

ST. PHILIP NERI CHURCH

I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!

Luke 12:49-53

August 17, 2025

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time



**"The love of God makes
us do great things"
St. Philip Neri**

www.saintphilipnerichurch.com

Church Office 610-834-1975

Rectory 610-828-5717

School 610-828-3082

Convent 610-828-2866

PREP Program 484-804-1875

Rev. George J. Szparagowski,
Pastor

Rev. Christopher Redcay,
Sunday Assistant

Rev. Msgr. Charles P. Vance,
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. William B. Dooner
In Residence, Retired

Dominic W. Mirenda
Transitional Deacon

Deacon Robert G. Flynn

Deacon Michael J. Cipressi



Parish Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening Vigil Mass

5PM

Sunday Morning

7:30AM - No Music

9:30AM & 11:00AM

Daily Mass Schedule

Monday through Saturday 8:30AM

Holy Day Mass Schedule

6:30AM, 8:30AM, & 7PM

Parish Staff

Michael Pastorius, *Business Manager*

Mrs. Betty Venezia, *School Principal*

Mrs. Sharon Otto, *Director of Religious Education*

Elizabeth Shin, *Director of Music*

Barney McGee, *Parish Accountant*

**Parish Office is open Monday to Friday
from 7:30AM to 5PM.**

Low Gluten Hosts

Lab certified, under 20 parts per million are available at every Mass. The celebrant will have them available, simply ask him when you present to receive.

Parish Announced Mass Book

The parish announced Mass Book for 2026 is open.

Memorial Candles, Sanctuary Lamp, and Altar Bread Memorials are also available. If you would like to check availability, please stop by or call the Church Office at 610-834-1975.

Metropolitan Tribunal

The Tribunal is available to help people who have experienced divorce and who may wish to remarry in the Church. If you are divorced and want to marry in the Church or remarried outside the Church call:

215-587-3750 or go to www.archphila.org



Our parish community extends a welcome to our guests and visitors. We welcome you to our Church to share our faith and celebrate the Eucharist. Please go to our website: www.saintphilipnerichurch.com for more information or if you have any questions or want to register call the Church Office at 610-834-1975. In order to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist or Matrimony or to have access to Letters of Eligibility to stand as a godparent at Baptism or sponsor at Confirmation you need to be registered and active with a parish. Young adults who turn 26 or complete higher education and continue to reside within our area should register individually.



**Confessions are heard every Saturday from
3:45PM to 4:45PM
or by appointment,
call 610-834-1975 to schedule.**



We Pray for our Beloved Deceased
For all those souls who have gone on before us marked with the sign of faith, most especially, George Szparagowski, Sr. and the souls in purgatory. May God, in His mercy, grant them eternal rest and give peace to those who mourn.

Pre Jordan / Baptismal Instruction

If you are having your first child baptized, the archdiocese requires the parents to attend a Pre-Jordan Class. Deacon Mike Cipressi hosts these virtual classes on a monthly basis. Call the Church Office at 610-834-1975.



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
5PM Vigil – Andrew Lins

Sunday, August 17th
7:30AM – Margaret Ponietowicz
9:30AM – Bob Wisniewski
11AM – John H. Wood

Monday, August 18th
8:30AM – Richard Kaczerski

Tuesday, August 19th
St. John Eudes
8:30AM – John DiDonato – 18th Anniversary

Wednesday, August 20th
St. Bernard
8:30AM – Francesco Pascarella

Thursday, August 21st
St. Pius X
8:30AM – Patrick Stanton

Friday, August 22nd
Queenship of Blessed Virgin Mary
8:30AM – Thomas F Kean III & Thomas F Keane Jr
Frank & Concetta Lupinacci & Family

Saturday, August 23rd
St. Rose of Lima
8:30AM – Peter Lofgren
Vigil – Julia M. Sullivan

*"My hope is in Christ, who strengthens the weakest
by His Divine help. I can do all in Him who
strengthens me. His Power is infinite, and if I lean on
him, it will be mine. His Wisdom is infinite, and if I
look to Him for counsel, I shall not be deceived. His
Goodness is infinite, and if my trust is stayed in Him, I
shall not be abandoned."*

St. Pius X / Feast Day August 21st

Prayer Request

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

**Please pray for our sick, the home-bound, and those in
nursing homes, we particularly remember:**

George Alburger, Claire Bennis, Nancy Bogdon,
Tom Bonk, Charlie Dickman, Claire DiDonato,
Emily Donhauser, Lisa Dougherty,
Dolores Downes, Eileen Drab, Johnny Higson,
Suzanne Kulliver, Phyllis Luther, Joan Marine,
Terrence Martin, Rowan McNichol,
Randy Milakofsky, Donovan Mitchell, Josh Orkin,
Elizabeth Peirce, William Pinto, Maria Prince,
Baby Colson Robert Riday, Michael Shaw,
Helen Snyder, Chris Solarski, David Sparacino,
Betty Sparks, Brian Stenz, Amy Swift, Patricia Trioli,
Frank Tulino, Dyana Westerfer, James Williams, Jr.
May God strengthen them in their struggle.

