



# 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  
 Deacon Joe Allen, Parish Deacon  
 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  
 Mr. Gary Urbatis, Safe Environment Staff  
 Ms. Maureen Takach, Administrative Assistant  
 Ms. Linda Bey, Faith Formation Secretary  
 Ms. Denise Ball, Faith Formation Staff  
 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

Patricia Cygrymus, Barbara Hendrick,  
 Joseph Hoover, Martin Matko,  
 Richard Musser, Katie Phillips,  
 David Sammel and Mary Schubert

## PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Benjamin Bannon, Robert Bertocchi,  
 Joseph Hoover, Joseph Rynn,  
 Richard Schubert and Gary Urbatis

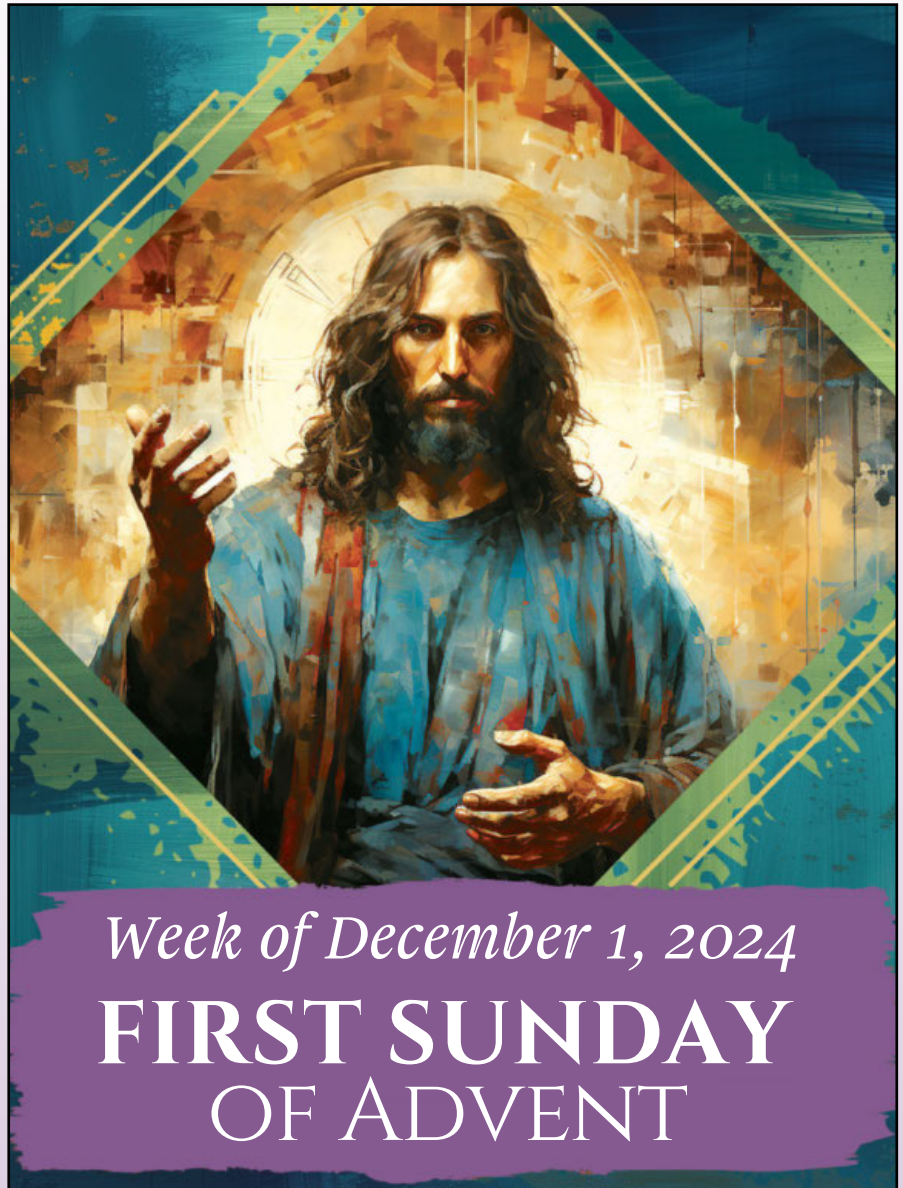
## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

