

ST. PHILIP NERI CHURCH



August 24, 2025
21st 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.



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
5PM Vigil – Julia M. Sullivan

Sunday, August 24th

7:30AM – Janet Maresca
9:30AM – John P. Howley
11AM – Richard Geppert

Monday, August 25th

Sts. Louis & Joseph Calasanz

8:30AM – Thomas F Keane III & Thomas F Keane Jr
Frank & Conncetta Lupinacci & Family

Tuesday, August 26th

8:30AM – Robert Wisniewski

Wednesday, August 27th

St. Monica

8:30AM – Rachel McFillin

Thursday, August 28th

St. Augustine

8:30AM – Peter Lofgren

Friday, August 29th

Passion of St. John the Baptist

8:30AM – Deceased Members of the
Brennan & Lowry Families

Saturday, August 30th

8:30AM – Sharon Hofknecht
Vigil – Kolimaga Family

We Welcome

***Chloe Lynn, daughter of Andrew & Megan Sabia who
was recently baptized here at St. Philips!***

Family Rosary

Join the Knights of Columbus on Wednesday,
September 10th at 7PM for our monthly rosary.
Bring your intentions to Our Blessed Mother.

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, Klye Haber,
Johnny Higson, Suxanne 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, Dyane 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



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in memory of
Joseph A. Saggiomo, Jr, req'd by Patrice Werner.

A candle will burn at the Statue of the Blessed Mother
in memory of Kay Speers,
req'd by the Hoffman Family.

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 brings us face to face with one of the more sobering teachings of Jesus. As He journeys toward Jerusalem, someone asks Him, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" Instead of offering a number or a direct answer, Jesus turns the question back on the listener: "strive to enter through the narrow gate." Jesus does not want us to speculate about who will or will not be saved. Jesus wants us to focus on our own lives, our own choices, and our own relationships with Him. Jesus does not want us to speculate about who will or will not be saved.

Salvation is not automatic. It is a gift, yes, but it must be accepted, embraced, and lived out. That is why Jesus uses the words "strive". The Greek word here, *agonizomai*, is where we get the word "agony". It suggests struggle, discipline, effort, even sacrifice. We are called to strive; to seek the narrow gate, not the wide and easy road. In a world that often encourages comfort, self-indulgence, and spiritual laziness, this is a challenging message. Jesus is telling us clearly that heaven is not simply handed out like a participation trophy. It requires a response. It requires a heart that chooses God, not just once, but day after day. Jesus then goes on to speak of people who will knock at the door, expecting to be let in, only to hear, "I do not know where you are from." These are not strangers. They ate and drank in His company. They heard His teachings. Yet they did not truly know Jesus, and He did not know them. This is a powerful reminder that being near Jesus is not the same as belonging to Him. We can be around the Church, go through the motions, and still remain distant in our hearts. So we must ask ourselves; do we know Jesus? Do we allow Him into our daily decisions, our relationships, our struggles? Do we follow His teachings when they are hard? Do we strive to love when it is costly, to forgive when it is painful, to remain faithful when it is inconvenient? This Gospel calls us to urgency – not fear, but seriousness. There is still time to respond. The door is open now. But it will not remain open forever. We must not delay. Today is the day of conversion. Today is the day to strive. As we near the end of August, still in the glow of the Assumption of Mary on the fifteenth, we are reminded of the one who entered the narrow gate perfectly. Mary's whole life was a "yes" to God. She walked the path of humility, obedience, and sacrifice. Her heart was open, her life was pure, and her will was united to the will of God. She teaches us how to strive – not with anxiety, but with love and trust. Let us follow Mary's example. Let us strive to know Jesus, to love Him, and to live according to His truth. The narrow gate may be difficult, but it leads to eternal life, and it is wide open to all who choose it with sincere hearts. May the Lord give us the grace to walk that path with courage, and may the Blessed Virgin Mary pray for us as we continue our journey toward the kingdom.

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!

"Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others."

St. Augustine / Feast Day August 28th

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.



Joyful News for Our Parish

It is with great joy we share wonderful news that **Sean Flanagan, a son of our parish, has been accepted to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary** and will begin his seminary formation later this month. Sean, recently graduated from West Chester University, now begins his first year of formation as he responds generously to God's call. Along with his family, we are deeply proud of Sean and we give thanks and praise to God for his vocation. We ask all parishioners to keep Sean in prayer. May the Lord grant him the graces and blessings he needs throughout his years of formation. We entrust him to the loving care of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and our patron, St. Philip Neri, asking them to intercede for him. May Sean's heart be formed after the Heart of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, so that one day he may serve the Church as a holy, faithful, and caring priest. As a parish family, let us commit to pray **one Hail Mary each day** for Sean during his seminary formation.



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Schools about to open and we look forward to welcoming back our students. The boys rest room repairs have been completed and is truly a transformation, a beautiful job! 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.



Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine, Doylestown
Go to: www.theabbeyfest.com for information.
Event date is September 20, 2025

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.



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 Whitmarsh Woods.

St. Titus Flea Market

3000 Keenwood Road, Norristown
September 13, 2025 / 8AM to 1PM
Vendors Needed /\$30 for 8' x 18' space.
Call 610-279-4990
Email: sttitusflea@gmail.com

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!



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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