

St. Philip Neri Church



“The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in a manger.”

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

December 28th, 2025

www.saintphilipnerichurch.com



“The love of God makes
us do great things”
St. Philip Neri

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



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.

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 Staff

Michael Pastorius, *Business Manager*

Mrs. Betty Venezia, *School Principal*

Mrs. Sharon Otto, *Director of Religious Education*

Elizabeth Shin, *Director of Music Ministry*

Barney McGee, *Parish Accountant*

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



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

New Years Day Mass Schedule

New Years Eve 4PM & 6PM

New Years Day 8:30AM & 10AM



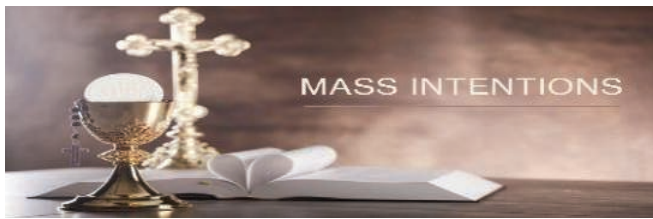
Congratulations

Brendan Mahony & Lisa Yu Williams who were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on November 29th here at St. Philips!



We Pray for our Beloved Deceased

For all those souls who have gone on before us marked with the sign of faith, most especially, **Tom Kershaw, Sr. Estelle Marker SSJ, Rosemary Smith and the souls in purgatory. May God, in His mercy, grant them eternal rest and give peace to those who mourn.**



Holy Family Sunday

5PM Vigil

Remo DeZorzi

Sunday, December 28th

7:30AM – James & Catherine Morris

9:30AM – Russell D. Giangiulio

11AM – Alexander Tarsi, Jr.

Alexander Tarsi III & Dennis Tarsi

Monday, December 29th

St. Thomas Becket

8:30AM – Earl Bruce Kirk & Nancy Kirk

Tuesday, December 30th

8:30AM – LaFontaine & Porrino Families

Wednesday, December 31st

New Years Eve

St. Sylvester I

8:30AM – Joe D'Angelo

4PM – Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, January 1st

New Years Day

8:30AM – Parishioners

10AM – Parishioners

Friday, January 2nd

St. Basil & Gregory Nazianzen

8:30AM – Donald Etter

Saturday, January 3rd

Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:30AM – Jeri Lee Tierney

Vigil – Carlotta Fare & Mario



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in memory of Earl Bruce Kirk & Nancy Kirk, req'd by their Family.

1 candle will burn at the statue of the Blessed Mother. In memory of Sherry Dell Grippo, req'd by Eileen gravinese.

1 candle will burn at the statue of St. Joseph, in memory of Remo DeZorzi, req'd by Marrone Family.

Church Office will be closed on Jan 1st & Jan 2nd for New Years.



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, Andrew Donohue, Emily Donhauser, Lisa Dougherty, Dolores Downes, Eileen Drab, Maureen Fitzgerald, Kelle Franzen, Johnny Higson, Ed Kortonick, Phyllis Luther, Joan Marine, Terrence Martin, Rowan McNichol, Randy Milakofsky, Donovan Mitchell, William Pinto, Maria Prince, Baby Colson Robert Riday, Patrick Ryan, Michael Shaw, Chris Solarski, David Sparacino, Betty Sparks, Brian Stenz, Amy Swift, Patricia Trioli, Frank Tulino, and Dyane Westerfer,

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.

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.

Project H.O.P.E.

A group of concerned parishioners who are willing to assist others in need of rides to doctor's appointments or to Church, Call Brigid Isackman at 267-879-6534

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.

Complimentary 2026 calendars are available at the doors of the Church, please take one. Courtesy of Lownes Family Funeral Home.



Dear St. Philip Neri Friends and Family,

We give praise and thanks to God for the graces and blessings He has given us. As we continue to celebrate the Christmas season, the Church places before us two beautiful feasts that shine light on the heart of our faith: the Feast of the Holy Family and the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. These feasts are closely linked because they reveal who Christ is and how God chose to enter our human world. They invite us to look at the Incarnation through the eyes of family and through the gentle strength of Mary. The Feast of the Holy Family reminds us that the Son of

God chose to dwell not simply in a world, but in a home. Jesus grew up in a family. He learned from Mary and Joseph. He experienced daily life, work, love, struggles, and joys. The Holy Family of Nazareth was simple and humble, yet within that home lived the very presence of God. The Gospel for the Holy Family often shows Jesus as a child, growing in wisdom and grace. It reminds us that holiness is shaped in the ordinary rhythms of family life: forgiveness, patience, sacrifice, and daily love. The Holy Family is not meant to make us feel inadequate. Instead, it gives us a model of trust, faithfulness, and perseverance even when life is uncertain or painful. Mary and Joseph knew hardship: poverty, displacement, misunderstanding, and danger. Yet they faced every challenge with trust in God and with love for one another. Their family life was not easy, but it was holy because God was at the center.

