincentians will be available before all Masses to collect your donations, or you can drop off your donations during our drive-through event, which will take place on Saturday from 10am to noon in the Wolbert Auto Repair (formerly Knights of Columbus) parking lot. We are looking forward to another great weekend filled with fellowship and helping our neighbors in need!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of high school students to volunteer at the drive-through event. You do not need to volunteer for the entire time. Volunteers will collect donations from cars and sort and date check the donations. This is a great opportunity for students who need service hours! If you are interested, call or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email us at svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com, but walk-up volunteers are also welcome!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Wolbert Auto Repair for allowing us to use its parking lot for our drive-through event this weekend! We would also like to thank everyone who donated to our food pantry during the Pittsburgh Foundation's *One Day Critical Needs Alert* fundraiser on August 6. We will provide an update on the amount that we received in donations and the estimated matching funds in our next post.

We 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 week, your generous donations enabled us to assist a man with \$107 to stop an electric shutoff; a single mother was given \$137 to stop an electric shutoff; a woman was assisted with \$400 toward her rent; a single mother was given a dryer, 6 beds, other furniture items and clothing vouchers; and a woman was assisted with \$313 toward her electric. Thanks to all of our donors and volunteers for making this charitable assistance possible.

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

Bereavement MINISTRY



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 listening to 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, August 22**. Please note the change in date due to the Assumption Holy Day. Please consider joining us.

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 on 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 means that we'll have FIVE cash prizes this year - and five winners!

The Raffle tickets have been sent to all of our households. Your booklet contains 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!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Ascension Campus 2:00pm - 5:00pm
Food Served 2:30pm - 4:30pm
BINGO 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 putting it in the collection basket or calling the Parish Office of Faith Formation at: 412-922-6388. Thank you!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Adults attending: _____

Children attending and ages: _____

**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS:
Monday, September 9, 2024**



Around the Diocese and Community

59th ANNUAL PERU MISSION DINNER

The annual Peru Mission Dinner will be held on **Tuesday, October 15** at the Sheraton Hotel at Station Square. The dinner honors the life-giving, life-sustaining and life-affirming ministry of our Catholic medical missionaries in Chimbote, Peru. The evening's presentations will include updates from Very Reverend Thomas Sparacino, our Diocesan Rector and Director of Pre-Ordination Formation, along with special remarks from Bishop David Zubik. Visit <https://chimbotefoundation.org/events/annual-peru-dinner> for more information.



GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

The annual diocesan Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held at Saint Paul Cathedral on **Sunday, October 6 at 2:30pm**. Bishop Zubik will be the principal celebrant and homilist at this Mass, which will honor all Catholic couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in 2024. Couples may register at www.diopitt.org/gwa24.

A PICKLEBALL BENEFIT EVENT

A special Pickleball Tournament will be held **September 28-29** at the Pittsburgh Indoor Sports Arena (PISA) in Cheswick, 22 Rich Hill Road, 15024 for the benefit of the Saint Joseph House of Hospitality and the men who reside there in the care of our diocesan Catholic Charities.

If you're a Pickleball enthusiast, please visit www.ccpgh.org/pickle for more information about this USA Pickleball sanctioned tournament.

THE PITTSBURGH CATHOLIC MAGAZINE AND HOLY YEAR PILGRIMAGES

In recent days, all registered households of every parish in the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh have received a copy of the August-September edition of the **Pittsburgh Catholic Magazine**. Please be sure to read this excellent source of information and inspiration for our diocesan church. Also included in this new edition (see page 23) is a listing of upcoming 2025 Holy Year International Pilgrimages being conducted for the faithful of our diocese. The **Pittsburgh Catholic Magazine** always contains excellent information for everyone in the Church of Pittsburgh!

DIOCESAN CHOIR

Auditions for the 2024-2025 Diocesan Choir season will soon be held. The choir, under the direction of Father Jim Chepponis, Music Director for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, sings for the major diocesan events at Saint Paul Cathedral throughout the year.

Currently there are openings in the soprano, alto, tenor and bass sections. In addition to being good singers, potential members must be capable sight-readers due to a limited rehearsal schedule, and at least 18 years of age. Rehearsals are held at Saint John Capistran Church in Upper St. Clair. **Audition times may be scheduled by calling Doris Anne at 412-953-4480 before August 22.**



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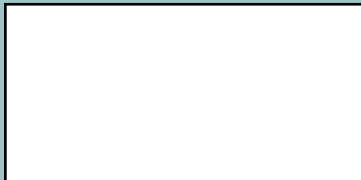


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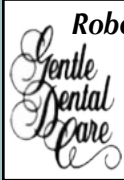
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