114 Berry Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15205  
 Website: [www.saintphilipparishpgh.com](http://www.saintphilipparishpgh.com)  
 Email: [parishoffice@saintphilipparish.com](mailto: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



*Week of December 1, 2024*

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## 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 (OCA):** 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
<b>SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 — SAINT ANDREW, APOSTLE</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	Cassie Bloom Currier	Megyesy Family
Saint Philip	4:00pm (Vigil)	Mattern & Rosenberger Families	Mary Clare & Tom Gerlowski
Ascension	5:30pm (Vigil)	Arlene Ramolt	Giza Family
<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 — FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Bridget & Dudley Newell	O'Toole Family
Ascension	9:30am	Peggy Quigley & Don Mozzetti	Debbie & Frank Dietz
Saint Philip	11:00am	Dennis & Bridget Maher	Family
<b>MONDAY, DECEMBER 2 — ADVENT WEEKDAY</b>			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Michael & Mary Dolansky	Dolansky Family
<b>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 — SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	Francis Ruffalo	Rose Dukovich
<b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 — SAINT JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</b>			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Si & Rita Pfender	Barb Pfender
<b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 — ADVENT WEEKDAY</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	Frances & Eleanor	Girls
<b>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 — SAINT NICHOLAS, BISHOP</b>			
Saint Philip	8:00am	Living & Deceased Members of Saint Philip Parish	
<b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 — SAINT AMBROSE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</b>			
Ascension	8:00am	Willis F. O'Neil	Joan & Ed Goyke
Saint Philip	4:00pm (Vigil)	Mary G. Barber	Michael & Patti Diduch
Ascension	5:30pm (Vigil)	Donald P. Mozzetti	Giza Family
<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 — SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>			
Saint Philip	7:00am	Valerie's Birthday	Valerie stahurski
Ascension	9:30am	Coleman Donley	Parents
Saint Philip	11:00am	Bob & Von Reinstadtler	Mary Ann Daily
<b>BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS:</b> Should be submitted to <a href="mailto:m.takach@saintphilipparish.com">m.takach@saintphilipparish.com</a> no later than 12:00pm on Friday to be included in the following week's bulletin.			





# Notes from the Pastor

**Greetings once again, and best wishes for the New Church Year 2025 - our Jubilee Holy Year!** I hope you'll enjoy all the coming holidays, and along with your observances and celebrations, I hope you'll take time for prayer, for some hibernation, and for your family!

## Celebrating the new Catholic Year 2025

**During these weeks of the Advent Season**, we hear both of an end - and a beginning. This weekend, as we turn to the Gospel according to Luke, the reading for this First Sunday of Advent presents to us Jesus' caution to remain watchful for His return in glory to complete the Kingdom of God on the earth. Throughout the Advent Season, we will be reminded time and time again in the Bible readings that we should keep in mind both the end of our own days and the culmination of the Lord Jesus' mission to humanity.

**During these same weeks**, we will hear from Saint John the Baptizer who - for 2000 years and even now - directs our attention and our faith toward Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus the Lord, whose ministry John initiated by baptizing Jesus in the Jordan River. Likewise, the later days of Advent will recall and proclaim the first coming of Jesus into the world through His being born of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**These six weeks of the Advent Season** and the Season of Christmas are a wonderful beginning of the new Church Year which starts annually on the First Sunday of Advent. Advent directs our faith and our hope toward the end of Jesus' mission as well as the beginning of Jesus' life and public ministry.

**Throughout every new Church Year**, we recall and celebrate the entirety of our Catholic Christian faith in a 365 day annual cycle of faith and liturgy

and life. With each new year, we hopefully grow deeper and deeper in our appreciation of Jesus' Good News - and of all the beliefs and events, witnesses, and heroes of Christianity.

**This new Catholic Year - like all previous Catholic years** - is highlighted by our remembrance and celebration of the Lord Jesus' birth as well as our joyful celebration of the Lord Jesus' Resurrection in what we call "the Easter Season" in the spring. Both of these most important events receive their own weeks of preparation and their weeks of celebration.