*Our bulletin sick list will list the names of the sick
for a 6-week period, if additional time is needed,
please call the Church Office at 610-834-1975.*

Sanctuary Memorials



1 candle will burn at the statue of the Blessed Mother
in memory of Rachel Engle,
req'd by Mom, Dad & Glenn.

Summer Repairs Collection

Thank you to all who contributed to the annual
Summer Repairs Collection. Your generosity came
through as always. This critical collection is for higher
priced repairs over and above routine maintenance. As
our campus ages these special maintenance projects,
unfortunately, become more plentiful. Please be as
generous as your budget's

Are you a Parent who has Lost a Child?

An informal group of moms & dads get together to
talk or just listen. Contact Judy Sturm at 610-909-
2034 or Karen Montgomery at 215-920-5269.



Dear St. Philip Neri Friends and Family,

We give praise and thanks to God for the graces and blessings He has given us! Today's Gospel may come as a surprise. We are used to thinking of Jesus as the Prince of Peace, the Good Shepherd, the gentle healer. But today He says something that catches us off guard: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" He continues, "Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." These words are not a contradiction of Christ's mission. Rather, they reveal its depth and urgency. Jesus did come to bring peace, but not a shallow peace. He came to bring the peace that comes from truth, from conversion, and from living according to God's will. That kind of peace is not always comfortable. It demands choice. It confronts sin, breaks down false securities, and purifies the heart. Fire in Scripture often symbolizes purification, transformation, and the presence of God. Jesus wants to set the world ablaze with His Spirit, to purify our hearts, to burn away our selfishness, and to ignite in us a deep and lasting faith. The division Jesus speaks of is not caused by hatred, but by the radical nature of the Gospel. When someone truly follows Christ, it often creates tension, even within families and friendships. Some people will accept the Gospel, others will reject it. That is the nature of truth: it clarifies. It calls for a response. In a world that wants to keep everything neutral, Jesus calls us to take a stand. This Gospel challenges us to examine our own discipleship. Are we willing to stand firm in our faith, even when it is unpopular? Do we speak and live the truth with courage, or do we shrink back when others might disagree? Jesus is not encouraging division for its own sake. He is telling us that if we truly follow Him, we will at times face rejection, misunderstanding, and even conflict. But we cannot allow fear to make us silent or lukewarm. This past Friday, on August 15th, we celebrated the glorious Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven. Mary's life was anything but easy. She faced misunderstanding, sorrow, and suffering. Yet she remained faithful. Her heart was entirely open to God's will. She is the model of what it means to let the fire of God burn within us. Mary's faith did not avoid conflict; it endured through it. And now she is crowned with glory. Her Assumption reminds us that the way of the Cross leads to the Resurrection, that faithfulness in this life leads to eternal life. So, let us not be afraid of the fire Jesus speaks of today. Let us welcome it. Let it burn away anything in us that holds us back from fully living the Gospel. Let it give us courage to be faithful in our families, in our communities, and in our daily lives. May the Holy Spirit set our hearts ablaze with love for Christ. May we not settle for comfort, but strive for holiness. And may the Blessed Virgin Mary, assumed into heaven, pray for us and guide us always closer to her Son.

Please invite someone to Mass today. St. Philip Neri, pray for us!

Have a blessed day,
Fr. Szparagowski

Thank you to all who, in so many ways, expressed their sympathy on the passing of my father into the arms of Jesus. Myself and my family are deeply grateful for your kind thoughts, words and prayers. May God Bless all of you for all your prayers over these past several months as we persevered through a difficult time.

Religious Education

Pass on the faith – Become a catechist!

Our PREP Program is looking for passionate, faithful volunteer teachers and aides to join our program on **Mondays or Tuesday's** from **4:15 to 5:30PM.**

Interested? Let's talk! Contact Sharon Otto at sharonotto@spnprep.org or call 484-804-1875.



Curious about the Catholic Faith?

Have you been coming to Mass and wondering what it means to be Catholic?

Do you feel the Holy Spirit drawing you closer to the Church?

Unbaptized or baptized in another Christian tradition?

Baptized Catholic but never received the other sacraments?

This is a great program to explore and discern along with other like-minded people the truths of the Faith and have all your questions answered. We'll walk together, in faith, toward full communion with the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.