This brings us to the second feast, celebrated just days later: Mary, Mother of God. On January 1st, the Church begins the new year by honoring Mary with her highest title. She is not only the Mother of Jesus. She is the Mother of God. This title, "Theotokos," means bearer of God. It affirms that the child she carried and raised is truly divine and truly human. Mary shows us what faithful discipleship looks like. In the Gospel for this feast, we hear that Mary "kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." She did not always understand fully, but she trusted deeply. Her life was marked by listening, pondering, and quietly embracing the will of God. When we honor Mary as Mother of God, we also recognize her as our mother in faith. She accompanies us, intercedes for us, and helps us to grow closer to her Son. She teaches us how to say yes to God, how to welcome Christ into our daily lives, and how to treasure His presence even in confusing or difficult times. The Holy Family and Mary, Mother of God, together offer us three important lessons as we stand at the close of one year and the beginning of another. First, God works through the ordinary. Nazareth was unknown. Mary and Joseph were poor. Everyday routines filled their life. Yet God's glory lived in that simple home. In the same way, God works in our daily lives: in our conversations, in our small acts of kindness, in our care for one another. Holiness grows in ordinary moments. Second, family life is a place of grace. Families are not perfect; we try our best. They face strain, pain, and misunderstanding. But when we turn to God, when we forgive, when we show patience, when we love even when it is difficult, God is present. The Holy Family reminds us that the home is one of the most sacred places where faith is lived. Third, Mary teaches us how to begin anew. Her quiet trust, her courage, and her willingness to say yes to God offer us a beautiful way to enter a new year. Like her, we can welcome Christ into our hearts and ask for the grace to walk with Him each day. When the future feels uncertain, Mary reminds us to hold onto God and to let Him guide us.

Holy Family of Nazareth, pray for us.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

Jesus, our Emmanuel, be with us now and always.

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

Fr. Szparagowski

A Blessed New Year to all!



On behalf of myself, Fr. Dooner,
Fr. Redcay, Deacon Miranda, Deacon Mike
& Deacon Rob we wish a blessed New Year
to all our parish family. Health and
happiness to all in the new year,
may God bless us all!
A very Happy New Year!
Fr. Szparagowski

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament in
the Church on Monday, January 12th,
9AM to 5PM.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Our annual Block Collection is underway, envelopes
were sent to all parishioners, and responses have
been coming in, please help if you can. This along
with the Christmas and Easter Collections are
pivotal to the structure of our parish finances.
Your generosity has never waived in the past and
we are counting on this year being no different.
Your goodness provides a sound base from which
we maintain and improve our Church and campus.
You make all this possible!



Curious about the Catholic Faith?

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



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.

Pro-Life Corner

Your spiritually adopted baby was born this month, nine
months after she was conceived. The only change at birth
is a change in the external life support system of the baby.
She is no different now than before birth except that she
breathes and eats differently. She is a true miracle. She
began as a 46-chromosome cell and has grown over the
past nine months into a unique human baby. Never before,
nor ever again, will anyone exist who is exactly like her.
Your prayers saved her life. Thank you on behalf of all the
babies and their parents for your loving prayers that
helped to bring them to birth, "so that they might have life
and have it to the full!"



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Decoration Team Thanks!

Thank you to our dedicated team of volunteers
who devoted time and talent to decorating our
Church, all made possible by your support! A
special thanks to Mark Ryan & Will Phillips, our
parish maintenance crew, who do so much of the
legwork and lifting in preparing our Church for the
Birth of Christ.

Knights of Columbus Raffle



Tickets are \$100.00 / Maximum of 400 tickets sold.
1 grand prize winner of \$10,000 or 25% of all sales
20 second place winners of \$500 or 1.25% of all sales
Drawing is February 15, 2026
Proceeds go to support the parish general fund and Knights charities. Tickets will be sold after Masses on Sunday's to be announced, they are always available in the Church Office, Monday to Friday 8AM to 5PM. Makes a great stocking stuffer!
Thanks for your support of our parish and the Knights of Columbus charities!



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.

St. John's Hospice

Casseroles can be home made or store bought.
The next drop off dates are anytime between January 3rd & 4th pickup is Wednesday January 7th. 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.

St. Monica Club

Do you have a loved ones who have drifted away from the Church? Follow the example of St. Monica and pray without ceasing! Join us on Tuesday Jan 20th at 7PM in the Convent Chapel as we pray together, support one another, and share hope in God's faithfulness. For more info contact: Sharon Otto at 484-804-1875.



BJ's Membership drive runs from Dec 8th thru 31st. Look for flyers in the vestibule, no application is needed, just call the number on the flyer, give promo code, credit card number and membership info. Your membership will be extended another year, even if your membership doesn't expire until next year, renew Now and they will add a year to membership. Questions contact Linda Pizzi at 215-518-1275 or email: lpizzi01@gmail.com

Tuition Care & Educational Tax Credit (EITC)

This allows you to redirect your PA Income Tax dollars to help your family (grandchildren) and other qualified families. For a minimum \$1000 donation, you earn a 90% state tax credit, federal deduction for remaining 10% and school families receive an additional \$1000 tuition reduction grant.
Go to RA-EITC@PA.gov for more information.



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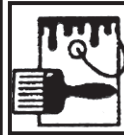
***"Remember then how our fathers worked out their salvation;
remember the sufferings through which the Church has grown and the storms the ship of Peter has weathered because it has Christ on board. Remember how the crown was attained, by those whose sufferings gave new radiance to their faith. The whole company of saints bears witness to the unfailing truth, that without real effort no-one wins the crown.***

St. Thomas Becket / Feast Day December 29th

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