**The holy seasons of Advent and Christmas** and Lent and Easter are the highlight of every Catholic Year. Then the remaining days and weeks of each year call to mind the full list of events and teachings in the life of Jesus and His mother Mary - as well as many of the saints, holy ones, and heroes of the Church's history.

**My hope is that this beginning of the new Catholic Year 2025** will bring joy and anticipation to your soul and your life. During the next 365 days, we will indeed celebrate the entirety of our holy faith, and we will remember and relive all that is important in the birth, life, death, and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

**In a very particular way**, this new Catholic Year will also be the holiest year of the past quarter century as we observe and celebrate the Holy Year of Jubilee 2025 - and the 2025<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of the Lord Jesus.

**As we begin this new Catholic Year**, may it be a year of divine grace, mercy and charity for you - as well as a year of renewed faith and hope in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit! May every season and every day of this Catholic Holy Year draw you closer to Jesus as we celebrate him and all that he accomplished for each of us and for humanity. Finally, may you and your family enjoy the 365 days of Christian faith and life which begin today, and may the Jubilee Year 2025 ahead be blessed for you in every way!

Yours, Father Jim Torquato



# Sacrament of Reconciliation

## OUR ADVENT 2024 RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

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

**\*\*All Saturdays in December** 12:00pm to 1:00pm  
*Ascension church*

**Wednesday, December 11** 6:00pm to 8:00pm  
*Ascension church*

**Friday, December 13** 12:00pm to 1:00pm  
*Ascension church*

**Monday, December 16** 12:00pm to 1:00pm  
*Saint Philip church*  
6:00pm to 8:00pm  
*Ascension church*

**Tuesday, December 17** 12:00pm to 1:00pm  
*Saint Philip church*

**Wednesday, December 18** 12:00pm to 1:00pm  
*Saint Philip church*  
6:00pm to 8:00pm  
*Ascension church*

**Thursday, December 19** 12:00pm to 1:00pm  
*Saint Philip church*  
6:00pm to 8:00pm  
*Ascension church*

**Friday, December 20** 12:00pm to 1:00pm  
*Saint Philip church*

**Monday, December 23** 12:00pm to 1:00pm  
*Saint Philip church*  
6:00pm to 8:00pm  
*Ascension church*

*December 9 will be a Holy Day of Obligation this year!*

Last month, all the bishops of the Catholic Church were sent a clarification from the offices of the Vatican. A new decree by the Holy See will now change our past practices.

Regarding the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, this year's celebration has been transferred (*as usual*) to Monday, December 9 because December 8 is a Sunday - the Lord's Day - this year. In the past, the Obligation to celebrate the Holy Day was set aside when a Solemnity was transferred to another day.

However, beginning this year, the Vatican decree states that now the Obligation to worship will be observed on Monday, December 9.

As such, our Liturgies for the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (our own nation's Holy Day) will be celebrated at:

**8:00am Saint Philip church**  
**4:00pm Saint Philip church**  
**7:00pm Ascension church**

Thank you for planning to join us for the December 9 Immaculate Conception Holy Day. How this decree of the Vatican might affect other Holy Days in the months and years ahead remains to be seen.



## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday, December 1

Jeremiah 33:14-16;  
1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2;  
Luke 21:25-36

### Weekdays

Isaiah 2-30;  
Matthew 8-9

### Sunday, December 8

Baruch 5:1-9;  
Philippians 1:4-11;  
Luke 3:1-6



## EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION AND ADORATION

This coming Saturday, December 7, 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!

## FINANCIAL REPORT OUR SAINT PHILIP PARISH FINANCES



Sunday collections, <b>November 16-17</b>	-- \$10,490.45*
<i>* Includes Mail-in donations</i>	
Online donations, November 16-17	-- \$1,829.50
Maintenance donations	-- \$48.00
Religious Education donations	-- \$23.00

Parish income needed for this Fiscal Year	-- \$861,064.00
Parish income <u>received</u> since July 1, 2024	-- \$286,663.25
Parish fundraising since July 1, 2024	-- \$21,858.55
Estate gifts received since July 1, 2024	-- \$0.00
General donations since July 1, 2024	-- \$4,254.00