Whether you're ready to begin your journey or just inquiring, we'd love to speak with you and provide details of the process.

For more information, contact Barney McGee at 610-834-1975 or email bmcgee@spnchurchlh.org

Come and see, the doors wide open!

**"I believe though I do not comprehend, and I hold by faith what I cannot grasp with the mind."
St. Bernard / Feast Day August 20th**

Be Encouraged

Catholic Support for Mental Health Website

Resources to assist with healing, accompaniment and flourishing. The archdiocese has launched a website to help support those who are experiencing mental health struggles and those who love them. Visit the Be Encouraged website at www.archphila.org/support



Baptism

Baptisms are scheduled on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of every month immediately following the 11AM Mass. Godparents need Letters of Eligibility, for first time parents the Pre-Jordan Class is required. Call the Church Office at 610-834-1975 to make arrangements.

Marriage

Arrangements must be made with a priest at least 6 months prior to wedding date. Pre-Cana classes are required, contact Church office at 610-834-1975.

Anointing of the Sick

Primarily intended as prayers and anointing for healing from serious illness or as a spiritual preparation before surgery. Last Rites or Extreme Unction are for those in danger of imminent death. Call rectory or Church Office.



**ST. PHILIP NERI
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**
Lafayette Hill, PA

Extensive repairs / renovations are nearly complete in the boys rest room. Tiles, flooring and fixtures are all but completed.

Thanks to our Building and Grounds Committee who make every attempt to keep ahead of upkeep to our facilities. Thank you for your support of our Summer Repairs Collection!



SPN 55+ Women's Bowling League

We are looking for new members. The league bowls at 11AM on Wednesday's at Our Town Alley at 2912 Swede Road, East Norriton. If interested call Suzanne Lilly at 610-825-8142.

Pro Life Corner

Your spiritually adopted baby weighs over one pound now, and his mother can feel his movement. Before this time he was too small for her to feel. Although he swam with ease in his watery world, he needed to be big and strong enough to kick hard against the outside wall and dent it – the inside wall of the uterus has little feeling. We are mid-way through the pregnancy now. Your prayers have helped your baby's mother continue with her pregnancy and seek the help she needs.



Queenship of Mary / August 22nd



Our parish on-line giving program is easy and can be stopped or adjusted at any time. Go to the parish website to sign up: www.saintphilipnerichurch.com in these busy times please do not forget your parish.

Use the QR code below to sign-up.
As always, thank you for your generosity!



St. Francis Inn

Always looking for volunteers, go to
volunteers@stfrancisinn.org

Keep us in your prayers! The collection box is in the Church vestibule year-round accepting your donations. Donations can also be dropped off at the Muller's porch, 472 Poplar Lane in Whitemarsh Woods.

Home & School News

Save the date, our home and school association are announcing their upcoming auction event.

Mixtape, Melodies & VHS Vibes

Saturday, November 15th

The goal is to raise \$75,000, which will directly support continued advancements in academic programming and student enrichment in our school.

More details to follow!

Note from the Patrician Society

Fr. Szparagowski,

Thank you so much for your weekly food collections for the Patrician Society Cupboard. Our resources dwindle greatly in the summer, but St. Philip's parishioners are always there for us year-round!

Thank you for continuing to be a part of our mission to serve the neediest in our area.

Sincerely,
Liam Murphy

Executive Director



St. Joseph Villa in Flourtown, is a well-respected Catholic senior living community and sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph. They provide short- and long-term care with skilled nursing in a resident-centered environment. Call 215-248-7847 or go to: www.stjosephvilla.org for more details.



All major food stores and major clothes retailers have cards available; go to the website for a complete list.

These programs help **support our school** and is **driven by parishioner participation**...give it a try!

Cards are available in the Church Office.

The Scrip Program sent the school over \$15,000.00 in proceeds from last year sales to help offset school expenses! Please think about using Scrip.

St. John's Hospice

Casseroles can be home made or store bought. The next drop off dates are anytime between August 30th and September 3rd.

If you need an alternate date or time call Eileen at 215-939-8368, or email at: hurdles28@hotmail.com drop off is at: 2308 Mulberry Lane.



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Hope for a Better Marriage Retrouvaille Marriage Program

Retrouvaille, a French word meaning "rediscovery", is a program rooted in Christian values and Catholic tradition.

Couples interested in deepening their love for Jesus and their Catholic faith. Couples are taught to communicate in a deeper, more meaningful way, healing hurts and rebuilding trust and intimacy. No relationship is beyond help. Call 800-470-2230 or email:

www.HelpOurMarriage.org

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Email: sttitusflea@gmail.com

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