

Saint Philip Neri Church

Sunday, December 16, 2018 / 3rd Sunday of Advent

Second Collection – Debt Reduction



John the Baptist is known as the last of the prophets, as he stood on the threshold between the Old & New Testament. John like the prophets of old prophesied about the coming Messiah but also had the singular ministry of announcing and pointing Him out when He came. Born of aged Jewish parents, Zechariah & Elizabeth, He was related to Jesus through his mother Elizabeth. Many people of the day thought John was the Messiah, something he vehemently denied. He preached repentance and salvation that only came through Jesus Christ. John baptized the Jewish people in the Jordan River on their confession of their sins. This was a prefiguration of the baptism Jesus was to bring in the Holy Spirit. John died a martyrs death and was certainly one of the most important figures in Christianity. John's message still resonates today, calling all to repent of their sins and prepare a place in their lives for Jesus. Filling in the valleys and flatening the mountains in our lives that keep the Messiah from fully entering.

Please Pray: For those who died and those we remember in the silence of our hearts especially Sr. Kathleen S. Bonawitz, SSJ, Sr. Marian L. Steiner, SSJ and Sr. Leona Tucker, SSJ.

Sanctuary Lamp Intention: This week our sanctuary lamp will burn in memory of Thomas T. Hudson, Sr. requested by Mary Ann Hudson.

Baptismal Instruction / Pre Jordan: The next session is scheduled for Monday, December 17th at 7:30PM in the Rectory Conference Room. Your baby is always welcome in Church, however, for the instruction itself, please try to schedule a babysitter so you may be free to concentrate. Please call the Church Office (610-834-1975) to sign up.



We will have a special blessing for expectant mothers at the 10AM Mass on Sunday, December 23rd. If you wish to receive this blessing, please call the Church office at 610-834-1975.

Mass Intentions

Monday

6:30 AM Wally Flamm
8:30 AM Elinor Kollmer

Tuesday

6:30 AM Ray Quaglia
8:30 AM Deceased Members of the Hartley Family

Wednesday

6:30 AM Brendan Gray
8:30 AM Deceased Members of the
Brennan & Lowry Families

Thursday

6:30AM Raymond Quaglia
8:30AM William Gallagher

Friday

6:30AM Thomas F Keane III & Thomas F Keane Jr
Frank & Concetta Lupinacci & Family
8:30AM Alexander Tarsi Jr & Alexander Tarsi III

Saturday

8:30AM John Shertz

PLEASE PRAY for the sick so that they may be comforted by the concern and love of their families and the family of the Church: Michael Basara, Bella Jones Borkowski, Marita Boyce, Lou Cacchio, Vincent Cellucci, Hunter Cranage, Rosemary Crawford, Jean Daywalt, Charlie Dickman, Dr. Robert Domanski, Emily Donhauser, Lisa Dougherty, Dolores (Dee) Downs, Christopher Greuters, Baby Warren Hargadon, Andrea Harrison, Joseph Hoch, Jean Keenan, John & Kathleen Kunes, Nicholas Lannutti, Peter Lello, Anne Lintner, George and Molly Lozinak, Phyllis Luther, James Maggetti, Sue Male, Joan Marine, John McCann, Julia McLaughlin, Baby Avery McNichols, Steven Merlin, Joe Mulligan, Joe O'Brien, Remo Pitassi, John Pacell, Baby Addison Pfeffer, Ann Purkin, Jim Rafter, Baby Harper Ann Renshaw, John Reynolds, David Sandy, John Schaifer, Tim Schwartz, Eva Seeton, Michael Shaw, Kristin Shearon, Robert Smith, Brian Stenz, Yvonne Stephens, Amy Swift, Kena Thompson and Wendi Wagoner and for all those who are hoping and praying for organ transplants.



Parish Penance Service

Wednesday, December 19th at 7PM.