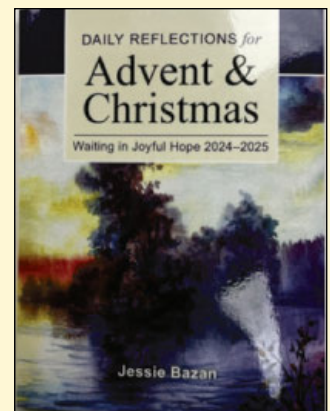
Average weekly staff salary and benefits expenses	-- \$5,885.13
Average weekly maintenance/operation expenses	-- \$2,179.94
Average weekly utility expenses	-- \$2,030.82
Average weekly insurance expenses	-- \$1,102.17
Weekly contributions to Guardian Angel Academy	-- \$1,397.92

Parish members	-- 2,456	Parish families	-- 1,287
Church attendance on November 23-24	-- Next bulletin		
Sunday envelopes used November 16-17	-- 257		
Total households receiving envelopes	-- 1,058		

2024 Parish Appeal Goal	-- \$128,119.00
Parish Appeal received as of November 17	-- \$159,012.92*
<i>*Includes online Parish Appeal donations</i>	
2024 Parish Appeal Donors	-- 249

## Reflection Booklets for Advent and the Christmas Season

This month, the annual booklets of reflections for Advent and the Christmas Season will be available at the main entrances of both Saint Philip church and Ascension church. You're welcome to take a booklet home for yourself and your family members to share - **and to read every day** as we draw closer to the Lord in the coming holy seasons!





# Parish News

## GIVING TREE THANKS

**Once again**, this year's Christmas kindness and generosity of our Saint Philip Parish community has been inspiring!

**Thanks to many** of our parish members and families, many children and senior parish members will receive one or more gifts for their Christmas celebration.

**May all our parish Giving Tree donors** know the joy of the Lord as you yourselves are sharing Christmas joy with all who will receive your generous gift/s in the coming weeks before Christmas.

**Thank you all very much once again**, and may our good Lord bless all of you and your own families!

This is just a reminder that all Giving Tree gifts should be returned by **Monday, December 9** and must be in a gift bag with tag attached.

## OPLATKI: CHRISTMAS WAFER

"Oplatki" is a traditional Christmas Wafer, known as the "Bread of Angels."

It originated in Poland, Slovakia, and Lithuania over a millennium ago. Breaking and sharing "Oplatki" on Christmas Eve is a prayer for family health and happiness, uniting heaven and earth, and reminding us of Jesus, the "Unseen Guest." Some families set an extra place at the table for the Christ Child.

"Oplatki" will be available in the coming days once they're received in the parish office. The donation for each packet is \$3.00.



Please welcome into our faith family... **Evelina Chelle Antoszewski**, daughter of Jeffrey Daniel and Katherine Fernandez Antoszewski, who received the Life of Christ in Baptism in our parish on Sunday, November 17, 2024. May she grow in wisdom, age, and grace.

## FINAL FATIMA ADORATION

All are invited to the final evening of the Fatima series at Ascension Church on **Friday, December 13**. Adoration and rosary will begin at 7:00pm with silent reflection until 8:00pm. We will share facts about the lives of the three children, Our Lady's further requests, and the Three Secrets. Refreshments will be served and spiritual resources will be available. Sister Sandy, from the Sisters of the Most Holy Family of Nazareth Community, will have a display of lovely Christmas and Valentine's Day crafts for sale. The evening will be sponsored by the Legion of Mary.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

We invite you to remember your loved ones this Christmas through your contribution for Christmas Memorials. Donations can also be made in thanksgiving for favors received. Your donation of \$10.00 per intention will help defray the cost of altar flowers and decorations which will beautify Saint Philip and Ascension churches during the Christmas Season.

A special envelope was included in your November envelope packet for the Floral Memorials. **We ask that you please get your remembrances to us by Sunday, December 8.**



## OUR CHRISTMAS 2024 SCHEDULE

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

**Tuesday, December 24**  
4:00pm - Saint Philip church  
4:00pm - Ascension church  
6:00pm - Ascension church  
12:00 midnight - Saint Philip church

**Wednesday, December 25**  
8:00am - Saint Philip church  
9:30am - Ascension church  
11:00am - Saint Philip church

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

Best wishes to all our parish members and families for a joyful Christmas Season beginning the evening of December 24, 2024 until the evening of January 12, 2025!