One message of Advent is to prepare the way of the Lord, what better way than the Sacrament of Penance to clear the way in our own lives for the Christmas Miracle. Extra priests will be available to hear confessions.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

4PM Children’s Mass

5:45PM Mass

7:30PM Mass

(Adult Choir Choral Prelude 7:15PM)

Midnight Mass

(Schola Choral Prelude 11:45PM)

Christmas Day

7AM, 8:30AM, 10AM & 11:30AM

Church Office – Holiday Hours

December 24th – 7:30AM to Noon

December 25th & 26th – Closed

December 27th & 28th – 7AM to 4PM

December 31st – 7:30AM to Noon

January 1st – Closed

January 2nd, 3rd & 4th – Regular Hours



Join us for the Rosary on Jan 10th at 7PM. For centuries this powerful prayer has aided so many who have gone to Mary asking for her intercession. Something in your life you could bring? There will be petition cards that will be placed at the foot of Mary’s statue in the Church. It only takes about 30 minutes, don’t go it alone, Mary stands ready to help!

Frozen Casseroles for St. John’s Hospice

During the Christmas season, would you consider donating a casserole to the homeless of St. John’s Hospice.

Casseroles can be homemade or store brought. Any questions call Lynne Kennedy at 610-828-6728 or email:lkennedy@comcast.net. Frozen casseroles can be brought to Lynne’s home at 2311 Mulberry Ln before or after all weekend Masses or by 9AM on the pick-up day,

the next pick-up date is Jan 2nd. Thank you for your generous and delicious donations and blessings for the New Year!

SPN PREP (CCD) Program: Make a New Year’s resolution to help the young people in our parish discover their faith! SPN PREP is looking for faithful, enthusiastic adults to assist teachers in the classrooms in the afternoons on Monday or Tuesdays, and to assist with Children’s Liturgy of the Word on Sunday mornings. For more information, please contact Sharon Otto at spnprep@spnschool.org or call 484-804-1875.

2018 Annual Block / Census Collection

Number of registered Families

2343

Number of Envelopes Received

506

Please fill out & return your census envelope as soon as possible. It can be mailed to the church office or you can place it in the collection basket

Block Collection: As you can see in the recap there are quite a few census envelopes that have not been returned to date. Please know that the block collection is an important fundraising tool of the parish (perhaps the most important next to Sunday collections) as well as one of our only means of updating parishioner information. If you haven’t already donated, please consider contributing to this major fundraising collection. The suggested offering is just that, suggested, the parish is sincerely grateful for all donations no matter the amount. God Bless you for your generosity!

Shut-In Members: Anyone who would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please call the church office as we have a couple of Eucharistic Ministers who take communion on Sundays. Anyone who would like to see a priest for an anointing or confession, call the church office at 610-834-1975.



Pilgrimage to Portugal & Spain
Join Fr. Anthony on this 11 day pilgrimage to the shrines of Portugal & Spain. May 20th – May 31st, for more info contact Select Int’l Tours at 800-842-4842 or email

St. Francis Inn: There is no way we can find a proper way to express our gratitude to all of you thoughtful parishioners who fill our donation box each and every week here at St. Philip’s. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts and we hold you in our prayers. When there is no more “room at the inn” we know that God’s angels on earth (that means YOU) are working to make just a little more room! And so are we! A complete list of our needs is located on the front on the donation box in the Church vestibule. Donations may be dropped off on the Muller Family porch at 472 Poplar Lane in Whitmarsh Woods or in the bin located in the church vestibule. Thank you, God bless you, and a very Merry Christmas!

Are you a parent who has lost a child: An informal group of Moms & Dads get together to talk or just listen to others who understand how you feel. The next meeting is Tuesday, Jan 15th at 6:30PM in the rectory conference room. For more information contact Marianne O’Connor at 610-825-4975 or Rosemary McNichol at 215-247-2267

Project HOPE: If you, or anyone you know, needs transportation to a doctor or dentist appointment, or to Mass on Sunday, please call Anne or Bill Franks at 610-828-2530 or email: ann59bil@gmail.com Additional weekday drivers and group leaders are always needed.