## ONCE AGAIN, THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU!

For more than thirty years, the Bishops of our Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh have asked every parish to schedule a multi-hour session on the same evening for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in both Advent and Lent.

**This December**, Bishop David Zubik has scheduled the “Light is On for You!” evening to be held on **Wednesday evening, December 11 in every Catholic parish.**

As such, the Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession will be offered in Ascension church on Wednesday, December 11 from 6:00pm until 8:00pm in the church confessional. For your preparation, an Examination of Conscience page will be available at the church.

At the same time, there will be a prayer service in Ascension church, but those coming for confession can simply and quietly proceed along the wall back to the confessional.

The bishop especially encourages everyone who’s been away from Confession for a number of years to celebrate this healing sacrament on the evening of December 11.

Of course, everyone is welcome, and please always remember, the “Light is On for You!”



## Sanctuary Lamp

This week’s Sanctuary Lamp at St. Philip burns *In Loving Memory of Carson and Dulick Families*  
Offered by Family

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



**THORNBURG AUTOMOTIVE, INC.**

*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.wesharegiving.org/app/giving/saintphilipchurch](http://www.wesharegiving.org/app/giving/saintphilipchurch)

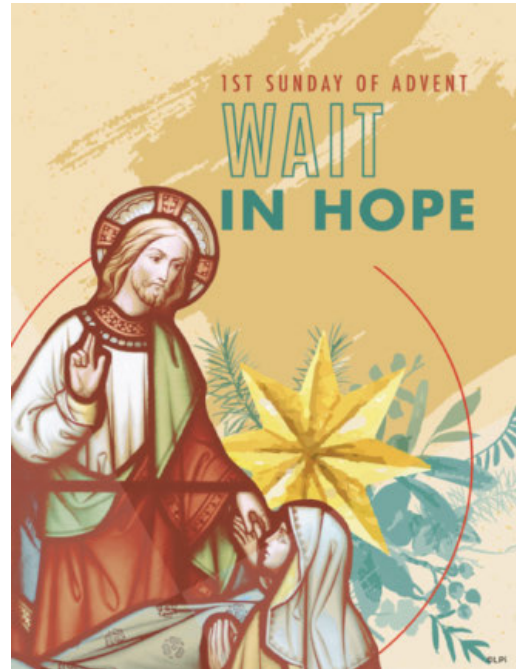
**FIND US ON FACEBOOK** 

Search “Saint Philip Church”



# Faith Formation /Religious Education

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



**REFLECTIONS FROM MARYANN:** Welcome to our Advent Progressive Retreat. Our reflection this first week of Advent is on “HOPE.” Pope Francis states that Hope is a gift that comes directly from God. The world today is in great need of this Christian Virtue. Hope is a constant expectation that comes from the Holy Spirit. Hope grows when it is shared with others. Hope reflects that God is the light that illuminates the darkness.

## Daily Prayer Response:

*Come O Holy Spirit. Touch our hearts. Renew in us the Hope that you will dispel the darkness of worry, fear, self doubt and sadness. Give us patience to wait, especially during this season of Advent. Create in us an emptiness which can be filled with patience that we may rejoice in Christ's coming and be overcome with Joy. Let each one of us share our Hope in you through acts of kindness, selfless giving, generosity and forgiveness. Let us breath in your Hope so that on Christmas our Hope may be realized in the many blessings you have for us. Amen.*

**Action:** Prayer, Giving of Time to another.

**FAITH FORMATION NEWS:** There is **NO Faith Formation Session on Monday, December 2**. Faith Formation will be held on Monday, December 9.

**WEATHER RELATED CANCELATIONS:** Please listen to KDKA or WPXI for issues related to cancelations due to weather.

**NEW IN 2024:** Saint Philip *Advent/Christmas Festival* for Children and Families will be held on **Monday, December 16 from 6:15pm to 7:50pm** in Ascension Conner Hall and Church. The evening will begin with a pizza supper followed by learning stations on the Scriptures related to Advent and Christmas. The evening will conclude with a sing-a-long in Church with each child receiving a gift. We invite all families to join us for fun, food, activities and crafts related to the Advent Season.

**BAPTISMS:** Baptism Sessions for new parents will be held once per month. Please call the Office of Faith Formation at 412-922-6388 if you anticipate having your child baptized in January or February 2025.



# Children's LITURGY

Our next Children's Liturgy will be the 9:30am Mass at Ascension on **December 8** and the 11:00am Mass at Saint Philip on **December 22**.

## Kitchen Table Ministry

**Prayer Boards:** Thanks to all who placed the name of someone facing a mental health or general health challenge on our prayer boards. These names will now be taken down and given to the Sisters of Saint Francis of the Providence of God for remembrance in their daily prayer.

## First Sunday OF ADVENT

"The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the House of Israel and Judah."

- Jeremiah 33:14

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPI

## Events in December



### **FREE DINNER** *with the Saints*

**MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

**Wednesday, December 4**

6:15pm to 7:50pm

Ascension Church Conner Hall



### **FREE** **BREAKFAST** *with Santa*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**

**9:00am to 11:00am**

Saint Philip Parish cafeteria

## Journey with **Mary**

**Wednesday, December 11**

6:30pm in Ascension church

*A candlelight evening of Scripture,  
reflection and music.*

## **FAMILY ADVENT FESTIVAL**

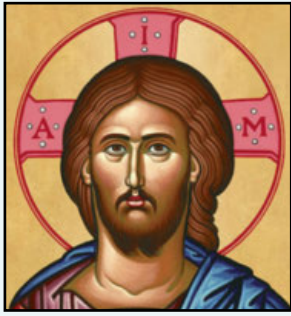
**Monday, December 16**

6:15pm to 7:50pm

Ascension Church Conner Hall

*A festive evening of food, crafts, activities, and music, ending with a Gospel reflection and gift.*

# LIFE IN SAINT PHILIP PARISH...



## *Sharing the Good News and growing the Kingdom of God!*

Throughout the year, it's good to reflect on the many blessings that are present in our parish community and life - blessings shared and supported by you, our members, our families, and our contributors.

Once again, here in Saint Philip Parish, we have:

- 1.) one vital parish with two excellent churches and campuses;
- 2.) the celebration of the Liturgy and sacraments in both churches;
- 3.) the work of evangelization - sharing Jesus' Good News in many ways;
- 4.) a vital ministry of Catholic education and catechesis provided through Guardian Angel Academy and our various Faith Formation programs for children, youth, families, and adults in our parish;
- 5.) a very charitable and generous community which provides for the poor in our own community as well as many neighbors who have needs in their life and family;
- 6.) our parish members and community who've brought many adults, young adults, and children to faith and life in Jesus, the Son of God;
- 7.) so many personal and family connections which have been made and continue to be created among the members and families of Saint Philip Parish - and which are very good for our lives and our community;
- 8.) the many members and staff of Saint Philip Parish who work together each day in a number of parish organizations that promote our Christian discipleship and that serve many in our parish community - as well as many of our neighbors;
- 9.) dedicated members and families who share our life with one another in Catholic faith, hope, and love as we live together in the Saint Philip Parish community - and as we continue to support one another in our daily discipleship as the People of God; and
- 10.) an excellent Saint Philip Parish community which remains a true beacon of Christian light, faith, hope, holiness, and charity in this local area!

**These are the Top Ten Reasons why Saint Philip Catholic Parish is so very important to all of us** - and why your continued and generous support is of tremendous importance for the life, vitality, and future of our parish community.

**Thank you so very much for sharing your life and years with our Saint Philip Parish community!** Thank you, too, for all the support which you provide for our parish life together. Your faith, goodness, and generosity keep Saint Philip Parish alive, vital, and vibrant as we continue "Sharing the Good News and growing the Kingdom of God!"

# Saint Philip Parish Annual



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 and  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024**

Before & After all Masses

**Conner Hall and Kelty Hall**

Enjoy delicious, yummy, homemade

**CHRISTMAS COOKIES  
and SWEET TREATS**

to support Saint Philip Parish

Large trays (3 Dozen) \$20.00

Small trays (1 Dozen) \$7.00

Pre-orders are suggested.