Men's Prayer Group: Men of different ages meet every Wednesday morning in the rectory conference room from 7:30AM to 8:30AM. If interested please call Duane McCarthy at 610-825-5237. There is a prayer petition book in the rear of the Church for your intentions, please note your intention so the group can pray for your intentions.



Schola Voices needed for Midnight Mass

SPN Schola of young voices has a tradition of singing at Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. This group consists of high school and college age girls. Prelude music is sung by the Schola beginning at 11:40PM. We would like to have more young voices join our group.

Rehearsals are held the week before Christmas to accommodate the availability of college students. Please consider being a part of this beautiful Music Ministry.

Contact Jean Martin at jeanm1@comcast.net

Trivia Night

Home & School Announces – Trivia Night XVI

Friday, January 18, 2019 at the Lu Lu Temple

Doors open at 6:15PM

\$50.00/pp until 1/13/19

\$65.00/pp after 1/13/19

Contact Gina Maletta-Sannicandro:

215-817-6169 / Gbug77@aol.com

Preparing for Christ's Coming: During Advent we should be focused on preparing for the coming of Christ. On Tuesday mornings from 9:10AM to 10AM we will meet in the "cry room" to talk about the Sunday Scriptures, and discuss "points to ponder". Join us for this Advent reflection. Contact Joe Banecker at 610-828-0344 or email at josephbanecker@aol.com.

Philippians: The Philippians is a social organization for seniors in our area. We offer entertainment, trips, info programs, and opportunities for service projects. The group meets on the second Thursday of each month (except July & August) at 11AM, contact Anna Marlin @ 215-233-1527

Walking with Purpose: We invite you to consider joining *Walking with Purpose*. This is a weekly reflection that aims to bring women to a deeper relationship with Christ. Meetings will start in January of 2019. Contact Karen Kopecky Karen@sosssportsmarketing.com or 267-205-6865 or Linda Banecker at lbanecker1@aol.com.

Scrip

Bonus Card Points

Giant offers customers with a bonus card to support SPN School with every purchase! Sign in to your account (or register for an account) to link your Bonus Card to SPN, our ID # is 24096; SPN earns money from your qualified purchases until March 16, 2019. Call customer care at 888-814-4268 (option #1) for more information.

Christmas Gifts

Scrip Cards make wonderful Christmas gifts, Macy's, Lowes, Best Buy, Bed Bath & Beyond and Amazon just to name a few. We have close to 800 retailers to purchase from including many fantastic restaurants. Go to website for complete list. For those on the go now there is "MySCRIPWallet", it can be instant orders or orders directly from your phone, go to MyScripWallet.com for details.



Knights of Columbus

Parish Family Photo Album

Knights will be in the vestibule today!

Our past drive to have parishioners sign up to have their photograph taken in late summer fell quite a bit short of our expectation. We assume timing was the issue and are going to give it a second try! Hopefully with the Christmas breaks and families being all together we can accomplish our goal. This is absolutely free unless you choose to order additional prints. Please sign up and help make this 75th anniversary edition as complete as it can be! We will be in the vestibule this weekend and Dec 22nd & 23rd. You can also sign up on line: <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/ydh6ztlc>



The Christmas Memorial Lanterns will be placed on the island outside of Church and burn in memory of a loved one. They will be lit for 24 hours starting Christmas Eve. The name of the person will be on a ribbon attached to the lantern, after Christmas you can stop by and take the lantern home. The cost is \$25.00 and all proceeds will benefit the charitable works of the Knights. The deadline is Dec 19th, sign up sheets and collection box is in the vestibule.

It is now easier to join the Knights through eMembership. Please visit www.kofc.org/joinus for details. There superior-rated life insurance products are now available to all Catholic men and their families, please contact

dexter.delarosa@kocc.org or 917-941-5381.