To place an order or any questions, call:  
Katie at 412-983-4541 / Rose at 412-922-5785

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

We invite parishioners, parents and children to share their favorite homemade cookies with us. Cookies can be dropped off Ascension Conner Hall on **Friday, December 13 between 6:00pm & 8:00pm** and **Saturday, December 14 between 9:00am & 10:00am.**

Volunteers are needed to sort, tray and wrap cookies. Contact Katie Phillips at 412-983-4541.

**Thank you for your generosity!**

## **JUST WHAT IS CHIMBOTE?**



**Chimbote (pronounced “chim-bo-tay”)** is a city on the northwest coast of Peru (directly south of Pittsburgh) where a Catholic maternity hospital and medical clinic have been funded by Catholics of Pittsburgh for nearly 60 years. In 1965, Bishop John Wright sent several Pittsburgh priests to South America to locate a poor community that our Diocese could adopt as a sister church. The priests landed in the fishing town of Chimbote, Peru, and the mission began then and has flourished for nearly 60 years.

**In these six decades,** supported by Catholics of our Diocese, the maternity hospital has delivered 100,000+ babies. Moms, dads, and infants have been given excellent care. The medical clinic gives free treatment to thousands of needy residents each week. Also, a medical outreach program provides in-home visits and care for many poor families living in the barrios of Chimbote.

**The generosity of Pittsburgh Catholics to the poor and needy of Chimbote, Peru** has benefitted and saved the lives of many, many residents. If you'd like to help, please send a donation to:

### **The Chimbote Foundation**

Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh  
2900 Noblestown Road  
Pittsburgh, Pa 15205



# Guardian Angel Academy

915 Alice Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15220

One of the South Region Catholic Elementary Schools (SRCES)



## SAVE THE DATE: CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRESCHOOL - 4TH GRADES

We are excited to announce that our school will be hosting a special “Christmas Nativity Play,” featuring participation from grades Preschool through fourth. This performance will be a wonderful opportunity for our students to celebrate the birth of Jesus and share the joy of the Christmas season with our school community.

Our Christmas Program will take place **Thursday, December 19 at 1:30pm** in St. Margaret of Scotland church. Families may attend our Christmas Program in the church. The Program will be streamed live and recorded to view at a later day and time as well. Information for live streaming our Christmas Program:

- Log on to <https://straphaelcgs.org>,
- Scroll down to the Livestream icon,
- Choose Guardian Angel Academy Christmas Program,
- The recording of the program will also be available on this same site under the Past Live Streams tab.



## HELPING HAND CLUB

Helping Hands is collecting Christmas Wrapping paper and bags for Catholic Charities. Please help us exceed our goal. All donations are due by Thursday, December 12. Please place them in the box outside Mrs. Romanovich’s classroom. Thank you!

## 2025 LOTTERY CALENDARS

**At this time**, in both the Saint Philip Parish office and the Guardian Angel Academy office, our regional Catholic elementary school is making available their Annual Lottery Calendars for 2025.

This annual school fundraiser benefits the students and the programs of Guardian Angel Academy. Your ongoing support of our parish’s regional school is greatly appreciated!

Please contact our parish office at 412-922-6300 OR the GAA school office at 412-922-4765 for information or to arrange your purchase!



## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

Many people's budgets tighten at this time of year, between increased winter utility costs, seasonal layoffs, and trying to buy gifts for loved ones for Christmas. That may leave less money for food. Help is available for those that need a little extra assistance with food at this time of year.

The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is still offering its monthly West End Walk-in Food Distribution, which is located at Pittsburgh Langley K-8 school, 2940 Sheraden Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15204. The distributions are every third Tuesday of the month from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. The next distribution is Tuesday, December 17.

For those unfamiliar with the walk-in food distributions, attendees receive between 30 and 50 pounds of food, including produce, dairy, protein and other grocery items. Attendees are encouraged to bring bags, boxes or a rolling cart with which to transport the food. For more information, please visit [www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/findfood](http://www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/findfood) or call the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank at 833-822-7627.

The Crafton United Presbyterian Church, located at 80 Bradford Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15205, has a walk-in food pantry that operates each Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:15am to 12:15pm. For more information, please call 412-921-2293, extension 3.

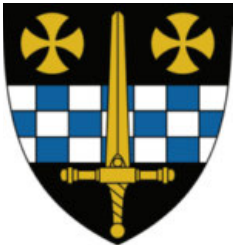
As always, our own St. Vincent de Paul food pantry is here to serve those who do not have transportation with which to reach a traditional food bank. If you need monthly or emergency food assistance from us, please call or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email us at [svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com](mailto:svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com).

Don't allow yourself, or someone you know, to go hungry this Christmas season. Please reach out for help if you need it!

We still desperately need volunteers for our furniture mission, as well as donations of couches and loveseats. If you are getting new furniture and your couch or loveseat still has some life in it, please consider donating it to our friends in need. We are also once again in need of new full-sized sheet sets to give out when we give a friend in need a new bed. If you would like to volunteer or to schedule a pickup or drop off of your donation, please call or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email us at [svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com](mailto:svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com). Thank you!

Over the past week, your generous donations enabled us to provide a man with a couch and bed; a woman was given a bus pass; a woman was given various furniture items; a single mother was assisted with \$300 toward her security deposit and \$100 for a bus pass; a single mother was given a \$100 bus pass, clothing vouchers and three dressers; a woman was given a bed; a single mother was assisted with \$448 to prevent a water shut off; and a woman was assisted with \$138 to prevent a water shut off. Thank you for allowing us to help our neighbors in need!

As always, if you, or someone you know, are in need of assistance, please call or text our hotline at 412-444-8140 or email us at [svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com](mailto:svdp.saint.philip@gmail.com).



# Around the Diocese and Community

## BISHOP CANEVIN H.S. BINGO

Bingo is held every Saturday and Sunday in the Bishop Canevin High School Cafeteria, 2700 Morange Road. Saturday: Doors open at 5:30pm with bingo at 7:00pm - \$4,000+ payout. Sunday: Doors open at 4:30pm with bingo at 6:00pm - \$4,000+ payout. Full kitchen is available with weekly specials. Monday night is Zoom Bingo - \$8,100+ payout. For more information, visit [www.bingo-at-bc.com](http://www.bingo-at-bc.com).

## INVITING CATHOLICS BACK TO CHURCH

On **Thursday, December 4, from 9:00am until 4:00pm**, the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh will host a special “Invite One Back Training” conference at the nearby Diocesan Pastoral Center, 2900 Noblestown Road. This FREE workshop will be presented by the national Catholic organization Saint Paul Street Evangelization. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Registration is necessary. Visit [www.stpaulse.com/IOB-Pittsburgh](http://www.stpaulse.com/IOB-Pittsburgh) or call Adam (657-777-2963) for more information.

## RENEWING THE JOY OF YOUR MARRIAGE

A new local Catholic initiative was created in 2015 to strengthen marriages here in our diocesan church. This effort is named “Renew the ‘I Do’!,” and the organizers host multiple events around Allegheny County for married couples. There are liturgies, social gatherings, concerts, pilgrimages, comedy nights, bowling, holiday events, and other events throughout the year. All married couples of our parish - and

of every diocesan parish - are invited and welcome to participate. Full information is available at [www.renewtheido.org](http://www.renewtheido.org). You’re welcome to join in - and renew the life and joy of your marriage!

## 50% OFF PRT BUS AND T FARES

The Allegheny County Department of Human Services - in conjunction with Pittsburgh Regional Transit - is now offering a 50% reduction in bus fares to those who qualify. Those applying must: live in Allegheny County; be 12 to 64 years of age; have been receiving SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits for at least three months; and have a mobile device with access to the Ready2Ride phone app. Simply download the Ready2Ride app, create your account, go to [discountedfares.alleghenycounty.us](http://discountedfares.alleghenycounty.us) and apply to AlleghenyGo. The 50% discount will apply to 3 hour passes - as well as weekly passes, and a monthly 31 day pass.

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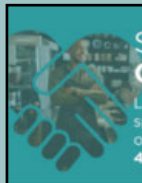
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